



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Equality Screening Assessment

The Equality Screening Assessment form must be completed to evidence what impact the proposal may have on equality groups within our community or workforce. Any proposal that results in a negative impact must have a full Equality Impact Assessment completed before approval is sought.

1: Proposal

Requirement	Detail
Title of proposal	Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), made under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Type of proposal: New policy / change to policy / new service / change to service / removal of service / project / event	Introduction of a new Public Spaces Protection Order across the former administrative areas of Daventry District and South Northants which form part of the new West Northamptonshire Council.
What is the objective of this proposal?	<p>Using powers contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, introduce a new PSPO to the former Daventry District and former South Northants areas of West Northamptonshire.</p> <p>The PSPO is intended to introduce a number of new dog control requirements to protect and improve public health and public safety from the adverse actions of dogs and less responsible dog owners. The PSPO is also intended to prohibit smoking in specific open spaces.</p>

Requirement	Detail
<p>Has there been any consultation on this proposal? (list all the groups/ communities, including dates)</p>	<p>Yes, this took place for a period of 6 weeks from 21st February 2022 until midnight 4th April 2022. The consultation was carried out through the WNC Consultation Hub. Interested persons and statutory consultees viewed the PSPO proposals and made representation.</p> <p>The following consultees were notified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Town Councils (Daventry, Towcester and Brackley) and 145 Parish Councils in the proposal areas. • 104 Schools in the proposal areas. • Council licenced dog breeders, pet shops, home boarders, performing animals and animal boarders in the proposal areas. • Police – Police Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable, ASB Sergeant for West Northants area, Daventry and South Northants Community Police. • Dog welfare charities – The Kennel Club, The Dogs Trust, RSPCA. • Assistance Dog Charities - Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Assistance Dogs UK, Autism Dogs, Canine Partners, Dog Aid - Assistance in Disability,

Requirement	Detail
	<p>Dogs for Good, Canine Partners, Medical Detection Dogs, The Seeing Dogs Alliance, Support Dogs For Autism, For Epilepsy, For Disability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog related businesses and dog welfare specialists who operate in the proposal areas – dog groomers, professional dog walkers, vets and dog trainers. • Trade and industry bodies representing those in proposal area - National Association of Pet Sitters and Dog Walkers (NARPS UK), Association of Professional Dog Walkers and Sitters. • Landowners – WNC, National Trust. • Other interest groups – Ramblers Association, Keep Britain Tidy, The Canal and River Trust. Northants Football Association. • West Northants Council Officers including: Chief Executive, Executive Director Place, Economy & Environment, Assistant Director Assets (parks and open spaces), Assistant Director Highways & Waste, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic, Assistant Director Customer Services, Community Partnerships Manager, Community Safety Officer, Senior Licensing and Litigation Solicitor, Assistant Director for Regulatory Services, waste, cleansing, environmental protection and environmental crime, dog warden, pest control, Park Rangers.

Requirement	Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors including Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Engagement, and Regulatory Services. • Residents and users of public open space in the proposal areas. • Resident's panel and persons on the WNC Consultation Register.
Did the consultation on this proposal highlight any positive or negative impact on protected groups? (if yes, give details)	<p>Full consultation took place. Consideration was given to protected groups who may be affected by dog related issues that the PSPO seeks to address and those who may be restricted by the terms of any resulting PSPO.</p> <p>Exemption is proposed for protected groups that may be otherwise negatively impacted.</p> <p>As a result of the consultation, it was identified that negative impact may be attributed to some protected groups who have assistance dogs.</p>
What processes are in place to monitor and review the impact of this proposal?	<p>Consultation with specific persons and organisations (outlined above) who may be affected by the introduction of the PSPO.</p> <p>The consultation identified a potential impact regarding the use of assistance dogs and therefore, consideration will be given to the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance for</p>

Requirement	Detail
	<p>businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs.</p> <p>If authorised, the duration of the PSPO will be set until 18th September 2023 at which point, there is a requirement to carry out a review.</p>
<p>Who will approve this proposal?</p> <p>Committee, CLT</p>	Cabinet.

2: Equality Consideration

Consider in turn each protected group to ensure we meet our legal obligations of the Equality Act (2010).

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations:	Changes	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	<p>Delete as appropriate.</p> <p>There can be more than one answer per protected group.</p>
<p>Age</p> <p>Different age groups that may be affected by the proposal in different ways.</p>	<p>Some elderly people may be unsteady on their feet/lose balance when picking up after their dog leading to falls and injury.</p> <p>Dogs being placed on leads by direction, keeping dogs on leads in specific areas and having dog exclusion zones is likely to be beneficial to all but</p>	Officer discretion or exemption from the requirements of the PSPO to pick up after their dog if affected.	<p>Neutral</p> <p>Positive</p>

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	<p>particularly the elderly and young as dogs can be kept under the appropriate level of control reducing the chance of injury.</p>		
Sex <p>Is one sex affected more than another or are they affected the same?</p>	<p>None known.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
Disability <p>It is likely to have an affect on a particular type of disability? why?</p>	<p>Yes, however, nothing in the proposed PSPO shall apply to a person who is registered as a blind person on a register compiled under section 29 or the National Assistance Act 1948; or is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (register charity number 293358) and upon which the person relies for assistance; or has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out common day-to-day activities in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK, or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of</p>	<p>Exemption from the requirements of the PSPO.</p> <p>An assistance dog does not have to be one that has been trained or provided by a charity.</p> <p>The term “Assistance Dog” shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.</p> <p>The expression “disability” shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation”</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

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	training assistance dogs and upon which the person relies for assistance. Has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability.		
Gender Reassignment Will there be an impact on trans males and/or trans females?	None known.	N/A	Neutral
Race Are people from one ethnic group affected more than people from another ethnic group?	None known.	N/A	Neutral
Sexual Orientation Are people of one sexual orientation affected differently to people of another sexual orientation?	None known.	N/A	Neutral

[illegible]

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Religion or Belief Does the proposal affect people differently depending on whether they have or do not have a religion or a belief?	None known.	N/A	Neutral
Health & Wellbeing 1. Health behaviours: diet, exercise, alcohol, smoking. 2. Support: community cohesion, rural isolation. 3. Socio economic: income, education. 4. Environment: green spaces, fuel poverty, housing standards)	<p>The proposed PSPO would reduce the amount of dog fouling and littering of discarded cigarettes and associated items. This would improve public health and the surrounding environment, making it more pleasant and enjoyable.</p> <p>The PSPO would improve public safety from the adverse actions of uncontrolled dogs and less responsible dog owners.</p> <p>The PSPO would make public open spaces cleaner, improve mental wellbeing for all - dog owners and their dogs, non-dog owners and those who may be fearful of dogs.</p>	None required.	Positive

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	<p>The PSPO would improve the WNC area and increase enjoyment levels for all people who live, work, visit and use the public opens spaces.</p> <p>The PSPO would reduce the propensity to smoke or suffer the associated effects of second-hand smoke which is also beneficial to health and household finances.</p> <p>The PSPO would reduce visibility of smoking to children which would benefit their health as they are less likely to emulate behaviour.</p>		

3: Equality Impact

Question	Response
What overall impact does the proposal have on the protected groups? If a negative impact is identified in section 2, the response will be a Negative Impact.	No Impact / Positive Impact / Negative Impact
Does a Equality Impact Assessment need to be completed? (Yes, if any negative impact is found)	Yes / No

Question	Response
	If yes, this Assessment must be adjoined to the Equality Impact Assessment.
Copy attached to Committee Report?	Yes / No
Copy attached to Options Appraisal?	Yes / No

4: Ownership

Question	Response
Department	Regulatory Services
Section	Environmental Health - Environmental Improvement
Lead Officers Name	Joanna Oakes
Lead Officers Title	Community Projects Officer
Lead Officers Contact Details	Joanna.oakes@westnorthants.gov.uk 01327 302259
Lead Officers Signature	Joanna Oakes
Date completed	12.05.22

Completed forms must be sent to the Equality Office via email to equalities@westnorthants.gov.uk