

**Appendix 4  
Equality Impact Assessment – Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Control)**

■ **Step 1 – Introductory information**

Title of the policy	Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Control)
Name of lead officer and others undertaking this assessment	Ruth Hunter
Date EIA started	12 June 2017
Date EIA completed	20 September 2017
Date EIA Reviewed Date EIA completed	28 July 2020 21 September 2020

■ **Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed:**

Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives)
<p>These Orders are put in place to inform residents and visitors about dog control and requirements for dog owners / keepers in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog fouling and not clearing up afterwards</li> <li>• Dog Fouling – Having Suitable means to pick up and dispose of dog poo</li> <li>• Dogs on leads</li> <li>• Dogs on leads by Direction</li> <li>• Dog exclusion zones</li> <li>• Number of dogs exercised by 1 person</li> </ul> <p>The Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) replaced the Dog Control Orders put in place in 2011. The requirement for change came in with the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. They are required to be reviewed every three years or before if a change.</p>
What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them?
<p>The PSPO's are relevant to all residents and visitors to Wyre and affect anyone who is in control of a dog (s)</p> <p>People who have a registered disability or mobility issue or other physical disorder affecting their ability to pick up dog foul will be exempt from the fouling related Orders.</p> <p>People who have a reliance on a trained assistance dog are exempt from the Exclusion Orders.</p> <p>Any other impairment not within the exemptions will be dealt with on a case by case basis.</p>
Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?

Parish/Town/Ward Clerks and Councillors  
Dog Organisations – Kennel Club and Dogs Trust  
Borough Councillors  
All residents in Wyre (newspapers / web / social media)  
Friends of Parks Groups  
Grass roots football – local teams via Officers  
YMCA

■ **Step 3 – What we already know and where there are gaps**

List any existing information/data do you have/monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy? Such as in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation etc.

Data/information such as:

- Consultation
- Previous Equality Impact Assessments
- Demographic information
- Anecdotal and other evidence

Age – older people are often dog owners for company

Anecdotal evidence, a number of elderly residents have struggled to pick up foul yet their dogs are their companions and without them would not go out frequently.

Based on national statistics, there are over 8.5 million dogs in the UK and 24% of households have a dog. It is therefore estimated that there is a minimum of 14,250 dogs resident in Wyre, and in addition to this there are also people who visit the area with dogs.

Incident recording – Records to identify areas where dog fouling / irresponsible dog ownership / dogs out of control is an issue based on reports from residents.

Bi – Annual Life in Wyre Surveys – Customers continue to raise concerns in relation to dog fouling / irresponsible dog ownership / dogs out of control as a significant concern within the borough.

Young people / families– should be allowed to play and use green spaces without fear of dogs being out of control.

■ **Step 4 – Do we need to seek the views of others? If so, who?**

In light of the answers you have given in Step 2, do you need to consult with specific groups to identify needs / issues? If not please explain why.

The Council has reviewed the PSPO's with a further consultation exercise. Amendments and revisions can be added before that time if evidence is received that there is a need for additional controls. The controls must meet the legal test and must be justified.

■ **Step 5 – Assessing the impact**

In light of any data/consultation/information and your own knowledge and awareness, please identify whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the individuals or community groups (including what barriers these individuals or groups may face) who identify with any 'protected characteristics' and provide an explanation for your decision (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Age</b>	Positive – clearer Orders informing residents about dog control will have a positive impact on all ages.
<b>Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health)</b>	<p>There are exceptions to the Orders for people who have 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 including affecting his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity/ approved body as is considered appropriate by the Council and upon which he relies for assistance.</p> <p>There are also exceptions in the Orders for blind people. There are also exceptions in the Orders for people requiring trained assistance dogs. The Order makes it clear to all residents who are exempt which adds clarity for all residents.</p> <p>Those with learning difficulties are not listed under the exemptions, and therefore authorised officers will use their discretion in such cases. Training to identify difficulties and strong team support should help to overcome difficult situations.</p> <p>Any other impairment not listed above will be dealt with on a case by case basis.</p>
<b>Gender Reassignment (Transgender)</b>	Positive - neutral
<b>Race</b>	Neutral
<b>Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)</b>	Neutral

<b>Sex (Gender)</b>	Neutral
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Neutral
<b>Other protected groups (Pregnancy &amp; maternity, marriage &amp; civil partnership)</b>	Neutral
<b>Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)</b>	Neutral

Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/ or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

Please note:

- a) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- b) Additionally, if you have identified adverse impact that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

No

Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Wyre Council's responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

This PSPO continues to meet Wyre Council's equality and diversity requirements. The Council will also seek to identify areas that dogs are free to walk without restriction and will seek to work with the local businesses to identify establishments that welcome dogs- Dog Friendly Wyre Facebook page created to help support this

This PSPO will continue to be publicised on social media, Council's website, circulated to Town and Parish Council's. Signage will be updated across the borough to reflect any changes.

**Step 6- Monitoring, evaluation and review**

Are there processes in place to review the findings of this Assessment and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?

**The PSPO's will be reviewed every 3 years and the EIA will be reviewed at the same time.**

How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes? e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems.

Consultation with interested groups, stronger understanding of how the Orders can be implemented and reviewed and promoted.

**Step 7- Action Plan**

**Please include any identified concerns/actions/issues in this action plan:**

**The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan**

**Action**

In relation to responses received from the consultation process a number of amendments have been made to the Order and there is a commitment to review on going.

■ **Step 8- Who needs to know about the outcomes of this assessment and how will they be informed?**

	<b>Who needs to know</b> (Please tick)	<b>How they will be informed</b>
<b>Employees</b>	✓	Published on intranet
<b>Service users</b>	✓	Published with Cabinet report
<b>Partners and stakeholders</b>	✓	Published with Cabinet report
<b>Others</b>	✓	Published with Cabinet report