



Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment

Completing an Equality Impact Assessment will help you to think about what impact your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service may have on people that live in, work in or visit Cambridge, as well as on City Council staff.

The template is easy to use. You do not need to have specialist equalities knowledge to complete it. It asks you to make judgements based on evidence and experience. There are guidance notes on the intranet to help you. You can also get advice from Suzanne Goff, Strategy Officer on 01223 457174 or email suzanne.goff@cambridge.gov.uk or from any member of the Joint Equalities Group.

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service:

Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control in Cambridge

2. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

Dog control orders were made by Cambridge City Council in July 2013 and created offences of:

- Failing to remove dog faeces;
- Not keeping a dog on a lead in designated areas;
- Not putting, and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer; and
- Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded

The introduction of Dog Control Orders created transparency and consistency within the City Council boundary and gave authorised officers the ability to issue fixed penalty notices for offences that were previously not enforced.

Where a Dog Control Order is in force, it would continue to be valid for a period of three years following commencement of the Anti-social, Crime and Policing Act 2014. At this point it is then to be treated as a PSPO (with effect from October 2017). The council opted to review current areas of dog control ahead of October 2017, as an early review would allow for new areas of dog control to be considered and consulted on, for public spaces protection order signage requirements to be reviewed and for a smooth transition that allows fixed penalties to continue to be issued to those that breach either orders.

Section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gives the Council new powers to make public spaces protection orders (PSPOs). These orders are intended to deal with a nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of the area. They are designed to ensure that the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

The definition of public space is wide and includes any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

2. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

The Council can make a public spaces protection order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met. The first condition is that:

- a. Activities carried on in a public place within the Council's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; or,
- b. It is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect or likely effect, of the activities:

- a. Is or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature;
- b. Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable; and,
- c. Justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

The PSPO proposed is not put forward as a means of unduly restricting the exercising or recreation of dogs across the city. The reason for putting forward the PSPO is to address the detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality caused by the irresponsible behaviour of a small minority of dog owners; and to set out a clear standard to which all dog owners are required to adhere

3. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick those that apply)

- Residents
- Visitors
- Staff

A specific client group or groups (please state): N/A

4. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this? (Please tick)

- New
- Revised
- Existing

5. Responsible directorate and service

Directorate: Environment

Service: Streets and Open Spaces Operations

6. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

No

Yes (please give details):

All council officers and external agencies who are involved with dog control and responsibility gathering can be involved with dog control, including but not limited to Cambridgeshire Police, Wood Green Animal Shelter, RSPCA and local dog welfare organisations.

7. Potential impact

Please list and explain how this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could **positively** or **negatively** affect individuals from the following equalities groups.

When answering this question, please think about:

- The results of relevant consultation that you or others have completed (for example with residents, people that work in or visit Cambridge, service users, staff or partner organisations).
- Complaints information.
- Performance information.
- Information about people using your service (for example whether people from certain equalities groups use the service more or less than others).
- Inspection results.
- Comparisons with other organisations.
- The implementation of your piece of work (don't just assess what you think the impact will be after you have completed your work, but also think about what steps you might have to take to make sure that the implementation of your work does not negatively impact on people from a particular equality group).
- The relevant premises involved.
- Your communications.
- National research (local information is not always available, particularly for some equalities groups, so use national research to provide evidence for your conclusions).

(a) Age (any group of people of a particular age, including younger and older people – in particular, please consider any safeguarding issues for children and vulnerable adults)

Data for this characteristic is not held.

(b) Disability (including people with a physical impairment, sensory impairment, learning disability, mental health problem or other condition which has an impact on their daily life)

Currently the dog control orders for clearing up dog faeces and dog exclusion areas do not apply to all people. The legislation sets out some exemptions (which are not open to adaption).

The PSPO for dog control would create exceptions for those using assistance dogs, as per the meaning of an “assistance dog” given by section 173(1) of the Equality Act 2010

This would ensure that the restrictions placed on dog owners / handlers are reasonable and take into account conditions where it is not possible to comply with certain requirements.

(c) Gender

Data for this characteristic is not held.

(d) Pregnancy and maternity

Data for this characteristic is not held.

(e) Transgender (including gender re-assignment)

Data for this characteristic is not held.

(f) Marriage and Civil Partnership

Data for this characteristic is not held.

(g) Race or Ethnicity

Data for this characteristic is not held.

(h) Religion or Belief

Data for this characteristic is not held.

(i) Sexual Orientation

Data for this characteristic is not held.

(j) Other factors that may lead to inequality – in particular – please consider the impact of any changes on low income groups or those experiencing the impacts of poverty (please state):

Data for offences of dog control does not hold records of any of the above characteristics, so it is not possible to quantify / consider how specific groups might or might not be affected in Cambridge.

All enforcement action is undertaken in accordance with the council's [Corporate Enforcement Policy](#).

Currently the option for dealing with dog control is fixed penalty notices, which offers individuals and businesses the opportunity to pay a monetary fine, and in turn discharge their liability to prosecution (they will not end up with a criminal record). The continuation of fines at the same level, including an early repayment amount continues to offer a lower threshold that individuals and businesses can also take advantage of, reducing financial impacts.

The council does not offer payment by instalments or payment plans. Payment for fixed penalties can only be accepted for the full amount. However, in cases of extreme financial difficulties, officers have discretion to be able to extend the lower threshold payment period (subject to legal restrictions), and will work together with those issued fixed penalties to avoid prosecution where possible.

8. If you have any additional comments please add them here

All communication by the Streets and Open Spaces Operations team is undertaken in accordance with the [Service Standards](#) which details what customers can expect of us.

Usage and payment of FPNS will be monitored and the EqlA kept under review as required.

9. Conclusions and Next Steps

- If you have not identified any negative impacts, please sign off this form.
- If you have identified potential negative actions, you must complete the action plan at the end of this document to set out how you propose to mitigate the impact. If you do not feel that the potential negative impact can be mitigated, you must complete question 8 to explain why that is the case.
- If there is insufficient evidence to say whether or not there is likely to be a negative impact, please complete the action plan setting out what additional information you need to gather to complete the assessment.

All completed Equality Impact Assessments must be emailed to Suzanne Goff, Strategy Officer, who will arrange for it to be published on the City Council's website.
Email suzanne.goff@cambridge.gov.uk

10. Sign off

Name and job title of assessment lead officer: Wendy Young, Operations Manager
(Community Engagement and Enforcement)

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted:

Date of completion: 25 May 2017

Date of next review of the assessment:

Action Plan

Equality Impact Assessment title:

Date of completion:

Equality Group	Age
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Equality Group	Disability
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Equality Group	Gender
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Equality Group	Pregnancy and Maternity
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Equality Group	Transgender
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Equality Group	Marriage and Civil Partnership
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Equality Group	Race or Ethnicity
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Equality Group	Religion or Belief
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Equality Group	Sexual Orientation
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	

Other factors that may lead to inequality	
Details of possible disadvantage or negative impact	
Action to be taken to address the disadvantage or negative impact	
Officer responsible for progressing the action	
Date action to be completed by	