

Cambridge City Council Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This tool helps the Council ensure that we fulfil legal obligations of the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) to have due regard to the need to –

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Guidance on how to complete this tool can be found on the Cambridge City Council intranet. For specific questions on the tool email Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk or phone 01223 457046.

Once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking. For advice on consulting on equality impacts, please contact Graham Saint, Strategy Officer, (graham.saint@cambridge.gov.uk or 01223 457044).

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service
Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2016 (“PSPO Touting”)

2. Webpage link to full details of the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service (if available)
Public Spaces Protection Orders - Cambridge City Council

3. What is the objective or purpose of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?
To renew the PSPO Touting order that has been effective in reducing nuisance in its designated areas. The purpose of the renewed PSPO is to continue to prohibit verbally: Advertising or Soliciting for custom or Otherwise touting for

a punt tour or the hire or use of punts boats or similar craft on the River Cam (including any walking tour which includes or involves, whether or not for consideration, a punt tour or hire or use of punts boats or similar craft on the River Cam)

The restrictions have certain exemptions, explained in the Order.

By virtue of Chapter 2 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, a local authority can make a PSPO if satisfied, on reasonable grounds that the following two conditions are met:

(1) that activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

(2) that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature; is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable; and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

A report is presented to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on 24 March 2022 detailing the responses to consultation and the main substantive issues raised during the consultation process.

Prominent notices are already displayed drawing the attention of members of the public to the fact that the PSPO Touting is in effect.

4. Responsible service

Community Services – Community Safety Team

5. Who will be affected by this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Residents
- Visitors
- Staff

Please state any specific client group or groups (e.g. City Council tenants, tourists, people who work in the city but do not live here):

Residents and people visiting and working in the designated areas who maybe at risk of being approached by a tout.

Unlicensed punt operators and the touts working for them

6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?

- New
- Major change
- Minor change

7. Are other departments or partners involved in delivering this strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service? (Please tick)

- Yes
 No

If 'Yes' please provide details below:

The PSPO Touting is enforced by the City Council's enforcement officers (Street and Open Spaces).

8. Has the report on your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service gone to Committee? If so, which one?

The proposals will go to Environment and Community Scrutiny Committee on 24 March 2022.

9. What research methods/ evidence have you used in order to identify equality impacts of your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service?

Sources of data used to inform this EqIA include:

- [Cambridgeshire Insight](#) – what data did you use?
- [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014](#)
- [Anti-social behaviour powers - Statutory guidance for frontline professionals](#)
- [Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics](#)

Consultation with the local policing body, relevant community representatives as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner, ward councillors and licensed punt operators. The consultation responses showed 94% (32 of 34) of respondents supported the renewal of the PSPO Touting. Reasons included:

- People being approached by touters at prohibited locations, albeit at reduced levels
- The PSPO acting as a deterrent
- Increased enjoyment by the public of the spaces covered in the PSPO
- Concerns about prohibited behaviours increasing should the PSPO be discharged
- The need to maintain a pleasant resident, student and visitor experience as the city recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic
- Of the 6% (two of 34) who did not explicitly call for the PSPO to be renewed one commented that touting still occurs at prohibited locations on a reduced level and the other respondent gave views on both renewal and discharge.

10. Potential impacts

For each category below, please explain if the strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service could have a positive/ negative impact or no impact. Where an impact has been identified, please explain what it is. Consider impacts on service users, visitors and staff members separately.

(a) Age - Please also consider any safeguarding issues for children and adults at risk

When initially put in place in 2016, it was anticipated that young people may be affected, especially those looking for summertime work selling punt tickets.

Older people may feel more vulnerable when approached by a tout and may avoid spaces where there is a risk of this happening based on previous experiences or a perceived feeling of threat. Office of national statistics data shows that women aged 75 and over feel less safe when walking alone.

(b) Disability

The restriction on tout numbers may improve accessibility and safety for this protected characteristic group. People living with a disability may feel more vulnerable either because of a physical or mental impairment that may cause them to feel an increased threat to their personal safety by unsolicited approaches by touts. The Office of National Statistics data shows that disabled adults feel less safe when walking alone, with the highest proportion feeling very or fairly unsafe in busy public spaces, when compared to quiet streets, parks or other public spaces.

(c) Gender reassignment

People with the protected characteristic of gender reassignment may feel increased threat to their personal safety by unsolicited approaches from people. Encompass Network has shared with the Council that transwomen especially experience hate incidents daily when out and about in Cambridge.

(d) Marriage and civil partnership

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(e) Pregnancy and maternity

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(f) Race – Note that the protected characteristic ‘race’ refers to a group of people defined by their race, colour, and nationality (including citizenship) ethnic or national origins.

The notice may not be understood by those whose first language is not English, this would be the same for any Council notice displayed solely in English. Touts may approach tourist groups who may have different cultural values and find it difficult to refuse a persistent and aggressive tout despite not wanting to use their service.

(g) Religion or belief

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(h) Sex

Office of National Statistics data on perceptions of safety showed that women may be more alert to unsolicited approaches from strangers, which may impact their safety. A reduction in touting could improve women’s feelings of safety in the city.

(i) Sexual orientation

No impact has been identified specific to this protected characteristic group.

(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**
- **Groups who have more than one protected characteristic that taken together create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. (Here you are being asked to consider intersectionality, and for more information see: https://media.ed.ac.uk/media/1_159kt25g).**

The PSPO Touting is aimed at tackling verbal touting for punt tours outside of designated areas where legitimate touting can continue (by licensed punt operators). Touting must be verbal and witnessed by either an enforcement officer, police constable or PCSO before the breach of the

Order can be sanctioned, by means of a Fixed Penalty Notice. It was anticipated that young people or students seeking summertime work would be impacted, being the main tout cohort for the unlicensed operators. Enforcement of the prohibition would have to be in line with the City Council's [Enforcement Policy](#).

11. Action plan – New equality impacts will be identified in different stages throughout the planning and implementation stages of changes to your strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service. How will you monitor these going forward? Also, how will you ensure that any potential negative impacts of the changes will be mitigated? (Please include dates where possible for when you will update this EqlA accordingly.)

In addition to signage and publication of the PSPO arranged by the City Council it is also the responsibility of punt operators to comply with the local legislation and to inform their employees of how the legislation impacts their work i.e., prohibited behaviours and locations for touting. The negative impact in relation to race may be mitigated by being able to arrange for a translation of the notice, upon request.

Whilst the areas that operators can tout from are restricted, there are clearly marked exception areas within the PSPO where punt touting is allowed to take place. This would still allow young people working for the punt operators to sell tickets.

12. Do you have any additional comments?

The Council has already taken a number of steps to deal with the problems of caused by touts.

A summary of the measures tried:

- Restrictions within leases/licences on the locations and numbers of touts
- A voluntary code of practice covering matters such as behaviour, touting locations and numbers
- A Byelaw to deal with aggressive punt touting
- An Injunction to prohibit use of certain areas of Council-owned land

13. Sign off

Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Keryn Jalli, Community Safety Manager

Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: Tom Kingsley, Project Officer, Community Safety

Date of EqIA sign off: 02 March 2022

Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: 24 March 2022

All EqIAs need to be sent to Helen Crowther, Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at helen.crowther@cambridge.gov.uk.