

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 please contact the Community Equity Team at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk.

Also, once you have drafted the EqIA please send this to equalities@cambridge.gov.uk for checking.

1. Title of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service
Public Spaces Protection Order (Touting) 2026 ("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?
The current 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. The change to the PSPO is to strengthen the definition to include non verbal touting which would include: Soliciting, approaching, responding to, advertising, promoting, arranging, booking, or selling river-related goods or services to members of the public in a public place, whether: • orally;

- by distributing sales or publicity materials;
- by carrying or wearing a tout board, sandwich board or similar advertising device;
- by using, offering, or displaying any electronic device for booking purposes; or
- by any other form of advertising or touting.

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 Cabinet on 23 September 2026 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

Public Safety Team. Property Services, Legal Services, Communications 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):

punt operators and the touts working for them. Tourists

6. What type of strategy, policy, plan, project, contract or major change to your service is this?	☐ New ☐ Major change ☒ Minor change
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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
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If 'Yes' please provide details below:

Property Services who license / lease punt operators

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 Cabinet on 23 September 2026

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: • Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 • Anti-social behaviour powers - Statutory guidance for frontline professionals • Public consultation via Go Vocal • Data held on Tascomi

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

It was anticipated that young people may be affected, especially those looking for summertime work selling punt tickets. However, this proposal is a continuation of the existing PSPO. The proposal is to strengthen the definition of touting for the purpose of this PSPO and if the young people working for the operators are not correctly educated with the extension of the definition they are likely to be issued Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs). The impact is mitigated as officers will work with the operators and the punt touts to explain the changes and working within the enforcement policy have a graduated approach to enforcement by which if there are persistent offenders they will be subject to the issuing of FPNs.

(b) Disability

The restriction on tout numbers may improve accessibility and safety for this protected characteristic group.

The primary nuisance caused by punt touts shared by consultation was the obstruction of pavements. A reduction in pavement obstructions would reduce impact of those such as wheelchair users when travelling in the areas covered by the PSPO.

(c) Gender reassignment

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

(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.

The primary nuisance caused by punt touts shared by consultation was the obstruction of pavements. A reduction in pavement obstructions would reduce impact of those such as buggy users when travelling in the areas covered by the PSPO.

(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. Signs will be updated to be more succinct and include images of punting which can be universally understood.

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.

(g) Religion or belief

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

(h) Sex

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

(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_159kt25q).

It was anticipated that people punt touting such as young people or students seeking summertime work are on lower incomes and would be impacted. 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 EqIA accordingly.)

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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
- An Injunction to prohibit use of certain areas of Council-owned land

Despite these steps, public concern about the activities and prevalence of touts in the city continues. The consultation responses showed 93.7% (440 respondents) supported the continuation of the PSPO.

13. Sign off
Name and job title of lead officer for this equality impact assessment: Yvonne O'Donnell Strategic Environmental Health & Public Safety Lead
Names and job titles of other assessment team members and people consulted: Graham Lewis Community Equity Officer
Date of EqlA sign off: 8th September 2026
Date of next review of the equalities impact assessment: September 2029
Date to be published on Cambridge City Council website: Click here to enter text.

All EqlAs need to be sent to the Equality and Anti-Poverty Officer at equalities@cambridge.gov.uk