

Appendix 2 b

# Equality Impact Assessment EqIA Template



You must consider the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) when completing this template.

The EDI team can provide help and advice on undertaking an EqIA and also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EqIA documents.

EDI team contact email: [edi\\_team@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:edi_team@sandwell.gov.uk)

<b>Quality Control</b>	
Title of proposal	Implementation of 3 Boroughwide Public Space Protection Orders in relation to: Alcohol; Dogs and BBQs / Fires
Directorate and Service Area	Borough Economy – Community Safety
Officer completing EqIA	Tessa Mitchell – Business Manager Community Safety
Contact Details	<a href="mailto:tessa_mitchell@sandwell.gov.uk">tessa_mitchell@sandwell.gov.uk</a>
Other officers involved in completing this EqIA	Andrew Clarke ASB Team Manager Sandwell's EDI Team Public Health
Date EqIA completed	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Date EqIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EqIA	
Date EqIA considered by Cabinet	7 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Where the EqIA is Published  (please include a link to the EqIA and send a copy of the final EqIA to the EDI team)	

## Section 1.

### The purpose of the project, proposal or decision required

In October 2017, Sandwell's existing Dog Control Orders transitioned under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to become a Public Space Protection Order.

PSPOs last for up to 3 years and then need to be reviewed. This order was renewed in March 2021 and is now up for consideration again. This year as well as proposing to renew the existing requirement it is proposed to strengthen the order through the addition of 2 new prohibitions. The proposed restrictions are as follows:

#### **Dog Fouling:**

*"making it an offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to pick up the dog's faeces forthwith should it defecate whilst in their control. Registered disability assistance dogs and their users are exempt from the requirements of this order"* (existing)

And two new requirements:

*'making it an offence for a person in charge of a dog to fail to be able to produce a receptacle to pick up dog faeces'*

*'making it an offence for a person in charge of a dog to allow a dog into an enclosed children's play area / sports area'*

*Exemptions apply to any:*

- *blind person who uses a guide dog for assistance*
- *physically or mentally Disabled person who uses a disability assistance dog*
- *physically or mentally Disabled person who, due to their impairment, is unable to pick up their dog's faeces*


This Boroughwide proposal supports the Sandwell Community Safety Strategy objective in relation to reducing crime and ASB. The existing order has been useful in engaging individuals and providing opportunities for education and support. It also provides the Local Authority with enforcement powers which can be used as a last resort with individuals. Over the past 3 years 5 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued. A public consultation has also taken place which has significantly supported the proposals and a Cabinet report recommending these proposals are accepted is scheduled for February 2024. The proposals will also be taken to Scrutiny in January 2024.

## Section 2.


Evidence used and considered. Include analysis of any missing data

**Sandwell Borough Information**


## POPULATION

 **POPULATION**  
**329,049**  
 The latest available ONS Mid-Year estimates provide a figure of 329,042 for Sandwell.  
 Since 2014, the population has grown by 12,753 residents, equating to an increase of 4%.  
 The latest population projection gives an estimate of an increase to 347,891 by 2030; an increase of 18,849 (+6%).

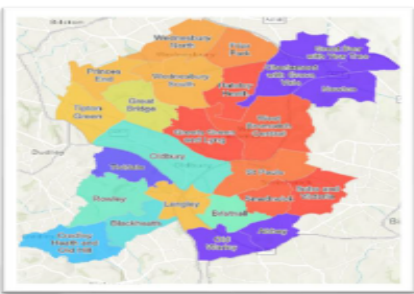
**GENDER**  
 There is even split between males and females



**MEDIAN AGE**  
**37**  
 The median age of 37 in Sandwell is lower than that across England and Wales (40).  
 There are variances between the wards. For example, 46% of the population in Newton are over the age of 45 compared to 27% in Soho and Victoria. The age profile of the wards will have a bearing on the prevalence of substance misuse.

 **BAME**  
**34%**  
 The 2011 census data shows that 34% of the population in Sandwell are from a BAME background, however the rate is now likely to be higher.

**DEPRIVATION**  
**34%**  
 The average deprivation score for Sandwell makes it the 12<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority in England.  
 Deprivation varies greatly between the wards.  
 There is a significant link between deprivation and substance misuse.



While Sandwell has considerable data regarding the population, data in relation to those who have been engaged with or issued with penalties as a result of the existing PSPOs is limited and there is none in relation to dog owners.

However public concern regarding these issues is evident from the responses to the consultation. Also that 5 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued over the past 3 years shows that having such powers to address such behaviour is necessary when engagement and education does not work.

### 3. Consultation

There are specific requirements in relation to consultations related to PSPOs, published by the LGA in 2018. In line with this guidance, a public consultation was conducted on Sandwell's Consultation Hub between 16<sup>th</sup> September and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023. This was publicised via the local press, The Sandwell Herald and on SMBCs website and social media. Other specific consultees were:

West Midlands Police	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
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West Midlands Fire Service	West Midlands Ambulance Service
SMBC Public Health	Cranstoun
DECCA	Transport For West Midlands
The Kennel Club	The Ramblers

230 people responded and there was considerable support for all the proposals:

- 98% supported the existing Dog Fouling PSPO
- 92% supporting having to have a receptacle to clean up mess
- 91% supporting the exclusion of dogs from fenced off play areas / sports areas

This PSPO proposals demonstrates the council's commitment to listening to its residents, partners and communities and to take action to address issues that are important to them.

Additional engagement was also undertaken throughout the Safer 6 campaign. The proposals are also supported by Sandwell's multi-agency Borough Tasking partnership and align with the objectives of the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Boards objective of reducing crime and ASB.

#### **Section 4.**

Summary assessment of the analysis at section 4a and the likely impact on each of the protected characteristics (if any)

There is no evidence or suggestion that these PSPOs would impact more negatively on any specific protected characteristic. The aim of the proposals is to engage, educate and reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour and its impact on all residents in the Borough.

There is limited information on these characteristics currently that can feed into this assessment. However the proposed PSPO would support any individuals engaged in such anti-social behaviours and provide support and advice as needed. The outcome is to enhance community safety across the Borough. Sandwell has a long established PSPO regarding dogs with no

reported concerns or adverse impacts. Exemptions are also in place for owners of registered disability dogs.

**Section 4a - What are the potential/actual impacts of the proposal on the protected characteristics?**

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
Age	Ne	<p>There is no evidence that the PSPO relating to dogs would impact more negatively on any age group over and above another. The PSPO with its focus on education and engagement should positively impact on all age groups. Reducing dog mess should also positively benefit children's health.</p>		
Disability	Ne	<p>There is very little information available in relation to disability and dogs. However the existing dogs PSPO exempts owners of registered disability dogs so there are no adverse impacts as a result of these prohibitions. This will continue.</p>		

<b>Reviewed Characteristic</b>	<b>Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)</b>	<b>Details of impact</b>	<b>Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)</b>	<b>Owner of action/ Timescale</b>
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals. The Dogs PSPO has a focus on health which could positively benefit those who are pregnant.		
<b>Race</b>	Ne	There is no information to indicate this protected characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.		



<b>Reviewed Characteristic</b>	<b>Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)</b>	<b>Details of impact</b>	<b>Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)</b>	<b>Owner of action/ Timescale</b>
<b>Religion or belief</b>	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
<b>Sex</b>	Ne	There is no information to indicate this group would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.		
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
<b>Could other socio-economic groups be affected?</b>				
<b>Carer Low income groups Veterans/Armed Forces Community Other</b>		Sandwell is the 12 <sup>th</sup> most deprived area in England. The PSPO would not treat any of these groups differently and will provide opportunities for engagement and education with the aim of improving community safety for all.		

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then please move to Sections 6.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. Section 6: Decision or actions proposed

That these proposals are accepted by Cabinet and that the 3 PSPOs are approved for a further 3 years from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Moving forward:

- Better data relating to those engaged with / receiving enforcement requirements is captured and shared through Borough Tasking to better understand impact

7. Monitoring arrangements

The use and impact of the PSPOs are reviewed at Town and Borough Tasking meetings and feed into the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board

**Section 8 Action planning (if required)**

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/ person responsible	Target date	Progress

If you have any suggestions for improving this process, please contact [EDI\\_Team@Sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:EDI_Team@Sandwell.gov.uk)