

Appendix 2 c

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

Quality Control	
Title of proposal	Implementation of a Boroughwide Public Space Protection Order in relation to BBQs / Fires
Directorate and Service Area	Borough Economy – Community Safety
Officer completing EqIA	Tessa Mitchell – Business Manager Community Safety
Contact Details	tessa_mitchell@sandwell.gov.uk
Other officers involved in completing this EqIA	Andrew Clarke ASB Team Manager Sandwell's EDI Team
Date EqIA completed	13 th 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 th 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

Following concerns about wild fires during the summer of 2022 and for the safety of local residents and properties, it is being proposed to implement a new Public Space Protection Order to prohibit such activities in public spaces across Sandwell. The proposed order would:

'make it an offence to have fires / BBQs in public spaces in Sandwell and not to stop these when requested to do so by authorised officers / constables. Individuals are required to surrender anything in their possession which an authorised officer / constable or has reasonable suspicion to be an article that has been used OR is likely to be used in conjunction with these prohibited activities'

This is a Boroughwide proposal which support the Sandwell Community Safety Strategy objective in relation to reducing crime and ASB. PSPOs provide opportunities for education and support but also provide the Local Authority with enforcement powers which can be used as a last resort with individuals. A public consultation has also taken place which has significantly supported the proposal and a Cabinet report recommending these proposals are accepted is scheduled for 7th 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.

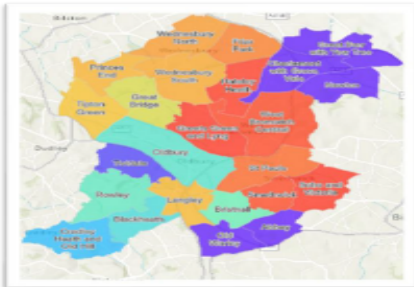
DEPRIVATION

34%

The average deprivation score for Sandwell makes it the 12th 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, there is no such comparable data in relation to those involved in fires in public spaces. However public concern regarding all these issues is evident from the responses to the consultation.

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 16th September and 16th 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
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 87% supported the introduction of a PSPO in relation to Fires / BBQs .

This PSPO proposal 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 for this PSPO are also supported by Sandwell's multi-agency Borough Tasking partnership, including West Midlands Fire Service, 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 this PSPO 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.

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	There is no evidence that the PSPO would impact more negatively on any age group over and above another.		
Disability	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.		
Gender Reassignment	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Marriage and civil partnership	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		

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
Pregnancy and maternity	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.		
Race	Ne	There is no information to indicate this protected characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.		
Religion or belief	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		
Sex	Ne	There is no information to indicate this group would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals.		
Sexual Orientation	Ne	There is no information to indicate this characteristic would be impacted on differently as a result of these proposals		

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
Could other socio-economic groups be affected?				
Carer Low income groups Veterans/Armed Forces Community Other		Sandwell is the 12 th most deprived area in England. The PSPOs 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 PSPOs is approved for 3 years from 1st 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
- A review is undertaken in relation to whether designated BBQ areas would be suitable within some of our public spaces.

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