

Southend on Sea Borough Council - Equality Analysis

1. Background Information

1.1 The Council has had Dog Control Orders in place under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, for a number of years, which place certain requirements on dog owners to act responsibly in respect of, amongst other things: clearing dog faeces; keeping dogs on leads in designated areas; permitting dogs to enter land from which they are excluded. This also includes dogs being excluded from all beaches between the period 1 May and 30 September annually.

Dog Control Orders enabled the Council to issue fines to anyone who breached the provisions of the Order, however few fines have been previously issued, due to a combination of difficulties in witnessing and identifying those who breach. There has been much reliance on the public taking responsibility and the placing of signage to remind dog owners of those responsibilities in key locations such as children's play areas, public parks and beaches.

The PSPO supersedes the Dog Control Orders that have been in place for many years in Southend.

1.2 Department: Neighbourhoods and Environment

1.3 Service Area: Public Protection

1.4 Date Equality Analysis undertaken: 10/02/21

1.5 Names and roles of staff carrying out the Equality Analysis:

Name	Role	Service Area
Carl Robinson	Director of Public Protection	Public Protection

1.6 What are the aims or purpose of the policy, service function or restructure that is subject to the EA?

The aims of introducing a Dog Controls Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) are to provide the necessary controls around dogs in public areas to promote safety and public health and wellbeing, and to specify public areas within Southend where certain controls are in place.

The PSPO enables authorised officers to undertake enforcement and to issue Fixed Penalty Notices where breaches on the Order are witnessed and those responsible are identified.

1.7 What are the main activities relating to the policy, service function or restructure?

To provide controls over dogs in public areas in Southend, including our parks, open spaces and beaches.

2. Evidence Base

2.1 The Council undertook a public consultation between 9 November 2020 and 7 December 2020 which sought views on whether a PSPO was required and the type of controls that should be included in any PSPO introduced.

A total of 936 responses were received to the consultation, and the overall consensus from those responding to the consultation is that they strongly support and understand what the Council is trying to achieve and do see that a PSPO is required to cover the existing provisions for dog control, with some minor amendments in respect of clearing dog faeces.

The most significant issue raised by respondents was in respect of dog fouling, with approx. 70% of respondents indicating that dog fouling had a detrimental impact on quality of life in the borough. It was considered that more enforcement was required to tackle dog fouling in particular, and that more dog poo bins and clearer signage should be in place at key locations.

The summary of the consultation and the full consultation response are both included below:



PSPO Dog Control
Consultation Analysis



Appendix 1 - PSPO
Comments only.pdf

3. Analysis

	Impact - Please tick				
	Yes			No	Unclear
	Positive	Negative	Neutral		
Age (including looked after children)	Y				
Disability			Y		
Gender reassignment			Y		
Marriage and civil partnership			Y		
Pregnancy and maternity	Y				
Race			Y		

Religion or belief			Y		
Sex			Y		
Sexual orientation			Y		
Carers			Y		
Socio-economic			Y		

Descriptions of the protected characteristics are available in the guidance or from: [EHRC - protected characteristics](#)

- 3.2 Where an impact has been identified above, outline what the impact of the policy, service function or restructure on members of the groups with protected characteristics below:

	Potential Impact
Age	Continued provisions for the control of dogs in public areas will benefit all ages in terms of safety, health and wellbeing.
Disability	n/a.
Gender reassignment	n/a
Marriage and civil partnership	n/a
Pregnancy and maternity	Continued provisions for the control of dogs in public areas will benefit in terms of safety, health and wellbeing.
Race	n/a
Religion or belief	n/a
Sex	n/a
Sexual orientation	n/a
Carers	n/a

Socio-economic	n/a.

4. Community Impact

- 4.1 The impact from continuing to have controls on dogs in public areas will be positive in terms of safety, health and wellbeing.
- 4.2 The impact from continuing to have controls on dogs in public areas on responsible dog owners will be neutral, as responsible dog owners will already adhere to existing controls in place.

5. Equality Analysis Action Plan

5.1 Use the below table to set out what action will be taken to:

Planned action	Objective	Who	When	How will this be monitored (e.g. via team/service plans)
None				

Signed (lead officer):



Signed (Director):

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Once signed, please send a copy of the completed EA (and, if applicable, CCIA) to Tim MacGregor TimMacGregor@southend.gov.uk.