

Equality Impact Assessment – PSPO Dog Control

12 May 17

Author/editor/assessor	Alison Stevens
Partners/decision makers/implementers, etc.	Dog Control Officers, legal services, Environment Coordinator, consultation involving public, parish councils, large land owners, Kennel Club etc .
Start date	December 2016
End date	31 Sept 2020
Relevance	<p>PSPO requires members of the public to take positive action concerning the actions/behaviour of their dogs.</p> <p>Age Children under 16 are exempt from FPN although the policies remain, as children who are walking dogs would themselves need to be able to control the dog, and would therefore be responsible enough to keep within the controls of the PSPO.</p> <p>Disability The policy will have a positive impact as it exempts registered blind people and people with a disability that would prevent them from doing so, from having to remove dog faeces and exemptions from the requirements of the exclusion control.</p> <p>No other protected characteristics are affected by the controls in the PSPO.</p> <p>PSPO may impact Article 8, the right to respect private and family life by restricting one's right to take a dog on to those areas where they are excluded by the Order. However, the restriction is on the grounds of protection of health and is therefore deemed as reasonable and necessary.</p>
Policy Aims	<p>PSPO is needed to control some dog behaviour by irresponsible dog owners. It covers those behaviours that were prescribed in CNEA05 in addition to dogs on lead by direction to enable the dog wardens to ask a person to put their dog on a lead and therefore under control if it is causing a nuisance to others.</p> <p>There is the potential to cover emerging areas – nos of dogs walked collectively but no evidence currently to support this.</p> <p>Restrictions in the PSPSO are deemed necessary on public health and nuisance grounds and recreational disturbance of birds in protected habitat.</p> <p>Replacement PSPOS is necessary to maintain the status quo</p>

	when existing controls are repealed at end of Sept 17.
Available evidence	CNEA 05 included provisions to exempt registered blind people and people with disability that prevented them from picking up after their dog or where they needed a dog for mobility in an exclusion area. These provisions are continued in the PSPO.
Evidence gaps	Other potential impacts will be identified during the consultation process
Involvement and consultation	A full public consultation was carried out between 15 Feb 17 and 15 Mar 17. In addition, various partner agencies and interested stakeholders were consulted. Officers subsequently made additional enquiries post consultation with stakeholders and land owners where the consultation resulted in proposed changes to the PSPO. The consultation responses will be brought before Cabinet before decisions are made on the draft PSPO.
What is the actual/likely impact?	Registered blind – exempt from controls Other relevant disabilities – exempt from controls
Address the impact	Policy exempts registered blind people and certain disabilities
Monitoring and review	No changes proposed, individual cases are assessed on their merits for example a FPN was waived where an elderly dog owner was unable to pick up due to heart condition.
Action Plan	Staff receive equalities training and are familiar with delivering these controls. Monitor on a case by cases basis.
Decision making and quality control	Draft PSPO will be consulted on. Consultation responses will go to Cabinet/Full Council for a decision.