

PART A - Initial Equality Screening Assessment

As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality and diversity.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provide a record of both the process and decision. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions.

Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality and diversity
- whether or not equality and diversity is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an Equality Analysis (Part B).

Further information is available in the Equality Screening and Analysis Guidance – see page 9.

1. Title

Title:

Public Spaces Protection Orders – Town Centre & Clifton Park and Borough Wide Dog Fouling

Directorate:
Regeneration and Environment

Service area:
Regulation and Enforcement

Lead person:
Craig Cornwall

Contact number:
01709 823118

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

 Service / Function

 Other

If other, please specify

2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening

The report and recommendation on the designation of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) is defined through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and Statutory Guidance which provides a legal framework within which PSPOs can be implemented. Orders can be introduced in a specific public area where the local authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that certain conditions have been met.

The first test concerns the nature of the anti-social behaviour, requiring that:

- activities that have taken place have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will take place and that they will have a detrimental effect

- the effect or likely effect of these activities:
 - is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature
 - is, or is likely to be, unreasonable
 - justifies the restrictions being imposed

3. Relevance to equality and diversity

All the Council's strategies/policies, services/functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – borough wide or more local. These will also have a greater/lesser relevance to equality and diversity.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, civil partnerships and marriage, pregnancy and maternity and other socio-economic groups e.g. parents, single parents and guardians, carers, looked after children, unemployed and people on low incomes, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, homeless people etc.

Questions	Yes	No
Could the proposal have implications regarding the accessibility of services to the whole or wider community? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect service users? <i>(Be mindful that this is not just about numbers. A potential to affect a small number of people in a significant way is as important)</i>		X
Has there been or is there likely to be an impact on an individual or group with protected characteristics? <i>(Consider potential discrimination, harassment or victimisation of individuals with protected characteristics)</i>	x	
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns regarding the proposal? <i>(It is important that the Council is transparent and consultation is carried out with members of the public to help mitigate future challenge)</i>	x	
Could the proposal affect how the Council's services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from commissioning or procurement)</i>		X
Could the proposal affect the Council's workforce or employment practices? <i>(If the answer is yes you may wish to seek advice from your HR business partner)</i>		X
If you have answered no to all the questions above, please explain the reason		

If you have answered **no** to all the questions above please complete **sections 5 and 6**.

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above please complete **section 4**.

4. Considering the impact on equality and diversity

If you have not already done so, the impact on equality and diversity should be considered within your proposals before decisions are made.

Considering equality and diversity will help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take active steps to create a discrimination free society by meeting a group or individual's needs and encouraging participation.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below using the prompts for guidance and complete an Equality Analysis (Part B).

- **How have you considered equality and diversity?**

A public consultation took place between 17th September and 30th October 2024. This included an online public facing questionnaire, including equalities monitoring plus:

- Signposting of the online consultation by the Council's Social Media platforms.
- Internal consultation with key impacted services
- Inclusion of the consultation on Corporate newsletters and Briefings
- Email to all registered private sector Landlords and Managing Agents inviting participation as Rotherham residents or Business Representatives, and also to Licensed Premises database
- Discussion with key stakeholders within frontline practitioner meetings and Ward Briefings.
- Emails to all Town Centre businesses registered with RiDO.
- Visits with hard copy questionnaires to all Town Centre Businesses
- Briefing to Voluntary Action Rotherham, Rotherham Sight and Sound and Faith groups/premises in the Town Centre footprint.
- Letters of invitation to reply to the key statutory agencies such as the Police, PCC, SY Fire & Rescue as well as well established voluntary and third sector organisations such as Clifton Leaning Partnership, REMA and RotherFed.

- **Key findings**

No challenge or issues were identified by members of the public via the consultation based on equality considerations other than identifying begging or beggars as a key priority to resolve. As the wide ranging steps taken to identify and engage stakeholder shows, barriers to accessing the consultation were mitigated.

Internally, consideration was given to enforcing elements of begging which may impact on the most vulnerable individuals with protected characteristics in society. The recommendation to bring in specific prohibitions around this behaviour was not brought forward based on the inferences that could be drawn from this.

- **Actions**

Capture equalities background information where possible on individuals dealt with via the Order to ensure it is not disproportionately applied. This can be done within the service case management system.

Date to scope and plan your Equality Analysis:	1 st December 2024
Date to complete your Equality Analysis:	15 th December 2024
Lead person for your Equality Analysis (Include name and job title):	Craig Cornwall

5. Governance, ownership and approval

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening:

Name	Job title	Date
Craig Cornwall	Community Protection Manager	04/11/2024

6. Publishing

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given.

If this screening relates to a **Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision** a copy of the completed document should be attached as an appendix and published alongside the relevant report.

A copy of **all** screenings should also be sent to equality@rotherham.gov.uk For record keeping purposes it will be kept on file and also published on the Council's Equality and Diversity Internet page.

Date screening completed	4 th November 2024
Report title and date	Public Spaces Protection Orders 2024
If relates to a Cabinet, key delegated officer decision, Council, other committee or a significant operational decision – report date and date sent for publication	16 th December 2024
Date screening sent to Performance, Intelligence and Improvement equality@rotherham.gov.uk	04/11/2024