

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
Equality Impact Assessment

Assessment completed by Carla Claydon

Name of policy/project/service to be assessed	WGC Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) Consultation 2023
Method of analysis undertaken and dates	Managers – desktop screening <input type="checkbox"/> Date: 08.09.2023 Employee Forum <input type="checkbox"/> Date: TBC Stakeholder review <input type="checkbox"/> Date: TBC
Who does the policy or service affect?	Customers (public) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal (staff/Members) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External (partners/contractors/agencies) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
What are the aims/objectives/purpose or outcome or intended effects of the policy, project or service?	To adequately and appropriately consult with those who are currently and would/could be affected by the control zone of the WGC PSPO now and in the future. To understand the issues and concerns of those within the proposed control zone.
What equality data is available relating to the use or implementation of the policy, project or service?	There is an understanding that the proposed control zone has a varied social demographic, in terms of residents and businesses, as such it is important that all those who could be affected are appropriately and adequately consulted prior to consideration being given to the implementation of the PSPO.
What consultation has taken place in the development or review of the policy, project or service?	The consultation will be undertaken between October to November 2023. There is a legal duty for the council to consult to ensure that the proposed PSPO is proportionate and necessary within its geographical area. As part of the consultation, we plan to liaise with residents, organisations, visitors and businesses in WGC.

Does the policy have a positive or negative impact on any of the following Protected Characteristic groups covered by the Equality Act 2010?

	Positive Yes/No	Negative Yes/No	Neutral Yes/No	Evidence & Comments
Age	NO	YES	NO	The PSPO will not discriminate in terms of age, however with regards to rough sleeping anyone under the age of 18 will be provided with accommodation through Herts Young Homeless, such provision is not automatically available to those over the age of 18. Therefore, the prohibitions in the proposed PSPO regarding rough sleeping, and to a point begging is more likely to affect those over the age of 18.
Disability	NO	YES	NO	Disability can include mental health conditions. Research has shown that begging is commonly used to feed drug and alcohol misuse habits (and mental health issues may be associated with these addictions). Research has also found that often the persons begging are not homeless. There is no intention to target homeless persons under the begging provision. If enforcement officers find persons begging, or street drinking, that are vulnerable or in need of support appropriate action will be taken.
Ethnicity	NO	YES	NO	It is understood that there are a small number of rough sleepers are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. A concerted effort will be made with local organisations, churches and other groups to ensure that these individuals, and those organisations that they are associated to, are consulted appropriately. It is accepted that language could be a barrier which is why it is important to engage with and utilise organisations, such as the Polish Forum, to assist in the delivery of this consultation.
Gender re-assignment	NO	NO	YES	The implementation of this proposal will have no effect on this characteristic
Marriage/Civil partnership	NO	NO	YES	The implementation of this proposal will have no effect on this characteristic
Pregnancy & Maternity	NO	NO	YES	The implementation of this proposal will have no effect on this characteristic

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	Positive Yes/No	Negative Yes/No	Neutral Yes/No	Evidence & Comments
Religion or belief	NO	NO	YES	The implementation of this proposal will have no effect on this characteristic
Sex	NO	NO	YES	The implementation of this proposal will have no effect on this characteristic
Sexual orientation	NO	NO	YES	The implementation of this proposal will have no effect on this characteristic

Equality Impact Assessment Outcome:

Low risk

Medium risk

High risk

Any other comments:

The implementation proposal will require a further and more detailed EIA prior to this going to a Council committee to understand fully the proposed impact.

For Steering Group use only:

Comments: