



**IPSWICH**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

### *EQIA- Public Spaces Protection Order for Borough of Ipswich*

**Ref:** EQIA2016050944

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**Service Area:** Housing & Customer Services

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**Title of report:** EQIA- Public Spaces Protection Order for Borough of Ipswich

**Reference:** EQIA2016050944

#### **What is the report trying to achieve?:**

Ipswich Borough Council is proposing to introduce a Borough wide Public Spaces Protection Order restricting a number of behaviours in the town. A breach of the order is a criminal offence that can result in the offender being report to the court or the breach being discharged by Fixed Penalty Notice.

Restrictions on the proposed behaviours may have an impact on protected characteristics or other strategic equalities considerations, in particular the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, mental well-being and community resilience, and disability. The impact on all factors has been considered.

The assessment makes due regard to whether implementation of the order will:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Equalities Act;

- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Data used to identify the types of behaviours within the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order has come from the Ipswich Borough Council and police databases.

The Public Spaces Protection Order will be for coverage of the whole of the Borough of Ipswich and is intended to benefit those that use the town and its public spaces by addressing the more serious elements of anti-social behaviour recorded.

**What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis?:**

Customers complaints/comments, Findings from surveys, focus groups & consultations, Information from statutory partners (e.g police), Published data - e.g Census, State of Ipswich report

**Supporting documents (if available):**

**Is there potential for positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?**

- **Age:** *No Impact*
- **Disability:** *No Impact*
- **Marriage & Civil Partnership:** *No Impact*
- **Race:** *No Impact*
- **Pregnancy & Maternity:** *No Impact*
- **Religion or Belief:** *No Impact*
- **Gender Reassignment:** *No Impact*
- **Sex:** *No Impact*
- **Sexual Orientation:** *No Impact*

**If 'No Impact' explain why**

The Public Spaces Protection Order will not have any affect on the 9 characteristics shown. There is no impact as the order is one related to behaviour and as such is to do with restricting certain types of behaviour and not about the characteristics of any one individual concerned.

Use of the PSPO powers and advice given will be recorded in pocket note books and on council databases. The information will be analysed to determine whether the implementation of the powers has had a disproportionate effect upon the equality factors.

It should be noted that mental health issues will be taken into account by officers.

**If you have identified any negative impacts (above) how can they be minimised or removed?**

At this point no known negative impacts are identified.

**The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s):**

This report has followed IBC policies for introducing a new Public Spaces Protection Order replacing the existing Designated Public Protection Order and will have taken into account of the Equality objectives.

**The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):** The report has followed IBC policies and/or legal requirements when making a Public Spaces Protection Order and taken into account Equality objectives.

**The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s):** The general public will have a more informed approach that Ipswich Borough Council has taken a considered and measured view of the issues that exist in the town and have done so taking into account the Equality objectives.