



IPSWICH  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **Equality Impact Assessment**

## *Extension of the existing Public Space Protection Order*

Ref: EQIA2020090414

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**Title of report:** Extension of the existing Public Space Protection Order

**Reference:** EQIA2020090414

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

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is a provision created by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the Act) and is intended to deal with nuisances or problems that are detrimental to the local community's quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of an area, that apply to everyone, whether resident or visitor. The PSPO automatically replaced the borough wide Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) that covered alcohol consumption in designated public places on the 20 October 2017.

Suffolk Constabulary have requested an extension to the current PSPO for a further three years however this can be varied at any time including changing the size of the restricted area, adding or removing prohibitions or adding or removing requirements. There is no limit on the number of times an Order may be reviewed and renewed.

Extending the existing PSPO throughout Ipswich will not prohibit drinking in public places however, it will provide the police (including PCSO's) and other designated officers the power to confiscate alcohol from anyone who is causing a nuisance in a public place and to be

issued a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or prosecute individuals or groups who refuse to stop drinking in public when requested.

It is not an offence to drink alcohol in a controlled drinking zone, however it is an offence for someone to fail when asked by an authorised officer to:

- Comply with a request to stop drinking or
- Surrender alcohol (or what is reasonably believed to be alcohol or a container for alcohol) in a controlled drinking zone

An Order is not intended to impact upon those people or families conducting themselves in a considerate and orderly manner whilst enjoying a social drink in a public area or park.

Extending a PSPO requires that the Council must be satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that the activities carried out or likely to be carried out, in a public space:

- have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature;
- is, or is likely to be, unreasonable; and
- justifies the restrictions imposed

The restriction on public drinking will not apply to any premises or area covered by a license allowing the consumption of alcohol, for example, the premises of licensed houses, clubs or restaurant, beer gardens or a pavement seating area. There are also limitations where a temporary event notice has been given under Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003, or where the sale or consumption of alcohol is permitted by virtue of permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980.

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

Findings from surveys, focus groups & consultations, Information from statutory partners (e.g police)

**Supporting documents (if available):**

E/07/59 Designated Public Place Order (DPPO)

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

- *Age: No Impact*

- **Disability:** *Negative*
- **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**

There is currently no evidence to suggest that any of the above characteristics will be impaired

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

Disability - There is an awareness of proportion of males in the street community but this should not be a disproportionate negative impact following extension of the PSPO - this will be monitored.

Outreach services, specialised Drug and Alcohol Reduction Officers and the Police Alcohol Liaison Officer are just a few of the agencies that provide support and assistance via the Start Afresh Practitioners Group, a multi-agency forum that come together on a monthly basis to discuss and find solutions to help the most chaotic and complex individuals of the street community.

Where engagement with support services fails, enforcement action may be taken. This approach balances the needs of the individual, principally substance misuse, physical and mental health concerns, with the need to tackle anti-social behaviour, responding effectively to complaints from the public and take action against illegal activities.

Incidents of anti-social street drinking are known to take place within the borough throughout the day and night which can reduce the quality of life for others who live in, work in or visit Ipswich. The Council works closely with a range of specialist services and agencies that assist individuals who suffer with alcohol misuse issues. Prohibitions on behaviours that affect clients with complex physical and mental health needs are mitigated through access to appropriate services, with trained staff skilled at dealing with the needs of the client group.

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

An extension of the PSPO is intended to reduce levels of antisocial behaviour and increase a feeling of community safety.

**The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):** An extension of the PSPO will ensure that those most in need will be signposted to support and advice services more effectively

**The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s):** Community

cohesion will increase as people feel safer in their neighbourhoods. The extension of the PSPO will also ensure a coordinated, multiagency response to antisocial behaviour. Complaints and dissatisfaction from the general public should also reduce.

The statutory consultation will last 2 weeks from the 16th to 30th September and include a press release, notification on the IBC website and consultation with the chief of police, the local policing body, Suffolk County Council and all Ward Councillors.

The council will need to balance the rights of the community to enjoy public spaces without ASB, with the civil liberties of individuals and groups who may be affected by any restrictions imposed.