

# Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening



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, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides 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, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate: Environment &amp; Neighbourhoods</b>	<b>Service area: Environmental Services</b>
<b>Lead person: Tom Smith</b>	<b>Contact number: 22 43829</b>

## 1. Title: Phase 2 Implementation of Dog Control Orders

Is this a:

Strategy / Policy

Service / Function

Other

**If other, please specify**

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

The Council currently enforces dog fouling under dog control orders implemented under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Dog Control Orders are designed to tackle particular issues which are of concern to the general public.

Phase 1 of implementation consisted of excluding dogs from children's play areas; limiting the number of dogs walked on a lead at a time by any one individual to 4; and allowing designated officers to direct a person to keep a dog on a lead. A separate Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken for the implementation of these powers.

Phase 2 of implementation consists of an extension to the powers and land included. Specifically, a Dog Control Order is to be made requiring a dog to be kept on a lead at all times on all carriageways and adjacent footpaths and grass verges and in

cemeteries and crematoria and the existing dogs on leads order is varied to accommodate that. The dog exclusion order will also be amended to include other land designated for a specific purpose such as remembrance and wildlife gardens and school grounds where the schools have indicated the wish to have such an order.

### 3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

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

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

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and any other relevant characteristics (for example socio-economic status, social class, income, unemployment, residential location or family background and education or skills levels).

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?		X
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?	X	
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?		X
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		X
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>		X X X

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

#### 4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment.

Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

- **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?** (think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

A full Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken at Phase 1 of the implementation. The extension of powers is unlikely to impact on any further stakeholders than previously. The main impact is on dog walkers and those who own dogs.

A thorough consultation has been undertaken which has shown significant support for the extended proposals. No representations have been received from any equality groups or forums expressing concern.

The only significant impact from an equality perspective would be on persons with disabilities who have dogs as support, e.g. guide dogs. However, the legal notice for Dog Control Orders is clear that support dogs for people with disabilities are excluded from the enforcement powers.

- **Key findings**

(think about any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

The positive impact of the extension of powers under Phase 2 of the project is that there will be a further reduction in the impact of dogs on the cleanliness and safety of local areas.

The extension of powers will also yield cost savings to the council due to the ability to more robustly enforce stray dogs and save kennelling costs.

The proposed change to the enforcement policy in relation to the walking of 5 or 6 dogs will provide clarity to dog walking businesses and the public and protect businesses at a time of economic hardship.

There is a risk that some residents, particularly those from backgrounds who are less engaged with the council, will not know that the new powers are in force. This could adversely affect those from these communities.

- **Actions**

(think about how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)

A communications plan to ensure that the new powers are well promoted will be developed and delivered.

Signage will be put up in all areas where it is appropriate to do so in order that it is clear where dog exclusion applies.

The legislation specifically exempts assistance dogs from exclusion areas, meaning that they and their owners can enter the zones.

The legislation specifically exempts all people with assistance dogs who because of their disability can not be expected to spot or pick up dog faeces, for example blind people or people in wheelchairs, to be exempt from dog fouling offences. The enforcement policy will take into account non-assistance dogs.

**5. If you are **not** already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you **will need to carry out an impact assessment.****

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	

### **6. Governance, ownership and approval**

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Tom Smith	Locality Manager (SSE)	9 <sup>th</sup> November 2011

### **7. Publishing**

This screening document will act as evidence that due regard to equality and diversity has been given. If you are not carrying out an independent impact assessment the screening document will need to be published.

Please send a copy to the Equality Team for publishing

<b>Date screening completed</b>	
<b>Date sent to Equality Team</b>	
<b>Date published</b> (To be completed by the Equality Team)	