

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Community Connections



STAGE I: WHAT IS BEING ASSESSED AND BY WHOM?

What is being assessed - including a brief description of aims and objectives?

Stonehouse Public Spaces Protection Order.

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is one of the powers available to Local Authorities under the Anti-Social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This legislation enables the Local Authority to introduce a PSPO to an area to deal with a particular nuisance which is detrimental to the local community's life. It is designed to ensure the majority can use and enjoy public spaces safe from crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB). One of the aims of the PSPO in Stonehouse is to reduce street drinking and begging which have both been raised by the local community as having a detrimental effect in the area, their businesses and on their lives. The PSPO does not represent a ban on public drinking; rather it allows for greater control of drinking where it is of a problematic nature – e.g. large groups of drinkers intimidating residents/passers-by; and gives police additional powers within a designated area to tackle street-drinking where there is associated anti-social behaviour.

Throughout the area discarded drug and alcohol paraphernalia are evident and people have been seen to urinate and defecate in public places. Drugs paraphernalia (uncapped hypodermic syringes and their inherent risk of contagious infections) are often present in the grounds of the local primary school. Plymouth City Council has agreed the use of the Anti-Social Behaviour escalation process to deal with persistent breaches of a PSPO. Prohibitions will focus on reducing the disruption caused by the minority. A persistent breach could make it a criminal offence to drink in a public place excluding licenced premises. Suggested prohibitions would prevent individuals approaching members of the public to seek or accept money in any public place, street, highway or passage to include private residences, sitting on the ground in a public place, street, highway or passage in a manner which implies that people are being invited to give money. It would also help to prevent urinating or defecating in a public place, displaying any form of signage associated with begging along with other issues such as flyposting, nuisance drivers and essential dog control orders.

Potential displacement issues following the introduction of the PSPO will be monitored closely. Local businesses are reporting that the behaviour is having a detrimental effect on business as customers are being put off by the street drinkers. It is anticipated that the outcome will be a reduction in begging and street drinking and a better way of life for residents, this will also reduce the demand on the Police and Local Authority.

Plymouth City Council works closely with a broad range of agencies as it recognises that there needs to

	<p>be support for those who have problems with substance misuse, mental health and homelessness. Plymouth City Council will work with Devon and Cornwall Police throughout the duration of the PSPO to ensure if individual needs are identified suitable support will be offered and signposting to appropriate organisation will be considered All cases will be dealt with on an individual basis and the PSPO will always consider the test of “reasonable excuse”, providing and exemption from the order if the excuse for the behaviour is reasonable.</p> <p>The 2016 Area Profile for Stonehouse indicates: the rate of antisocial behaviour was 90.5 per 1,000 population in 2014/15. This is above the city-wide figure of 38.5. The rate of crime was 180.1 per 1,000 in 2014/15. This is above the city wide-figure of 72.0.</p> <p>The aim of the PSPO is to significantly reduced crime and antisocial behaviour in this area.</p>
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Department and service	People, Community Connections
Date of assessment	8th May 2017

STAGE 2: EVIDENCE AND IMPACT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act)	Evidence and information (eg data and feedback)	Any adverse impact See guidance on how to make judgement	Actions	Timescale and who is responsible
Age	<p>Based on data from 2016 which suggests in the Stonehouse neighbourhood 19.4% of the population were aged 0-19, 33.6% are aged 20-34, 34.9% were aged 35-64, 12.0% are 65+.</p> <p>54.9% of the population are male and 45.1% are female.</p> <p>There are 7 primary schools and 1 Free school in the Stonehouse area.</p> <p>National figures suggest that vehicle users causing nuisance are in the younger age range. (17-25).</p>	<p>It can be anticipated that younger drivers may be affected by the order.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council does not expect age to influence the actions of enforcement officers or the execution of the order. The treatment and process of applying</p>	<p>All ages of vulnerability will be referred into safeguarding mechanisms.</p>	<p>Community Connections Technical Lead (Safer Communities) – Duration of the order.</p>

		<p>the order remains the same for all drivers and their vehicles irrespective of age. There is also a positive impact on the health risks and the risk of accidents as action will be taken to stop nuisance driving.</p> <p>The process of enforcing the PSPO is solely focussed on the prohibitions in the order, one of which relates to vehicle nuisance.</p>		
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Census records show that the St Peters and the Waterfront Ward, had 1862 residents whose activities were limited a lot, and 1758 residents whose activities were limited a little because of a long term health problem.</p>	<p>No adverse impact anticipated</p> <p>The PSPO will have a positive impact as a preventative measure to reduce the risk of accidents and will enable members of the public with disabilities to enjoy the facilities available to them without the fear of intimidation.</p> <p>The process of enforcing the PSPO is solely focussed on the prohibitions of the order.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

		Plymouth City Council does not expect a disability to influence the actions of the enforcement officers or the execution of the order. The treatment and process of applying the order will be the same for all.																				
Faith/religion or belief	<p>Of the 2641 people who responded to this question in the 2001 census who were resident in the St Peters and the Waterfront council ward:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>2525</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sikh</td> <td>49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other religion</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No religion; measures</td> <td>1080</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religion not stated</td> <td>311</td> </tr> </table>	Christian	2525	Buddhist	12	Hindu	26	Jewish	2	Muslim	17	Sikh	49	Other religion	10	No religion; measures	1080	Religion not stated	311	<p>No adverse impact is anticipated</p> <p>The process of enforcing the PSPO is solely focussed on the prohibitions of the order.</p> <p>Plymouth City Council does not expect faith, relation or belief to influence the actions of the enforcement officers or the execution of the order. The treatment and process of applying the order will be the same for all.</p>	N/A	
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Gender - including marriage, pregnancy and maternity	<p>Evidence contained in Police Logs and intelligence indicates a high level of sexual harassment and abuse of lone females by individuals who are under the influence of intoxicants.</p> <p>ONS Mid Year Population Estimates indicate there were 6,716 Male and 5,453 Female residents in the St Peter and the Waterfront Ward in 2013.</p>	<p>The PSPO will have a positive impact as a preventative measure to stop females being sexually harassed or</p>	N/A																			

		<p>abused.</p> <p>The process of enforcing the PSPO is solely focussed on the prohibitions of the order. Plymouth City Council does not expect gender to influence the actions of the enforcement officers or the execution of the order. The treatment and process of applying the order will be the same for all.</p>		
<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<p>Gender reassignment data is not available at ward level. Recent surveys have put the prevalence of transgender people between 0.5 and 1% of population (some very recent reports have upped this to 2%)</p>	<p>No adverse impact is anticipated</p> <p>The process of enforcing the PSPO is solely focussed on the prohibitions of the order. Plymouth City Council does not expect gender reassignment to influence the actions of the enforcement officers or the execution of the order. The treatment and process of applying the order will be the same for all.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	

Race	Of the 3745 people who responded to this question in the 2001 census who were resident in the St Peters and the Waterfront council ward:-		No adverse impact is anticipated	N/A
	White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	3544	The process of enforcing the PSPO is solely focussed on the prohibitions of the order. Plymouth City Council does not expect race to influence the actions of the enforcement officers or the execution of the order. The treatment and process of applying the order will be the same for all.	
	White: Irish	11		
	White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	53		
	White: Other White; measures	137		
	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups; measures	40		
	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	19		
	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African; measures	5		
	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	10		
	Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed	6		
	Asian/Asian British	214		
	Asian/Asian British: Indian	52		
	Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	18		
	Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	39		
	Asian/Asian British: Chinese	54		
	Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	51		
	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	21		
	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	16		
	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	4		
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	1			
Other ethnic group; measures	12			
Other ethnic group: Arab; measures	4			
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	8			
Sexual orientation	There is no precise local data on numbers of Lesbian, Gay and Bi-sexual (LGB)		No adverse impact	N/A

-including civil partnership	people in Plymouth, but nationally the government have estimated this to be between 5 - 7 per cent.	is anticipated The process of enforcing the PSPO is solely focussed on the prohibitions of the order. Plymouth City Council does not expect sexual orientation to influence the actions of the enforcement officers or the execution of the order. The treatment and process of applying the order will be the same for all.		
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STAGE 3: ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING? IF SO, PLEASE RECORD ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Local priorities	Implications	Timescale and who is responsible
Reduce the gap in average hourly pay between men and women by 2020.	No adverse impact is anticipated	
Increase the number of hate crime incidents reported and maintain good satisfaction rates in dealing with racist, disablist, homophobic, transphobic and faith, religion and belief incidents by 2020.	No adverse impact is anticipated. The Council believes the introduction of the PSPO will assist in the reduction of alcohol related hate incidents and protect businesses in the local area.	
Good relations between different communities (community cohesion)	Plymouth City Council has a public duty to protect its residents, to share information and to safeguard the community. The Council believes that the PSPO will have a positive impact on the community by reducing tensions between the residents and the street drinkers.	

Human rightsPlease refer to [guidance](#)

The following articles of the Human Rights Act have been considered:

Article 1: Protection of Property

Point to be considered:

1. Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The removal of an open container of alcohol or of a vehicle could remove the right to the protection of property. However, the positive impact would be to reduce accidents and safeguard members of the public and the wider community.

Article 2: Right to Life

Point to be considered:

- 2.2 (b) in order to effect a lawful arrest or to prevent the escape of a person lawfully detained;

The PSPO Prohibition around nuisance drivers is recognised as positive to reduce accidents and safeguard members of the public and the wider community.

Article 6

Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:

- (a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;

Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life

Point to be considered:

- 8.2 There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right

	<p>except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well-being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.</p> <p>Impact on an individual when having a container of alcohol removed may remove the right to a public and private life. The positive impact reduces the risk to members of the community of threat, risk and harm. It can also provide a route into support agencies.</p> <p>Article 10: Freedom of expression</p> <p>Point to be considered:</p> <p>10.2 The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.</p> <p>Individuals may feel their right to freedom of expression may be threatened if their alcohol is removed. The positive impact is that the removal of alcohol may modify behaviour and, where relevant, better enable support service engagement.</p>	
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STAGE 4: PUBLICATION

Responsible Officer

Date

Director, Assistant Director or Head of Service