Equality Analysis Form / EqIA

By completing this form you will provide evidence of how your service is meeting Stroud District Council's General Equality duty:

The Equality Act 2010 states that:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are listed in Question 9

Stroud District Equality data can be found at:
https://inform.gloucestershire.gov.uk/equality-and-diversity/

Please see Appendix 1 for a good example of a completed EIA.

Guidance available on the HUB

1. Persons responsible for this assessment:

Name(s):	Telephone:
Stephen Bartlett	E-Mail: stephen.bartlett@stroud.gov.uk
Service: Environmental Health	Date of Assessment: 29/04/2026

2. Name of the policy, service, strategy, procedure or function:

Extension of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) related to Control of Dogs X4

Is this new or an existing one? Review of an existing strategy

3. Briefly describe its aims and objectives

Proposal for the extension of the existing four Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to dog control for a further period of 3 years from 18th October 2026. For officers to undertake the necessary consultation in respect of the proposal.

4. Are there external considerations? (Legislation / government directive, etc)

- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

5. Who is intended to benefit from it and in what way?

Residents, visitors and businesses within the district. Everyone that has access to the Stroud District is affected by the Public Space Protection Orders which relate to dog control. The PSPO's provide enforcement for dog fouling, directing a member of public to put a dog on a lead by an authorised officer and excluding dogs from certain areas i.e. where signed at the entrance, to any fenced, hedged or walled children's play area, bowling green, croquet lawn, tennis court, skateboard park, cycle enclosure, putting green or other sporting or recreational facility and the legal requirement to have dogs on leads in the following locations; all allotments, cemeteries, car parks, canal towpaths and designated cycle tracks as well as specified footpaths routinely used to access any primary, secondary or high school or college.

6. What outcomes are expected?

The Council wish to extend the four Public Space Protection Orders for a further 3 years and without this action, the PSPOs would expire leaving the matters currently covered by the Orders uncontrolled, leading to a negative impact on the district.

7. What evidence has been used for this assessment?: (eg Research, previous consultations, Inform (MAIDEN); Google assessments carried out by other Authorities)

Carried out a review of other authorities' PSPOs – Cotswold, Gloucester City Council and Cheltenham.

Researched on Inform Gloucestershire – 2024 data for Stroud District

Population: 125,680

Age groups: 0-15 17.02%, 16-64 59.11% and 65+ 23.87%

Uniform – We have had the following number of dog fouling complaints

01/01/23 - 31/12/23 - 132 complaints

01/01/24 - 31/12/24 - 105 complaints

01/01/25 - 31/12/25 - 112 complaints

3 FPN's served between 2023 and 2025.

Community Services Waste data

Approximately 493 dog bins across the district.

Approximately 1002 litter bins that can accept dog waste.

8. **Has any consultation been carried out? See list of possible consultees**

Consultation will be carried out with the following:

Chief Officer of Police, the local policing body, community representatives and owner/occupiers of land covered in the Order. Such a consultation will be publicised widely through the Council's website, Facebook, press releases to local media, direct e-mails to Town and Parish Councils,

contact with community groups and the option for paper responses via a paper survey.

A decision regarding the PSPO extension will not be decided until the consultation is completed and the result analysed.

9. Could a particular group be affected differently in either a negative or positive way?

(Negative – it could disadvantage and therefore potentially not meet the General Equality duty;
Positive – it could benefit and help meet the General Equality duty;
Neutral – neither positive nor negative impact / Not sure)

Protected Group	Type of impact, reason and any evidence (from Q7 & 8)
Age (Positive)	The PSPOs apply to all individuals regardless of age and is intended to reduce the effect of Anti-Social Behaviour in relation to dogs. Enforcement through fines would only be issued to adults (over 18). One of the positive effects of the PSPOs are for young children who are most likely to be exposed to dog fouling through their outside play activities and potential health impacts if personal immunity has not fully developed. Young children need safe places to play where dogs are not present, for example in fenced, hedged or walled children's play areas, skateparks, cycle enclosure, or other sporting or recreational facility.
Pregnancy & Maternity (Positive)	There is a risk of toxocariasis from dog faeces which can be a more dangerous infection for people with weakened immunity and people who are pregnant and can lead to serious health complications. Without the fouling PSPO in place, there would be an increased amount of fouling across the district with no enforcement powers for officers. The PSPO for excluding dogs may have a positive impact to family users of fenced parks, allowing free use of play areas without the fear of dogs sharing the same space and becoming too excited and potentially hurting children unintentionally.
Sex (Neutral)	There is no estimated direct or indirect disproportionate impact of these proposals to residents on the grounds of sex.
Disability (Positive)	People with disabilities are particularly affected by dog fouling on public land. The PSPOs contain exemptions for people with certain disabilities for example; registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity upon which he relies for assistance; or is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance. It is widely known that users of mobility aids are particularly affected by dog fouling on streets and pathways. As toxocariasis can be a more

	dangerous infection for people with a weakened immunity, exposure can lead to serious complications. There is also a higher injury risk to disabled person when trying to clean mobility aids of fouling due to limited mobility or strength. There is no estimated direct or indirect disproportionate impact of these proposals to residents on the grounds of Gender Re-assignment, Race Religion, Sexual Orientation or Marriage & Civil Partnerships.
Gender Re-assignment (Neutral)	
Race (Neutral)	
Religion – Belief (Neutral)	
Sexual Orientation (Neutral)	
Marriage & Civil Partnerships (part (a) of duty only) **(Neutral)**	
Rural considerations: Ie Access to services; transport; education; employment; broadband; **(Positive)**	Dog control is important with the Stroud District. As we are a rural community with vast areas of open public space, it is important the PSPOs are extended to protect our green district. The PSPOs help to enforce our legislative powers and protect the public health of everyone within the district. The PSPOs help to educate, inform and create sustained behavioural changes by managing dog fouling, controlling and excluding dogs where required. The service has considered socio-economic deprivation regard to the issuing of fixed penalty notices and how these will affect people on a low income, consequently the FPN has been set a lower level and offers a discount if paid quickly. To ensure everyone has access to the consultation, it will be published on SDC's website and paper copies will also be available for post at our Ebley Mill reception.

10. If you have identified a negative impact in question 9, what actions have you undertaken or do you plan to undertake to lessen or negate this impact?

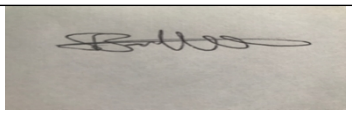
Please transfer any actions to your Service Action plan on Excelsis.

Action(s):	Lead officer	Resource	Timescale

Declaration

We are satisfied that an Impact Assessment has been carried out on this procedure where a negative impact has been identified, actions have been developed to lessen or negate this impact.

We understand that the Equality Impact Assessment is required by the District Council and that we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this assessment

Completed by: Stephen Bartlett	**Signed:** 
Role: Environmental Protection Manager	**Date: April 2026**
Countersigned by: Sarah Clark **Head of Environmental Health**	**Signed:** **Date: 30th April 2026**

Date for Review: Please forward an electronic copy to policy@stroud.gov.uk