

Appendix 4

Cherwell District Council

Equality and Climate Impact Assessment

Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for Bicester Town Centre

May 2022

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Section 1: Summary details

Directorate and Service Area	Commercial Development, Assets and Investment Regulatory Services and Community Safety
What is being assessed (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	The impact of introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order for Bicester Town Centre
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	New policy
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	
Completed By	Richard Webb
Authorised By	
Date of Assessment	16 th May 2022

Section 2: Detail of proposal

<p>Context / Background</p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>The Council’s Community Safety Team have been working extensively with Thames Valley Police on problems of anti-social behaviour in and around Bicester town centre for several years. However, all approaches that have been taken have so far failed to fully resolve this problem.</p> <p>The view of our community safety team is that the ASB mainly stems from the town centre being used as a gathering point for teenagers in the town. Whilst the individuals involved has changed over time, the general problem has persisted of groups of teenagers gathering and behaving in a manner that is detrimental to the businesses in the town and the feelings of safety of visitors to the town centre.</p> <p>In discussion with Thames Valley Police, officers have developed proposals for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the areas mainly impacted by this anti-social behaviour. A public consultation was undertaken on a proposal to introduce this PSPO. This impact assessment takes into consideration the outcome of this consultation in order to provide a final assessment on the equality impacts of introducing the PSPO as proposed.</p>
<p>Proposals</p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>The Executive of the Council will be asked to decide whether to introduce a PSPO in Bicester Town Centre at their June 2022 meeting. It is likely that any PSPO that is introduced will reflect the issues that were included in the public consultation as the potential scope of the Order. The potential PSPO therefore includes prohibitions against –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - behaving in a way that causes or is likely to cause alarm or distress or concern for safety to another person in a public place; - acting in a manner that is perceived to be that of begging; - continuing to consume alcohol when required to stop doing so by any Authorised Officer. <p>The proposal to introduce a PSPO for Bicester Town Centre was developed as a consequence of persistent problems with anti-social behaviour (ASB) in and around the town centre. Over a period of several years the Council and the Police have taken steps to address that ASB through a range of different approaches. Despite this continued effort reports of ASB continue to be received by the Police and council officers continue to respond to concerns about the behaviour of young people gathering in the town centre. The Council’s community wardens and the Police believe that the introduction of a PSPO would provide better options to tackle and deter this ASB,</p>

	<p>particularly where it involves young people. It would enable a change in approach to this ASB, providing the ability to issue fixed penalty notices for behaviour impacting on the town centre and therefore provide simpler and quicker enforcement options to tackle the problems being reported and observed. Without this change in approach it is likely that the town centre will continue to be negatively impacted by this behaviour.</p> <p>The Order, if introduced, will affect only those that breach the prohibitions contained within the Order in the defined geographic area. This order is relevant to the community as a whole.</p>																
<p>Evidence / Intelligence</p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>Evidence supporting the proposed PSPO comes from Police incident data, a public consultation undertaken in April 2022 and media reports.</p> <p>The table below shows Police recorded offences for ASB, alcohol related public order/ drunk and disorderly and offences against the person in and around the town centre in Bicester prior to the lockdown restrictions introduced in March 2020</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="866 748 1619 1353"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>No. of Offences Recorded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>March 2019</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 2019</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 2019</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 2019</td> <td>35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July 2019</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>August 2019</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>September 2019</td> <td>27</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	No. of Offences Recorded	March 2019	20	April 2019	24	May 2019	12	June 2019	35	July 2019	17	August 2019	25	September 2019	27
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October 2019	17
November 2019	15
December 2019	20
January 2020	17
February 2020	18

The table below shows data on recorded ASB in Bicester Town Centre.

Month	No. of incidents reported to TVP involving ASB
May 2021	6
June 2021	9
July 2021	3
August 2021	11
September 2021	15
October 2021	19
November 2021	11
December 2021	6

A 3-week public consultation on the proposed PSPO for Bicester town centre was undertaken in March 2022. This consultation included an online survey promoted by a press release and on the council’s social media platforms, face-to-face engagement with visitors to the town centre, visits to the main town centre businesses and direct communication with key stakeholders including all district and county councillors for Bicester.

An analysis of the responses to this consultation is to be included with the formal decision paper supporting the proposal. In summary, there were 407 responses to this consultation and the main outcomes are shown in the table below.

Question	Response – ‘Yes’	Response – ‘No’	Response – ‘Don’t know’
“Should Cherwell District Council seek to prohibit anti-social behaviour in Bicester town centre through a Public Spaces Protection Orders?”	375 (93%)	12 (3%)	16 (4%)
“Should Cherwell District Council seek to prohibit street drinking in Bicester town centre through a Public Spaces Protection Orders?”	350 (86%)	24 (6%)	31 (8%)
“Should Cherwell District Council seek to prohibit begging in Bicester town centre through a Public Spaces Protection Orders?”	244 (60%)	80 (20%)	82 (20%)

The consultation responses did not identify any adverse implications in relation to any of the protected characteristics. However, some respondents commented on the impact on some people who may be

	<p>considered vulnerable due to homelessness.</p> <p>In recent months there have also been reports in the media concerning specific ASB incidents in the town centre. These do not provide evidence either in support of the proposal or against it, but do highlight the experiences of some of the businesses in the town centre.</p>
<p>Alternatives considered / rejected</p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>This proposal is in response to a problem that the council and its partners have been involved in addressing for several years. It is considered to offer an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of our response. The only alternative considered was to not seek to introduce the PSPO and to continue to work to tackle the reported problems through the existing powers available to the council and its Police.</p>

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Protected Characteristics

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Gender Reassignment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Marriage & Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pregnancy & Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Community Impacts

Additional community impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Rural communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Armed Forces	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Areas of deprivation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Additional Wider Impacts

Additional Wider Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Other Council Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Providers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Social Value ¹	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

¹ If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

Section 3: Impact Assessment - Climate Change Impacts

OCC and CDC aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. How will your proposal affect our ability to reduce carbon emissions related to

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (* Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Energy use in our buildings or highways	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Our fleet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Staff travel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Purchased services and products (including construction)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Maintained schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

We are also committed to enable Cherwell to become carbon neutral by 2030 and Oxfordshire by 2050. How will your proposal affect our ability to:

Climate change impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
Enable carbon emissions reduction at district/county level?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Section 4: Review

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review Date	16 th May 2023
Person Responsible for Review	Richard Webb
Authorised By	