

# Equality Impact Assessment – Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order



<b>Version</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Date Completed</b>	16/04/2025
<b>Description of what is being impact assessed</b>			
To finalise the varied Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order.			
<b>Evidence</b>			
<b>What data/information have you used to assess how this policy/service might impact on protected groups?</b>			
<p><i>Further information is available at <a href="#">Equality data</a> and will be added to</i></p> <p>Local government association Public Spaces Protection Orders Guidance for Councils <a href="#">Public spaces protection orders: guidance for councils (local.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>General guidance relating to equality, diversity and inclusion: <a href="#">Diversity Guide (Introduction) - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (devon.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Equality and Human Rights Commission, Assistance Dogs: A Guide for all businesses: <a href="https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/guidance/assistance-dogs-guide-all-businesses">https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/guidance/assistance-dogs-guide-all-businesses</a></p>			
<b>Who have you consulted with to assess possible impact on protected groups and what have they told you? If you have not consulted other people, please explain why?</b>			
The public consultation took place over an eight-week period from 3 March to 28 April 2025. The consultation took place on the Councils online community engagement hub 'Commonplace' and paper copies were provided upon request.			

Respondents could provide their views on the existing controls stated in the Dog Control Orders, and on proposed changes to the Order.

The public consultation was advertised on the Council's social media forums and resident's newsletters, and there was also a press release. Statutory consultees were notified in writing to make them aware of the consultation. Statutory consultees included Town and Parish Councils, Devon County Council, Chief Officer of Police, Local Policing body, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and affected landowners and community representatives.

Community representatives included Assistance Dogs UK, Support Dogs, Canine Partners (registered charities) and The Kennel Club.

Other community representatives included Clinton Devon Estates and Devon Loves Dogs.

For proposed changes to dog controls in Kilminster, community representatives included: Arthur Hitchcock charity, Kilminster Dog Walkers Association, Kilminster Cricket Club, Kilminster Primary School.

For proposed changes to dog controls in Sidmouth, community representatives included: Friends of the Bays, Vision Group for Sidmouth (which includes Cherishing Sidmouth's Cemeteries group), and the Sid Vale Association.

Analysis of impact on protected groups				
<p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires us to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations with protected groups. The Council also has a legal duty to have due regard to armed forces personnel when carrying out healthcare, housing and education functions. Consider how this policy/service will achieve these aims. In the table below, using the evidence outlined above and your own understanding, detail what considerations and potential impacts against each of the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty. Based on this information, assess the likely outcome, before you have implemented any mitigation.</p>				
Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
<b>Age</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The requirement for people in control of dog(s) to remove fouling will reduce potential incidents of children and young people coming into contact with dog faeces, for example, in recreational areas.</li> <li>The requirement for people in control of dog(s) to keep their dog on a lead on public roads or pavements adj. to roads, when asked by an authorised officer, and in specific areas used for recreation will prevent incidents of children and young people coming into contact with dogs who may be aggressive or out of control.</li> <li>Dog exclusion requirements in specific areas used for recreation e.g. play parks and BMX tracks will reduce incidents of dogs encountering children and young people and will reduce contact with fouling.</li> </ul>	□	□	☒
<b>Disability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some areas with dog on lead and dog exclusion requirements will restrict off-lead exercise for dogs with owners who are disabled. This may mean that owners will have to travel further by foot or by vehicle, or will have to pay to use alternative exercise areas.</li> <li>Owners with disability may have reduced ability to know about the restrictions due to sensory and cognitive impairment</li> <li>Owners with disability may have reduced ability to communicate (i.e. hearing impairment, speech impairment)</li> </ul>	☒	□	☒

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owners with disability may have reduced ability to understand the restrictions (mental impairment)</li> </ul> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requirement for people in control of dog(s) to keep their dog on a lead on public roads or pavements adj. to roads, when asked by an authorised officer, and in specific areas used for recreation will prevent incidents of disabled people coming into contact with dogs who may be aggressive or out of control.</li> </ul> <p>There are proposed exemptions within the Order:</p> <p><i>(i) A person who is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 shall not be guilty of an offence if they are alone with the dog; or</i></p> <p><i>(ii) A person with a disability affecting their mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects or who relies upon a dog trained by any prescribed charity (and is clearly identified) for assistance shall not be guilty of an offence if they are alone with the dog. A 'prescribed charity' including but not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dogs for the Disabled (Registered Charity no. 700454)</i></li> <li>• <i>Support Dogs (Registered Charity no. 1088281)</i></li> <li>• <i>Canine Partners for Independence (Registered Charity no. 803680)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Any person in charge of a police dog or fire dog shall not be guilty of an offence. The term 'police dog' or 'fire dog' is deemed to be any dog, which is trained, or is undergoing structured training on behalf of the Chief Police Officer or Chief Fire Officer for the relevant service's dog unit.</i></p> <p><i>Working dogs: Any person in charge of working dog(s) shall not be guilty of an offence when they are working. Working dogs includes dogs that are being</i></p>			
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	<i>used in connection with emergency Search &amp; Rescue, Law Enforcement, the work of HM Armed Forces and for agricultural activities (including activities regulated by the Hunting Act 2004).</i>			
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that there will be no impact.</li> </ul>	□	□	□
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that there will be no impact.</li> </ul>	□	□	□

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that there will be no impact.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Race and ethnicity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There may be difficulty understanding written English used on signage. However, each sign has an image to demonstrate the message of the sign and plain English is used. Signage is located on each access point to areas where dog controls are in place.</li> <li>There may be difficulty understanding authorised officers (Enforcement Officers) in conversation. However, plain English will be used by the officer and as necessary translations services may be offered</li> <li>Where a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) is served, there are concerns about understanding the content of such a penalty. However, plain English will be used and as necessary there will be the provision of translated documents</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that there will be no impact.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sex</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that there will be no impact.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that there will be no impact.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome
<b>Armed Forces (including serving personnel, families and veterans)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is expected that there will be no impact.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other, e.g. carers, care leavers, low income, rurality/isolation, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dog on lead and dog exclusion requirements may mean that caring for protected groups will be easier due to incidents of people coming into contact with dogs who may be aggressive or out of control.</li> <li>There are concerns about accessibility of other areas where dogs can be exercised off lead by owners. No access to private transport may restrict ability to travel further to exercise a dog.</li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Negative outcomes action plan</b> Where you have ascertained that there will potentially be negative outcomes, you are required to mitigate the impact of these. Please detail below the actions that you intend to take.				
<b>Action taken/to be taken</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Person responsible</b>	<b>How will it be monitored?</b>	<b>Action complete</b>
Where there are concerns about accessibility of other areas where dogs can be exercised off lead by owners with disabilities or within rural areas, the Council will provide information about other dog walking spaces across the district.	01/04/2026	EP PEO	Web pages will be updated	<input type="checkbox"/>
Where owners with disability may have reduced ability to know about or understand the restrictions, the Council will ensure that signs are clear and maps are provided. Enforcement Officers will seek to provide written and verbal advice and education prior to fixed penalty notices being issued.	01/05/2026	DEO EP PEO	Signage will be updated as necessary	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>If negative impacts remain, please provide an explanation below.</b>				

Protected group	Summary of impact	Negative outcome	Neutral outcome	Positive outcome

Completed by:	Alice Gill
Date:	16/04/2025
Approved by:	<i>Should be reviewed by the relevant Assistant Director/Director and signed off</i>
Date:	
To be reviewed by:	
Review date:	

***Ensure that a final copy of this impact assessment is sent to HR as per the equality impact assessment guidance.***