



**BIG PLANS FOR  
A GREAT PLACE**  
...FOR THE PEOPLE OF SANDWELL



# Equality Impact Assessments Toolkit EqIA Template



You must consider the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) when completing this template.

The EDI team can provide help and advice on undertaking an EqIA and also provide overview quality assurance checks on completed EqIA documents.

EDI team contact email: [edi\\_team@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:edi_team@sandwell.gov.uk)

<b>Quality Control</b>	
Title of proposal	Renewal of the West Bromwich Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)
Directorate and Service Area	Directorate of Place – Community Safety
Officer completing EqIA	Wendy Sims
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Other officers involved in completing this EqIA	Nicola Plant, Assistant Director of Place, Public Protection and Community Safety
Date EqIA completed	08 October 2024
Date EqIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EqIA	Alan Lunt
Date EqIA considered by Cabinet	
Where the EqIA is Published  (please include a link to the EqIA and send a copy of the final EqIA to the EDI team)	Community safety web page

## Section 1.

### The purpose of the project, proposal or decision required

A West Bromwich Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has been in place since 2018. A PSPO is in place for a period of 3 years, and this was reviewed in 2021 and renewed to 2024. The PSPO is now for consideration of renewal for a further three years from November 2024.

The purpose of the PSPO is to address ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the defined area and includes:

1. Harassment, Alarm, or Distress  
Acting in a manner, or inciting others to act in a manner, that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm, or distress to any person.
2. Threatening Behaviour or Verbal Abuse  
Using or threatening to use violence or being verbally abusive towards any person.
3. Begging or Loitering for Money  
Begging or asking members of the public for money or loitering with the intent of begging or asking members of the public for money.
4. Obstruction of Roads and Footpaths  
Causing a motor vehicle, trailer, or any other obstruction to stand on a road or footpath so as to cause unnecessary obstruction to pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists within the Restricted Area.

This proposal supports the Sandwell Community Safety Strategy objective in relation to reducing ASB. The order has been useful in engaging individuals and providing opportunities for education and support. It also provides the Local Authority with enforcement powers which can be used as a last resort with individuals. A public consultation has taken place which has significantly supported the proposal.

## Section 2.

### Evidence used and considered. Include analysis of any missing data

West Bromwich has the largest population of all the towns in Sandwell with a population as of 2021 of 83,6334, with an age profile as follows:

0-15	16-24	25-49	50-64	65-74	75+
20.8%	11.2%	341.1%	18.1%	8.1%	7.6%

West Bromwich has seen an increase in all age groups between 2011 and 2021 with those in the 25-64 and 64+ age groups rising slightly above the Borough average increase.

West Bromwich town has the second highest proportion of Minority Ethnic groups of all towns in Sandwell (that is, all ethnic groups except White British). These groups account for 55.8% of the town's population.

West Bromwich residents reported the worst perceptions of community safety after dark among Sandwell towns, with around 46% of respondents saying that they felt fairly or very unsafe.

Whilst the above data provide information on town demographics it is recognised that the town centre is a focal point for people across the Borough and from outside the Borough. It is recognised that we do not have this data, however there are over 500 businesses located in West Bromwich.

Public Consultation Data (August-September 2024):

- 91% of respondents supported the renewal of the PSPO, with 66% having experienced or witnessed anti-social behaviour (ASB).
- Respondents raised key issues such as begging, street drinking, and abusive behaviour.
- Missing Data: Limited disaggregation by protected characteristics (e.g., ethnicity, age, gender) prevents a full analysis of how different groups are impacted.

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Data (2020-2024):

- Total Recorded Crime (TRC) increased from 1,756 incidents (2020-21) to 3,223 incidents (2022-23), slightly declining to 2,858 (2023-24).
- Violent behaviour and alcohol related ASB continue to be key challenges.
- Missing Data: The lack of detailed demographic breakdowns (e.g., disability, age) hinders the ability to assess how crime impacts specific groups.

Engagement with Vulnerable Groups such as those supporting homeless individuals and rough sleepers highlighted concerns about the PSPO potentially disproportionately affecting this group. The PSPO guidance specifically requires the council to consider the appropriateness of a PSPO in relation to groups such as homeless and rough sleepers. In accordance with the guidance, the PSPO focusses on the anti-social behaviours rather than the specific groups. This PSPO will facilitate ongoing engagement with this group and seek to offer advice and support to address their issues.

National Legislation and Local Policies:

- The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and Sandwell's Corporate Plan (2022-2026) support the need for the PSPO.

## **Section 3.**

### **Consultation**

The consultation process for the renewal of the West Bromwich Town Centre PSPO ran from 1st August to 15th September 2024. It was designed to capture the views of residents, businesses, and key stakeholders on the proposed renewal and its impact on public safety and anti-social behaviour. There were 167 responses.

Overall, 153 respondents (91%) were in support of the proposed West Bromwich Town Centre PSPO. In relation to the specific areas of behaviours the response was: -

153 respondents (91%) supported the PSPO's renewal to address alcohol-related disturbances.

161 respondents (96%) agreed that the PSPO should remain in place to tackle threatening and intimidating behaviours.

160 respondents (95%) supported the PSPO's renewal to address violent behaviour in the town centre.

147 respondents (88%) supported the PSPO to address persistent begging.

150 respondents (89%) supported the PSPO to address obstruction from parking.

Of the respondents, 111 (66%) stated they had witnessed ASB in the town centre.

#### **Section 4.**

**This section summarises the potential impact of the PSPO renewal on protected characteristics, based on the evidence and consultation responses:**

There is no specific evidence that this PSPO would impact differently on any specified protected characteristic. The aim of the proposal is to engage, educate and reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour and its impact on all residents in the Borough.

It is recognised that some areas of work do not record specific characteristics, particularly in the informal enforcement stages of engagement, education and encouragement however the proposed PSPO would support any individuals engaged in such anti-social behaviours and provide support and advice as needed. A view was expressed as to whether the PSPO might differently impact on homeless people and rough sleepers. However, in accordance with the PSPO guidance the PSPO focusses on the anti-social behaviours rather than the specific groups.

**Section 4a - What are the potential/actual impacts of the proposal on the protected characteristics?**

<b>Reviewed Characteristic</b>	<b>Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)</b>	<b>Details of impact</b>	<b>Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)</b>	<b>Owner of action/ Timescale</b>
<b>Age</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on age. However, it may positively affect older people by reducing ASB, enhancing their sense of safety.		
<b>Disability</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on disability.		
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on gender reassignment.		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on marital or civil partnership status.		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on pregnancy or maternity		

<b>Reviewed Characteristic</b>	<b>Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)</b>	<b>Details of impact</b>	<b>Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)</b>	<b>Owner of action/ Timescale</b>
<b>Race</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on race		
<b>Religion or belief</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on religious beliefs.		
<b>Sex</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on sex. However, the PSPO may benefit women by reducing harassment and abusive behaviours in public spaces		
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	Ne	No specific evidence of individuals being impacted differently based on sexual orientation		
<b>Could other socio-economic groups be affected?</b>				
<b>Carer Low income groups Veterans/Armed Forces Community</b>	Ne	A view was expressed as to whether the PSPO might differently impact on homeless people and rough sleepers. However, in accordance with the PSPO guidance the PSPO focusses on the anti-social behaviours rather than the specific groups. This PSPO will facilitate ongoing engagement and seek		

Reviewed Characteristic	Impact? Positive (P) Negative (N) Neutral (Ne)	Details of impact	Actions to address negative impact or promote positive impact (use section 8 table)	Owner of action/ Timescale
Other		to offer advice and support to address their issues.		

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then please move to Sections 6.



5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. Section 6: Decision or actions proposed

That these proposals are accepted by Cabinet and that the PSPO is approved for a further 3 years from 13 November 2024.

Public communication to raise awareness of the PSPO, its the purpose and how it benefits public safety, while emphasising support available.

7. Monitoring arrangements

The use and impact of PSPOs are reviewed at Town and Borough Tasking meetings and feed into the Safer Sandwell Partnership Police and Crime Board

### Section 8 Action planning (if required)

Question no. (ref)	Action required	Lead officer/person responsible	Target date	Progress

If you have any suggestions for improving this process, please contact  
EDI\_Team@Sandwell.gov.uk