



## Equality Impact Assessment

### EIA-620806442 - Creation of a Citywide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2024

#### Details

<b>Title</b>	Creation of a Citywide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2024
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<b>Cabinet member</b>	Cllr A S Khan (Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities)

#### Context and background

<b>EIA carried out on</b>	Review of policy or strategy
<b>Background</b>	<p>There has been a Citywide Public spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in place since 2017.</p> <p>It has recently expired and we are looking to create a new order with the previous powers. It has conditions to restrict or control the public consumption of alcohol away from licensed premises and off road motorbikes and other Mechanically Propelled Vehicles (MPV's)</p> <p>It is proposed that anyone drinking alcohol in a public space, away from licensed premises must stop drinking if instructed to do so by an authorised officer, to not do so would be an offence. Officers would also have the authority to seize and dispose of any opened or unopened cans or bottles.</p> <p>In addition anyone found in possession of an off road motorcycle or similar MPV, without the vehicle being taxed and insured, in a public space (unless being transported by van or similar to a suitable location) then that person will be committing an offence.</p> <p>We want to ensure that no protected characteristic group is unduly disadvantaged by these proposals.</p>

**Stakeholders**

West Midlands Police  
Coventry BID  
Coventry City Council;  
Citizen Housing  
Community Safety  
Licensing  
Parks and Greenspaces  
Public Realm  
Public Health  
Legal Services  
Planning  
Respondents to the consultation

**Responsibility**

Where matters are statutory requirements the individual agencies will have their own responsibilities. If any amendments or changes are required that are not statutory, Community Safety will work alongside colleagues and partners to highlight and implement the amendments and findings deemed necessary.

## Consideration of impact

**Baseline data and information**

Recent Census data tells us there are nearly 350,000 residents living in the city, with a relatively young population in relation to others. However approximately 15% of the population are elderly (65+) and nearly 20% of the population consider themselves to have a disability of some description.

The JSNA and MARMOT work in the city has shown there to be considerable health inequalities in different parts of the city, some of this can be linked to socio and economic factors and lifestyle issues, such as smoking, alcohol and substance use/misuse.

## Protected groups

**Age 0-18**

Positive impact - Positive impact - Pedestrian safety will be improved, particularly for very young children who are likely to be unaware of their surroundings and more at risk and unable to take evasive action from a MPV ridden at speed (Positive)

Young people will be less exposed to public space drinking of alcohol and less likely to see associated ASB or be encouraged to drink alcohol at an early age (Positive)

<p><b>Age 19-64</b></p>	<p>Both positive and negative impacts - Both positive and negative impacts - Pedestrian Safety will be improved from the risk of a collision with a MPV (Positive)          People will be less likely to witness associated public place ASB caused by alcohol consumption. People's wishes to drink alcohol wherever they want will be restricted.</p>
<p><b>Age 65+</b></p>	<p>Positive impact - Positive impact - Pedestrian Safety will be significantly improved          from the risk of a collision with a MPV, particularly given decreased levels of mobility in the older population(Positive)          People will be less likely to witness associated public place ASB caused by alcohol consumption</p>
<p><b>Disability</b></p>	<p>Positive impact - Positive impact - People with visual impairments will be made significantly safer as they are at a higher risk of collision than a sighted pedestrian(Positive)          People with mobility issues will be made significantly safer as they are at a higher risk of collision than someone with full mobility (Positive)          People with hearing loss will be made significantly safer as they are at a higher risk of collision than someone with full hearing (Positive)</p>
<p><b>Gender reassignment</b></p>	<p>No impact - No impact - Nothing different from the comments in the ages group above</p>
<p><b>Marriage and civil partnership</b></p>	<p>No impact - No impact - Nothing different from the comments in the ages group above</p>
<p><b>Pregnancy and maternity</b></p>	<p>No impact - No impact - Nothing different from the comments in the ages group above</p>
<p><b>Race</b></p>	<p>No impact - No impact - Nothing different from the comments in the ages group above</p>
<p><b>Religion and belief</b></p>	<p>No impact - No impact - Nothing different from the comments in the ages group above</p>
<p><b>Sex</b></p>	<p>No impact - No impact - Nothing different from the comments in the ages group above</p>

**Sexual orientation**

No impact - No impact - Nothing different from the comments in the ages group above

## Health inequalities (HI)

**How HI will be reduced**

The amendment to the City Centre PSPO will reduce health inequalities by supporting some key Marmot principles:

- Give every child the best start in life
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
- Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity

Some of the Marmot principles apply to the built and physical environment people live, the Council wants to encourage citizens to stay active and wishes to make the City Centre a safe and welcoming environment for people to visit, to enjoy open spaces and fresh air as well as get some exercise. We want to encourage people to take walks in public spaces such as parks and similar, reduce the likelihood of them suffering a serious injury and make pedestrians more confident. We recognise some may feel that the proposed measures are too restrictive on their personal freedoms such as wishing to have an alcoholic drink in a place of their choosing at a time of their choosing but we feel the overall benefits to the City as a whole outweigh this.

Excessive consumption of alcohol is closely linked to anti social behaviour and public place violence, many people state they can be deterred from visiting areas if they feel they are likely to encounter intoxicated people or associated anti social behaviour.

**Evidence showing how HI will be reduced**

There is extensive evidence available from the NHS and other bodies to show that excessive alcohol consumption can cause significant health issues and inequalities. Drinking above recommended limits can cause numerous health issues such as liver disease, cancer and heart related issues.

If people are less likely to see public consumption of alcohol this may help them to limit or cases their own personal consumption if that is their choice. It will also reduce the exposure of children to public place drinking and as such they may be less likely to drink under age.

The use of off road bikes and MPV's in an unauthorised manner in public spaces, parks and similar can cause people with limited mobility to be at a heightened risk of collision as they are less able to get out of dangerous situations and may be deterred from visiting such places and taking walks, which is a healthy activity to be encouraged.

**Groups of people who face HI**

We acknowledge that within the city, and particularly in the city centre there is a cohort of individuals that have alcohol and substance abuse issues, often being dependent on one or the other. Dealing with these individuals can be complex as the order to stop drinking or the confiscation of their alcohol could cause them unintended health consequences as people dependent on alcohol can suffer seizures and similar if they are compelled to immediately stop drinking.

This can be challenging as members of the public expect officers to tackle all public consumption of alcohol and cannot understand if some groups are treated differently from others

**How to improve HI for groups identified**

We work closely with specialist officers in our rough sleeping and public health teams as well as specialist providers such as CGL to offer bespoke outreach work to those individuals we identify as persistently drinking in public and appearing to be alcohol dependent. The manner in which we approach enforcement of these individuals will be guided by specialist advice.

**Digital inequalities (DI)**

**Impact to DI**

We cannot easily identify any digital based issues in relation to this proposed order

**Opportunities to reduce DI**

We cannot easily identify any digital based issues in relation to this proposed order

## Next steps

Inequality	Action	Owner	Timescale
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<b>Monitor and evaluation</b>	The operation of PSPO's in the City is subject to oversight from Scrutiny Committee		
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## Impact on Council staff

<b>Will there be an impact?</b>	No
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## Completion statement

<b>Potential equality impact</b>	Both positive and negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups
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