

Appendix 4



Equality Impact Assessment

EIA-837692288 - Renewal of City Centre public Spaces Protection Order 2026

Details

Title	City Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 2026	
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Cabinet Member	Cllr John McNicholas	(Communities and Cohesion)
Director	Julie Newman (Law, Governance and Safer Communities)	

Context and background

EIA carried out on	Review of policy or strategy
Background	This EIA is reviewing the proposed renewal to the Public Spaces Protection Order that currently applies to the City Centre. The current order runs for 3 years and is due to expire in November. We are currently applying to request the right to consult with the public. Should we consult and matters progress as anticipated then we are proposing to make changes to make amplification within the City Centre (other than authorised events) unlawful. We will also be stopping groups campaigning in the City Centre from bringing in structures such as gazebos and oversized tables that can obstruct pedestrians, wheelchair users and similar. It should be noted that the current PSPO already has conditions relating to Ebikes, pedal Cycles and Escooters, they will also be included in the renewal, if approved We believe this will make the City Centre a more pleasant place to visit, people will find it easier to relax, any people with limited hearing will benefit as will pedestrians and particularly wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs

Stakeholders

West Midlands Police
Coventry BID
Coventry City Council
Community Safety
Licensing
Highways
Public Realm
Legal Services
Planning
Disabilities Equality Action Partnership (DEAP)
Wheels for Well Being
Respondents to the consultation

Responsibility

Community Safety team and key partners both internal and external to CCC

Consideration of impact

Baseline data and information

2021 Census data shows us that:

14% of the city are aged 65+

Approximately 20% of the city identify themselves as being disabled and limited to some regard, whether a little or a lot

In conversations with the Disability Equality Action Partnership (DEAP) they have made several challenges, including personal testimony regarding many individuals suffering near misses in the city centre as well as anecdotal evidence of people they know have suffered injuries

There was a public consultation related to the proposed amendments that has just been completed. Approximately 1000 people responded and over 80% stated that they felt the actions of cyclists in the city centre made the city centre less safe for pedestrians

The restricted area is shown on the attached map

Marmot Principles

3. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all

5. Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities

8. Pursue environmental sustainability and health equity

Protected groups - Impact on Coventry Residents and Visitors

Age 0-18

Both positive and negative impacts - 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 bicycle/e-scooter ridden at speed (Positive). Very young people in prams and pushchairs will be safer as there will be less obstacles for parents to navigate (positive) Young people who wish to cycle/e-scooter across the pedestrianised areas will not be able to (Negative). This can be mitigated by dismounting and walking with your cycle or taking an alternative route.

Age 19-64

Both positive and negative impacts - Pedestrian Safety will be improved from the risk of a collision with a bicycle/e-scooter (Positive). People wishing to cycle/e-scooter across the pedestrianised areas will not be able to (Negative). This can be mitigated by dismounting and walking with your cycle/escooter or taking an alternative route.

Age 65+

Both positive and negative impacts - Pedestrian Safety will be improved from the risk of a collision with a bicycle/escooter(Positive). People wishing to cycle/e-scooter across the pedestrianised area will not be able to (Negative). This can be mitigated by dismounting and walking with your cycle or taking an alternative route.

Disability

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) Evidence collated by the RNIB have identified concerns that scooters could have on the safety, confidence and independence of blind and partially sighted people.

People with hearing loss will benefit from a lack of amplification in the street scene which should make it easier to hear others (positive)

The removal of items such as gazebos and large tables should decrease the likelihood of people bumping into them or squeezing flows of pedestrians into narrow spaces that increases the likelihood of collisions (positive)

Gender reassignment No impact -

Marriage and civil partnership No impact -

Pregnancy and maternity Positive impact - Benefits for people using prams and pushchairs for improved access and reduced obstacles

Race No impact -

Religion and belief No impact -

Sex No impact -

Sexual orientation No impact -

Additional groups

Care experienced	No impact -
Armed forces	No impact -
Socio economic groups	No impact -

Next steps

Inequality	Action	Owner	Timescale
	The operation of Public Space Protection Orders in the city generally is subject to oversight from Scrutiny Committee. The Disability Equality Action Partnership is an umbrella organisation Monitor and evaluation that looks at disability and equality based issues across the City and has been in regular dialogue with key officers regarding this and other matters and will continue to do so.		

Impact on Council staff

**Will there be an
impact?**

No

Completion statement

**Potential equality
impact**

Both positive and negative impact has been identified for one or more protected groups