

**CABINET**

**COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE GUINNESS  
CABINET MEMBER FOR PRIDE IN PLACE /  
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**8<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**KEY DECISION? YES**

**REPORT NO. OS2508**

**RENEWAL OF THE ALDERSHOT PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

**SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This report provides an update on Aldershot Town Centre antisocial behaviour and seeks approval for the renewal of the Aldershot Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO).

**Recommendation:**

That Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the renewal of the Aldershot PSPO

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. This report recommends the renewal of the current Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to address antisocial behaviour concerns in Aldershot Town Centre and the nearby Municipal Gardens. The existing PSPO has been in place since July 2022 and data demonstrates the ongoing need for the order. Consultation has confirmed that the community agree that the order is still necessary and supported.
- 1.2. This is a key decision as the PSPO area covers Wellington, Rowhill and Manor Park wards.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. The Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced simpler, more effective powers to tackle antisocial behaviour that provide better protection for victims and communities. This includes the introduction of PSPOs to control individuals or groups that are engaging in activities which have a detrimental effect on others.
- 2.2. Aldershot Town Centre has experienced street based antisocial behaviour for a number of years, often centred around the Victoria Road area near The George public house and Ozone restaurant. The antisocial behaviour is committed by a large and often transient group of individuals who chose to spend their time consuming alcohol and drugs during the day and gathering in

groups. The consequent behaviour is rowdy and inconsiderate and has a detrimental effect on the wider community.

- 2.3. A PSPO was introduced in July 2022 in order to tackle alcohol related antisocial behaviour and public urination/defecation and to complement the council business plan in terms of Aldershot Town Centre regeneration and ensuring that we look to ensure our towns are “family-friendly, safe, vibrant and sustainable places...”.
- 2.4. The current conditions of the PSPO are as follows:
  - Failing to comply with a direction not to consume, in breach of this order, alcohol, or anything which an Authorised Officer reasonably believes to be alcohol where the Authorised Officer reasonable believes that a person has engaged in antisocial behaviour
  - Failing to surrender a container of alcohol (whether open or not) when asked to do so by an Authorised Officer
  - Urinating or defecating other than when making use of facilities designed for such use
- 2.5. PSPOs must be reviewed every three years with a decision based on evidence whether to renew, vary or remove the order. The area that the PSPO covers should also be reviewed to ensure that it is necessary and proportionate.

### **3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL**

#### **General**

- 3.1. The PSPO is well used as a means of engagement with regard to street based antisocial behaviour in Aldershot Town Centre. Compliance is at high levels when officers attend and engage. It is well regarded by council officers and partner agencies as a useful tool in responding to levels of antisocial behaviour.
- 3.2. With ongoing town centre regeneration schemes it is even more important to ensure officers have a full range of tools available.

#### **Data**

- 3.3. Compliance with the PSPO is generally positive – available data and anecdotal feedback when uniformed officers are present is that when asked to stop drinking or to move on, groups in the town centre are generally compliant.
- 3.4. Council data from the period July 2002 to December 2023 shows 81 engagements under the PSPO from council officers, with 98% compliance and 1 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) issued for non-compliance

- 3.5. A further 2 FPNs have since been issued for non-compliance in relation to alcohol related antisocial behaviour. The low level of FPNs indicates compliance with uniformed officers enforcing this order.
- 3.6. Police recorded incidents across the three years that the PSPO has been in force paint a varied picture. From April – December 2022, there were 113 reports of antisocial behaviour in the town centre area. For the same period in 2023 this increased to 168 (a 39% increase) before dropping to 105 reports during 2024.
- 3.7. Reports of drug use have decreased whilst reports related to alcohol and combined alcohol and drug use have increased, including during the daytime.
- 3.8. Crime reports in the area have decreased, with a significant drop in theft offences. There has however been an increase in daytime public order offences within the town centre ward

### **Consultation**

- 3.9. This report has been prepared having sought the views of the Portfolio Holder for Pride in Place / Neighbourhood Services.
- 3.10. Public consultation requirements for a renewal of a PSPO are less onerous than when implementing a PSPO. Residents were asked to email their views to Community Safety following a website and Facebook post on 13th March 2025 with responses accepted until 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.
- 3.11. 28 responses were received from members of the public with all in favour of the renewal or strengthening of the PSPO. A number of comments also mentioned the need for increased officer presence and enforcement in the area as well as extending the area of the PSPO to include Manor Park.
- 3.12. Key partner agencies were asked for their views including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary, Office of the Police and Commissioner, Aldershot Civic Society, Inclusion (drug and alcohol support) and Two Saints (supported accommodation provider).
- 3.13. Partner responses were received from District Commander Chief Inspector Gillian Cox and Temporary Detective Chief Inspector Battersby, Police Liaison to the Police and Crime Commissioner, with both supporting the renewal of the PSPO. No objection was received from Inclusion.
- 3.14. Details of the renewal were also sent to local faith leaders for comment. No comments or questions were received.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS (of proposed course of action)**

### **Risks**

Risks of implementing a PSPO include the risk of challenge through the High Court of Judicial Review. It should be noted that there were no challenges raised to the PSPO when originally granted in 2022.

### **Legal Implications**

- 4.1. The power and requirements for extending a PSPO are set out within Part 4 of Chapter 2 of the Act and is supplemented by the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Space Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 and statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State.
- 4.2. The basic requirements for extending a PSPO are set out in the body of this report, in particular, the need to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the two statutory conditions in Section 60(2) of the Act that doing so is necessary to prevent—
  - (a) occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order, or
  - (b) an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.
- 4.3. In deciding whether to extend a PSPO The Council must have the same considerations as if it were first making one.
- 4.4. In determining restrictions should be included, by Section 72 of the Act, the Council must have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in Articles 10 and 11 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950 (“the Convention”). The restrictions imposed by the PSPO are not considered to engage these Articles and are considered compatible with rights under the Convention. In the event however that the Articles are considered to be engaged, it is considered that the restrictions are permitted by paragraphs (2) of both those Articles. This is on the basis that the restrictions on those rights imposed by the PSPO are lawful, necessary and proportionate. This conclusion is reached given the nature of the restrictions, their imposition in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and Guidance and having regard to the evidence and detrimental affect the behaviours concerned is having or is likely to have on those who use the areas.
- 4.5. Under Section 66 of the Act any challenge to the validity of a PSPO must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made or extended. The order will be treated as having been “made” on the day when the Council approves it (namely the date of this meeting). The Council can choose to nominate a different (later) date from which the PSPO will have effect.
- 4.6. An interested person is an individual who lives in, or regularly works in, or visits the restricted area. This means that only those who are directly affected by the

restrictions have the power to challenge. The PSPO can be challenged on two grounds:

1. That the Council did not have power to make the order, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements imposed, or
  2. That the procedural requirements for making the PSPO (e.g. consultation) were not complied with.
- 4.7. On any application to the High Court challenging the validity of an Order the Court may suspend its operation or any of the prohibitions or requirements imposed by it until the final determination of the proceedings. If the Court is satisfied the Council did not have the power to make the PSPO, or it did but the Council failed to comply with the procedural requirements and, the applicant has been substantially prejudiced by that failure, it may quash the order, or any of the prohibitions or requirements imposed by it.
- 4.8. All proposals to make, vary, discharge or extend PSPOs, regardless of the method of authorisation will be made in accordance with the statutory provisions and guidance.

### **Financial Implications**

- 4.9. There are no direct financial implications of this report or renewing of the PSPO in its current form.

### **Resource Implications**

- 4.5 Council officers are already expected to engage, educate and enforce the PSPO and this will continue should it be renewed.
- 4.6 Any visible engagement or enforcement action will come with resource implications for staffing in terms of general staff time, case file building, taking statements, gathering evidence and potential court attendance. The majority of this can be managed with current staffing levels although some external legal advice may be required.

### **Equalities Impact Implications**

- 4.6 Public authorities have a Public Sector Equalities Duty under the Equality Act 2010 to consider and address equality issues in all their functions, insofar as is relevant and proportionate. The Equality Impact Assessment has been reviewed and updated to consider the impact of the extended Public Space Protection Order on the protected characteristics groups and its implications for the Public Sector Equality Duty. The conclusion of the assessment remains that the order would be generally positive for all protected characteristic groups.
- 4.6 Those who are alcohol dependant or have other identified issues will be signposted to appropriate support agencies, if not already engaged with them.

The consultation for this proposal has been made accessible to all key stakeholders, and groups, as well as statutory consultees

- 4.6 A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment is attached as **Appendix B**.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.6 The Aldershot PSPO has proved a valuable tool for council officers and Police when responding to drink related antisocial behaviour in Aldershot Town Centre. It's renewal will allow this work to continue in tandem with further work to help and support vulnerable individuals in Aldershot.

### **LIST OF APPENDICES/ANNEXES:**

**Appendix A** – Aldershot Town Centre PSPO

**Appendix B** – Equality Impact Assessment

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** N/A

### **CONTACT DETAILS:**

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## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

### SECTION 59

#### PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

This order is made by the Rushmoor Borough Council (the 'Council') and shall be known as the **Public Spaces Protection Order (Aldershot Town Centre) 2022**.

#### PRELIMINARY

1. The Council, in making this Order is satisfied on reasonable grounds that:  
  
The activities identified below have been carried out in public places within the Council's area and have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality,  
  
and that:  
  
the effect, or likely effect, of the activities:  
  
is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,  
  
is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and  
  
justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.
2. The Council is satisfied that the prohibitions imposed by this Order are reasonable to impose in order to prevent the detrimental effect of these activities from continuing, occurring or recurring, or to reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.
3. The Council has had regard to the rights and freedoms set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. The Council has had particular regard to the rights and freedoms set out in Article 10 (right of freedom of expression) and Article 11 (right of freedom of assembly) of the European Convention on Human Rights and has concluded that the restrictions on such rights and freedoms imposed by this Order are lawful, necessary and proportionate.

## **THE ACTIVITIES**

### **4. The Activities prohibited by this Order are:**

- i. failing to comply with a direction not to consume, in breach of this order, alcohol, or anything which an Authorised Officer reasonably believes to be alcohol where the Authorised Officer reasonably believes that a person has engaged in anti-social behaviour.
- ii. failing to surrender a container which an Authorised Officer reasonably believes to contain alcohol (whether open or not) when asked to do so by an Authorised Officer.
- iii. urinating or defecating other than when making use of facilities designed for such use.

## **THE PROHIBITION**

5. A person shall not engage in any of the Activities anywhere within the Restricted Area as shown shaded on the attached map labelled "The Restricted Area".
6. This Prohibition is subject to the Exceptions stated below.

## **THE REQUIREMENT**

7. A person who is believed to have engaged in a breach of this Order is required to give their name and address to a police officer, police community support officer or other person designated by the Council.

## **THE EXCEPTION**

8. Nothing in this order shall apply to a person who a person who is consuming alcohol on premises listed in section 62 of the 2014 Act, the full text of section 62 appears at the end of this Order.
9. No offence is committed if the person has a reasonable excuse for engaging in the behaviour in question.

## **DEFINITIONS**

10. In this Order the following words or phrases are defined as follows:

**'Alcohol'** has the same meaning as in section 191 of the Licensing Act 2003, the full text of s.191 appears at the end of this Order.



**'Anti-social behaviour'** means conduct that has caused or is likely to cause nuisance, annoyance, harassment, alarm or distress to any person.

**'Authorised Officer'** means an employee or agent of the Authority who is authorised for the purpose of giving directions under this Order or a Police Officer.

**'Council'** means Rushmoor Borough Council.

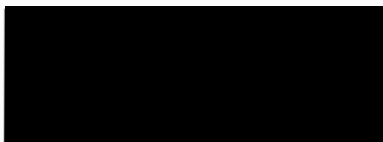
**'Restricted Area'** means anywhere within the area marked with a red boundary line and which is labelled 'Restricted Area' on the map attached to this order.

**'2014 Act'** means the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

#### **PERIOD FOR WHICH THIS ORDER HAS EFFECT**

11. This Order will come into force at midnight on **19 July 2022** and will expire at midnight on **19 July 2025**.
12. At any point before the expiry of this three-year period the Council can extend the Order by up to three years if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that this is necessary to prevent the activities identified in the Order from occurring or recurring or to prevent an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

Executed as a Deed by affixing the Common Seal  
of RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL  
this 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022  
The Common Seal of the Council was affixed  
to this Order in the presence of:-



Authorised Signatory

13/7/2022

#### **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THIS ORDER?**

##### **ALCOHOL**

**Section 63** of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime, and Policing Act 2014 provides that where a constable or authorised person has reason to believe that a person has been consuming alcohol in breach of this

PSPO or intends to consume alcohol in circumstances which would be a breach of this PSPO, the constable or authorised person may require that person not to consume alcohol or anything which is reasonably believed to be alcohol and/or surrender anything believed to be alcohol or a container for alcohol. Failure to comply without having a reasonable excuse is an offence. A requirement is not valid if, when asked to do to, the constable or authorised person, fails to show evidence of their authorisation. **Section 62** (set out in full below) contains a list of exceptions where the ban on consuming alcohol does not apply).

## **CRIMINAL OFFENCE**

**Section 67** of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime, and Policing Act 2014 says that it is a criminal offence for a person without reasonable excuse:

- (a) to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or
- (b) to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a public spaces protection order.

## **PENALTY**

A person who is guilty of an offence under this Order shall be liable to a £100.00 Fixed Penalty Notice, or upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 (currently £1000) on the standard scale.

## **APPEALS**

Any challenge to this order must be made in the High Court by an interested person within six weeks of it being made. An interest person is someone who lives in, regularly works in or visits the Restricted Areas. This means that only those who are directly affected by the restrictions have the power to challenge. The right to challenge also exists where an order is varied by the Council. Interested persons can challenge the validity of this order on two grounds: that the Council did not have the power to make the order, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements; or that one of the requirements of the legislation has not been complied with. When an application is made the High Court can decide to suspend the operation of the order pending the court's decision, in part or in totality. The High Court has the ability to uphold or quash the order or any of its prohibitions or requirements.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **Section 62 – Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

#### **Premises etc to which alcohol prohibition does not apply**

- (1) A prohibition in a public spaces protection order on consuming alcohol does not apply to—
  - (a) premises (other than council-operated licensed premises) authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol;
  - (b) premises authorised by a club premises certificate to be used by the club for the supply of alcohol;

(c) a place within the curtilage of premises within paragraph (a) or (b);

(d) premises which by virtue of Part 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 may at the relevant time be used for the supply of alcohol or which, by virtue of that Part, could have been so used within the 30 minutes before that time;

(e) a place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are at the relevant time permitted by virtue of a permission granted under section 115E of the Highways Act 1980 (highway-related uses).

(2) A prohibition in a public spaces protection order on consuming alcohol does not apply to council-operated licensed premises—

(a) when the premises are being used for the supply of alcohol, or

(b) within 30 minutes after the end of a period during which the premises have been used for the supply of alcohol.

(3) In this section—

*“club premises certificate”* has the meaning given by section 60 of the Licensing Act 2003;

*“premises licence”* has the meaning given by section 11 of that Act;

*“supply of alcohol”* has the meaning given by section 14 of that Act.

(4) For the purposes of this section, premises are “council-operated licensed premises” if they are authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol and—

(a) the licence is held by a local authority in whose area the premises (or part of the premises) are situated, or

(b) the licence is held by another person but the premises are occupied by a local authority or are managed by or on behalf of a local authority.

## **Section 63 - Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

### **Consumption of alcohol in breach of prohibition in order**

(1) This section applies where a constable or an authorised person reasonably believes that a person (P)—

(a) is or has been consuming alcohol in breach of a prohibition in a public spaces protection order, or

(b) intends to consume alcohol in circumstances in which doing so would be a breach of such a prohibition.

In this section *“authorised person”* means a person authorised for the purposes of this section by the local authority that made the public spaces protection order (or authorised by virtue of section 69(1)).

(2) The constable or authorised person may require P—

(a) not to consume, in breach of the order, alcohol or anything which the constable or authorised person reasonably believes to be alcohol;

(b) to surrender anything in P's possession which is, or which the constable or authorised person reasonably believes to be, alcohol or a container for alcohol.

(3) A constable or an authorised person who imposes a requirement under subsection (2) must tell P that failing without reasonable excuse to comply with the requirement is an offence.

(4) A requirement imposed by an authorised person under subsection (2) is not valid if the person—

(a) is asked by P to show evidence of his or her authorisation, and

(b) fails to do so.

(5) A constable or an authorised person may dispose of anything surrendered under subsection (2)(b) in whatever way he or she thinks appropriate.

(6) A person who fails without reasonable excuse to comply with a requirement imposed on him or her under subsection (2) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

## **Offences**

### **67 - Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014**

#### **Offence of failing to comply with order**

(1) It is an offence for a person without reasonable excuse—

(a) to do anything that the person is prohibited from doing by a public spaces protection order, or

(b) to fail to comply with a requirement to which the person is subject under a public spaces protection order.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

(3) A person does not commit an offence under this section by failing to comply with a prohibition or requirement that the local authority did not have power to include in the public spaces protection order.

(4) Consuming alcohol in breach of a public spaces protection order is not an offence under this section (but see section 63).

### **191 – Licensing Act 2003**

#### **Meaning of “alcohol”**

(1) In this Act, “*alcohol*” means spirits, wine, beer, cider or any other fermented, distilled or spirituous liquor in any state, but does not include—

(a) alcohol which is of a strength not exceeding 0.5% at the time of the sale or supply in question,

(b) perfume,

(c) flavouring essences recognised by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise as not being intended for consumption as or with dutiable alcoholic liquor,

(d) the aromatic flavouring essence commonly known as Angostura bitters,

(e) alcohol which is, or is included in, a medicinal product or a veterinary medicinal product,

- (f) denatured alcohol,
- (g) methyl alcohol,
- (h) naphtha, or
- (i) alcohol contained in liqueur confectionery.

(2) In this section—

*“denatured alcohol”* has the same meaning as in section 5 of the Finance Act 1995 (c. 4);

*“dutiabale alcoholic liquor”* has the same meaning as in the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979 (c. 4);

*“liqueur confectionery”* means confectionery which—

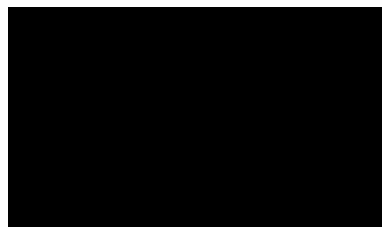
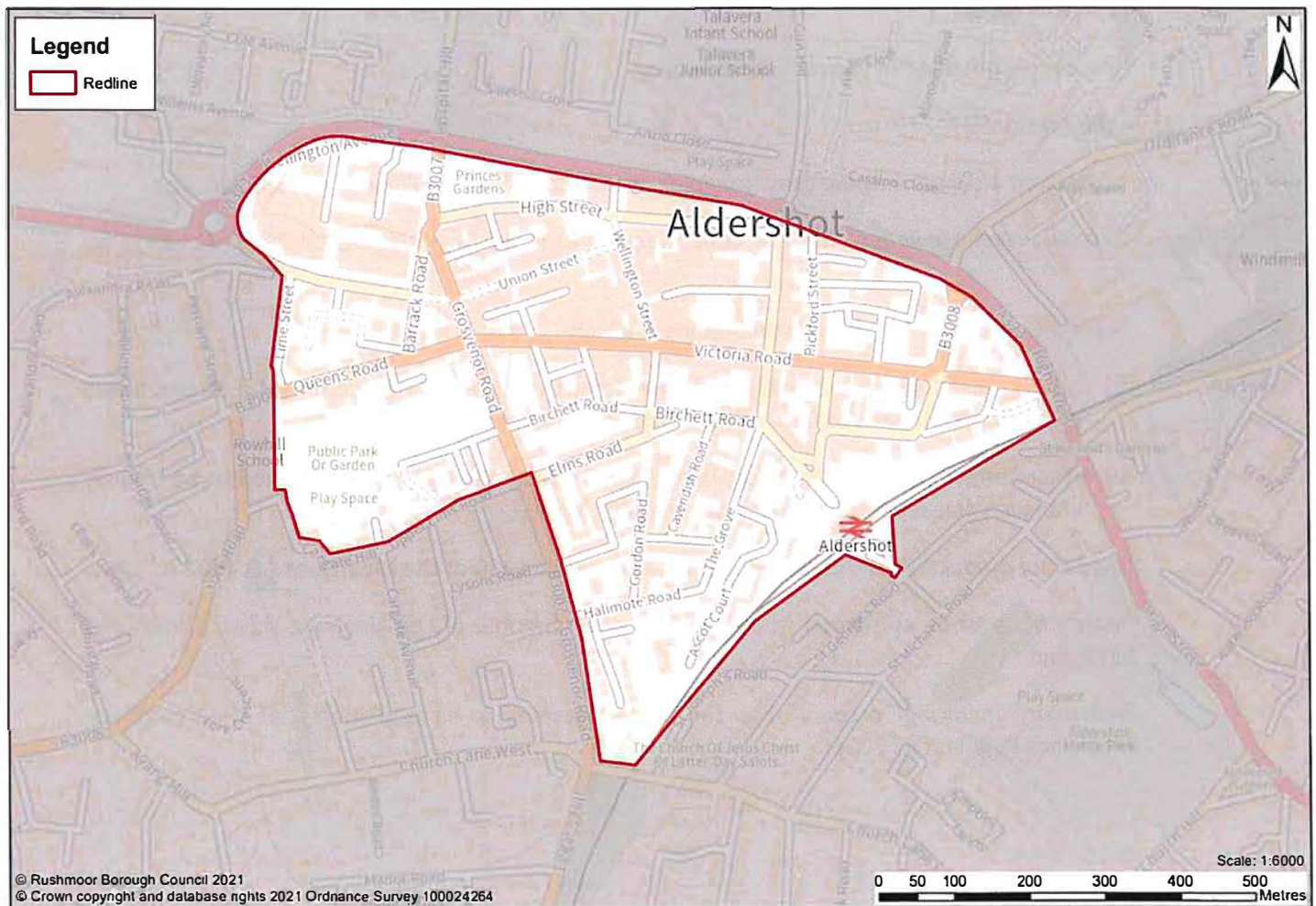
- (a) contains alcohol in a proportion not greater than 0.2 litres of alcohol (of a strength not exceeding 57%) per kilogram of the confectionery, and
- (b) either consists of separate pieces weighing not more than 42g or is designed to be broken into such pieces for the purpose of consumption;

*“medicinal product”* has the same meaning as in section 130 of the Medicines Act 1968 (c. 67)

*“strength”* is to be construed in accordance with section 2 of the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979; and

*“veterinary medicinal product”* has the same meaning as in regulation 2 of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2006.

## RESTRICTED AREA – MAPs



13/1/2022



**Under section 66 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 there is a right to apply to the High Court questioning the validity of this Order within a period of six weeks from the date of the Order.**





# Equality Impact Assessment: Screening Tool

The **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Tool** should be completed for any new proposal. It helps staff check if their proposal will positively, neutrally, or negatively affect residents, staff, or service users. If the impact is positive or neutral, a full EIA isn't needed.

A **full EIA** is required if the screening shows a negative impact on specific groups. We also advise that a full EIA should be completed when a [key decision](#) is being made. Key decisions are executive actions likely to:

- Significantly affect Council tax, budget balances, or contingencies.
- Have a major impact on communities across two or more Borough wards.
- Expenditure or savings over £100,000 qualify as significant, with a £250,000 threshold for property transactions.

Furthermore, for staff, we generally consider the impact on more than 25 people as significant, which would require a full EIA. If you're unsure, you can seek guidance from the Policy Team.

**\*After screening, if you identify the need for a full Equality Impact Assessment, you can use your existing answers as a foundation for the full assessment.**

Name of Project	Renewal of the Aldershot Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)
Reference number (if applicable)	
Service Area	Community Safety
Date screening completed	12/05/25
Screening author name	David Lipscombe
Policy Team sign off	Alex Shiell
Authorising Director/Head of Service name	James Duggin

## Please provide a summary of the proposal

Please outline:

- What are the aims / objectives of this proposal?
- Will this deliver any savings?
- What benefits or change will we see from this proposal?
- Which key groups of people or areas of the borough are involved?

The proposal seeks the renewal of the Aldershot PSPO to tackle town centre antisocial behaviour. The purpose of the PSPO is to provide the police and authorised officers with powers to tackle town centre antisocial behaviour including public drinking, and public urination and defecation. The PSPO seeks to address the antisocial behaviour of the street attached community as well as any wider alcohol related antisocial behaviour. The PSPO contributes to making the town safer and a more pleasant place to live, work and visit.

Who will the proposal impact? Delete as appropriate.

Group of people	Impacted?
Residents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Visitors to Rushmoor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Voluntary or community groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Council staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Trade unions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Other public sector Organisations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Others	Please specify: Individuals who have complex needs (e.g. mental health, substance misuse)

What impact will this change have on staff? Please complete where relevant.

Please outline in brief:

- Who will be impacted? For example, which services, teams, or buildings?
- How many staff members?
- What will the impact be? (e.g., changes to structure, staffing levels, responsibilities, relocation, or new working methods)

Any visible engagement or enforcement action will come with resource implications for staffing in terms of general staff time, case file building, taking statements, gathering evidence and potential court attendance. The majority of this can be managed with current staffing levels although some external legal advice may be required.

What consultation or engagement will you be leading (with residents, staff, or other stakeholders) as part of this project?

Please outline in brief:

- Which groups will you consult (residents, staff, other stakeholders)?
- Will you collect personal data?
- How will you engage (e.g., surveys, focus groups)?
- How will you use the feedback?

If no engagement is planned, explain why.

- **Groups consulted:** Residents, ward councillors, businesses, police, partner organisations.
- **Method:** Public consultation via social media (Facebook post on 13 March 2025). Email responses accepted up to 3 April 2025.

1.1. **Feedback:** 28 public responses, all in favour of renewal or strengthening the PSPO. A number of comments also mentioned the need for increased officer presence and enforcement in the area as well as extending the area of the PSPO to include Manor Park. Supportive responses also received from the Police and Inclusion. Partner responses were received from Chief Inspector Gillian Cox and the Police Liaison to the Police and Crime Commissioner, with both supporting the renewal of the PSPO. A response was received from Inclusion, with no feedback or comment on the proposal. Details of the renewal were also sent to local faith leaders for comment. No comments or questions were received.

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- **Original 2022 consultation:** The original public consultation on PSPO was completed between 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022. 358 people completed the consultation with overwhelming support for the measures outlined. 94% of respondents support the proposed condition on alcohol consumption and 93% of respondents support the proposed condition around public urination/defecation.

## What impact will this change have on people with protected characteristics and/or from disadvantaged groups?

For the groups identified earlier, tick the likely impact on people with protected characteristics (e.g., age, disability, race, etc.):

- **Neutral:** No impact.
- **Positive:** Benefits people with protected characteristics.
- **Negative:** Harms people with protected characteristics.
- **Not Sure:** It's unclear how this affects people with protected characteristics, or more information is needed.

Rate the negative impact as **low**, **medium**, or **high**. Also, consider whether the proposal may be seen as controversial or negative by some groups. See the [guidance](#) for help.

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable)
Age (for example, young people under 25, older people over 65)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safer town centre for older people, families.
Disability (include people with physical disabilities, people with learning disabilities, blind and partially sighted people, Deaf or hard of hearing people, neurodiverse people. This also includes carers.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	Potential impact on people with mental health or alcohol dependency.
Gender reassignment and identity (include people who identify across the trans* umbrella, not only those who have undergone gender reassignment surgery. This is inclusive of girls and or/women, men and/or boys, non-binary and genderfluid people and people who are transitioning) *Trans is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No direct or indirect impact.
Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable)
Pregnancy and Maternity (include people who are pregnant in or returning to the workplace after pregnancy. Could also include working parents.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnant women may not want to visit the town centre if it feels unsafe or unhygienic. The PSPO could have a positive impact by improving the perception of safety and cleanliness.
Race or ethnicity (include on the basis of colour, nationality, citizenship, ethnic or national origins)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ethnic Minorities who are statistically more likely to experience hate incidents or discrimination, may feel more confident accessing public spaces.
Religion or belief (include no faith)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sex (Under the Equality Act 2010 and following the 2025 Supreme Court ruling on 15 April, a person's legal sex is defined as their biological sex as recorded at birth. Trans individuals are still protected from discrimination under the characteristic of gender reassignment.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Women may feel more intimidated by antisocial behaviour and may benefit from its reduction.  The PSPO may have a positive impact

Protected characteristic	Positive impact	Neutral impact	Negative impact	Not Sure	Description of the impact (if applicable)
					from a sex perspective.
Sexual Orientation (Include people from across the LGBTQ+ umbrella, for example, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual or asexual.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choose an item.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Creating a safer and more welcoming town centre through the PSPO may benefit LGBTQ+ residents and visitors, who can also be at greater risk of experiencing public harassment or discrimination.
Other (e.g. people on low incomes, people living in poverty, looked after children, people with care experience, people who are homeless, people with mental health problems, people who are prison leavers, people affected by menopause, people affected by menstruation and/or period poverty)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Screening Decision	Outcome
Neutral or Positive – no full EIA needed*.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Negative – Low Impact – full EIA at the service director's discretion*.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Negative – Medium or High Impact – must complete a full EIA.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is a full EIA required? Service decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No

Screening Decision	Outcome
Is a full EIA required? [Policy Team] sign off recommendation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input type="checkbox"/> No
Flag for DPIA (will include engagement that collects personal data). [Policy Team]:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Flag for ethics (high risk / will involve engagement with vulnerable residents):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Once you've completed the screening tool and determined that the proposal is likely to have a positive or neutral impact on people with protected characteristics, the following can be included in the 'Equality Impact Assessment' part of the report. ***'An equality impact check found that this proposal would have a positive or neutral impact on people with protected characteristics. Therefore, a full assessment is not required.'***

Please send this completed EIA Screening Tool to [Policy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:Policy@rushmoor.gov.uk) for quality checking by the policy team.

**If required, please continue to the full assessment below.**



# Equalities Impact Assessment: Full Assessment

Before completing this form, you should have filled out an Equality Screening Tool and obtained approval from your Head of Service and the Policy Team. This Equality Impact Assessment should be completed if the Screening Tool identifies a potentially negative impact on one or more specific groups or there is a large-scale proposal or impact. It can also be used to highlight positive impacts.

We also advise that a full EIA should be completed when a [key decision](#) is being made. Key decisions are executive actions likely to:

- Significantly affect Council tax, budget balances, or contingencies.
- Have a major impact on communities across two or more Borough wards.
- Expenditure or savings over £100,000 qualify as significant, with a £250,000 threshold for property transactions.

If unsure, contact the Policy Team.

Furthermore, for staff, we generally consider the impact on more than 25 people as significant, which would require a full EIA. If you're unsure, you can seek guidance from the Policy Team.

Summary of proposal

Name of Project	Renewal of the Aldershot Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)
Reference number (if applicable)	
Service Area	Community Safety
Date assessment completed	

Before completing the EIA, please read the guidance and FAQs. For further help and advice please contact [Policy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:Policy@rushmoor.gov.uk)

## 1. Please provide a summary of the proposal.

Please provide:

- How the service works now (if relevant) and what changes are being suggested.
- Who will benefit from the proposal and what the results will be.
- Any savings the proposal might bring.

The proposal seeks the renewal of the Aldershot PSPO to tackle town centre antisocial behaviour. The purpose of the PSPO is to provide the police and authorised officers with powers to tackle town centre antisocial behaviour including public drinking, and public urination and defecation. The PSPO seeks to address the antisocial behaviour of the street attached community as well as any wider alcohol related antisocial behaviour. The PSPO contributes to making the town safer and a more pleasant place to live, work and visit.

## 2. What impact will this change have on different groups of people?

This section of the assessment examines the broad impacts of the proposed changes on different groups, such as service users, local communities, and businesses.

### 2A. Who will your proposal impact?

Please consider:

- Will the impact mostly affect people outside the council, inside, or both?
- Who will be affected – residents, service users, local communities, businesses, visitors, or others? The effect on staff will be looked at separately.
- What will the impact be – for example, less access to services or travel disruptions?

It will mostly impact people outside the council: residents, businesses, and visitors in Aldershot town centre. Key outcomes are increased safety and reduced antisocial behaviour and crime.

## 2B. What impact will this change have on staff?

Please consider:

- Who will be impacted? For example, which services, teams or buildings? How many staff?
- What will the impact be? For example, changes to structure, reporting lines, staff levels, responsibilities, location, access to services, new working methods, or development opportunities.

Any visible engagement or enforcement action will come with resource implications for staffing in terms of general staff time, case file building, taking statements, gathering evidence and potential court attendance. The majority of this can be managed with current staffing levels although some external legal advice may be required.

### 3. What impact will this change have on people with protected characteristics and/or from disadvantaged groups?

This section of the assessment looks in detail at the likely impacts of the proposed changes on different sections of our diverse community.

#### 3A. What data have you used to assess impacts?

Please provide:

- Details of the evidence used to check the impact on people with protected characteristics and disadvantaged groups (see guidance for help).
- A breakdown of service user details, if possible.
- A short summary of what the findings mean.

- Consultation Process:
  - For the 2025 renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), a public consultation took place.
- Public Feedback:
  - A Facebook post on 13 March 2025 invited public comments via email until 3 April 2025.
  - 28 responses were received, all supporting the renewal or strengthening of the PSPO.
  - Several respondents requested:
    - Increased officer presence and enforcement.
    - Extension of the PSPO area to include Manor Park.
- Partner Feedback:
  - Supportive responses came from:
    - Chief Inspector Gillian Cox
    - Police Liaison to the Police and Crime Commissioner
  - Inclusion responded but provided no comments or feedback.
  - Faith leaders consulted with no response.
- Previous Consultation (2022):
  - Out of 358 respondents, 319 answered the disability question.
  - 78.7% reported no health conditions or disabilities.
  - 14.7% reported having health conditions or disabilities, aligning closely with the 2011 census figure of 15.6% for those over 16 with long-term health issues—indicating appropriate representation.

The consultation data and community feedback show strong support for the PSPO from residents and businesses. There is a particular concern about safety, antisocial behaviour, and cleanliness. People with protected characteristics may be affected differently. While many will benefit from a safer town centre, there may be risks of unfair impact on vulnerable individuals, such as those with mental health or substance misuse problems.

### 3B: Assessing the Impacts on People with Protected Characteristics and Disadvantaged Groups in the table below.

Please first select whether the potential impact is positive, neutral, or negative, and then provide details of the impacts and any mitigations or positive actions you will put in place.

Please use the following definitions as a guide:

Neutral – The proposal has no impact on people with the identified protected characteristics.

Positive – The proposal has a beneficial and desirable impact on people with the identified protected characteristics compared to others.

Negative – The proposal has a negative and undesirable impact on people with the identified protected characteristics compared to others.

Characteristic or group	Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	What are the positive and/or negative impacts?	How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?
Age (for example, young people under 25, older people over 65)	Positive	<p><b>Positive Impact</b></p> <p>Although the PSPO is designed to prohibit certain behaviours it also seeks to make Aldershot a safer and more welcoming place. We know that some sections of the community feel that Aldershot is not a safe and welcoming place which has a negative impact on those individuals and reduces the likelihood on them choosing to visit the town e.g. older people or families with young children. These views are reflected in our annual Community Safety survey. The PSPO could have a positive impact for these individuals.</p> <p><b>Negative Impact</b></p> <p>The age of those who are often street drinking in the town centre varies and it is not felt it will disproportionately affect a particular age group. In terms of urination/defecation this is reportedly from a varied age group, including street attached individuals as well as those attending night-time economy venues.</p>	Officers are encouraged to engage with individuals as the first approach, before moving to an enforcement stage if they are not compliant. The authorised Officers who enforce the PSPO will continue to consider the needs of the individuals and their circumstances to make an informed and balanced decision as to the appropriateness of action to take. Officers continue to receive training on equality and diversity.

Characteristic or group	Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	What are the positive and/or negative impacts?	How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?
<p>Disability</p> <p>(Include people with physical disabilities, people with learning disabilities, blind and partially sighted people, Deaf or hard of hearing people, neurodiverse people. This also includes carers.)</p>	Negative	<p><b>Positive Impact</b></p> <p>The PSPO will positively impact those individuals with additional support needs, protected or hidden characteristics and disabilities by making them feel safer when accessing the town centre and other key public locations.</p> <p><b>Negative Impact</b></p> <p>The PSPO could adversely impact those with mental health concerns and alcohol dependency, particularly those associated with the street attached community. Adverse impacts could be in terms of displacement to other areas of the borough, inability to pay fines leading to financial concerns and potential further impacts on mental health.</p> <p>Regular street drinkers are often known to local support services and the Council, with some of them in supported accommodation and engaged. Likewise, those with mental health conditions.</p>	<p>In relation to disability, there is a disproportionate impact however this can be justified. Firstly, the continued use of the PSPO would be the least restrictive measures appropriate to address the antisocial behaviour issues in the town centre. There two prohibitions seek to address the main antisocial behaviours of concern. It is hoped that by addressing the two issues of antisocial street drinking and urinating/ defecating in a public place, it will continue to reduce other associated antisocial behaviours without the need to specifically prohibit them in a PSPO .</p>

Characteristic or group	Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	What are the positive and/or negative impacts?	How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?
<p>Gender reassignment and identity (Include people who identify across the trans* umbrella, not only those who have undergone gender reassignment surgery. This is inclusive of girls and or/women, men and/or boys, non-binary and genderfluid people and people who are transitioning)</p> <p>*Trans is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex they were assigned at birth.</p>	Neutral		
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Neutral		



Characteristic or group	Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	What are the positive and/or negative impacts?	How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p> <p>(include people who are pregnant in or returning to the workplace after pregnancy. Could also include working parents.)</p>	Positive	<p><b>Positive impact</b> A cleaner and safer town centre can benefit pregnant people or those with young children by making public spaces more accessible.</p> <p><b>Negative impact</b> No direct negative impact identified.</p>	
<p>Race or ethnicity</p> <p>(include on the basis of colour, nationality, citizenship, ethnic or national origins)</p>	Positive	<p><b>Positive impact</b> While the PSPO is not directly targeted at any particular ethnic group, there is a potential positive indirect impact. Creating a safer, more orderly public environment may improve perceptions of safety for people from ethnically minoritised backgrounds, who are statistically more likely to experience discrimination or feel unsafe in public spaces.</p> <p><b>Negative impact</b> No direct negative impact identified.</p>	

Characteristic or group	Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	What are the positive and/or negative impacts?	How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?
Religion or belief (include no faith)	Neutral		
Sex  Under the Equality Act 2010 and following the 2025 Supreme Court ruling on 15 April, a person's legal sex is defined as their biological sex as recorded at birth. Trans individuals are still protected from discrimination under the characteristic of gender reassignment.)	Positive	<p><b>Positive impact</b> Women and girls may feel more comfortable using public spaces if antisocial behaviour is reduced.</p> <p><b>Negative impact</b> No direct negative impact identified.</p>	

Characteristic or group	Positive/ Neutral/ Negative	What are the positive and/or negative impacts?	How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?
<p>Sexual Orientation</p> <p>(Include people from across the LGBTQ+ umbrella, for example, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual or asexual.)</p>	Positive	<p><b>Positive impact</b></p> <p>The PSPO may offer indirect positive impacts for LGBTQ+ individuals by helping create a town centre that feels safer and more inclusive, particularly during daytime hours when alcohol-related antisocial behaviour is more visible. This may contribute to increased confidence in using shared public spaces.</p> <p><b>Negative impact</b></p> <p>No direct negative impact identified.</p>	

<p>Other</p> <p>(e.g. people on low incomes, people living in poverty, looked-after children, people with care experience, people who are homeless, people with mental health problems people who are prison leavers, people affected by menopause, people affected by menstruation and/or period poverty)</p>	<p>Negative</p>	<p><b>Negative</b></p> <p>People who have complex needs (mental health issues or alcohol dependency) may be affected by enforcement. There is a risk of things such as increased anxiety or fines they cannot afford.</p>	<p>Where it may affect those with mental health issues or alcohol dependency, there is support in place to assist them and the council will seek to work with those individuals to refer them to appropriate support agencies. The council work with key partners such as Inclusion, Homegroup and Society of St James to provide support to those with addictions as well as ensuring appropriate housing is provided. Positive engagement with this community could mean that this is translated into a positive impact.</p> <p>The Council also have an Outreach Team who engage with street homeless and street attached when needed, as well as a specialist "Housing Navigator" who is able to work one on one with individuals who meet the criteria. Work includes addressing mental health and substance misuse concerns.</p> <p>Officers are encouraged to engage with individuals as the first approach, before moving to an enforcement stage if they are not compliant. The authorised Officers who enforce the PSPO will continue to consider the needs of the individuals and their circumstances to make an informed and balanced decision as to the appropriateness of action to take. Officers continue to receive training on equality and diversity.</p>
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#### 4.How do you plan to mitigate negative impacts?

Please provide:

- An outline of actions and the expected outcomes
  - Any governance and funding which will support these actions if relevant
- 
- Ongoing engagement with street-attached community
  - Outreach services and printed referral information
  - Authorised officers receive equality training and operate using a person-centred approach
  - Partnering with Inclusion, Society of St James, and Homegroup to support vulnerable individuals
  - Regular monitoring of enforcement outcomes to ensure fairness and proportionality

## 5. Please provide details of your consultation and/or engagement plans.

Please provide:

- Details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult or engage the whole community or specific groups affected by the proposal.
- Who has been or will be consulted or engaged with?
- Methods used or that will be used to engage or consult.
- Key findings or feedback (if completed)

If you are planning or completing key strategic participation and engagement work or if you need guidance and support, please get in touch with the communications team [communications@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:communications@rushmoor.gov.uk)

If you have **not** completed any engagement activity and do not plan to, you should outline why this decision has been made.

Public consultation requirements for a renewal of a PSPO are less onerous than when implementing a PSPO.

Residents were asked to email their views to Community Safety following a Facebook post on 13th March 2025 with responses accepted until 3rd April 2025. 28 responses were received from members of the public with all in favour of the renewal or strengthening of the PSPO. A number of comments also mentioned the need for increased officer presence and enforcement in the area as well as extending the area of the PSPO to include Manor Park. Partner responses were received from Chief Inspector Gillian Cox and the Police Liaison to the Police and Crime Commissioner, with both supporting the renewal of the PSPO. A response was received from Inclusion, with no feedback or comment on the proposal.

The original consultation in 2022 showed 319 respondents out of 358 completed the age question. There was generally broad representation across age groups 34 and above. The most common age group completing the survey was 35 – 44 years, and there was good representation of those aged 45 and above. There was less representation in the 25 – 34 year old age group, and only one person under 18 completed the survey.

## 6. Once the proposal has been implemented, how will impacts be monitored and reviewed?



Please provide details in the table below.

Action	Responsible team or officer	Deadline
Monitor PSPO enforcement data	Community Safety	Ongoing
Monitor feedback from public and partners	Community Safety	Ongoing
Refresh officer training on equality	HR / Community Safety	Ongoing

Please send the completed EIA to [Policy@rushmoor.gov.uk](mailto:Policy@rushmoor.gov.uk) for quality checking by the policy team. All Equality Impact Assessments must be attached with any report to a decision-making board and should be made publicly available on request.





This Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in accordance with the guidance and using appropriate evidence.

Member	Name	Signed	Date
Staff member completing this form	David Lipscombe Community Safety Manager		12/05/25
Policy Team	Alex Shiell		10/06/25
Director or Head of Service	James Duggin Executive Head of Operations		12/05/25

