Gedling Borough Council	**Equality Impact Assessment**
Name of project, policy, function, service or proposal being assessed:	Proposed new borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Dog Control – Gedling Borough
The main objective of (please insert the name of accessed document stated above):	To introduce a new borough-wide Dog Control PSPO requiring persons in charge of a dog to carry an appropriate means of collecting and disposing of dog waste and to place a dog on a lead when directed by an authorised officer. The measures are intended to promote responsible dog ownership, prevent nuisance or harm, and support cleaner and safer public spaces through proportionate enforcement.

What impact will this (please insert the name) have on the following groups? Please note that you should consider both external and internal impact:

- External (e.g. stakeholders, residents, local businesses etc.)
- Internal (staff)

Please use only 'Yes' where applicable		Negative	Positive	Neutral	Comments
Gender	External		X		Cleaner and safer public spaces benefit all residents equally.
	Internal		X		No differential impact on staff; enforcement

					roles remain unchanged.
Gender Reassignment	External		X		Improved public environment benefits inclusivity and safety.
	Internal		X		No specific impact identified.
Age	External		X		Positive overall: children and older residents may particularly benefit from cleaner public spaces and the ability of an authorised officer to require a dog to be placed on a lead where necessary. Individual circumstances and any reasonable excuse will be considered before enforcement action.
	Internal			X	No direct impact on workforce.

Marriage and civil partnership	External			X	No differential impact identified.
	Internal			X	No impact identified.
Disability	External		X		Positive overall: cleaner, safer and more accessible public spaces particularly benefit people with mobility or visual impairments. The draft Order will include appropriate exemptions and the statutory defence of reasonable excuse, including due regard for disabled persons and those accompanied by assistance dogs. A direction to place a dog on a lead will be given only where necessary and proportionate.
	Internal		X		Enforcement staff act in line with reasonable adjustments considerations.
Race & Ethnicity	External		X		No disproportionate impact, benefits apply Borough-Wide
	Internal		X		No specific Impact

Sexual Orientation	External		X		General environmental improvements benefit all residents
	Internal		X		No Specific Impact
Religion or Belief (or no Belief)	External			X	No identified Impact
	Internal			X	No identified Impact
Pregnancy & Maternity	External		X		Positive overall: cleaner public spaces and proportionate control of dogs may reduce health and safety risks and improve accessibility for pregnant people, parents and carers using public spaces.
	Internal			X	No direct impact identified.
Other Groups (e.g. any other vulnerable groups, rural isolation, deprived areas, low income staff etc.) Please state the group/s: Dog owners on low incomes Vulnerable persons	External	X	X		The £100 fixed penalty may have a greater financial impact on people on low incomes. Enforcement will consider individual circumstances, any reasonable excuse and the proportionality of formal action. The preventative requirements and improved control of dogs may particularly benefit children, older people and other vulnerable users of public spaces.

	Internal		X		No direct impact identified

Is there is any evidence of a high disproportionate adverse or positive impact on any groups?			No high disproportionate adverse impact has been identified. Positive impacts are expected across the borough, with particular benefits for disabled people, older people, children, families and other vulnerable users of public spaces. The £100 fixed penalty may have a greater financial impact on people on low incomes, but enforcement safeguards, exemptions and consideration of reasonable excuse reduce the risk of disproportionate outcomes.
Is there an opportunity to mitigate or alleviate any such impacts?			Yes: apply the statutory defence of reasonable excuse and relevant exemptions; ensure directions to place a dog on a lead are necessary, targeted and proportionate; provide clear and accessible publicity and signage; consider individual circumstances before issuing a fixed penalty notice; and monitor complaints and enforcement data for any disproportionate effects.
Are there any gaps in information available (e.g. evidence) so that a complete assessment of different impacts is not possible?			The six-week public consultation runs from 2 October to 13 November 2026. Consultation feedback and equality-related representations should be reviewed before the Order is made. After implementation, enforcement data, complaints, use of lead directions and any reliance on

			exemptions or reasonable excuse should be monitored to identify any emerging disparity.

In response to the information provided above please provide a set of proposed action including any consultation that is going to be carried out:

Planned Actions	Timeframe	Success Measure	Responsible Officer
Publicise the two new requirements through clear, accessible information and responsible dog ownership campaigns	Ongoing	Awareness of the requirements; reduction in dog-fouling reports and dog-related complaints	GBC/WISE
Update or install clear and accessible signage and review dog-waste disposal provision	Ongoing	Positive public feedback and reduced hotspot complaints	Parks and street care team
Monitor fixed penalties, lead directions, complaints, exemptions and reasonable-excuse decisions for equality trends	Quarterly	No disproportionate enforcement patterns identified	Public Protection Manager
Brief authorised officers on exemptions, reasonable excuse,	Ongoing	No upheld complaints relating to unfair enforcement	WISE/ Public Protection Manager

accessible communication and the necessity and proportionality of lead directions and formal enforcement			

Authorisation and Review

Completing Officer	**Kevin Nealon**
Authorising Service Manager	**Mike Avery**
Date	
Review date (if applicable)	