

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Public Space Protection Order's prohibiting dogs on Abervaon beach and requiring them to be kept on the lead on Aberavon promenade have been in place since 2017. This board reports requests permission to go out for consultation to create two new PSPO's covering Aberavon beach and promenade to cover the next three years, as the current PSPO's run out this year.

Service Area: Streetcare – Neighbourhood Services

Directorate: Environment and Regeneration

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	x	
Staff	x	
Wider community	x	
Internal administrative processes	x	

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		x				The proposals will have no impact
Disability		X				The prohibition of dogs on the beach would impact on anyone who requires the company of a guide dog; however, the proposed PSPO's include exemptions for working guide dogs and therefore the initiative will have no impact.

Gender Reassignment		x				The proposals will have no impact
Marriage/Civil Partnership		x				The proposals will have no impact
Pregnancy/Maternity		x				The proposals will have no impact
Race		x				The proposals will have no impact
Religion/Belief		x				The proposals will have no impact
Sex		x				The proposals will have no impact
Sexual orientation		x				The proposals will have no impact

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language			x			The proposals will have no impact, all signage/notification and communication will be produced bilingually as standard.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English			x			The proposals will have no impact, all signage/notification and communication will be produced bilingually as standard.

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
--	-----	----	---------------------	---------------	-----------------	--

To maintain and enhance biodiversity			X		<p>Aberavon beach provides habitat for biodiversity, including species with legal protection. The beach is used for foraging for wading sea birds, such as sanderling and ringed plover and the wider Swansea Bay area, which can be impacted by activity on Aberavon beach, supports breeding populations of porpoise. Dog walking in areas is known to have negative impacts on biodiversity, for example, through disturbance and displacement of nesting birds, or through pollution impacts of dog waste on areas. Therefore, restricting access to Aberavon beach for dog walkers is likely to have a positive impact for biodiversity in this area. There is a risk that displaced dog walking will put more pressure on biodiversity of other sites along the coastline for the time that the PSPO is in place. However, as the PSPOs have been in place for the last 6 years and this initiative is simply proposing to continue the present circumstances, there is not likely to be a change in the impacts on maintaining and enhancing biodiversity from this initiative.</p>
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	X			M	<p>A lack of regulation of recreational activities in sensitive areas such as the beach and sand dunes has been identified as a key threat to the ecosystem resilience of coastal habitats in NPT (NPT State of Nature, NPT LNP). A restriction on dog walking on Aberavon beach will positively contribute to ecosystem resilience of this coastal habitat, namely by reducing disturbance to wading birds and reducing pollution in the form of dog excrement and discarded plastic 'poo-bags'. There is a risk that displaced dog walking will put more pressure on biodiversity of other sites along the coastline for the time that the PSPO is in place. Fact finding through the consultation could determine if this is likely to be the case and if so, a public education programme to help reduce the impact on these other areas put in place to minimise any negative impact on resilience of ecosystem.</p>

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	X		The implementation of the PSPO's will ensure that people can safely use and enjoy the beach and promenade safely during the summer months.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	X		The implementation of the PSPO's will ensure that people can safely use and enjoy the beach and promenade safely during the summer months. The beachfront is a key location and an asset for various reasons, such as leisure, tourism, exercise, community cohesion etc.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		Permission is being sought to undertake a consultation exercise so that the views of local residents and the wider community can be considered.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions		X	Not applicable.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		The implementation of the PSPO's will ensure that beach and promenade users are safe from the health hazards associated with dogs being off the lead and any associated fouling.

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	x
Reasons for this conclusion	

The proposals will not have any adverse impact on people with protected characteristics or people's ability the ability to use the welsh language. Generally, there is a positive impact in terms of biodiversity, with the only potential negative impact being the dispersal of dog walkers to other areas of the coast; however, as this is currently the status quo and has been for the past six years, the impact will be minimum and can be managed by an education programme if required. The initiative will also support the sustainable development principle as required by The Wellbeing of Future of Generations Wales Act.

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Colette Powney	Streetscene Manger	C.Powney	07/09/2023
Signed off by	James Davies	Neighbourhood Services Manager	J.M.Davies	07/09/2023