

Derbyshire Dales District Council Equality Impact Assessment



Please refer to the guidance whilst completing this form.

Please contact Claire Allen [Claire.allen@derbyshiredales.gov.uk or 01269 761240] for support.

1. Outline

Information required	Detail
a. Title of policy, practice, service or function being assessed	Dog Control
b. Links to Service and/or Corporate Plan Ref/s	N/A
c. Name and Role of Officers conducting assessment	Claire Allen Corporate Policy Officer
d. Date of assessment	8 th February 2024
e. Reason for assessment	<p>DDDC is proposing to increase fees and charges across a number of services above the current rate of inflation. The recommended fees for dog control include an increase of around 10%. The fee increase reflects the increased cost of looking after stray dogs and it is recommended that this is passed on to owners.</p> <p>There is a new fee of £50 for a call out charge.</p> <p>Given the current levels of inflation and cost-of-living crisis, this may have significant impacts on different groups with protected characteristics. This EIA considers those impacts and identifies any possible mitigations.</p>
f. What is the purpose of this policy, practice, service or function? (specify aims and objectives)	Increased fees and charges for 2024/25 above the current rate of inflation will generate higher levels of income in real terms. This will assist in balancing the budget for 2024/25, given the significant inflationary increases on Council spending.

Information required	Detail
g. Are there any other organisations involved in its implementation?	Yes Crowfoot Kennels carry out the stray dog collection service on behalf of DDDC. They are involved in collection & return of stray dogs and may be responsible for collecting any fees due.
h. Likely customer groups to be impacted	Derbyshire Dales residents Visitors to the Derbyshire Dales area
i. Other stakeholders likely to be impacted	
Which District Council departments are affected by the policy, practice, service or function?	Community and Environmental Services
Do any of the objectives directly support or hinder another Council activity?	No

2. Assessing Relevance to the General Equality Duty

The General Equality Duty has three aims which require the District Council to have due regard to the need to:	Tick those which are relevant ✓
1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination (both direct or indirect), harassment and victimisation	✓
2. Advance equality of opportunity between all persons by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by protected groups; • taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people • encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or other activities where participation is disproportionately low 	✓
3. Foster good relations between different groups	

3. What existing information / data do you have / monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy, practice, service or function?

For example: previous EIA's, reports, consultation, surveys, demographic data etc.

Information / Data	Data source and date	Information relevant to proposed policy/service/function
<p>Office National Statistics 2021 Census https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021 <u>1</u></p> <p>Derbyshire Observatory https://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/reports/documents/census/2021_census/Census2021_FirstReleaseDerbyshire.html#derbyshire-dales</p>	<p>Office National Statistics population datasets – age, sex, households etc.</p> <p>Population figures by age, number of households, sex - Derbyshire Observatory; taken from Census 2011 - national survey of all households</p>	<p>The district of Derbyshire Dales is mainly rural with around 80% of its population living in rural settlements.</p> <p>The population of 71,681 is evenly spread geographically across the area.</p> <p>This figure is made up of 36,683 women and 34,998 men. Derbyshire Dales has 32,283 households - the smallest number of all Derbyshire districts.</p> <p>The Dales has an ageing population; the UK median age is 40.7 years; in the Derbyshire Dales it is 51.9 years.</p> <p>28.1% of the Derbyshire Dales population are over 65, up from 19% in 2001 and 9.6% higher than the national averages and exceeding both regional and county level figures.</p>

Information / Data	Data source and date	Information relevant to proposed policy/service/function
<p>Infographic of data https://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/reports/documents/census/2021_census/2021%20Census%20Infographic%20v5_DDales%20V1.00.png https://observatory.derbyshire.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/reports/profiles/quilt/quilt_rank.pdf</p>		<p>The health of people in Derbyshire Dales is generally better than the England average. About 9.4% (965) of the District's children live in low-income families, compared with 16.6% for the East Midlands region (Derbyshire Dales Health Profile, 2019)</p> <p>In 2021, 6.0% of Derbyshire Dales residents were identified as being disabled and limited a lot, dropping from 7.1% in 2011.</p> <p>The ethnic minority population of the District is 2.2%, which covers people who identify their ethnic group as Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh, Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African, Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups or other ethnic groups. The national figure for England and Wales is 18.3%.</p> <p>The fuel poverty rate is 20.1%, significantly higher than the average for Derbyshire of 13.9% and England of 13.1%. Fuel poverty is linked to poor quality housing.</p>

4. Consultation and engagement

4a. if no consultation has taken place OR is unnecessary, please explain why.

No consultation due to timescales

4b. Add the results of any completed consultation and how it has/will inform the development of the policy/service.

Who <u>did</u> you consult with?	How and when	Outcomes/Results	Implications and amendments as a result of consultation
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

4c. Add consultation plans and results here

Think about who the stakeholders are? How will you gather their views? By when?

Remember to complete a Consultation Proposal form to access support and refer to the guides – everything you need is here

<X:\Partnerships and Projects\Consultation All Directorates\Strategies Guidance Resources>

Who <u>will</u> you consult with?	How and When	Results	Implications and amendments as a result of consultation
Not planned	N/A	N/A	N/A

5. Based on the evidence above, does the policy, practice, service or function have a positive or negative impact on any protected group(s)?

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Potential Improvement Actions
Age	<p>Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided, these charges are currently at the cost of the taxpayer rather than the dog owner.</p> <p>Promotion of responsible dog ownership. Dog owners have a responsibility to keep their dog(s) under control & be aware of their whereabouts.</p>	<p>Older customers may not be able to chase lost dogs, leading to proportionally more call out charges.</p>	<p>In most cases dogs should be on a lead at all times, especially if they are not recall trained.</p>
<p>Disability or long-term ill heath Physical disabilities, sensory impairments, limiting long-term illnesses, learning disabilities or mental health issues</p>	<p>Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided, these charges are currently at the cost of the taxpayer rather than the dog owner.</p> <p>Promotion of responsible dog ownership. Dog owners have a responsibility to keep their dog(s)</p>	<p>Disabled or sick customers may not be able to chase lost dogs and may need this service, leading to proportionally more call out charges.</p>	<p>In most cases dogs should be on a lead at all times, especially if they are not recall trained.</p>

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Potential Improvement Actions
	under control & be aware of their whereabouts.		
Race / ethnic groups	Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided	None	N/A
Women or men	Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided	None	N/A
Sexual orientation	Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided	None	N/A
Religion or belief (including non-belief)	Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided	None	N/A
Transgender (including people planning to or going through gender reassignment)	Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided	None	N/A
Pregnancy and maternity (including maternity and paternity leave)	<p>Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided, these charges are currently at the cost of the taxpayer rather than the dog owner.</p> <p>Promotion of responsible dog ownership. Dog owners have a responsibility to keep their dog(s)</p>	Pregnant customers may not be able to chase lost dogs and may need this service, leading to proportionally more call out charges	In most cases dogs should be on a lead at all times, especially if they are not recall trained.

Protected groups	Positive effects	Negative effects	Potential Improvement Actions
	under control & be aware of their whereabouts.		
Marital status (including civil partnership & same sex marriage)	Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided	None	N/A

5a. Are there any local priority groups / factors which should be considered?

Other factors	Positive effects	Negative effects	Improvement actions
Rural areas	Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided	None foreseen	N/A
Poverty / deprivation	Introducing this fee helps to ensure the service can be provided	The cost of living crisis may make this service hard to afford for some households. Fees may be incurred without the ability to pay.	In most cases dogs should be on a lead at all times, especially if they are not recall trained.

6. Commissioned / outsourced services

Is your policy, practice, service or function partly or wholly provided by any external organisation / agency?	Yes
If yes, please list any contractual or other arrangements which aim to ensure that the provider promotes equality and diversity (e.g., <i>monitoring data</i>)	The contract with Crowfoot Kennels includes a section on Conduct of Service Provider's Staff – Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

7. Summary

Use this space to summarise key data and its implications, the key issues to be addressed, potential actions to address them and any other points relevant to the Policy/service.

The impacts from the new charge and/or the fee increases may be felt by some people with protected characteristics. These impacts will primarily be felt by older people and those with disabilities. Those already in precarious financial positions or with multiple vulnerabilities may also feel some impacts. Where possible, adverse impacts have been identified and the impact and any relevant mitigation activities have been included within the tables above.

8. Improvement Plan

Key issues identified	Actions
Introduction of new fee may be prohibitive for some, but is in line with other fees & charge for stray collection & kennelling	This may reduce the number of stray dogs collected

PLEASE FORWARD THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE POLICY MANAGER / POLICY OFFICER (Consultation & Equalities)

Signed _____ (Completing Officer)