

Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire
County Council

Fly Grazing Policy

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Department: Culture, Communities and Business
Services

Date of
assessment: 08/03/2021

Description of current service/policy

Fly grazing is the term applied to horses that are placed on land without the permission of the landowner. The Fly Grazing Policy sets out the approach that the Council uses to manage fly grazing on its land in accordance with the provisions of the Animals Act 1971 as amended by the Control of Horses Act 2015. The Policy will apply to the whole of the County Council's estate to minimise potential impacts on its amenity arising from fly grazing which could include issues of public safety, nuisance within local communities, impacts on agricultural and environmental land uses as well as considerations of animal welfare.

Geographical impact: All
Hampshire

Description of proposed change

The Policy formalises the approach the County Council adopts for management of fly grazing on its land under the relevant legislation which provides powers as a local authority to detain fly grazed horses and sell, re-home or otherwise dispose of them if a lawful claim has not been made by the owner within 96 hours. A warning notice will be posted in the first instance allowing the owner to remove the horse before it is detained. Once detained, the County Council is responsible for welfare of the horse and associated costs. Costs are recoverable from the owner if the horse is reclaimed within 96 hours. Animal welfare is a primary consideration at all stages of the process.

Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out?

No

In response to previous incidents of fly grazing informal discussions have taken place with members of the affected communities and animal welfare charities that have informed the approach set out in the Policy.

Statutory considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Age: Neutral		
Disability: Neutral		
Sexual orientation: Neutral		
Race: Low	<p>The County Council does not hold data on the owners of horses found to be fly grazing on County Council owned land. The impact on all communities has been considered and it is recognised that the Policy may impact on communities that have protected characteristics of race or ethnicity under the Equalities Act, which may include those in the gypsy and traveller community. Any potential disproportionate impact will be mitigated by clear communication of the Policy through relevant channels and the posting of prior notices that provide the opportunity for the removal of fly grazed horses prior to detention by the County Council.</p>	

Religion and belief: Neutral		
Gender reassignment: Neutral		
Gender: Neutral		
Marriage and civil partnership: Neutral		
Pregnancy and maternity: Neutral		
Other policy considerations	Impact	Mitigation
Poverty: Neutral		
Rurality: Neutral		

Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)

Any other information

The impact of the Policy on poverty and rurality protected characteristics has been considered. It is considered that the benefits of the Policy balance any negative impact on these characteristics and

therefore the overall impact has been identified as neutral.

The Fly Grazing Policy is subject to approval by the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage, Countryside and Rural Affairs on 19th March 2021 and will be implemented once it has been approved.