

CABINET
8 SEPTEMBER 2026

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – DOG CONTROL

Responsible Cabinet Member -
Councillor Jim Garner, Stronger Communities Portfolio

Responsible Director -
Dave Winstanley, Executive Director – Environment, Highways & Community Services

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The Council has a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covering dog control. The PSPO is in place until 31st January 2027. The Council is keen to extend the order and also seek to extend the number of areas covered by the PSPO.

Summary

2. The PSPO for dog control was introduced in February 2021 and an amended order was granted in February 2024.
3. The PSPO outlines that in public areas, people may be required to comply with the following: -
 - Keep your dog on a lead on specified land including East, West and North cemeteries
 - Put your dog on a lead if you are told to by a police officer, civic enforcement officer, park ranger or someone from the Council
 - Stop your dog going onto land from which they are excluded such as parts of a park or a children's play area
 - Clear up after your dog
4. Having a PSPO in place allows appropriately trained staff to issue a fixed penalty notice if a person ignores the PSPO. The PSPO plays an important role in ensuring public safety and ensures that dog owners take responsibility for cleanliness.
5. The report highlights the proposed route for the amendment of the order, including a period of public consultation, so that the matter can be considered by Cabinet.

Recommendations

6. It is recommended that:-

- (a) Cabinet agree to commence a consultation regarding extending the Public Spaces Protection Order- Dog Control for a further three years and expanding the number of areas that it covers.

Dave Winstanley
Executive Director Environment, Highways & Community Services

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Ben Grabham : Extension 3321

Council Plan	This report helps to ensure that the Council can deliver its ambitions to ensure local people are active and involved and that we have safe and secure communities with improved safety in public spaces.
Addressing inequalities	There are no impacts associated with this report.
Tackling Climate Change	There is no impact on climate change within this report.
Efficient and effective use of resources	There are no impacts associated with this report.
Health and Wellbeing	This report ensures that we recognise that we need to ensure appropriate controls are in place to ensure all communities can access open spaces that can be used safely by all sections of the community.
S17 Crime and Disorder	The report seeks to commence a consultation regarding extending the Public Spaces Protection Order - Dog Control for a further three years and expand the number of areas that it covers.
Wards Affected	All wards
Groups Affected	N/A
Budget and Policy Framework	If approved additional signage will need to be erected in particular locations but this can be met within current budget.
Key Decision	Yes
Urgent Decision	No
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	There is no impact on looked after children and care leavers within this report

MAIN REPORT

7. The Council has a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering dog control in place until 31st January 2027.
8. There are currently 43 areas identified across the borough where the PSPO covering dog controls are in place. These are predominantly in play areas but do also cover some other areas such as allotments, town centre and the memorial hospital grounds. These are identified in Appendix 1. Schedule 2 areas are areas where dogs are excluded from entering. Schedule 3 are areas where dogs must be on leads.
9. The Council is aware of at least four areas where it would propose to seek to extend the areas covered through the PSPO for dog control and these are listed below: -
 - Blackwell Heritage Parkland (schedule 3)
 - Cow Green play area (to be constructed in Autumn 2026 / Winter 2027) (schedule 2)
 - Neasham Road play area (schedule 2)
 - Warwick Square (schedule 2)
10. The Council is keen to understand if there is public support for the adoption of the areas outlined above and to see if any other areas are identified by the public. Therefore, it is proposed to run a public consultation exercise, over a six-week period, in September and October 2026 to gain responses. As part of the consultation, we will include maps which consultees can review to aid the visualisation of areas.
11. If approved, there will be a very small cost for additional signage, but this will be met from existing budgets.
12. A copy of the current PSPO for dog control is included at Appendix 2 for information.
13. The Communities and Local Services Scrutiny Committee will also be consulted at their meeting in October 2026.