

Blaby District Council
Council

Date of Meeting	20 September 2022
Title of Report	Public Spaces Protection Order Renewal - Dogs This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Les Phillimore - Housing, Community & Environmental Services
Report Author	Environmental Services Manager
Corporate Priority	A Place to Live

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 To seek approval to renew the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control.

2. Recommendation(s) to Council

- 2.1 To approve the Public Spaces Protection Order - (Blaby District Council) 2022 – (Appendix A) and to determine that the Public Spaces Protection Order- (Blaby District Council) 2022 will come into force on the 21st November 2022.
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Environmental Health, Housing, Net Zero and Community Safety Group Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make future minor amendments to the PSPO.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 To renew the current Public Spaces Protection Order to allow continued enforcement of dog related offences across the District.
- 3.2 To allow minor amendments to be made to the Public Space Protection Order.

4. Matters to consider

- 4.1 Background

The PSPO was introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in May 2016. The PSPO is valid for 3 years and is reviewed close to its expiry to ensure it is compliant and still relevant. The PSPO was varied in November 2016 when it became apparent that those controls

needed to be strengthened at Fosse Meadows. This element of the order is being retained. The current PSPO was approved in November 2019, at this point it was agreed to remove the reduced fixed penalty payment amount. This element of the order is being retained.

Since the approval of the PSPO in 2019 the Senior Animal Services Officer has worked with the Envirocrime Technical Officer to deliver campaigns with regard to dog fouling.

The bite back campaign was launched in 2019 and focussed on empowering Parish Councils and members of the public to take action on dog fouling in their local area. Information, posters and stencilling packs were made available and pre pandemic a large number were collected and used in the district. Following the relaxation of controls from the pandemic demand is once again increasing with 4 requests for these packs being received from Parish Councils in the last month.

Due to the impact of the pandemic the number of fixed penalty notices issued for dog related issues listed in the PSPO has reduced, however there is a scheduled programme of increased campaign work and patrolling planned for the coming year. During the pandemic work was focussed on inspection of breeding establishments as the numbers of these drastically increased during this time. From the 1st of January this year to date in excess of 40 signage and stencil requests for open spaces and residential areas across the district have been received and actioned.

4.2 Proposal(s)

The proposal is to renew controls within the PSPO for a further 3 years in line with legislative requirements, and to allow for future minor amendments of the order to be authorised by the Group Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

The Environmental Services Team will continue to work with Parish Councils and residents to try and promote good practice and prevent dog related issues in their local areas.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

The proposed renewal was published on the Councils consultation pages of the website from the 5th to 31st August 2022. The proposed PSPO was circulated to District Councillors, Parish Councils and the statutory consultees.

No objections were received, however, several comments supporting the renewal of the PSPO were received.

4.4 Significant Issues

There are no significant issues identified.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 Additional costs for signage and updated Fixed Penalty Notice pads can be met within existing budgets.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
Lack of effective enforcement if PSPO allowed to lapse	Renew current PSPO for a further 3 years in line with legislation.
Over zealous or unreasonable enforcement of the PSPO	Implementation of a training programme for officers and partner agencies to ensure that enforcement is reasonable and proportionate. Application of the adopted Enforcement Procedure to ensure a consistent approach.
PSPO lapses after 3 years	A review process should be timetabled to ensure that the PSPO is assessed and amended as necessary towards the end of the life of the PSPO.

7. Other options considered

- 7.1 Allow current PSPO to lapse on the 21st November 2022, however this would prevent any enforcement of dog related offences within the District.

8. Environmental impact

- 8.1 If the PSPO is approved there will be an improved environmental impact as a reduction in dog fouling may be achieved.

9. Other significant issues

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

- 10.1 Appendix A – The Public Spaces Protection Order - (Blaby District Council) 2022.

11. Background paper(s)

- 11.1 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted>

Cabinet Executive Report (Public Space Protection Order – Dogs)
21 March 2016

Cabinet Executive Report (Public Space Protection Order Variation – Dogs)
7 November 2016

Council Report (Public Space Protection Order Renewal– Dogs)
19 November 2019

12. Report author's contact details

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