

Responses to consultation on PSPO to promote responsible dog ownership

General point raised in consultation	Comments	Recommendation
<p>Additional measures should be included to protect nesting birds and other wild life.</p> <p>Areas around ponds and lakes should be included.</p>	<p>Identifying and specifying areas to be included would be problematic and are likely to be confusing.</p> <p>Existing measures allow for dogs to be placed on a lead at the direction of an authorised officer.</p> <p>Legislation also exists which covers dogs which are dangerously out of control are also re</p>	No amendments to previous order
Penalty for dog fouling should be increased from £100	Existing penalty was increased when PSPO was introduced.	£100 is the maximum available under this legislation.
Greater resources should be put into enforcement.	The Council has employed one full time dog warden since 2012. This is a similar level of resource to other GM areas. Other officers are authorised to issue Fixed penalty Notices.	Not relevant to order. Matter for management and allocation of resources.
Dogs should be kept on footpaths	The order tries to maintain a balance between all users of public open space. This also recognises the need for dogs to be walked and exercised. If dogs were restricted to footpaths only this would be too	Order has sufficient provision to allow for dogs to be kept under control and so no change to PSPO is needed

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	restrictive and not allow for adequate exercise.	
Dogs should be kept on leads when in public.	<p>The existing order has provisions that could require a dog to be placed on a lead if it is not properly under control.</p> <p>Requiring dogs to be kept on leads at all times would mean that some dogs couldn't be effectively exercise. Such measures are opposed by dog welfare groups.</p>	No changes to the existing order are proposed
Limits on dog numbers being walked are unfair	<p>The PSPO limits this to four dogs per person.</p> <p>Prior to the order being introduced in 2018 neighbouring authorities had introduced limits of between 6 and 4 dogs per person. This meant that dog walking businesses from neighbouring authorities began to exercise their dogs in Stockport. Since the introduction of the order this has reduced.</p>	<p>No change to existing order. There is no evidence that where dog walking companies are using additional staff this is causing a problem. Dogs are under control and problems of multiple dog walkers from out of Stockport no longer occurs.</p> <p>It may be possible to use commercial greenspace management arrangements to charge dog walking companies in the same way as other businesses who use parks and other greenspaces. This could enable additional control to be introduced outside of the PSPO if necessary.</p>

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	Concern has been raised that dog walking companies have taken to bringing two or three members of staff. This has resulted in large groups of dogs being exercised.	
Designated dog walking areas should be in place with dogs excluded from other areas.	<p>The existing PSPO doesn't designate specific areas as dog walking areas. Its aim is to promote responsible across the Borough.</p> <p>Designated dog walking areas are more difficult to identify and enforce.</p>	No change to existing PSPO
Law should be clearer on aggressive dogs	This isn't matter that can be considered or remedied under the PSPO.	No action necessary
Discarded dog poo bags in the street and hung on trees.	This is an offence under the existing PSPO or littering legislation.	No changes to PSPO necessary
4 dogs are too many for one owner to walk	<p>The PSPO tries to strike a balance between individuals who either own or walk a number of dogs.</p> <p>Four dogs follows guidance from dog charities and still allows commercial dog walkers to walk a number of dogs provided they keep them under control.</p>	No changes proposed to the maximum numbers of dogs to be walked by one person.

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