

Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation: Summary report

Overview

Community consultation was required to ascertain public support for Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police to continue to enforce dog fouling and control issues within the city.

The previous legislation, The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, The Dog Control Orders used by Leicester City Council to undertake enforcement to ensure responsible dog ownership in the city, expired on 7 August 2016.

Consideration was needed at this time due to the reform of Anti-Social Behaviour Policing Powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

If Leicester City Council is to continue to enforce responsible dog ownership the authority was required to adopt and implement enforcement via the Crime and Policing Act 2014 utilising a city wide Public Spaces Protection Order.

There is a need to enforce dog control across the city to ensure public spaces are clean and safe for all to enjoy. Responsible dog ownership enforcement via a public spaces protection order will aid the reduction of risk to the general public such as toxocariasis from dog faeces; freedom from potential animal attacks and safeguarding the public and wildlife via the 'dogs on a lead' elements.

Why We Consulted

Consultation is required to ascertain public support for Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police to continue to enforce dog fouling and control issues within the city.

In relation to dogs and their owners, the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) would:

1. Exclude dogs from designated areas, not allow dogs within fenced children's play areas, pets corner, cemeteries, ball courts, tennis courts, recreational areas and outdoor gyms etc.
2. Require dog faeces to be picked up by owners or any person in charge of the animal on any land which is open to the air to which the public have access, with or without payment.
3. Require dogs to be kept on leads; or placed on a lead if considered to be out of control upon request by authorised officers.
4. Where required put in place other restrictions or requirements to tackle or prevent any other activity that is considered to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or is likely to have such an effect.

The Consultation and results

The consultation opened on 1 August and ran until 31 August 2016. In total there were 125 respondents. The below table summarises the responses:

Question	Yes	No	Not Answered
Do you support Leicester City Council officers/Police officers insisting that dog owners/persons in charge of a dog, pick up dog faeces on any land which is open to the air to which the public have access?	121	3	1
Do you support dog exclusion areas – Leicester City Council not allowing dogs within fenced children’s play areas, ball courts, tennis courts, recreational areas, outdoor gyms, pets corner at Abbey Park and all cemeteries?	111	12	2
Do you support Leicester City Council officers/Police officers requesting that owners or persons in charge of a dog, place and keep a dog/s considered to be out of control on a lead when directed?	119	6	0
Do you support Leicester City Council's proposal that a person whom is in control or possession of a dog when an offence is committed being the person who is liable regardless of animal ownership?	117	7	1
Do you support Leicester City Council/Police officers issuing Fixed Penalty Notices of £100.00 for refusal to place dog/s on a lead when instructed?	111	13	1
Do you support Leicester City Council/Police officers issuing Fixed Penalty Notices of £100.00 for failure to pick up dog faeces on any land which is open to the air to which the public have access?	120	3	2
Do you support Leicester City Council/Police Officers issuing Fixed Penalty Notices of £100.00 for having a dog in an dog exclusion area?	106	17	2

Overall summary of the consultation

We asked respondents about the level of support they have for Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police to continue to enforce dog fouling and control issues within the city.

An overwhelming level of support was given, with a minimum percentage of 84% responding yes to each question to support enforcement of dog fouling and control issues in the city.

Responding to the level of support, we will now start the process for a new enforcement legislation in accordance to The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to enable Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police to continue to enforce dog fouling and control issues within the city.