

**Teignbridge District Council  
Overview and Scrutiny 1  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
Part i**

**Review of Dog Public Spaces Protection Order 2019**

**Purpose of Report**

To provide recommendations from the PSPO (Control of Dogs) Task and Finish Group

**Recommendation(s)**

The Committee RECOMMENDS to Executive that:

(1) Consider and approve the continuation of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Responsible Dog Ownership under ss59 to 75 of the Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014, taking into account the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group;

(1) That the lead length should be reduced to 1m and it should be a fixed type lead and

(2) Officers increase the signage in key locations to inform the public of the controls.

**Financial Implications**

See section 4.1 for comments.  
Steve Wotton, Finance Systems Manager  
[steve.wotton@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:steve.wotton@teignbridge.gov.uk)

**Legal Implications**

See section 4.2 for comments  
Julia Moon, Chartered Legal Executive  
[Julia.moon@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.moon@teignbridge.gov.uk)

**Risk Assessment**

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed prior to the consultation and this was

reviewed after the closing date of the consultation.  
Debs Stevens, Community Environment Warden  
Email: [debs.stevens@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:debs.stevens@teignbridge.gov.uk)

## Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

See section 4.4 for comments.  
William Elliot Climate Change Officer  
[william.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:william.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk)

## Report Author

Cllr Ron Peart, Chair of the Task and Finish Group and David Eaton Environmental Protection Manager

## Executive Member

Cllr Alistair Dewhirst  
Deputy Leader of the Council, and Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health

## Appendix

1. High level summary of consultation

## Background Papers

Executive decision to create PSPO

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 4th December, 2018, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

Full council decision to set the number of dogs walked by one individual to six.

[Agenda for Full Council on Monday, 14th January, 2019, 10.30 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

OS1 Terms of reference agreed for the Task Group

[Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 on Tuesday, 20th April, 2021, 10.00 am - Teignbridge District Council](#)

## 1. Introduction/Background

The task and finish group was created by this committee on the 22 December 2020 to review the current order and was tasked with the following work:

1. Undertake consultation with Town and Parish Councils, the District Councillors, the public and interested parties through an online survey.
2. Assess and collate survey data for meaningful interpretation and consideration
3. Review the current Order for any improvements

4. Make recommendations as to changes to the existing Order in light of the response to the consultation survey for approval and implementation before the current order expires in March 2022.

The following members were on the group;

- Cllr John Nutley (Chair up to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021)
- Cllr Ron Peart (Chair from 20<sup>th</sup> November 2021)
- Cllr Linda Petherick
- Cllr Mike Hocking
- Cllr David Cox
- Cllr Robert Phipps

Cllr Alistair Dewhurst attended the meetings in his capacity as the relevant Executive Member.

They were supported by David Eaton, Environmental Protection Manager and Debs Stevens, Community Environment Warden. The group also heard evidence from Chris Braines, Waste and Cleansing Manager, Julia Moon, Chartered Legal Executive and Mark Payne Grounds Maintenance Officer.

## **2. Work of group**

### **2.1 Consultation**

The Consultation period was from 4th March 2021 until 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021 and we received 1457 responses back. The statutory consultees were MP Ann Marie Morris, Police Crime Commissioner, Devon and Cornwall Police, Local Parish Councils, Devon County Councils, Teign Housing, Dartmoor National Park, The Kennel Club, The Dogs Trust, RSPCA, Sensible Dogs, Guide Dogs, Dogs for Good, National Trust, Forestry Commission, TALC and Hearing Dogs. The consultation also went out to the wider community groups, charities and authorities. It was also published on our social media platforms Facebook & Twitter.

## **2.2 Response**

The high level summary of the responses is in Appendix one. The summary below shows that a majority of the respondents want the current controls to continue.

**Means of clearing up after their dog – 92.65%**

**Person in charge of a dog must pick up faeces – 96.89%**

**Dog exclusion areas (not beaches) – 92.61%**

**Seasonal dog exclusion areas (beaches) – 72.81%**

**Dog on lead areas – 87.60%**

**Dog(s) on lead adjacent to the highway – 85.52%**

**Dog(s) on lead by direction – 93.98%**

**No more than six dogs – 79.34%**

The response comments made by the public are being addressed by our officers by carrying out patrols of problem locations mentioned. They are preparing better signage and more signage at specific hot spot locations. The officers are working well to educate members of the public and use more publicity in order to help with behavioural changes that are required

## **2.3 Findings of the group following officer evidence**

The group interviewed a number of officers on specific areas that were raised in the consultation. The group made a number of recommendations that are currently being pursued by officers.

- The policy for additional dog waste bins is provided to Town and Parish Councils.
- Work continues to map all dog bins and label them to assist the public in reporting when they are full.
- Officers develop a policy for adding new areas of the district that are covered by the controls in the PSPO
- Plans are included in the publicity for the PSPO clearly showing areas that have restrictions

### 3. Recommendations of the group

At the last meeting of the task and finish group they considered all the evidence from the statutory consultees, public consultation and the responses from officers. The following recommendations are based on this evidence.

**Means of clearing up after their dog** – This control should continue and there is no evidence for any changes.

**Person in charge of a dog must pick up faeces** - This control should continue and there is no evidence for any changes.

**Dog exclusion areas (not beaches)** - This control should continue and there is no evidence for any changes. However, the group recognised that improved signage is required at locations to inform the public of the controls

**Seasonal dog exclusion areas (beaches)** - This control should continue and there is no evidence for any changes. However, the group recognised that improved signage is required at our beaches to inform the public of the controls.

**Dog on lead areas** - This control should continue and there is no evidence for any changes. However, the group recognised that improved signage is required at locations to inform the public of the controls.

**Dog(s) on lead adjacent to the highway** – This control should continue and the group recommends that the lead length should be reduced to 1m and it should be a fixed type lead.

**Dog(s) on lead by direction** - This control should continue and there is no evidence for any changes.

**No more than six dogs** - This control should continue and there is no evidence for any changes.

### 4. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

#### 4.1 Financial

The provision of a Community Environment Warden team and associated costs are included in the draft 2022/23 budget and the recommendation does not increase the revenue costs for this service area. Any budget for additional signage will need to be found from within existing revenue budgets.

#### **4.2 Legal**

The work of the review group has been supported by the legal services team. Subject to the outcome of the committee a draft order will be produced for consideration by the Executive.

#### **4.3 Risks**

The issues with irresponsible dog ownership continue to be reported to the Council and an effective order is required for officers to take action. If the order is not approved the issues of irresponsible dog ownership will continue to increase.

#### **4.4 Environmental/Climate Change Impact**

There are no significant environmental or climate change implications from continuing with the PSPO as proposed.

### **5. Conclusion**

That the recommendations for the order to continue with one amendment are put forward to the Executive for their consideration following the response from the consultation.