

Teignbridge District Council
Executive
4th March 2025
Part i

Renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order 2022 for dog control

Purpose of Report

To ensure that effective controls remain to deal with irresponsible dog owners and reduced the anti-social behaviour associated with some dogs and their owners.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) Approve the extension of the Public Spaces Protection Order Number 1 (Dog Control) of 2019 (as extended and varied 2022) for a further three years from the 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2028

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications of this report. See comments in 3.1 below.

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Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising out of this report. See 3.2 below.

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Risk Assessment

An equality impact assessment has been completed to consider the impacts of this extension. Other risks are considered in section

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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

See section 3.4 for comments

Report Author to comment on the Environmental/Climate Change Implications
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Councillor Linda Goodman-Bradbury
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Appendices

Appendix 1 Equality Impact Assessment

Background Papers

Full Council decision to implement the Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Control in Teignbridge

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

Executive decision to approve the continuation of the Public Spaces Protection Order for responsible dog ownership

[Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 8th February, 2022, 4.15 pm - Teignbridge District Council](#)

1. Background

This report seeks the approval to renew the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control for a further 3 years. The issues caused by an irresponsible few dog owners still have a detrimental impact on the residents and communities of Teignbridge. The renewal of the order will ensure effective enforcement can be taken against those who persistently breach the order.

2. Legislation

2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the Act) provides local authorities with a set of powers, including PSPOs, to prevent and reduce a range of anti-social behaviours and other issues in public spaces which have a

negative or detrimental impact on the local community and the local community's quality of life.

A PSPO can be created if the local authority is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the two conditions in the legislation are met.

1. That the activities have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality
2. That the activities are or likely to be persistent or continuing, they are unreasonable and that the controls justify the restrictions placed.

2.2 The current controls are listed below, and the proposal is to continue these without amendment.

- pick up after your dog in public places. Bagged dog waste can be put in public litter bins where there are no accessible dog waste bins.
- not walk your dog on some beaches from 1 April to 30 September
- keep your dog out of areas signed as dog exclusion areas (for example, children's play parks)
- keep your dog on a lead in areas where Teignbridge Council signs are indicating that it is a dogs on lead area
- keep your dog on a fixed lead (which includes a fixed extendable lead), of no more than 1 metre in length, when on or adjacent to the public highway, a footway, footpath or cycle track
- keep your dog on a lead when directed by an authorised Officer or Police Officer to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog which is likely to cause annoyance or danger to any other person or animal.
- as an individual walk a maximum of 6 dogs (this applies to professional dog walkers too)
- carry sufficient dog poo bags or other appropriate means to pick up dog faeces

If a dog owner ignores the controls the authorised officers of the council can issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (£100) or prosecute the offender if the behaviour is regular and there are multiple breaches.

2.3 Section 60 of the act allows local authorities to extend the period of a PSPO if it is satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent;

- Occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order or
- An increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

Without the controls the activities of irresponsible dog owners will continue, and no action will be able to be taken. This will mean that residents, business and local communities will be impacted by the behaviour, and this will impact their quality of life.

2.4 The recently adopted One Teignbridge Council strategy states that we will;

“make sure neighbourhoods are kept clean and safe and use our legal powers to respond to planning and environmental breaches.”

“Work with partners to ensure our beaches are clean and well managed”

“Look after our play areas, parks and green spaces, making sure they are clean, safe, and wildlife friendly places where people of all ages want to go”

These controls and the extension of the order for another three years will support delivering actions in our strategy.

3. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

3.1 Financial

The provision of the Community Environment Warden team and the associated costs are included in the budget for 2025/26 and the recommendation does not increase the revenue costs of the service.

Any budget for additional signage will be found within the existing service budgets.

3.2 Legal

The Executive is authorised under the constitution to extend the order by way of Section 60 of the Act and the reports sets out the justification for this action.

3.3 Risks

The issues with irresponsible dog owners continue to be reported to members and council officers. Without the continuation of the order the warden's powers will be limited and several of the existing controls would cease.

3.4 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

There are no significant environmental or climate change implications from extending the PSPO.

4. Alternative Options

If the Council did not extend the order the officers of the Council would only be able to deal with breaches of legislation and byelaws through a prosecution which is not proportionate for some of the offences. This would impact on both the quality of life of residents and the reputation of the Council.

5. Conclusion

The service requests continue to be received by the Council on various dog control issues and the order is an essential tool to tackle those dog owners who are irresponsible.