



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023/24

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17th JULY 2023

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**

CONSULTATION ON PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (DOG CONTROLS)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For Member's of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to formally respond to RCTCBC'S [consultation](#) which proposes to extend the two current Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) for Dog Control within Rhondda Cynon Taf for a period of three years from the 1st October 2023

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members: -

- 2.1 Respond to the [consultation](#), as detailed below in paragraph 5 and decide whether they wish to make any further comments or suggestions as appropriate following consideration of the information before them.
- 2.2 Authorise the Service Director Democratic Services and Communication to provide Cabinet with the feedback of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to any decision being made about the extension of the Orders.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To provide Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to respond to the consultation by the 18th August 2023 so that it can have its say on the proposals for the PSPO (Dog Control)

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2017, the Council implemented new rules for controlling dogs on public land in Rhondda Cynon Taf under what are known as Public Spaces Protection

orders (PSPOs). The PSPOs introduced a range of reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the use of publicly accessible land across the County Borough and helped control the harmful activities of irresponsible dog owners whilst allowing responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions. In 2020 after consultation, the Council renewed the PSPO that were in place. These orders need to be renewed every 3 years and therefore, due to the forthcoming expiration date the Council are now seeking views to extend the orders from the 1st October 2023.

- 4.2 A report was presented to Cabinet on the 28th June 2023 for Members to consider a recommendation to consult to extend the two PSPO's for Dog Control within Rhondda Cynon Taf. The report can be found [here](#)
- 4.3 The report revisited the terms of the following two Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) which came into effect on 1st October 2020:

[RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL \(DOG CONTROL\) PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2020](#)

[RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL \(DOG CONTROL – ABERDARE PUBLIC PARK\) PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2020](#)

- 4.4 If the Dog Control PSPO's are to be extended this must be done before the time the Orders are due expire on the 30th September 2023. In the event of the orders not being extended, they would lapse on 1st October 2023 at which point there would be no restrictions on dogs in Rhondda Cynon Taf (save for any enforceable byelaws)

5 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (DOG CONTROL) CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Member's of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider their response to the [consultation](#), questions of which are outlined below:

- *Do you support the Council's approach to dealing with dog fouling and the renewal of the approach for the next 3 years?*
- *Do you agree with the following elements of the existing order and that they should be continued for the next 3 years?*
 - *Dog owners MUST clean up their dogs' mess immediately and dispose of it properly.*
 - *Dog owners MUST carry a means to pick up dog mess (i.e. bags) at all times.*

- *Dog owners MUST follow a direction from an authorised officer to put a dog on a lead.*
 - *Dogs are BANNED from all schools, children’s play areas and marked sports pitches maintained by the Council.*
 - *Dogs MUST be kept on a lead at all times in Council maintained cemeteries*
- *Do you agree that the fixed fine should remain at £100 (this is currently the maximum permitted).*
 - *Do you have any other comments you would like to make on the renewal of the PSPO in Rhondda Cynon Taf? Or any suggested variations/amendments to the PSPOs you believe should be considered?*
- *A separate PSPO, for Aberdare Park only, was also introduced on October 1, 2017 and renewed in 2020. It states that dogs must be kept on leads at all times in Aberdare Park.*
 - *Do you agree that dogs should continue to be kept on leads at all times in Aberdare Park?*
 - *A report published by Keep Wales Tidy entitled ‘An Analysis of Local Environmental Quality in RCT 2022-23’ shows that the presence of dog fouling on streets in RCT has remained consistent (at 10.9%) when compared to the period the PSPO was last renewed in 2020. It is worth noting however that in 2021-22 the presence of dog fouling was recorded on 8.9% of streets – so the most recent report does unfortunately evidence an increase. Prior to the original introduction of the PSPO in 2017 this figure was around the 18% mark. This report does therefore demonstrate that since its introduction in 2017 the PSPO has led to a reduction in the presence of dog fouling on the streets of RCT but also highlights it still remains an issue.*
 - *Do you think dog fouling has decreased in your local area over the last 6 years?*

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

8.1 This is an information report presenting the consultation proposals for PSPO (Dog Controls) No decisions are being taken in this report.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been afforded the opportunity to respond to the consultation published on the 10th July 2023

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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