

Renewal – Inland Public Space Protection Orders for Dog Control	
Executive Summary	In accordance with The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) have a maximum duration period of 3 years at which point a review of the order is triggered. The Council's inland PSPOs for dog control are due to expire under this process, during June, unless renewed for a proposed further three years.
Options considered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew the PSPOs currently constituted. • Do not renew the PSPOs and allow them to lapse.
Consultation(s)	The Council launched a two week consultation that concluded on the 13 th of May 2025 to determine the views of residents, local councils, organisations, and interested parties. During the consultation 39 responses were received from the public and local Councils. The majority supported all PSPOs being retained, with most of the others seeking changes to one or more PSPO.
Recommendations	<p>Cabinet is asked to make the following resolution:</p> <p>Renew the Public Space Protect Orders ["PSPOs], as set out in Appendix A, relating to dog control</p> <p>And that modifications to existing PSPOs, be considered in a future consultation</p>
Reasons for recommendations	The recommendation allows the continuation of the PSPOs, as supported by the significant majority of consultees, whilst also enabling consideration of additional PSPOs and PSPO amendments raised by consultees in a subsequent consultation.
Background papers	N/A.

Wards affected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bacton 4. Coastal 5. Cromer Town 6. Erpingham 8. Happisburgh 9. Hickling 10. Holt 12. Lancaster North 13. Lancaster South 16. North Walsham Market Cross 18. Poppyland 19. Priory 20. Roughton 21. Sheringham North 22. Sheringham South
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	<p>23. St Benet 24. Stalham 27. Suffield Park 28. The Raynhams 29. Trunch 30. Walsingham 31. Wells with Holkham 32. Worstead</p>
Cabinet member(s)	<p>Cllr Lucy Shires Cllr Tim Adams (Chair) Cllr Harry Blathwayt Cllr John Toye Cllr Adam Varley Cllr Liz Withington</p>
Contact Officer	<p>David Addy Environmental Protection Team Leader 01263 516145</p>

Links to key documents:	
Corporate Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Greener Future; • Developing Our Communities.
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	It is not anticipated that this work will have implications for the MTFS. Short term may have marginal implications for financial spend on signage.
Council Policies & Strategies	Corporate Enforcement Policy

Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	No
Has the public interest test been applied	Yes
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	The Council introduced PSPOs for dog control on beaches in 2018, renewing them in 2021, and 2024 for three years each time. The inland PSPOs for dog control zones were introduced by the Council in 2019, and renewed for three years in 2022.

1. Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to seek a resolution from the Cabinet on the renewal of the existing Inland Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for Dog Control, as identified in the maps at Appendix A. The Council receives regular complaints regarding dog control issues. Dog fouling presents a risk to public health in terms of transmission of disease as well as a nuisance. Public safety, and enjoyment of public spaces for all persons requires that dogs are properly controlled. These PSPOs address that purpose.

To assist decision making, and as required under the legislation, a recent consultation took place with the police, local councils and interested parties, for a two-week period, on the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders. The headline results are discussed below.

2. Introduction & Background

The Council launched a two week consultation on the renewal of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) on dog restrictions for non-coastal public areas to determine the views of residents, local Councils, organisations, and interested parties. The consultation concluded on the 13th of May 2025. During the consultation 39 responses were received from the public and local Councils. The majority supported all PSPOs being retained, with most of the others seeking changes to one or more PSPO. Details of the consultation can be found in Appendix B and C.

The headline results of the consultation were:

- 27 respondents were in support of renewing all the existing PSPOs;
- 12 respondents were not in support of renewing all the existing PSPOs; and, of these:
 - 7 respondents sought modifications to one or more PSPO;
 - 2 respondents commented on the beach dog control PSPOs, which were outside of the scope of this consultation;
 - 2 respondents did not support the dog control PSPOs;
 - 1 respondent wanted dogs to be banned from all playing fields.

3. Proposals and Options

1. Renew the PSPOs as they are currently constituted.
2. Do not renew the PSPOs and allow them to lapse.

The first proposal would allow for all existing PSPOs to be retained. Some responses to the consultation have raised some other matters which could be considered in a further consultation process.

The second proposal would result in the lapse of all existing dog control via the inland PSPOs.

It is recommended that proposal one is adopted, as this recommendation allows the continuation of the PSPOs, as supported by the significant majority of consultees. The Council would also be able to take into account the responses from the consultation to consider a further consultation, as would be required under the legislation, regarding making additional PSPOs and PSPO amendments.

4. Corporate Priorities

Our Greener Future.

It is considered that the dog control PSPOs enable a wider range of people to enjoy the use of and potentially enhance North Norfolk's public open spaces.

Developing Our Communities.

It is considered that the dog control PSPOs enable communities to enjoy North Norfolk's public open spaces.

5. Financial and Resource Implications

There may be some minor and short-term implications regarding financial spend with the provision of signage for each area if new or replacement signage is required, however staffing resource will be within the confines of existing budgets.

Comments from the S151 Officer:

6. Legal Implications

These PSPOs have already been established and in operation since 2019, with no significant issues, and as such legal implications for NNDC will be minimal. The Council must comply with the consultation requirement and take the responses into account.

Comments from the Monitoring Officer:

PSPOs address specific issues in defined public spaces in our district, the purpose of which is to take steps to address negative impact upon the relevant community's quality of life. In this case the proposed PSPOs relate to dog control. The maximum duration period of a PSPO is 3 years and new orders or renewals must identify the issue and be preceded by a sufficient period of consultation, under the legislation, with the police for the area, town/parish councils and members of the public likely to be affected. Once such Orders are made they should be published by the Council.

7. Risks

No significant risks are anticipated in accepting the report recommendations. The inland dog control PSPOs have been in operation since 2019, without any significant issue or reputational impact on the Council. It is proposed that there is a greater risk in terms of reputation, and if the Council did not renew these PSPOs.

8. Net Zero Target

These proposals have been assessed and tested for consistency against the Net Zero 2030 Strategy & Climate Action Plan. This has been summarised and scored in the output table for the tool below.

Project Brief

The retention of the inland dog control PSPOs, allowing the public use of designated open spaces without dogs, or without dogs off of leads, contributing to a reduction of dog faeces/bags, and leading to increased public use of open spaces.

Criteria	Score	Justification	Mitigation
GHGs	2	The project should encourage more/continued use of local green spaces, instead of travelling by vehicles, due to reduced concern about uncontrolled dogs and faeces. The signage and resources are already in existence, and so minimal resources will be required.	Identify the Council's appropriate approved suppliers who have less impacts. Information provided on which sites are covered, and the restrictions.
GHGs 2045	0	The PSPO project will end after three years unless renewed.	N/A
Air quality	2	The project should encourage more/continued use of local green spaces, instead of travelling by vehicles, due to reduced concern about uncontrolled dogs and faeces. The signage and resources are already in existence, and so minimal resources will be required.	Identify the Council's appropriate approved suppliers who have less impacts. Information provided on which sites are covered, and the restrictions.
Sustainable Transport	2	The project should encourage more/continued use of local green spaces, instead of travelling by vehicles, due to reduced concern about uncontrolled dogs and faeces.	Information provided on which sites are covered, and the restrictions.
Land use change	4	Hopefully continued public use of green sites would prevent them being built upon.	Retention of the current signage, and public communications work.
Biodiversity	0	Sustained reduction in uncontrolled dogs and faeces.	Retention of the current signage, patrols where possible, and public communications work.
Soil and waterway health	2	Sustained reduction in uncontrolled dogs and faeces, including run-off/deposition into waterways.	Retention of the current signage, patrols where possible, and public communications work.

Climate Change Adaptation	0	N/A to this project.	N/A to this project.
Energy Use	0	N/A to this project.	N/A to this project.
Energy Use 2045	0	The PSPO project will end after three years unless renewed.	The PSPO project will end after three years unless renewed.
Sustainable Materials	0	The signage and resources are already in existence, and so minimal resources will be required.	Identify the Council's appropriate approved suppliers who have less impacts.
Waste	1	Likely to be less dog faeces and bag waste at and around the PSPO sites.	Information provided on which sites are covered, and the restrictions.

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The proposals have been examined regarding the Councils Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, and appears to be consistent principles set out in this document.

10. Community Safety issues

The proposals are unlikely to impact upon community safety issues.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This is a resolution for Cabinet to make. We are asking Cabinet to agree to adopt the following recommendations:

Renew the Public Space Protect Orders [“PSPOs], as set out in Appendix A, relating to dog control

And

That modifications to existing PSPOs, be considered in a future consultation

The recommendation would allow for the continuation of the PSPOs, as supported by the significant majority of consultees, whilst also enabling consideration of additional PSPOs and PSPO amendments, at a later stage, following comments made by interested parties in the consultation.