

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	18 NOVEMBER 2025
Report Title:	PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – DOG CONTROL CONSULTATION
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR: COMMUNITIES CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT
Responsible Officer:	JENNIFER SPARROW – CLEANER STREETS AND WASTE CONTRACT MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	The report seeks Cabinet approval to consult on the creation of a new Public Spaces Protection Order relating to Dog Control in Bridgend County.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- To seek Cabinet approval to consult with the Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner and other relevant bodies in relation to the creation of a Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO') relating to Dog Control in Bridgend County, and;
- For Cabinet to note that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

2. Background

2.1 Anti-social behaviour is a broad term to describe the day to day incidents of crime, nuisance and disorder that make many people's lives a misery: from litter and vandalism, to public drunkenness or aggressive dogs, to noisy or abusive neighbours. Such a wide range of behaviours means that responsibility for dealing with anti-social behaviour is shared between a number of agencies, particularly the police, councils and social landlords. The Home Office has reformed the anti-social behaviour powers to give professionals the increased flexibility they need to deal with certain situations.

- 2.2 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the Act') makes provision about anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder. The Act sets out the following 6 new tools for responsible bodies and responsible authorities:
- i. Injunctions
 - ii. Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO)
 - iii. Dispersal Powers
 - iv. Community Protection Notice's (CPN)
 - v. Closure Powers
 - vi. Public Spaces Protection Orders ('PSPO')
- 2.3 The previous PSPO in Bridgend County Borough was enacted on 18 June 2019 and related to the control of alcohol, restriction of access to public space and dog control. It expired on 18 June 2022.
- 2.4 A PSPO is an effective deterrent to deal with particular nuisance or problems in a specified area that is detrimental to the quality of life of the local community.
- 2.5 A PSPO works by imposing conditions on the use of a specified area, which applies to everyone. A PSPO is designed to ensure that residents and visitors can enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour.
- 2.6 In accordance with s60 (2) of the the Act, a PSPO may not have effect for more than 3 years, unless extended under s60 (3) or s60 (4).
- 2.7 The definition of public space is wide and includes any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.
- 2.8 The previous PSPO for Dog Control enabled officers from Bridgend County Borough Council ('BCBC') to give direction in regards to dogs off lead and dogs causing nuisance in a public place. This included dog fouling and other related issues.
- 2.9 The previous PSPO also enabled the Council to take preventative enforcement action in public places. Detailed information is outlined below.
- 2.10 Proposed Dog Control Order
- The proposed order is included at Appendix A.
- 2.11 People who fail to clean up after their dogs on publicly accessible land cause nuisance to others. The presence of dog faeces is a potential hazard to all members of the public, it presents a risk to health, defaces land and has the potential to deface people and their property.
- 2.12 When not properly supervised and kept under control, dogs that are allowed off lead in public areas may cause road traffic accidents and may cause nuisance or injury to members of the public and to other animals.
- 2.12 There are certain locations, which because of their use, dog faeces pose a

particularly high level of concern. These are typically children's play areas, marked sports pitches and school / leisure centre grounds .

- 2.13 The proposed PSPO for dog control relates to all public spaces throughout the borough and imposes the following conditions on the use of that land:-
- a) Person(s) within the Restricted Area will collect and dispose of the faeces of dogs within their control by removing it and depositing the dog faeces in a bag which should be left in a litter bin or taken home
 - b) Person(s) within the Restricted Area who have dogs within their control must carry bags or other suitable means for the collection of dog faeces
 - c) Person(s) within the Restricted Area must, when requested to do so by an Authorised Officer, place dogs in their control on a lead. The Authorised Officer must specify the location and duration.
- 2.14 For clarity, the PSPO relates to **all public spaces**. The PSPO does not restrict dogs from being off lead in specific areas but requires that, if requested by an Authorised Officer, dogs will be placed on a lead.
- 2.15 The PSPO relating to dog control shall not apply to Disabled persons as defined by the Equality Act 2010 where the person suffers from a disability which would prevent them from collecting their dog faeces. The PSPO also shall not apply to a dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance and a working dog for purposes of law enforcement, military duties, agriculture or statutory emergency services (e.g. search and rescue).
- 2.16 If the PSPO is approved, it will remain in force for the maximum period of 3 years, to be reviewed for variation, discharge or extension at the relevant time in accordance with s60 of the Act.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 Before the Council can make, extend or vary a PSPO, there is a procedure set down by statute which must be followed. In particular, a Local Authority must carry out the necessary consultation, the necessary publication and the necessary notification (if any).

Necessary consultation means that a Local Authority must consult with:

- I. the chief officer of police and the local policing body for the police area that includes the restricted area (statutory guidance issued states that this should be done through the chief officer of and the Police and Crime Commissioner but details could be agreed by working level leads)
- II. any community representatives the local authority thinks it is appropriate to consult (community representative means any individual or body appearing to

the authority to represent the views of people who live in, work in, or visit the restricted area). Community representatives could include residents' groups or particular groups of individuals who use a local amenity (e.g. regular users of the park or specific activities such as busking or other types of street entertainment).

- III. the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area (this does not apply to land owned and occupied by the Local Authority and applies only if, or to the extent that, it is reasonably practicable to consult the owner or occupier of the land).

3.2 If approved the statutory consultation will commence in early December 2025 and continue for 12 weeks.

3.3 The Consultation will seek views on the creation of a PSPO regarding dog control in Bridgend County.

3.4 All Town and Community Councils in the areas covered by the PSPO will be notified.

3.5 Specific consultees outlined in the legislation will be contacted directly via letter. These are:

- Elected members as representatives of their constituents
- The South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- The South Wales Police Chief Superintendent for the area
- All town and community councils
- Bridgend Community Safety Partnership
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Bridgend Association of Voluntary Associations (BAVO)
- Bridgend Business Against Crime (BBAC)
- Bridgend Dogs Trust
- The Kennel Club
- Ramblers Cymru

3.6 An on line survey will be available on the BCBC website. This will be promoted via social media platforms to individuals who live in, work in, or visit Bridgend County.

3.7 It is noted that there is some concern from some sports clubs in the County Borough relating to dogs being allowed to access sports pitches. Whilst the proposed PSPO does not look to prohibit dogs from any formal sports areas, a future report will be provided to Cabinet on this for consideration.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.
- 4.2 Full Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) were carried out when the PSPO's were created in 2018.
- 4.3 A new EIA screening will be carried out when the consultation is completed and the results of that screening reported to Cabinet alongside the consultation report to inform whether a further full EIA is required.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report demonstrate the sustainable development principle by ensuring that by meeting the needs of the present they do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and this is evidenced through the 5 ways of working:
- Long term – the report seeks to address the long term problems associated with anti-social behaviour. These include addressing issues relating to control of dogs.
 - Prevention – working with partners to prevent the negative effects of anti-social behaviour on those living, working or visiting Bridgend County Borough.
 - Integration – the project contributes to the well-being goals: a healthier Wales, a Resilient Wales, and a Wales of Cohesive Communities and to the Well-being objective Supporting communities in Bridgend to be Safe and Cohesive.
 - Collaboration – the initiative is a collaboration between Bridgend County Borough Council Communities Directorate, the Bridgend Community Safety Partnership, South Wales Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.
 - Involvement – the consultation with partners, stakeholders, local residents, communities and elected members will inform the decision of whether to extend the PSPOs.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 The Climate Change and nature implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the environment because of this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 The Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting implications were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon Safeguarding and Corporate parenting because of this report.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 If the creation of the new PSPO is approved, there will be costs associated with signage and promotion of the PSPO in the local press. This will be funded through existing budgets in the Communities Directorate

8.2 The estimated costs for this which will be met from existing budgets within the Communities Directorate are:

Advertising and printing	£4,000
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9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to give approval to commence a public consultation on the proposal to create a Public Space Protection Order as outlined in paragraph 2.10 of this report.

9.2 Cabinet is recommended to note that the outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in due course.

9.3 Cabinet note that a future report considering prohibiting dogs from specific areas, such as on formal sports pitches, will be provided in the near future.

Background documents

None.