

**REPORT TO:** Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Physical Environment, Environmental Service and Community Safety

**SUBJECT:** Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog Control

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide Members with details of a proposal to introduce a new Public Spaces Protection Order to provide enhanced powers to tackle dog fouling and other forms of irresponsible dog ownership. Members are asked to consider and endorse the control measures that would be contained within the proposed PSPO and endorse a public consultation exercise that would be carried out as part of its introduction.

## **2. RECOMMENDED: That**

- 1) Members receive and comment upon the report;**
- 2) Members endorse the control measures proposed to be included in a new Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order as set out in the report;**
- 3) Members endorse the proposed approach to public consultation as set out in the questionnaire attached as Appendix 1 to this report, and;**
- 4) A further report be presented to Members of the Board providing details of the results of the public consultation exercise.**

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Dog owners have the right to enjoy their pets and to exercise them. Similarly, members of the local community have a right to be able to enjoy a clean and safe environment. Unfortunately, dog fouling continues to be a widespread nuisance in parks, open spaces and on footpaths and is the source of complaints from members of the public. If ingested, dog faeces containing the round worm parasite *Toxicara* can cause illness or even blindness. The parasite can also lay dormant within the ground for a number of weeks; long after the faeces have disappeared, meaning that young children who play on the ground are particularly at risk.

- 3.2 In October 2010, the Council introduced a number of Dog Control Orders to help tackle dog fouling and other forms of irresponsible dog ownership. The four Orders were;
- The Fouling of Land By Dogs Order
  - The Dogs Exclusion Order
  - The Dogs on Lead Order
  - The Dogs on Lead By Direction Order
- 3.3 The Council's Orders made it an offence to;
- Fail to pick up after your dog had fouled
  - Allow your dog into a designated children's play area
  - Fail to keep your dog on a lead on specified land
  - Fail to put a dog on a lead when directed to do so by a Council Officer
- 3.4 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provided Council's with new tools and powers to tackle a range of anti-social behaviour through the creation of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). Any Dog Control Orders still in force as at October 2017 were automatically treated as if they were provisions of a PSPO from that date. The transitioned Orders then remain in force up to a maximum of three years from the point of transition i.e. 2020.
- 3.5 Local authorities can extend, vary or discharge a transitioned Public Spaces Protection Order at any time. Officers have reviewed the provisions of the Council's existing Orders and are recommending that these four Orders are discharged and a new PSPO be introduced to provide more defined controls to deal with dog fouling and other forms of anti-social behaviour associated with irresponsible dog ownership. The new PSPO will be in the form of a single Order that would include the controls contained within the existing Orders, as well as a wider range of prohibited behaviours and requirements that dog owners must comply with. The specified locations where 2 existing Orders apply will also be extended to include additional locations under the proposed new PSPO.
- 3.6 The Council recognises that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, pick up after their dogs and keep them under proper control. However, there is a minority of people who do not. The Council's approach is always that prevention is better than cure and, whilst the introduction of a new PSPO would provide enhanced enforcement powers that will be used if necessary, the primary aim of introducing the new control measures is to deter irresponsible behaviour by dog owners and encourage them to adhere to the Council's requirements.

#### **4. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – DOG CONTROL**

4.1 The following four controls are included in the Council's transitioned Orders and are proposed to remain in the new Dog Control PSPO.

##### **4.1.1 Dog Fouling**

If a dog defecates at any time on land to which the Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence. This control will apply borough-wide on land to which the public has access.

##### **4.1.2 Exclusion of Dogs**

It will be an offence for any person in charge of a dog to take the dog onto or permit the dog to enter or remain on land within a dog exclusion zone. This control will apply to the specified locations as set out in Appendix 1.

##### **4.1.3 Dogs on Leads**

A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if at any time he/she does not keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres in length. This control will apply to the specified locations as set out in Appendix 1.

##### **4.1.4 Dogs on Leads by Direction**

A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if at any time he/she does not comply with a direction given by an authorised officer to put and keep the dog on a lead of not more than 2 metres in length. This control will apply borough-wide on land to which the public has access.

4.2 Below are two new controls being proposed to be included in a new PSPO;

##### **4.2.1 Restriction on Number of Dogs Walked at a Time**

Officers believe that it would be difficult for any single person to control numerous dogs at the same time and that this lack of control could result in nuisance and increase the likelihood of dog fouling going unnoticed and not being cleared up. To this end, it is being proposed to introduce a maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person at any one time. This control will apply borough-wide on land to which the public has access.

Many authorities have gone down the route of restricting the number of dogs that can be walked by a single person, but there is a variation in the number; ranging from prohibiting more than four to prohibiting more than six. Guidance from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs published in October 2014 suggests that the maximum number of dogs which a person could control should not exceed six. Subject to Members endorsement of this proposal, it is suggested that the public be asked what number they think is reasonable in the public consultation.

#### 4.2.2 Evidence of the Means to Pick Up Dog Faeces

Dog owners should be aware of the requirement to pick up after their dog has fouled and should understand the importance of always carrying sufficient numbers of bags as a means to do so. Even a responsible dog owner, whose intent would always be to clear up after their dog, would be unable to do so if they failed to carry sufficient means to clear up after all incidents of fouling.

Many authorities have started to introduce Orders that include a requirement for persons in charge of a dog to provide evidence that they have with them an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces that may be deposited by their dog. The consultation results from a sample of those authorities where such measures have been introduced show that a high percentage of respondents supported the Council's proposals.

The proposal is to include in the new PSPO a requirement that any person in control of a dog must carry with them bags as an appropriate means of collecting foul and must provide evidence of this if requested to do so by an authorised officer. This control will apply borough-wide on land to which the public has access.

Although this proposal may be seen as controversial by some, it is intended to be a proactive approach to tackling dog fouling problems. The consultation process will give the public and other statutory consultees an opportunity to provide their views on whether they would be in support or against such a proposal.

- 4.3 Members are advised that the controls proposed in paras 4.1 and 4.2 do not apply to those with impaired vision who require the use of assistance dogs or to persons registered as disabled who lack the physical ability to comply with the requirements of a PSPO.
- 4.4 Once in place, the new PSPO can be enforced by council officers, police officers and police community support officers. Breach of an order is a criminal offence for which Enforcement Officers can issue fixed penalty notices. It is proposed that the FPN amount for any breach of the new PSPO will remain at the current level of £100.

## Public Consultation

- 4.5 There is no requirement for councils to undertake a consultation process where Dog Control Orders have been automatically transitioned after October 2017. However, any proposed variation to an existing Public Spaces Protection Order or introduction of a new Order would require the council to undertake the necessary consultation.
- 4.6 When consulting on a proposed PSPO, local authorities are obliged to consult with the local Chief Police Officer, the Police and Crime Commissioner; owners or occupiers of land within the affected area(s) and appropriate community representatives. Parish councils that are in the proposed area to be covered by a PSPO must also be notified.
- 4.7 Individuals will be asked to share their views on the Council's proposals by completing an on-line survey. Paper copies of a consultation questionnaire will also be available at the Council's Halton Direct Link shops and libraries for those who do not have access to the internet or would prefer to complete a written survey. A copy of the proposed public consultation questionnaire is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.8 There are no statutory requirements about the length of any consultation process relating to a PSPO. In order to ensure sufficient time is allowed to meaningfully engage with all those who may be impacted by the PSPO, or who may wish to share their views on the Council's proposals, the consultation will take place over a 12 week period. Once completed, a further report will be presented to Members of the Board who will be asked to consider the results and make recommendations to be presented to the Executive Board.

## Publicity and Communication

- 4.9 Legislation sets out a number of requirements in respect of publicity and communications. Draft proposals for a new PSPO must be published as part of the consultation process. The area covered by the proposals must be well defined; with lists or maps of the affected areas being provided to clarify where behaviours are controlled. Regulations also set out additional requirements regarding the publication of details of PSPOs that have been made. To ensure that the Council complies with its legal obligations, both during the consultation process and following the making of a new PSPO, Officers will ensure that information is well communicated to members of the public.
- 4.10 A variety of means will be used to help publicise the Dog Control PSPO; including information being available on the Council's web site and at libraries and public buildings, the use of social media and publications in the local press. Furthermore, legislation requires that signs be erected on or adjacent to the place where a PSPO is in place to publicise the Order. These signs do not necessarily need to set out all the provisions of the Order, but rather state where this information can be found. In order to comply with the legal obligations, multiple signs will be required to be erected across the borough.

- 4.11 Effective communication will help people to be aware and understand what behaviours are expected in particular areas of the borough. This will give people the opportunity to comply and reduce the need for enforcement measures. While all dog walkers should be aware of their requirement to pick up after their dog, and be aware of requirements for their dog to be on a lead in certain locations, the proposed limit on the number of dogs an individual can walk at any one time, and the “means to clear up measure”, will be unfamiliar to dog walkers. Subject to the outcome of the public consultation exercise and any subsequent inclusion of these measures in a new PSPO, communication of these controls will be particularly important to explain to dog walkers the requirements expected of them.

### Recommendations

- 4.12 Members are asked to comment upon the report and endorse the measures proposed within the report to enhance the Council’s Dog Control powers. Members are also asked to comment upon and endorse the questionnaire attached as Appendix 1 which shall be used as the basis for the public consultation.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There will be financial implications as a result of the need to erect new or amended signage following the introduction of a PSPO but the level of expenditure needed is not known at this stage.

## **6.0. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Introducing the proposed new control measures as set out in the report would represent changes to the Council’s existing Policy on dog control.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES**

### **7.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None identified.

### **7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None identified

### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

By enhancing its ability to deter irresponsible behaviour by dog owners, the Council will be making a positive contribution towards improving the safety and the appearance of the local environment, which shall in turn have an overall beneficial effect on health and wellbeing.

#### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

Effective use of its regulatory powers will demonstrate that the Council is committed to dealing with anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners. This will have a positive impact upon the Safer Halton Priority, and contribute towards the 'Cleaner, Greener, Safer' agenda.

#### **7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

No direct impact, but improving the safety and attractiveness of local neighbourhoods should make the borough a more attractive location for investment.

#### **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

If the Council fails to put in place control measures to effectively tackle anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners, the risks of nuisance or harm to the public would be significantly increased.

Furthermore, failure to make best use of legislative powers available to deal with such anti-social behaviour may lead to criticism of the Council; thereby damaging its reputation

#### **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

The Council aims to be consistent and evenhanded in all regards. Taking enforcement action to help control anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners is not intended to have either a positive or negative impact upon equality and diversity or apply differently to any particular group.

#### **10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None

## **Control of Dogs Orders Review Consultation Questionnaire**

### **Background to Consultation**

In October 2014, the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced new powers for local authorities to help tackle Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition, the Act made changes to existing legislation and councils were required to review existing Dog Control Orders and replace them with Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). PSPOs can be used to regulate activities in particular public places that can have a detrimental effect on the local community. They can help by giving local councils and local police additional powers to tackle anti-social behaviour in specific locations.

### **Reasons for change**

There have been many changes and improvements to our 'green spaces' since the original Dog Control Orders were introduced. There are now a number of new play areas and many examples where the landscape of an area has changed. Furthermore, in response to complaints and concerns raised by members of the public and continuing incidents of anti-social behaviour caused by irresponsible dog owners, the Council has taken the opportunity to review existing Orders and proposes to replace these Orders with a new PSPO; which will be in the form of a single Order that would include the current control measures and introduce a range of additional ones.

For any proposals that are approved and where a location becomes the subject of a PSPO, signs will be clearly displayed in sufficient numbers in the immediate area describing the restrictions and the consequences if restrictions are ignored.

### **How your views will be used**

The outcome of the public consultation will be considered by the Council's Executive Board in autumn 2018.

### **How to share your views**

Complete this survey form or go online at [www.halton.gov.uk/dogcontrol](http://www.halton.gov.uk/dogcontrol). The 12 week consultation period closes on 28 September 2018.

### **How to complete this questionnaire**

Please use a black or blue pen. Read the questions carefully as sometimes you are asked to cross (X) one box and sometimes you can choose more than one. If there are any questions that you do not wish to answer, please feel free to leave them blank. Please note that you need to be aged 16 or over to take part in this survey.



Completing the questionnaire is voluntary and all the information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence. No information will be released that could identify an individual or organisation.

## **Section A: Dog Exclusion**

### Issue 1 – Exclusion of Dogs

The Council recognises the role that outdoor play and activity has in contributing towards health and wellbeing and in the interests of members of the local community, and in particular children, we believe that dogs should not be allowed in certain locations; such as play areas. The Council also believes that it is inappropriate for dogs to be taken into cemeteries. We are therefore proposing that dogs are excluded from the specified areas below.

The following sites are included as 'Dog Exclusion Zones' in the Council's existing Orders and are proposed to remain included in the new PSPO;

Site	Typology
Victoria Park - Interactive Water Feature	Play Area
Victoria Park - Junior Area	Play Area
Victoria Park - Toddler Area	Play Area
Victoria Park (MS) - Basketball	Ball Games
Victoria Park (MS) - Tennis	Ball Games
Victoria Park (MS) - Wheel Play	Wheel Play
Upton Rocks Park	Play Area
Upton Rocks Park (MS) - MUGA	Ball Games
Derwent Road - Royal Avenue (MS) - Ball Play	Ball Games
Castlefields Skateboard Park	Wheel Play
Castlefields Youth Activity Park	Play Area
Coronation Road	Play Area
Newmoore Lane	Play Area
Pitts Heath Lane	Play Area
Six Acre Lane	Play Area
Walsingham Drive	Play Area
Halebank Recreation Ground	Play Area
Halebank Recreation Ground (MS) - MUGA	Ball Games
Hough Green Park (MS) - Tennis	Ball Games
Hough Green Park	Play Area
Town Hall Grounds	Play Area
Hale Park inc. Hale Park (MS) - Wheel Play	Play Area
Crow Wood Park	Play Area
Crow Wood Park (MS) - Ball Play	Ball Games
Castle Rise	Play Area
Rock Park	Play Area
Rock Park (MS) - Ball Play	Ball Games
Castner Avenue	Play Area
Runcorn Hill Park (Park Road)	Play Area

Plumbley Gardens	Play Area
Caldwell Road	Play Area
King Georges Park	Play Area
Cavendish Street	Play Area
Egerton Street (MS) - Ball Play	Ball Games
Hale View - Beaconsfield	Play Area
Leinster Gardens	Play Area
Trinity - Parker Street	Play Area
Weaver Road	Play Area
Murdishaw Play Centre (1 - Old)	Play Area
Murdishaw Play Centre (2 - New)	Play Area
Norton Cross	Play Area
St. Marie's Community Park	Play Area
St. Marie's Community Park (MS) - MUGA	Ball Games
West Bank Promenade	Play
Hale Park Ball Court	Ball Games
Russel Road	Ball Games
Upton Rocks Park	Playground
Runcorn Town Hall Chinese Friendship Garden	Gardens
Runcorn Cemetery	Cemetery
Halton Cemetery	Cemetery
Widnes Cemetery	Cemetery
Grizedale - Ball Play	Ball Games
Castle Rise - Ball Play	Ball Games

The following are additional sites to be included as 'Dog Exclusion Zones' in the new PSPO;

Site	Typology
Town Park	Play Area
Spike Island Catalyst	Playground
Upton Playground	Playground
Upton MUGA	Playground
Spike Island MUGA	Playground
Windmill Hill Avenue South - Ball Play	Ball Games
The Glen - MUGA	Ball Games
The Glen - Palacefields Avenue	Wheel Play
Frank Myler Recreation - MUGA	Ball Games
Town Hall Grounds Formal Gardens	Gardens
Town Hall Grounds - MUGA	Ball Games
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	Cemetery
Runcorn Hill Park - Tennis Courts	Ball Games
Hill View	Playground
Kingsway CRMZ - MUGA	Ball Games
Peel House Cemetery	Cemetery

*Note: MUGA = Multi Use Games Area*

Some sites have more than one dog control measure. These sites include Runcorn Town Hall, Runcorn Hill Park and Spike Island. Maps are available which show the defined areas where the particular control measures apply. These maps can be viewed on line at [www.halton.gov.uk/dogcontrol](http://www.halton.gov.uk/dogcontrol) or are available upon request at one of the Council's Direct Link shops.

(Please note that there will be some exemptions to the exclusions, e.g. registered assistance dogs).

Q1. It is proposed that a Public Space Protection Order is introduced that excludes dogs (apart from certain exemptions) from the areas listed above.

**Do you agree with the proposal to exclude dogs from the areas listed above?**

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below**

Issue 2 – Exclusion of dogs from defined recreation areas

We also propose that dogs are excluded from all marked and maintained sports areas; such as football and rugby pitches.

**Q2. Do you agree that dogs should be excluded from the playing areas of marked and maintained sports pitches?**

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below**

## **Section B: Dogs on Leads**

### Issue 3 – Dogs to be placed on leads if requested by an authorised officer

The council recognises that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible and keep their dogs under control while they are out. However, if they are not properly supervised and kept under control, dogs that are allowed off a lead in public areas can cause nuisance or even injury to members of the public or other animals and may cause road traffic accidents.

We believe that, for animal welfare reasons, it is advantageous for dog owners to be able to exercise their dogs off lead in open spaces. We do, however, recognise that on certain occasions or in certain circumstances, the option should exist for authorised officers to require a dog to be put on a lead. Dogs that are considered to be not under proper control will become subject to this part of the Order.

The proposal is therefore that all public land in the borough, or land to which the public has access, will be subject to a Public Spaces Protection Order which would require the person in control of a dog to put the dog on a lead if requested to do so by an authorised officer. Authorised officers will carry appropriate identification.

This means we can deal with any behaviour by a dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance without introducing overly restrictive measures on all dogs and dog owners at all times. This flexible approach will also allow officers to address issues that arise in any area at any time during the lifetime of the Order. (Please note that there is a small number of specific sites where dogs must be kept on a lead at all times - see issue 4).

**Q3. Do you agree with the proposed requirement that dogs must be placed on a lead if requested by an authorised officer?**

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below**

#### Issue 4 – Dogs to always be on a lead in specific sites

The second proposal in relation to dogs being on a lead is that dogs must always be placed on a lead at some specified sites. The sites identified will be those where the Council believes that there are specific issues in allowing dogs to run free at any time. We are proposing that dogs must be on a lead at all times when in the following locations;

The following sites are included as 'Dogs on Leads Zones' in the Council's existing Orders and are proposed to remain included in the new PSPO;

Site	Typology
Upton Rocks Park (MS) - Wheel Play	Wheel Play
Palacefields (MS) - Ball Play	Ball Games
Crow Wood Park (MS) - Wheel Play	Wheel Play
Rock Park (MS) - Wheel Play	Wheel Play
King Georges Park (MS) - 5 a-side	Ball Games
King Georges Park (MS) – Multi Use Games Area	Ball Games
Norton Priory (MS) - Ball Play	Ball Games
Crow Wood Park	Formal Park
Hough Green Park	Formal Park
Victoria Park	Formal Park
Birchfield Gardens	Gardens
West Bank Promenade	Gardens
Halebank Allotments	Allotment
Hale Road Allotments	Allotment
Deansway Allotments	Allotment
Cunningham Road Allotments Plots 10-18	Allotment
Cunningham Road Allotments Plots 1-9	Allotment
Avondale Allotments	Allotment
Lancaster Road Allotments Plots 1-6	Allotment
Lancaster Road Allotments Plots 7-9	Allotment
Derby Road Allotments	Allotment
Dykin Road Allotments	Allotment
Halton View Allotments	Allotment
Dukesfield Allotments	Allotment
Heath Road Allotments	Allotment
Oak Drive Allotments	Allotment
Weston Road Allotments	Allotment
Clifton Road Allotments	Allotment
Haddocks Wood Allotments	Allotment

The following are additional sites to be included as 'Dogs on Leads Zones' in the new PSPO;

Site	Typology
Wellington Street	Play Area
Roehampton Drive (MS) - Ball Play	Ball Games
Roehampton Drive	Playground
Spike Island (in part)*	Park
Town Hall Park (in part)*	Park
Hale Park	Park
Rock Park	Formal Park
Runcorn Hill Park (in part)*	Park
Upton Green Playground	Park
Ridding Lane Ball Court	Ball Games

\*Some sites have more than one dog control measure. These sites include Runcorn Town Hall, Runcorn Hill Park and Spike Island. Maps are available which show the defined areas where the particular control measures apply. These maps can be viewed on line at [www.halton.gov.uk/dogcontrol](http://www.halton.gov.uk/dogcontrol) or are available upon request at one of the Council's Direct Link shops.

**Q4a. Do you agree that dogs should always be on a lead in the areas listed above?**

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below**

**Q4b. Are there any other specific areas where you feel that dogs should always be required to be on a lead? If so, in the box below please identify any sites as accurately as possible by name, address and postcode and give reasons for your suggestion(s).**

### Issue 5 – Length of lead to be specified in the Order

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires a short lead to be used in certain circumstances. A short lead is defined as less than 2m and of fixed length. The proposal is that when there is a requirement in the Order for a dog to be on a lead, a lead shall be defined as being of fixed length and of not more than 2 metres. We believe that the use of extendable leads in excess of 2 metres does not represent effective control in relation to proposals made above.

**Q5. Do you agree with the proposal to define the length and type of lead to be used when there is a requirement for a dog to be on a lead?**

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below**

### Issue 6 – Clearing up dog-faeces

Unfortunately, the Council continues to receive complaints about dog fouling across many areas. In order to deter dog owners from failing to clear up after their dog has fouled the Council is proposing that under the new PSPO it shall continue to be an offence if any individual fails to do so. This Order will cover all land in the borough to which the public has access.

**Q6 Would you like to see the continuation of the existing power which makes it an offence if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up its faeces?**

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below**

Issue 7 – Dog walkers to carry with them bags as an appropriate means to pick up foul

Dog owners should know the importance of carrying sufficient numbers of bags as a means to clear up any foul. Even a responsible dog owner whose intent would always be to clear up after their dog would be unable to do so if they failed to carry sufficient means to clear up after all incidents of fouling. Carrying multiple poo bags is an easy way to ensure that all incidents of fouling can be dealt with.

The proposal is to introduce a borough-wide requirement that any person in control of a dog must carry with them bags as an appropriate means of collecting foul and must provide evidence of this if requested to do so by an authorised officer.

**Q7. Do you agree with this proposal to require dog walkers to carry with them bags as an appropriate means to collect dog foul and to be required to provide evidence of this if asked to do so by an authorised officer?**

Yes I agree

No I don't agree

Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below**

**Section D: Number of dogs walked by an individual**

Issue 8 – Restriction on the number of dogs to be walked at any one time

The council often receives complaints about large numbers of dogs being walked or exercised in public spaces. We believe that it is difficult for any single person to be able to keep control of numerous dogs at the same time. This lack of control could result in nuisance or disturbance to other users in public spaces and increases the likelihood of dog foul going unnoticed.

The council believes that it is appropriate to introduce a maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person at any one time in an area to which the public have access. Although we recognise that different dogs may present different challenges in large numbers due to training, breed and other factors, we believe that if we try to regulate this using more subjective measures, it will be impractical and cause confusion.



The proposal is to introduce a borough-wide restriction on the number of dogs that can be walked by one person at any one time, whether on behalf of a business or themselves.

**Q8a. Do you agree with this proposal to restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by one person at any one time, whether on behalf of a business or themselves? (Q8b asks you what the maximum number should be).**

Yes I agree                       No I don't agree                       Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below**

**Q8b. If you agree with the proposal, what do you think the maximum number of dogs per person should be?**

3                       4

**Section E: Fixed Penalty Notice Level**

The current Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) amount for a breach of a PSPO in Halton is £100. The Council is proposing to keep the FPN amount at that level.

**Q9. Do you agree that the level of fine for committing an offence under a Public Space Protection Order be set at £100?**

Yes I agree                       No I don't agree                       Don't know

**If you do not agree, please tell us why in the box below and indicate what amount you think it should be set at.**

### Additional Information

**Q10. Is there any land which you believe should not be the subject of any of the proposed control measures? (Please give details and location of land and reasons why it should be excluded from such controls).**

**Q11. Please tell us are you.....?**

Male                       Female                       Prefer not to say

**Q12. Which age group do you belong to?**

16 - 24             25 - 34             35 - 44             45 - 54             55 - 64

65 - 74             75+                 Prefer not to say

**Q13. In what respect are you completing this questionnaire? Please select all that apply.**

- I am a resident of Halton
- I am an elected Member of Halton Borough Council
- I am a local Parish Councillor
- I own/manage land to which the public has access
- I am a representative of a voluntary or community organisation – please state below
- Other – please state below

**Q14. Please tell us your postcode**

**Q15. Thinking about the last 12 months, which of the following, if any, applies to you in Halton? Please select all that apply.**

- I regularly walk dogs
- I regularly visit parks or play areas with children
- I've experienced a problem with dog fouling
- I've experienced a problem with dogs in public spaces or play areas

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Please return this form to the following address;

Customer Intelligence Unit  
Halton Borough Council  
Kingsway  
Widnes  
WA8 7QF

Please ensure we receive your response no later than 28 September 2018.