



Cabinet

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held at the The Forum, Towcester, NN12 6AF on Tuesday 11 October 2022 at 6.00 pm

Agenda

Public Session	
1.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members
2.	Declarations of Interest Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
3.	Minutes (Pages 5 - 10) To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 13 September 2022.
4.	Chair's Announcements To receive communications from the Chair.
5.	Recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny None received for this meeting.
6.	Amendments to the Articles of Association (Pages 11 - 36)
7.	Proposal to extend the age-range at Parklands Maintained Nursery School from 2-3 to 2-4 years of age via the incorporation of Parklands Playgroup (Pages 37 - 52)
8.	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review 2021/22 (Pages 53 - 86)

9.	Household Support Fund 3 Proposal: Distribution of Funds and Recipients for HSF3 (Pages 87 - 118)
10.	New Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the former Daventry District and former South Northants administrative areas of West Northamptonshire Council (Pages 119 - 532)
11.	Procurement of Elections Stationery and Printing Services (Pages 533 - 538) To delegate authority to Director of Legal and Democratic to award a print supplier with contract for printing of election stationery.
12.	Adoption and community use of assets (Pages 539 - 564)
13.	Office Optimisation Stage 1 building adaptations budget and disposals (Pages 565 - 572)
14.	Urgent Business The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

15.	<p>Exclusion of Press and Public</p> <p>Report Item 16 contains exempt information as defined in the following paragraph(s) of Part 1, Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).</p> <p>Paragraph 4 – Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.</p> <p>Members are reminded that whilst the report and appendices have been marked as exempt, it is for the meeting to decide whether or not to consider them in private or in public. In making the decision, members should balance the interests of individuals or the Council itself in having access to the information. In considering their discretion members should also be mindful of the advice of Council Officers.</p> <p>Should Members decide not to make a decision in public, they are recommended to resolve as follows:</p>
-----	--

“That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph(s) 3 and 4 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

Private Session	
16.	Options and Business Case relating to the future delivery of legal services - EXEMPT (Pages 573 - 634)

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
3 October 2022

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Jonathan Nunn (Chair)	Councillor Adam Brown (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Fiona Baker	Councillor Rebecca Breese
Councillor Matt Golby	Councillor Mike Hallam
Councillor Phil Larratt	Councillor Daniel Lister
Councillor Malcolm Longley	Councillor David Smith

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget

setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

If a continuous fire alarm sounds you must evacuate the building via the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the assembly area as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Sofia Neal-Gonzalez, Democratic Services via the following:

Tel:

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED



Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held at The Forum, Towcester, NN12 6AF on Tuesday 13 September 2022 at 6.00 pm.

Present Councillor Jonathan Nunn (Chair)
 Councillor Adam Brown (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor Fiona Baker
 Councillor Matt Golby
 Councillor Mike Hallam
 Councillor Phil Larratt
 Councillor Daniel Lister
 Councillor Malcolm Longley
 Councillor David Smith

Officers Anna Earnshaw, Chief Executive
 Rebecca Peck, Assistant Chief Executive
 Martin Henry, Executive Director - Finance (Section 151 Officer)
 Catherine Whitehead, Director of Legal and Democratic (Monitoring
 Officer)
 Simon Bowers, Assistant Director - Assets and Environment
 Jane Carr, Director of Communities & Opportunities
 Stuart Lackenby, Executive Director - Adults Communities and
 Wellbeing
 Sarah Reed, Executive Director - Corporate Services
 Paul Hanson, Democratic Services Manager
 Jed Scoles, Political Assistant to the Labour Group

42. **Apologies**

Councillor Rebecca Breese

43. **Declarations of Interest**

None

44. **Minutes**

The minutes from the Cabinet meeting on the 12th July 2022 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

45. **Chair's Announcements**

The Leader paid tribute to the queen. He made reference to the fact that only essential meetings would be held during the period of mourning as a mark of respect.

46. **Urgent Business**

None

47. **Recommendations submitted by Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

The Chair invited Councillor Rosie Herring to speak in her role as the Chair of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Herring summarised the findings of the committee to members and noted that the process should also be seen as a learning experience.

Councillor Adam Brown advised that he would be happy to go back to Northampton Partnership Homes to discuss any lessons to be learnt.

Councillors made the following comments.

- The consultation of ward councillors early in the process was important, this should happen going forward.
- It was queried why the highways scrutiny paper had not been included on the agenda.

RESOLVED:

- a) The consultation process for Levelling Up - Round 3 was reviewed in order that early in the consultation process all ward Members and the voluntary sector were included as consultees (recommendation from Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee).**
- b) Cabinet recognised the need to improve performance from the current position of 47% of children in care receiving an initial health assessment within 28 days of entering care (recommendation from People Overview and Scrutiny Committee).**
- c) Cabinet looked into issues arising from the change of use of Riverside House from office space to housing that have affected its continued suitability as a site for outpatient renal dialysis, in order to support effective partnership working.**

48. **Youth Justice Plan 22/23**

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments.

- The report was full of information and very accessible.
- It was noted that more youth services were required in the county, specifically youth workers.
- Although there had been an uplift in spend and investment in this area it was barely above inflation.
- Out of 173 councils WNC had the 14th lowest spending on youth services and was above average on custodial sentences.
- Could there be clarification as to how many children were living in poverty within the county.

Councillor Fiona Baker presented the report and advised Cabinet that the Youth Justice Service took a child first/whole family approach. Members were advised youth violence was a concern and that a pilot programme to address the issue was due to begin, starting in Wellingborough.

RESOLVED: Cabinet recommended to Council the approval of the Youth Justice Plan 2022-23.

49. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2023-24

At the Chairs invitation councillors made the following comments.

- Had any KPIs been put into place in order to measure effects?
- It was suggested the relevant systems were complex, which in turn made it more difficult for residents to cope.

Councillor Adam Brown noted that the council would continue to prioritise those who were less well off, this had been a cross party consensus.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet;

a) Noted the contents of this report

b) Approved the proposed LCTRS for 2023-24 as outlined in the report.

c) Recommended to Council a no change LCTRS for 2023-24.

50. Establishing a new 250 place, 'all-through' special educational needs and disability (SEND) School for pupils with autistic spectrum condition (ASC), with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) and severe learning difficulties (SLD) at Tiffield St John's site, Tiffield, West Northamptonshire.

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments.

- It was important to know how long the journey time to the school would be for the pupils.
- There was an increasing need for SEND places across the county.
- It was queried whether there were plans to broker the school or would it remain within the local authority.

Councillor Wendy Randall then read out a statement on behalf of the West Northants SEND action group.

Councillor Fiona Baker presented the report and noted that there was a huge demand for specialist places and a historic lack of investment in the area. She advised that children currently placed in a setting would not be expected to move to the new school. A recommendation as to the preferred trust to run the school had been put to the Department for Education.

RESOLVED: Cabinet;

- a) **Noted that the selection process for the new school involves the Council putting forward a recommendation to the DfE for the preferred trust, following a rigorous selection process.**
- b) **Noted the linked paper, 'St John Tiffield property arrangements' on the use of the St John's Tiffield Site, St. John's Road, Tiffield, NN12 8AA for the new school.**
- c) **Agreed in principle borrowing up to £10,000,000 to make up the shortfall for the cost of building the new school, which is up to £23m, with delegated authority to the s151 officer to amend the capital programme once full feasibility works are completed. Note that the remaining cost of the build will be met through capital grant funding received by the Council.**

Note: the estimated building and capital required would be subject to construction cost inflation. This has been estimated at one per cent per month currently. Compounded, this could be as much as 13-14 per cent a year. Delay in construction work will lead to further risk of cost rises.

51. Hackney Carriage (Taxi) Tariff Fare Increase

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments.

- It was queried whether there could be more meetings of the licensing committee.
- Many Hackney Carriage drivers had been vocal in their concerns about the rising cost of fuel.

Councillor David Smith presented the report and advised that this would bring forward the harmonisation of tariffs across the county, which had already been in the plan. Members were advised that the tariffs would be set to the maximum amount and drivers may decide to charge less.

RESOLVED: Cabinet considered the proposed WNC Hackney Carriage Tariff table of fares at Appendix B and resolved to vary the three existing hackney carriage tariff fare tables currently in force in the WNC taxi licensing area accordingly.

52. Award of Transitional Contract for Highway Professional Services

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Phil Larratt presented the report and advised that the new contract would be with KIER, WSP would no longer be part of the contract going forward. Members were advised that the majority of the funding would be Section 106 money.

RESOLVED: Cabinet agreed to award a transition contract to WSP via an appropriate framework to mitigate the financial and reputational risks to the Council and potential delays. The value of the proposed contract would be above £500,000.

**53. Decision taken by the Leader of the Council under urgency procedures:
Renewal of Microsoft 365 licences**

At the Chair's invitation a councillor made the following comments.

- What was the WNC budget for IT?
- It was queried whether the council has an IT renewal policy.
- Could there be clarification as to what error had occurred?

Councillor Mike Hallam advised that the error had not been one of authorisation rather than procurement as Cabinet had not been given the required time to approve the new contract. All IT service budgets were centrally managed.

RESOLVED: Cabinet noted the decisions taken by the Leader of the Council set out at Appendix A.

54. Cost of Living increase: How West Northamptonshire Council is supporting residents

At the Chair's invitation councillors made the following comments.

- No timescale had been given for the working group, this should happen soon due to the urgency of the situation.
- Members were advised of the Resolution Foundation and a report they had released on this subject.
- Could a petition be made to central government to request a 6 month review of benefits.
- It was questioned whether the impact of Brexit should be provided within in each report.
- The children living in poverty figures are different to those mentioned in the youth justice report.

Councillor Mike Hallam made the following comments.

- The working group discussions were already underway, it was agreed that this was urgent.
- Thanks and acknowledgement were given to the voluntary sector for all the work they do.
- A deadline could be added to the covid-fund, this would free up more capital, but would need to be looked in to.
- There had been unprecedented help from central government.

RESOLVED:

a) Noted the contents of the report

b) Tasked the all-party Anti-Poverty Working Group to oversee the actions planned for the next year and support the development of other interventions that respond to local need

55. Exclusion of the Press and Public

56. **Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction Risk Based Verification**

Minutes exempt from publication

57. **Budgets for death management and related services**

Minutes exempt from publication

58. **Management of St John's Tiffield site**

Minutes exempt from publication

59. **Towns Fund: Four Waterside and Marefair Business Case and Delivery Strategy**

Minutes exempt from publication

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

11 October 2022

**Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing, Culture and Leisure:
Councillor Adam Brown**

Report Title	Amendments to the Articles of Association
Report Author	Jacqueline Brooks – Interim Head of Housing Strategy and Partnerships jacqueline.brooks@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Monitoring Officer	Cath Whitehead	28 September 2022
Chief Finance Officer (S.151)	Martin Henry	29 September 2022
ELT		3 October 2022
Other Director/SME	Jane Carr	7 September 2022
Communications	Becky Hutson	29 September 2022

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Proposed amendments to the Articles of Association

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To note the proposed changes to Northampton Partnership Homes Articles of Association (AoA).

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The AoA is a legally binding document that defines the powers, objects and governance framework belonging to the company i.e. Northampton Partnership Homes. They are the written rules that define what activities Northampton Partnership Homes undertakes.

- 2.2 A company may, by special resolution, alter its articles, in accordance with the Companies Act 1985 s 9 (1).
- 2.3 The changes to the Articles of Association reflect the changes following the formation of a unitary authority, including the change to the council becoming a social housing provider for the entire West Northants area, and not limited to the Northampton area. The amendments to the AoA are required to legally allow NPH to operate across this wider area.
- 2.2 The full changes proposed are detailed in this report. The proposed new articles are at appendix 1 of this report. A full comparison of the current articles with the proposed new articles are at appendix 2 of this report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1.1 To note that from the 1st April 2021 the Council became a social housing provider for the entire West Northants area and the AoA are being amended to reflect this.
- 3.1.2 To note changes to the AoA which NPH will consider to enable them to operate within the wider West Northants area.
- 3.1.3 To delegate to the Director of Communities and Opportunities the preparation of a new Management Agreement with NPH to incorporate the arrangements for NPH to operate in the wider area to be agreed at a future Cabinet meeting.

4 Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1.1 To ensure that the necessary steps are taken to enable the Council to carry out the role of social housing provider across the whole of the Council area.
- 4.1.2 To strengthen and modernise the governance framework with NPH through amendments to the AoA and management agreement.

5 Report Background

- 5.1.1 Northampton Partnership Homes was set up in 2015, as legacy Northampton Borough Council's Arms Length Company (ALMO). NPH manage nearly 12,000 council housing tenancies on behalf of the Council.
- 5.1.2 Northampton Partnership Homes is a company limited by guarantee and is wholly owned by the Council.
- 5.1.3 The full details of the arrangements between the Council and the ALMO for the delivery of the housing management service are set out in the management agreement. The AoA is a legal document that defines the powers, objects and governance framework for NPH. This document sits alongside the management agreement to define the activity undertaken, responsibilities and accountability of NPH.

5.1.4 Following a discussion and officer review a number of changes are being proposed to the AoA. The changes are being proposed to:

- reflect the change to Unitary and to ensure that the AoA aligns with these changes
- Ensure the AoA continues to be fit for purpose
- Strengthens and modernises the governance framework

5.1.5 The proposed new articles are attached at appendix 1 of this report.

5.1.6 The full track changed version comparing the 2015 articles and proposed new version is attached at appendix of this report.

5.1.7 The amended articles as at appendix 1 will be filed at Companies House, with the new Articles effective from the date accepted by Companies House.

5.1.8 The changes proposed are summarised below:

Title change: Name change from Northampton Partnership Homes Ltd to Northamptonshire Partnership Homes Ltd

Definitions:

- NPH means the company, Northamptonshire Partnership Homes Limited

Para 3- Name

- Name change to Northamptonshire Partnership Homes Limited

Para 7 – Limitation on Board Members’ powers and Council’s reserve power

- (7.4.1): Remuneration for an individual Board Member

Para 14 - General meetings

- (14.2) additional clause ‘all general meetings shall be called with at least 21 clear days’ notice
- (14.4) This clause has been strengthened to include additional detail around convening a general meeting

Para 18 - Appointment of Tenant Board Members and Independent Board Members

- (18.1) inclusion of ‘Independent’ Board Members
- (18.8) inclusion of ‘Tenant’ Board Members

Para 29 – Calling a Board meeting

- This paragraph has been strengthened to include additional details around calling a board meeting.

Para 33 – Chair

- This paragraph has been amended based on previous member discussion and agreement.

6 Issues and Choices

6.1 Cabinet agrees to note the amendments to the Articles of Association. The changes strengthen and modernise the governance framework and reflect the activities that NPH are undertaking.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 Northampton Partnership Homes are funded through the HRA for the majority of council homes and leasehold stock in the area.

7.1.2 The proposed changes to the Articles of Association does not affect the payments made to NPH for the services supplied. As such, there are no direct resource or financial implications arising from the proposals.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 Section 27 of the Housing Act 1985, provides the power to allow another person to exercise housing management on behalf of the local housing authority. This power enables the management of the Council's housing stock to be carried out by NPH.

7.2.2 NPH is a company limited by guarantee and is wholly owned by the Council. It is registered at Companies House with its own registration number, 09019453

7.2.3 NPH has its own governance arrangements which are governed by its Articles which sets out its objects. Its decision making is through a Board.

7.2.4 Articles of Association may be amended in accordance with the provision of the Companies Act. Amended Articles are filed with Companies House

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation

There has been consultation with NPH, and the decision will be made by the Board which includes tenant representatives but there is no requirement to carry out tenant consultation in relation to governance changes.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

The proposed changes reflect the need to change the governance to reflect the effect of the changes of local government reorganisation but also to regularise governance arrangements. There has been no consultation with Scrutiny in relation to these technical changes.

7.6 Climate Impact

There is no impact on climate as a result of the proposed changes.

7.7 Community Impact

The community impact arising relates to the decision of the AoA board and not the decision of Cabinet to note the proposed changes. Community impact if any will arise as a result of the changes to the Management Agreement.

8 Background Papers

8.1 None

This page is intentionally left blank

The Companies Act 2006

Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital

Articles of association

of

Northamptonshire Partnership Homes Limited (Company Number 09019453)

Amended by a special resolution dated [DATE]

1 Exclusion of model articles

None of the regulations contained in the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 apply to the Company and these Articles alone are the articles of association of the Company.

2 Definitions and interpretation

In these Articles unless the context otherwise requires:

1989 Act means the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;

2006 Act means the Companies Act 2006 and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force;

Articles means these Articles of Association;

Board means the Board of directors of NPH from time to time;

Board Members means the directors for the time being of NPH;

Business Day means any day which is not either a Saturday or a Sunday or a public holiday in England;

Chair means the chair of NPH appointed pursuant to Article 33.1 or in their absence any vice or deputy chair appointed pursuant to Article 33.5;

Clear days in relation to the period of a notice means that period excluding the day when the notice is given or deemed to be given and the day for which it is given or on which it is to take effect;

Companies Acts means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the 2006 Act), in so far as they apply to NPH;

Council Board Member means a Board Member who is appointed pursuant to Article 17.1;

Council means West Northamptonshire Council or any successor body thereto;

Employee means a permanent employee of NPH;

Independent Board Member means a Board Member appointed pursuant to Article 18 (and is not a Tenant Board Member);

Local Authority Person means any person:

- (a) who is a member of the Council; or
- (b) who is an officer of the Council (which for these purposes shall not include employees with non-managerial posts apart from housing employees);

NPH means the company, Northamptonshire Partnership Homes Limited;

the seal means the common seal of NPH;

Secretary means the secretary of NPH or any other person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of NPH including a joint assistant or deputy secretary;

Tenant means an individual who alone or jointly with others holds a tenancy or lease of or a licence to occupy a residential property from and occupies a property belonging to the Council that is managed by NPH;

Tenant Board Member means a Board Member appointed pursuant to Article 18 (and is not an Independent Board Member);

the United Kingdom means Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

- 2.1 References in these Articles to a document includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form.
- 2.2 References in these Articles to “**writing**” means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.
- 2.3 Unless the context otherwise requires:
 - 2.3.1 words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
 - 2.3.2 words importing any gender include all other genders; and
 - 2.3.3 words importing natural persons include corporations.
- 2.4 Unless the context otherwise requires words or expressions contained in these Articles bear the same meaning as in the 2006 Act in force on the date of adoption of these Articles.
- 2.5 A reference to an article by number is to any relevant article of these Articles.
- 2.6 Headings used in these Articles shall not affect their construction or interpretation.
- 2.7 References to any statute or section of a statute shall include reference to any statutory amendment, extension, modification or re-enactment of such statute or section of a statute.

3 Name

The name of the company is Northamptonshire Partnership Homes Limited.

4 Registered office

NPH's registered office is to be located in England.

5 Objects

The objects of NPH shall be in the areas where the Council or NPH owns or manages housing stock to:

- 5.1 provide manage maintain improve demolish build or convert the housing stock owned or managed by the Council from time to time together with any other amenities or facilities for the benefit of residents of such housing stock either exclusively or together with persons who are not residents of such housing stock;
- 5.2 provide amenities and services of any description for residents of housing stock owned or managed by the Council from time to time either exclusively or together with persons who are not residents of such housing stock;
- 5.3 provide advice and assistance to all tenants leaseholders and licensees of the Council and applicants for housing and applicants for housing advice in respect of housing owned managed or provided by the Council;
- 5.4 carry out any activity which contributes to regeneration or development in the area of West Northamptonshire including but not limited to:
 - 5.4.1 securing that land and buildings are brought into effective use;
 - 5.4.2 contributing to or encouraging economic development;
 - 5.4.3 creating an attractive and safe environment;
 - 5.4.4 preventing crime and anti-social behaviour or reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - 5.4.5 providing or improving housing or social and recreational facilities for the purpose of encouraging people to live or work in the said area or for the purpose of benefiting people or improving the health and well-being of people who live there;
 - 5.4.6 providing employment for local people;
 - 5.4.7 providing or improving training educational facilities or health services or promoting healthy and active lifestyles for local people;
 - 5.4.8 promoting and assisting local people to make use of or to provide to local people opportunities for education training or employment;

- 5.4.9 meeting the special needs of local people which arise because of their age gender race nationality ethnic origin religion sexual orientation or disability;
- 5.4.10 assisting, promoting and providing services for residents to enable them to take part in community activities and volunteering;
- 5.5 provide acquire construct improve or manage housing;
- 5.6 provide acquire manage, maintain or improve accommodation required from time to time for the benefit of persons who require temporary accommodation;
- 5.7 provide services of any description for the Council;
- 5.8 assess and process applications by residents of housing stock owned or managed by the Council to exercise the right to buy under Part V of the Housing Act 1985 for final approval by the Council;
- 5.9 enable or assist any residents of the housing stock owned or managed by either the Council or NPH to acquire or to acquire and enter into occupation of houses;
- 5.10 acquire construct develop repair or improve houses to be sold (freehold or leasehold) or otherwise disposed of on such terms as NPH shall determine; and
- 5.11 do all such other acts and things as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects.

6 Powers

- 6.1 Subject to Article 7 NPH shall have power to do anything that a natural or corporate person can lawfully do which is necessary or expedient in furtherance of its objects unless prohibited by these Articles.
- 6.2 Subject to Article 7 and without limiting the powers described in Article 6.1 NPH shall have power to:
 - 6.2.1 carry out works to land buildings or other property;
 - 6.2.2 contract with the Council and other bodies in furtherance of NPH's objects;
 - 6.2.3 insure and arrange insurance cover for NPH from and against all such risks as NPH may determine and to pay any premium in respect of such insurance;
 - 6.2.4 provide indemnities in accordance with Article 43;
 - 6.2.5 purchase or otherwise acquire or to encourage or promote and in any way support or aid the establishment and development of any subsidiary or any other body established for the purposes of carrying on any trade or business either for the purpose of raising funds for NPH or for the furtherance of the objects of NPH;

- 6.2.6 make donations grants or loans and provide services and assistance to such natural or legal persons on such terms as NPH may determine to further the objects of NPH **provided that** in the event that NPH shall take or hold any property which may be subject to any trusts NPH shall only deal with or invest the same in such manner as allowed by law having regard to such trusts.

7 Limitation on Board Members' powers and Council's reserve power

- 7.1 NPH shall not without the prior written consent of the Council, and subject to obtaining such consents as may be required by law, do any of the following:
 - 7.1.1 invest any monies of NPH not immediately required for the furtherance of its objects; or
 - 7.1.2 borrow money, issue loan stock or raise money through the granting of security (including by way of floating charge) upon the whole or any part of NPH's property or assets (whether present or future); or
 - 7.1.3 grant security to secure and guarantee the performance by NPH of any obligation or liability it may undertake or which may become binding on it; or
 - 7.1.4 approve remuneration of £12,500 or more per annum for an individual Board Member.
- 7.2 NPH shall not do any act or thing which causes or might cause the Council to be in breach of the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
- 7.3 The Council may by special resolution direct NPH to take or refrain from taking specified action provided that any such resolution under this Article 7.3 shall not invalidate anything which NPH has done before the passing of the resolution.

8 Application of income and property

- 8.1 The income and property of NPH shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects as set forth in these Articles.
- 8.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 8.1 NPH may make payment in good faith:
 - 8.2.1 of reasonable and proper remuneration (including pensions, contributory pension payments, payment of premiums to pension policies and terminal grants and gratuities) to any officer or employee of NPH in return for any services rendered to NPH;
 - 8.2.2 of fees remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to a company or other body corporate of which a Board Member may be a member holding not more than 2% of the share capital and controlling not more than 2% of the voting rights at general meetings of such company or body corporate;

- 8.2.3 to any Board Member of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses;
 - 8.2.4 of reasonable and proper remuneration to the Council or to an employee thereof in return for any services rendered to NPH;
 - 8.2.5 of reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by the Council;
 - 8.2.6 of reasonable and proper remuneration (excluding pensions) to Board Members; or
 - 8.2.7 of reasonable and proper interest on money lent by the Council.
- 8.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 8.1 and 8.2 NPH may manage property in accordance with its objects (including the full range of activities it may undertake) notwithstanding the fact that a tenant lessee or licensee (or prospective tenant lessee or licensee) of such property may be a Board Member provided that no Board Member shall be entitled to speak in any debate or cast any vote in respect of any matter relating specifically to property of which they are a tenant lessee or licensee and to no other property of NPH and shall absent himself from such proceedings.

9 Equal opportunities

NPH shall at all times take into consideration the principles of equality of opportunity irrespective of age gender race nationality ethnic origin religion sexual orientation or disability.

10 Limited liability

The liability of the Council is limited.

11 Member's guarantee

The Council undertakes to contribute to the assets of NPH in the event of NPH being wound up while it is a member of NPH or within one year after it ceases to be a member of NPH for payment of the debts and liabilities of NPH contracted before it ceases to be a member of NPH and of the costs charges and expenses of winding up such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound.

12 Winding up

If upon the winding up or dissolution of NPH there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever such property shall be paid or transferred to the Housing Revenue Account (as defined in the 1989 Act) of the Council.

13 Admission of members

- 13.1 No person other than the Council shall be admitted to membership of NPH.
- 13.2 The Council shall nominate a person to act as its representative in the manner provided in Section 323 of the 2006 Act. Such representative shall have the right on behalf of the Council to attend meetings of NPH and vote thereat and to exercise all rights of membership on behalf of the Council. The Council

may from time to time revoke the nomination of such representative and nominate another representative in their place. All such nominations and revocations shall be in writing.

- 13.3 The rights of the Council shall be personal and shall not be transferable and shall be exercisable only by the Council or a duly authorised representative of the Council.

14 General meetings

- 14.1 NPH shall once in every period of twelve months hold a general meeting which for the purposes of these Articles shall be called the annual general meeting. All other general meetings shall be called extraordinary general meetings.
- 14.2 All general meetings shall be called with at least 21 clear days' notice.
- 14.3 A general meeting may be called on shorter notice if it is so agreed by the Council.
- 14.4 The notice convening a general meeting shall specify:
- 14.4.1 the time and place of the meeting;
 - 14.4.2 the general nature of the business to be transacted;
 - 14.4.3 in the case of an annual general meeting, that it is the annual general meeting.
- 14.5 The notice shall be given to the Council, the Board Members and to NPH's auditors. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.
- 14.6 Subject to the 2006 Act, no business shall be transacted at a general meeting except that specified in the notice convening the meeting.
- 14.7 A general meeting may take place simultaneously at different places and in any manner or through any medium or communication equipment (whether in use when these Articles are adopted or developed subsequently) which permits those attending to comprehend and comment on the proceedings.
- 14.8 A meeting held in accordance with Article 14.7 shall be deemed to take place where the Council then is. A resolution passed at any meeting held in the above manner shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a general meeting of NPH duly convened and held.
- 14.9 No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present. The presence of the duly authorised representative of the Council shall constitute a quorum.
- 14.10 An entry in the minutes of any general meeting stating that a resolution has been carried or lost shall be conclusive evidence of the fact.
- 14.11 The Chair shall chair the general meetings. Only the Council shall vote at general meetings.

14.12 The Board Members may call general meetings and on the requisition of the Council (acting by its duly appointed representative) shall forthwith proceed to convene a general meeting as required pursuant to the provisions of Section 304 of the 2006 Act. If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient Board Members to call a general meeting any Board Member or the Council may call a general meeting.

15 Written resolutions of the Council

15.1 A written resolution approved by the Council is as valid as if it had been passed at a general meeting provided that any such decision taken by the Council pursuant to this Article 15 is recorded in writing and delivered to the registered office of NPH for entry into NPH's minute book.

15.2 Subject to the provisions of the 2006 Act, any decision taken in accordance with this Article 15 shall take effect on the date on which it is made or at such later time as may be specified by the Council when making the decision.

16 Composition of the Board

16.1 The number of Board Members shall be 12.

16.2 Four Board Members shall be Council Board Members.

16.3 Four Board Members shall be Tenant Board Members.

16.4 Four Board Members shall be Independent Board Members.

16.5 No more than five Board Members shall be Tenants.

16.6 No more than four Board Members shall be Local Authority Persons.

16.7 In the event that the number of Board Members shall be less than the numbers specified in this Article 16 the remaining Board Members shall use reasonable endeavours to appoint further Board Members and may act notwithstanding this Article.

17 Appointment and removal of Board Members by the Council

17.1 The Council shall from time to time appoint four persons as Council Board Members.

17.2 Notwithstanding any other provisions in these Articles the Council shall have the power at any time by notice in writing to NPH to appoint and remove any:

17.2.1 Council Board Member;

17.2.2 Independent Board Member; or

17.2.3 Tenant Board Member; or

17.2.4 any other Board Member.

17.3 Appointment or removal pursuant to Articles 17.1 or 17.2 shall be effected by notice in writing signed by the Council and shall take effect upon delivery

to the registered office of NPH or at such later time than such delivery as may be specified in the notice.

18 Appointment of Tenant Board Members and Independent Board Members

- 18.1 In every notice for an annual general meeting the Board shall state the Tenant Board Members and Independent Board Members continuing in office and those candidates intending to offer themselves for election and recommend individuals for appointment or reappointment as Tenant Board Members or Independent Board Members at the meeting.
- 18.2 Each Tenant Board Member and Independent Board Member shall be appointed in accordance with any Board membership policies adopted by the Board from time to time and shall be elected for a fixed term of office expiring at the conclusion of an annual general meeting (each a “**fixed term**”). The fixed term shall be for a term of three annual general meetings, unless the Board has set a lower number of annual general meetings for the relevant Board Member on their appointment. The fixed term shall include any period during which a relevant Board Member is absent from the Board following removal under Article 20.6 if such Board Member is subsequently reappointed. No fixed term shall be set which would cause the relevant Board Member to serve beyond their ninth consecutive annual general meeting.
- 18.3 At every annual general meeting each Board Member elected under Article 18.2 who has served their fixed term shall retire from office. Subject to any Board membership policies and any restrictions within these Articles, any Board Member who retires from office at an annual general meeting under this Article 18.3 shall be eligible for re-appointment.
- 18.4 Any Board Member retiring under Article 18.3 having completed nine years’ continuous service shall not be eligible for re-appointment.
- 18.5 If at elections the number of candidates for election as Board Members does not exceed the number of vacancies on the Board, the Chair shall declare those candidates as duly elected. If the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies the meeting shall elect the Board Members as the Chair directs and in accordance with any procedures agreed by the Board from time to time, subject at all times to compliance with Article 16 and NPH’s policy for Board Member election adopted by the Board from time to time (following such consultation with Tenants as the Board may deem appropriate).
- 18.6 The Chair shall announce the results of the process referred to in Article 18.5 at each relevant annual general meeting and the individuals so elected shall be duly appointed as Board Members with effect from the close of such meeting.
- 18.7 No person shall be appointed as an Independent Board Member unless they have been recommended to the Council by the Board in accordance with Article 18.1 and the Council, in its sole discretion, has provided its prior written consent to the appointment.
- 18.8 Subject to the Council’s prior written consent, prior to every annual general meeting, the Board may undertake a recruitment process for the number of Independent Board Members and Tenant Board Members to be appointed thereat. The mode and manner of such selection process shall be as the Board

may from time to time agree subject at all times to compliance with Article 16 and NPH's policy for Board member selection adopted by the Board from time to time.

- 18.9 Subject to the Council's prior written consent, if during the Chair or vice or deputy Chair's fixed term as Chair or vice or deputy Chair they are subject to the requirement to retire as a Board Member (in accordance with Article 18.3) they shall (if willing and able to act) be deemed to have been reappointed (in accordance with Article 18.2).

19 Casual vacancies

- 19.1 Subject to Article 16 and the Council's prior written consent the Board may appoint a person who is willing to act to be a Board Member to fill a vacancy.
- 19.2 The Board may only fill vacancies occurring among Tenant Board Members where the procedure for selecting Tenant Board Members set out in NPH's policy for Board Member selection adopted by the Board from time to time has been followed and there has been no nomination within three months of the vacancy arising.
- 19.3 A Board Member appointed under this Article 19 shall hold office only until the next following annual general meeting. If not reappointed at such annual general meeting they shall vacate office at the conclusion thereof. If reappointed, the Board Member shall continue for the residual term of the Board Member that they are replacing.

20 Disqualification and removal of Board Members

A person shall be ineligible for appointment to the Board and if already appointed shall immediately cease to be a Board Member if the relevant individual:

- 20.1 ceases to be a Board Member by virtue of any provision of the 2006 Act or becomes prohibited by law from being a company director; or
- 20.2 is or becomes a person disqualified from elected membership of a local authority; or
- 20.3 is or becomes bankrupt or makes any formal arrangement or composition with their creditors generally; or
- 20.4 is, in the opinion of a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person (and who gives written notice to NPH confirming such opinion), physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months; or
- 20.5 resigns their office by written notice to NPH; or
- 20.6 is removed from office by a resolution or written notice signed by not less than three quarters of all the other Board Members from time to time (such resolution or notice being capable of withdrawal or cancellation by not less than three quarters of such other Board Members and resulting in reappointment of the relevant Board Member); or

- 20.7 shall for more than three consecutive months have been absent without the approval of the Board from all meetings of the Board (including meetings of any committee of which that Board Member is a member) held during that period and the Board resolves that their office be vacated; or
- 20.8 shall in any period of 12 consecutive months have been absent without the approval of the Board from more than 50% of the meetings of the Board (including meetings of any committee of which that Board Member is a member) held during that period and the Board resolves that their office be vacated; or
- 20.9 in the case of a Tenant Board Member they cease to be a Tenant provided that this Article 20.9 shall not apply in respect of a Tenant Board Member temporarily ceasing to be a Tenant for a period of not more than six months as a result of the demolition of or works carried out to that Tenant Board Member's home; or
- 20.10 is a Tenant Board Member and is in the opinion of the Board in serious breach of their obligations as a Tenant; or
- 20.11 is or becomes a Tenant leading to a breach of the limit in Article 16.5; or
- 20.12 is or becomes a Local Authority Person leading to a breach of the limit in Article 16.6; or
- 20.13 is an Independent Board Member and is or becomes a Tenant, a Local Authority Person or an Employee; or
- 20.14 is removed by the Council pursuant to Article 17.2; or
- 20.15 has completed an aggregate of nine years' service on the Board as a Board Member since the first annual general meeting of their appointment.

21 Powers of the Board

- 21.1 Subject to:
 - 21.1.1 the provisions of the 2006 Act;
 - 21.1.2 any resolution from time to time of the Council in accordance with these Articles; and
 - 21.1.3 these Articles,

the business of NPH shall be managed by the Board who may exercise all the powers of NPH.
- 21.2 No alteration of these Articles and no resolution of the Council shall invalidate any prior act of the Board which would have been valid if that alteration or resolution had not been made.
- 21.3 The powers given by this Article 21 shall not be limited by any special power given to the Board by these Articles and a meeting of the Board at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by the Board.

21.4 The Board may by power of attorney or otherwise appoint any person to be the agent of NPH for such specified purposes and on such specified conditions as the Board may determine including defined authority for the agent to delegate all or any of their powers.

22 Borrowing powers

Subject to Article 7 the Board may exercise all the powers of NPH to borrow money without limit as to amount and upon such terms and in such manner as the Board considers fit and to grant any mortgage charge or other security over the undertaking and property of NPH or any part thereof and to issue any debenture whether outright or as security for any debt liability or obligation of NPH or of any third party.

23 Delegation of Board Members' powers

23.1 The Board may delegate in writing any of its powers to any committee consisting of three or more Board Members together with such other persons as the Board sees fit but so that Board Members shall always constitute a majority. The chair and vice chair of any such committee shall be appointed by the Board.

23.2 Committees to which the Board delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of these Articles which govern the taking of decisions by the Board.

23.3 The Board may delegate in writing to the Chair or to any vice Chair or to any officer of NPH such of their powers as they consider desirable to be exercised by such person. Any such delegation may be made subject to any conditions the Board may impose and either collaterally with or to the exclusion of its own powers and may be revoked or altered.

24 Alternate Board Members

No Board Member shall be entitled to appoint any person as an alternate Board Member.

25 Board Members' expenses

Board Members may be paid all travelling hotel and other expenses reasonably and properly incurred by them in connection with their attendance at meetings of the Board or committees of the Board or general meetings of NPH or otherwise in connection with the discharge of their duties.

26 Board Member Remuneration

26.1 Subject to Article 7, the Board, at its discretion, has the power to approve Board Member remuneration. The level of remuneration will be approved by the Board and will be reviewed at least every three years.

26.2 The payment of Board Members will be published in the Company's Annual Report and the Annual Published Accounts.

27 Board Members' appointments and interests

- 27.1 A Board Member may not have any financial interest personally or as a member of a firm or as a director or senior employee (being an employee with managerial status) or in any contract or other transaction of NPH unless it is permitted by these Articles and is not prohibited by Article 7.
- 27.2 Each Board Member shall ensure that the Secretary has at all times an up to date list of:
- 27.2.1 all bodies trading in which they have an interest as:
 - (a) a director or senior employee, or
 - (b) a member of a firm, or
 - (c) the owner or controller of more than 2% of the issued share capital in a body corporate having a share capital, or
 - (d) the holder or controller of more than 2% of the voting rights in general meeting of any body corporate;
 - 27.2.2 all interests as an official or elected member of any statutory body;
 - 27.2.3 all interests as the occupier of any property owned or managed by NPH;
 - 27.2.4 any other significant or material interest.

28 Proceedings of Board Members

- 28.1 Subject to:
- 28.1.1 these Articles;
 - 28.1.2 any regulations established from time to time by NPH; and
 - 28.1.3 compliance with all relevant statutory requirements, the Board may regulate its proceedings as it determines.

29 Calling a Board meeting

- 29.1 The Board shall meet at least four times in each calendar year.
- 29.2 A Board meeting may be requested by the Council (acting in its corporate capacity) at any time by giving notice of the meeting to the Board or by requesting the company secretary (if any) to give such notice.
- 29.3 Subject to Article 29.2 a Board meeting may be called by not less than a majority (7) of the total number of Board Members by giving notice of the meeting to the Board or by authorising the company secretary (if any) to give such notice.
- 29.4 Notice of any Board meeting must indicate:

- 29.4.1 its proposed date and time;
 - 29.4.2 where it is to take place;
 - 29.4.3 the proposed agenda for the meeting; and
 - 29.4.4 if it is anticipated that Board Members participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.
- 29.5 Notice of a Board meeting must be given to each Board Member and must be in writing.
- 29.6 The Council may at any time prior to the commencement of the Board Meeting request items of business to the proposed agenda which shall be transacted at the relevant Board Meeting.

30 Board meetings and participation

- 30.1 Subject to these Articles, Board Members participate in a Board meeting, or part of a Board meeting, when:
- 30.1.1 the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with these Articles; and
 - 30.1.2 they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.
- 30.2 In determining whether Board Members are participating in a Board meeting, it is irrelevant where any Board Member is or how they communicate with each other.
- 30.3 If all the Board Members participating in a meeting are not in the same place, such a meeting shall be deemed to take place where the largest group of those participating is assembled or if there is no such group where the Chair of the meeting then is.
- 30.4 Subject to the 2006 Act, all business transacted in accordance with this Article 30 by the Board Members or by a committee of the Board shall for the purposes of these Articles be deemed to be validly and effectively transacted at a meeting of the Board or of a committee.

31 Quorum for Board meetings

- 31.1 At a Board meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.
- 31.2 Subject to Article 34, the quorum for the transaction of business at a Board meeting shall be seven including at least:
- 31.2.1 one Tenant Board Member; and
 - 31.2.2 one Council Board Member,

provided that if there are no Tenant Board Members currently on the Board then the quorum requirement shall be reduced to none in respect of Tenant Board Members.

31.3 If a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for a Board meeting the Board meeting shall if requested by a majority of those Board Members present be adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and place or to such other day and at such other time and place as the Board Members present may determine.

31.4 If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the adjourned meeting then notwithstanding Article 31.2 the Board Members present shall constitute a quorum.

32 Board Members to take decisions collectively

Save as expressly provided in these Articles questions arising at a Board meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes and each Board Member present in person shall be entitled to one vote. In the case of an equality of votes at any Board meeting the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

33 Chair

33.1 Subject to Articles 33.2 and 33.3, the Board shall appoint one of their number to be the Chair of the Board on such terms as the Board see fit. The Board may terminate the Chair's appointment at any time.

33.2 An Independent Board Member shall be appointed as the Chair **provided that** if no Independent Board Member is willing and able to act as the Chair of the Board the Chair shall be appointed from the remaining Board Members.

33.3 If no existing Board Member is prepared to become the Chair in accordance with Article 33.2, the Board shall seek to recruit a new Chair externally.

33.4 The Chair shall be appointed for a fixed term expiring at the conclusion of an annual general meeting (each a "**fixed term**"). The fixed term shall be for a term of three annual general meetings unless the Board has set a lower number of annual general meetings. The Chair shall cease to be the Chair on expiry of the fixed term but may be appointed for a further fixed term **provided that** no fixed term shall be set which would cause the Chair to serve for more than six consecutive years from the first annual general meeting following their appointment.

33.5 Unless they are unwilling to do so the Chair shall preside at every meeting of the Board at which they are present. If there is no Chair or if the Chair is unwilling to preside or is not present within five minutes after the time

33.6 appointed for the meeting the Board Members present may appoint one of their number to be chair of the meeting.

33.7 Subject to Article 33.6, the Board may appoint one of their number to be vice or deputy Chair to act in the absence of the Chair on such terms as the Board shall think fit.

- 33.8 The vice or deputy Chair shall be appointed for a fixed term expiring at the conclusion of an annual general meeting (each a “fixed term”). The fixed term shall be for a term of two annual general meetings unless the Board has set a lower number of annual general meetings. The vice or deputy Chair shall cease to be the vice or deputy Chair on expiry of the fixed term but may be appointed for a further fixed term provided that no fixed term shall be set which would cause the vice or deputy Chair to serve for more than four consecutive years from the first annual general meeting following their appointment.

34 Conflicts of interest

- 34.1 Any Board Member having an interest in any arrangement between NPH and another person or body shall before the matter is discussed by the Board or any committee of which they are a member disclose that interest to the meeting.
- 34.2 Unless the interest is of the type specified in Articles 34.3 and 34.4 the Board Member concerned shall not remain present during the discussion of that item unless requested to do so by the remaining members of the Board or committee of the Board. Unless permitted by Articles 34.3 and 34.4 the Board Member concerned may not vote on the matter in question but no decision of the Board or any committee of the Board shall be invalidated by the subsequent discovery of an interest which should have been declared.
- 34.3 Provided the interest has been properly disclosed pursuant to Article 34.1 a Board Member may with the authorisation of the remaining Board or committee Members at the meeting remain present during the discussion and may vote on the matter under discussion where the interest arises only by virtue of the fact that:
- 34.3.1 the Board Member is a Tenant and the matter in question affects all or a substantial group of Tenants; or
 - 34.3.2 the Board Member is a director or other officer of a company or body which is a subsidiary undertaking of NPH (as such term is defined in Section 1162 of the 2006 Act); or
 - 34.3.3 the Board Member is a director or other officer of a company or body which is a subsidiary undertaking of the Council (as such term is defined in Section 1162 of the 2006 Act) other than NPH; or
 - 34.3.4 the Board Member is an official or elected member of any statutory body.
- 34.4 A Board Member shall not be treated as having an interest:
- 34.4.1 of which the Board Member has no knowledge and of which it is unreasonable to expect them to have knowledge; or
 - 34.4.2 in the establishment of a policy in respect of Board Member expenses payable pursuant to Article 25 or in any resolution relating to the remuneration of Board Members generally.

34.5 If a question arises at a meeting of the Board as to the right of a Board Member to vote the question may before the conclusion of the meeting be referred to the Chair or in their absence the chair of the meeting and their ruling shall be final and conclusive. Where a question arises as to the right of the Chair to vote the question may before the conclusion of the meeting be referred to the Board (excluding the Chair) to decide whose ruling shall be final and conclusive.

35 Validity of Board actions

All acts done by the Board or by a committee of the Board or by a person acting as a Board Member shall, notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was a defect in the appointment of any Board Member or that any Board Member was disqualified from holding office, or had vacated office, or was not entitled to vote, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified and had continued to be a Board Member and had been entitled to vote.

36 Written resolutions of the Board

A resolution in writing signed by not less than three quarters of all the Board Members entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Board including sufficient Board Members to satisfy the quorum requirements in Article 31.4 shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Board duly convened and held and may consist of several documents in the like form each signed by one or more Board Members.

37 Co-optees

37.1 The Board may co-opt a person who is willing to act as a co-optee to the Board on such terms and subject to such conditions as the Board may resolve. Any person co-opted to the Board shall be known for the purposes of these Articles as a co-optee. Any provision of these Articles which applies to Board Members shall apply equally to co-optees, save that:

37.1.1 no co-optee may vote on any matter discussed by the Board; and

37.1.2 no co-optee may be appointed as Chair of the Board.

37.2 No co-optee may be appointed if such appointment would cause the number of co-optees to exceed three. If for any reason the number of co-optees exceeds this number at any time, the number of co-optees shall be reduced until this limit is satisfied. The identities of the co-optees to be removed shall be determined in the absolute discretion of the Board.

38 Secretary

NPH may have a Secretary who shall be appointed by the Board for such term at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may determine and any Secretary so appointed may be removed by them.

39 Minutes

The Board shall cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose of:

39.1 all appointments of officers made by the Board Members; and

39.2 all proceedings at meetings of NPH and of the Board and committees of the Board and of the Council in its capacity as the sole member of NPH including the names of the Board Members present at any such meeting.

40 Records, accounts and returns

NPH shall comply with the provisions of the 2006 Act in respect of:

40.1 the keeping and auditing of accounting records;

40.2 the provision of accounts and annual reports of the Board; and

40.3 the making of an annual return.

41 The seal

41.1 The seal shall only be used with the specific or general authority of the Board or of a duly authorised committee of the Board. The Board may determine who may sign any instrument to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined any such instrument shall be signed either by a Board Member and by the Secretary or by two Board Members or by a Board Member and by a witness who signs to attest the signature of such Board Member.

41.2 NPH may exercise the powers conferred by Section 49 of the 2006 Act with regard to having an official seal for use abroad and such powers shall be vested in the Board Members.

42 Notices

42.1 Any notice to be given to or by any person pursuant to these Articles shall be in writing except that a notice calling a meeting of the Board or of a committee of the Board need not be in writing.

42.2 NPH may give any notice to the Council either personally or by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the Council at their main administrative address or by leaving it at that address.

42.3 The Council present by duly authorised representative at any meeting of NPH shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and where requisite of the purposes for which it was called.

42.4 Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. A notice shall be deemed to be given at the expiration of 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted.

42.5 Subject to these Articles anything sent or supplied by or to NPH under these Articles may be sent or supplied in any way in which the 2006 Act provides for documents or information which are authorised or required by any provision of the 2006 Act to be sent or supplied by or to NPH.

43 Indemnity

43.1 Subject to Article 43.2, but without prejudice to any indemnity to which a relevant officer is otherwise entitled:

43.1.1 each relevant officer shall be indemnified out of NPH's assets against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities incurred by them as a relevant officer:

(a) in the actual or purported execution and/or discharge of their duties, or in relation to them; and

(b) in relation to NPH's (or any associated company's) activities as trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined in section 235(6) of the Act),

including (in each case) any liability incurred by them in defending any civil or criminal proceedings, in which judgment is given in their favour or in which they are acquitted or the proceedings are otherwise disposed of without any finding or admission of any material breach of duty on their part or in connection with any application in which the court grants them, in their capacity as a relevant officer, relief from liability for negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust in relation to NPH's (or any associated company's) affairs; and

43.1.2 NPH may provide any relevant officer with funds to meet expenditure incurred or to be incurred by them in connection with any proceedings or application referred to in Article 43.1.1 and otherwise may take any action to enable any such relevant officer to avoid incurring such expenditure.

43.2 This Article does not authorise any indemnity which would be prohibited or rendered void by any provision of the Companies Acts or by any other provision of law.

43.3 In this Article:

43.3.1 companies are associated if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate, and

43.3.2 a "**relevant officer**" means any Board Member or other officer or former Board Member or other officer of the NPH or an associated company (including any company which is a trustee of an occupational pension scheme (as defined by section 235(6) of the 2006 Act, but excluding in each case any person engaged by NPH (or associated company) as auditor (whether or not they are also a Board Member or other officer), to the extent they act in their capacity as auditor).

44 Insurance

44.1 The Board may decide to purchase and maintain insurance, at the expense of NPH, for the benefit of any relevant officer in respect of any relevant loss.

44.2 In this Article:

44.2.1 a "**relevant officer**" means any Board Member or other officer or former Board Member or other officer of NPH or an associated company (including any such company which is a trustee of an

occupational pension scheme (as defined by section 235(6) of the 2006 Act, but excluding in each case any person engaged by NPH (or associated company) as auditor (whether or not they are also a Board Member or other officer), to the extent they act in their capacity as auditor),

44.2.2 a “**relevant loss**” means any loss or liability which has been or may be incurred by a relevant officer in connection with that relevant officer’s duties or powers in relation to NPH, any associated company or any pension fund or employees’ share scheme of NPH or associated company, and

44.2.3 companies are “**associated**” if one is a subsidiary of the other or both are subsidiaries of the same body corporate.



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

October 11th, 2022

Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education: Councillor Fiona Baker

Report Title	Proposal to extend the age-range at Parklands Maintained Nursery School from 3-4 to 2-4 years of age via the incorporation of Parklands Playgroup
--------------	---

Report Author	Marcella Homans, School Improvement Manager – Early Years Marcella.homans@westnorthants.gov.uk 07841 940009
---------------	---

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	28/09/22
West S151	Martin Henry	26/09/2022
Other Director/SME	Ben Pearson Assistant director for education	
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson/ Megan Denny	03/10/22

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Parklands MNS Consultation Summary Report

Appendix B – Parklands MNS Equalities Impact Assessment (EgIA)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) proposes a prescribed alteration to lower the admission age of Parklands Maintained Nursery School (MNS), Spinney Hill Road, Northampton, West Northants NN3 6DW by changing the age range from 3 to 4 years to 2 to 4 years. This will enable the Nursery School to offer places to 2-year-old children. The proposed alteration will

make provision for up to 8 full-time equivalent (FTE) 2-year-old children to attend the Nursery School.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The number of places for 2-year-old children in the locality will reduce when the existing on-site Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) provider, Parklands Playgroup, closes. By lowering the admission age of Parklands MNS, the 2-year-old children in the community, particularly the most vulnerable, will be able to access the free place to which they are entitled.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the proposal to lower the admission age range at Parklands MNS from 3 years to 2 years to enable the Nursery School to offer provision to 2-year-old children from 31 October 2022.

4. Reason for Recommendations (NOTE: this section is mandatory and must be completed)

- To ensure compliance with the statutory process for changing the age range by 1 year.
- To ensure the council is able to provide a sufficient number of places for 2-year-olds within the Parklands community in future years. To enable Children to benefit from high quality teaching and learning experiences at a younger age led by a deputy head with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS).
- To provide improved transition arrangements for children from 2-year-old provision to 3–4-year-old provision with all children fully integrated into the nursery.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 Parklands MNS (together with Camrose MNS, Highfield MNS and Croyland MNS) forms part of the Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation. The federation Governing Board together with the leadership team of Parklands MNS, are seeking to expand the existing nursery provision to provide full time and part time places for 2-year-old children. This proposal will allow them to meet the needs of the local community in relation to Early Years education and will ensure a consistent school approach to learning for the youngest children.
- 5.2 Currently children who join Parklands MNS at the age of 3 come from a variety of settings within the locality, but also from Parklands Playgroup which is situated on the school site. Under the new proposals, children aged 2 years upwards would formally become part of the same structure as the school, within the Nursery School provision and on the Nursery roll.
- 5.3 For changes that are expected to be in place for more than 2 years (as these are considered permanent increases): LAs can propose a change of age range of 1 year or more for community schools (including the adding or removal of nursery provision) by following the statutory process (details are provided in the Section 8 'Background Papers' and on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)). For this reason, we are requesting approval from Cabinet, to ensure the statutory process is followed.
- 5.4 Parklands Playgroup currently runs from the Nursery School premises as a separate Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The Playgroup Trustees and Committee members have agreed that the Playgroup will cease its services when the school begin offering provision for 2-year-olds. Within the last

few years the Playgroup and Nursery School have worked in an integrated approach sharing provision and practitioners. This was established after the Covid pandemic to allow for a much broader curriculum and provision for all children.

- 5.5 A statutory proposal to extend the age range of Parklands MNS was published on the Council's website on 24th August and has been the subject of a consultation details of which appear in paragraph 7.4 of this report.
- 5.6 If Cabinet approve this request, the aim for the opening of the new arrangement will be 31st October 2022 and closure of the Playgroup will be 30th October 2022.
- 5.7 Parklands MNS is currently a 39 FTE place Nursery School offering the 15-hour free entitlement and the 30-hour free entitlement. The Nursery School propose to expand on nursery places and provide early years' education for children in the local area through a secure, stimulating and high-quality early years provision. This will complement the existing provision for children in the 3–4-year olds' nursery class.
- 5.8 Additionally, Parklands MNS proposes to offer the following:
- Parents will be able to claim funded places for 2–3-year-olds
 - Nursery places for 2–4-year-olds will be available Monday to Friday
 - Nursery provision for 2–4-year-olds will support the learning and development of the children and prepare them for their next stage of education.

The aim is that local children can start at Parklands MNS at 2 years old. This will enable learning opportunities to be maximised across the early years for children from 2 to 5 years of age.

- 5.9 Benefits for the children and community include:
- For children:
- Access to a wider range of shared resources, facilities, learning opportunities and experiences at the school;
 - Provision led by the Deputy Head with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS);
 - Smoother transition from 2-year-old provision to 3–4-year provision at the school.

For parents:

- Broader provision and opportunities for their children;
- Access to wider expertise to support learning, which is personalised to the needs of their child.

For the school:

- One cohesive team working together for children aged 2-4 years;
- Development of high-quality teaching and learning experiences for children from a younger age;
- Increased flexibility with staffing and provisions when becoming one entity;
- Easier to manage children's transition from 2-year provision to 3–4-year-old provision;
- Deputy Head would oversee the whole provision rather than as two separate entities, so easier to manage administration and finances;
- One Ofsted inspection, framework and registration.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Do nothing – this would lead to a decrease of places for 2-year-olds within the community due to the closure of Parklands Pre-school
- 6.2 Creation of 8 FTE places at Parklands MNS would ensure sufficiency of places for 2-year-olds in high quality provision led by the Deputy with QTS.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

- 7.1.1 As a maintained nursery school, the majority of Parklands funding comes from the early years block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). The remainder being from parents and other income such as lettings. The amount of DSG received by the nursery is largely dependent on the hours that children spend in the nursery, for those children whose parents are entitled to the free childcare. The hourly rate received by the nursery depends on the age of the child and other factors such as whether the child is residing in an area of deprivation and whether they have special education needs and/or disabilities.
- 7.1.2 In addition to children’s hourly funding, there is a funding supplement within the DSG specifically for maintained nursery schools to cope with the additional regulatory burdens they face as a school, that PVI providers do not have to fund. For Parklands 2022-23 this is currently £77.7k and is “Universal take up” (i.e., first 15 hours of funded 3- and 4-year-old hours) at the January census dates.
- 7.1.3 Once the maintained nursery school receive their DSG funding, this is similar to an individual schools budget (ISB) in that the management of the finances is the responsibility of the school. The financial relationship between WNC and schools is set out in the Scheme for Financing Schools (which is available from the schools’ finance team on request but largely mirrors the [guidance and template on the gov.uk website](#)).
- 7.1.4 The addition of 2-year-old provision does not significantly change Parklands MNS finances or their use of buildings as the move is largely a swap between the Parklands Playgroup (a charitable organisation) and the new 2-year-old provision. Therefore, there is no capital cost implication. Neither is there expected to be a significant impact on the nursery's own finances if 2-year-old uptake remains at current levels.
- 7.1.5 There is very low risk to WNCs General Fund finances arising from the proposals to change the age range in the Parklands MNS to include 2-year-olds.
- 7.1.6 The school has sufficient and suitable space to accommodate 2-year-old-children. No additional space or buildings are required to implement this proposal.
- 7.1.7 Parklands MNS Governing Board have identified and considered the following potential risks alongside the overall benefits for children and families:
 - Low take up rate of the 8 FTE places within the nursery
 - TUPE of staff from Playgroup – protection of continuous service and conditions
 - Loss of income from supplies and services from Playgroup
 - Income against expenditure costs of staff, supplies and services

7.1.8 To overcome these risks, the Federation has created a Community Engagement Lead role, with a focus on the marketing of the two-year provision alongside grants and funding projects as part of the established CIO. The aim is to continue with extended services such as the established ‘time for us’ community group.

7.1.9 Number of children on roll per term:

Nursery 3-4s	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2016/17	50	59	69
2017/18	50	62	64
2018/19	37	57	60
2019/20	42	51	
2020/21	35	38	58
2021/22	35	42	54

Playgroup 2-3s	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2016/17	24	26	29
2017/18	33	26	34
2018/19	19	26	26
2019/20	18	14	13
2020/21	16	14	14
2021/22	17	16	12

- Trends show September intake numbers are low with a gradual increase from January onwards. With lower numbers of children in September, places in Parklands MNS provision could be offered for two-year old children. This would ensure maximum child: staff ratios and lead to a balanced and more positive financial situation. (1:13 ratio for 3–4-year-olds and 1:4 for 2-year-olds)
- As children turn 3, they would automatically transfer onto 3–4-year school census, leading to an increase to participation funding for the Nursery School.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 The process for extension of the age range of a maintained nursery is set out in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) Regulations 2013. This proposal is one which is authorised by these regulations. The statutory proposal has been published and the subject of consultation and this report is asking Cabinet to make the final decision as to whether to approve the proposal for implementation.

7.2.2 The process of closure of the existing Pre-School and, effective, transfer of the service to become part of Parklands MNS will result in a redundancy and Transfer of Undertakings situation. This is the subject of consultation with the individuals involved and appropriate statutory processes are being and will be followed.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been carried out on the proposal to change the age range at Parklands Maintained Nursery School. A copy of the EqIA is attached at Appendix B to the report.

7.3.2 There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 The council conducted a public consultation from August 24th to September 16th, no responses were received by either by post or via email. The consultation was made available on WNC website. <https://westnorthants.citizenspace.com/cet/parklandsnurseryconsultation/>

7.4.2 Parklands MNS conducted a consultation commencing on July 4th and concluding on September 16th, 2022. This was made available to staff, governors and parents of children in the Playgroup and the Nursery School and local primary schools. It was also published on the Nursery School website and a face-to-face event took place. 24 responses were received in total. 22 were in favour and fully supportive of the extension to the age range from 3 to 4 to 2 to 4 years old and 2 were against. Of the two responses which were not supportive, one gave no reason/detail and no contact details and the other concerning mixing of ages from 2-4 years has been answered in the consultation report see Appendix A.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 N/A

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 As the new provision within Parklands MNS will be replacing the existing Playgroup provision there will be no increase in traffic or climate impact.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 The proposal will have a positive impact on the community by ensuring sufficiency of places for 2-year-old children within the local area.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 All results arising from the consultation will be published on WNC website and the council will communicate the proposed changes to provision and rationale to the public and other relevant stakeholders.

8. Background Papers

8.1 *Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools – Statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers – DfE, October 2018. Document available at [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)*

APPENDIX A

Consultation on a proposal for Parklands Nursery School, Northampton to lower its age range to accept 2-year-olds

Consultation Report – September 2022

The consultation period began on Monday 4th July 2022 and was originally due to end on Tuesday 2nd August but, after advice from West Northamptonshire Council, it was extended to Friday 16th September. Consultation documents and response forms were provided for staff members, parents and governors at Parklands Nursery School. An online response survey was also provided and the consultation document was put on the Federation website.

The consultation document and response form were also sent to local primary schools and various local authority colleagues at West Northamptonshire Council, including the School Improvement Team and Governor Services.

An **Equalities Impact Assessment** was completed for the proposal by the Executive Headteacher – see separate document for full details.

Consultation Event

18th July 2022 – Parent and staff consultation event at Parklands Nursery School

The Executive Headteacher and a governor attended the consultation event, talking face to face with staff and parents.

Parents and staff were happy to discuss the proposal to change the school's age range.

Summary of Responses

A total of 24 hard copy or online survey responses were received during the consultation period, (alongside the parent/staff consultation event and discussions with Parklands Senior Leadership Team). 22 were in favour of the proposal for the age range at Parklands to be extended to include two-year-olds; 2 were against the proposal.

Parklands Consultation - Respondee count - September 2022

Fully support the proposal	Method of response	Total
Parent of child at Parklands	Hard copy response form	6
Parent of child at Parklands / Parent of pre-school aged child	Hard copy response form	4
Parent of child at Parklands	Online survey	8
Parent of pre-school aged child	Online survey	1
Member of staff	Online survey	1
Member of the local community	Online survey	1
Other – Governor	Online survey	1
	TOTAL IN FAVOUR	22

Do not support the proposal	Method of response	Total
Parent of child at Parklands	Hard copy response form	1
Parent of child at Parklands	Online survey	1
TOTAL AGAINST		2

There were no responses from the local primary schools. The Local Authority are due to review the proposal and make their decision on it at a Cabinet meeting on Tuesday 11th October 2022.

Parent & Staff Consultation Event

At the parent and staff consultation event in July, the Executive Headteacher and a governor approached parents at drop off/pick up time and spoke to them individually about the proposal, handing out copies of the response form to either fill in straightaway or take home to complete. The Executive Headteacher and governor also spoke to staff for their feedback on the proposal. Very few questions were raised and most were happy with the proposal, seeing it as a logical step since 2 year olds are already offered provision at the school through the Playgroup. Some parents were still unclear that the Playgroup is currently a separate organisation, due to the current close working relationship and sharing management.

Comments from parents and staff during the event:

- *There would be no difference as the playgroup and nursery already work in an integrated way*
- *Staff felt it would give security to their roles and the 2 year provision*
- *Staff felt it would benefit the children and community due to greater strength of team skills and qualities and wider provision available for all children.*

Questions raised by parents and staff during the event:

(All questions raised were answered by the Executive Headteacher and governor)

1. *Would there be any difference in cost?*
A. *This should make no difference to costs for provision.*
2. *Would the children have the same staff members?*
A. *Yes, plus support from a wider range of staff across the nursery, including the teacher with QTS.*
3. *What does this mean for Playgroup staff? Will there be redundancies? TUPE - terms and conditions of the staff to be transferred over?*
A. *Staff will be transferred to the Nursery payroll.*
4. *Would it impact on their child's current place? Will this affect how many children can attend?*
A. *Not at present as we will keep the same number of places available. However, it will give the nursery more flexibility in the future to respond to the places required locally.*
5. *What changes will this mean on a day-to-day basis? I thought you were all one anyway?*
A. *Very few, as the nursery and Playgroup have been operating very closely since Covid in order to maintain good provision. They are mostly administrative changes from a parent's perspective, but will free up time and resources on the management side, which allows the team to give more time to the children.*
6. *What are the downsides, as it makes sense to me?*
A. *The main downside is that we would not be able to make charitable bids for money in the same way as before, as 2 year olds will sit within the school and not under the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) of the Playgroup. However, the Federation is looking to change the existing Playgroup CIO into a CIO for the Federation, so that we can continue exploring fundraising opportunities for the whole Federation, including Parklands.*
7. *Would Parklands still be able to make applications for charity/community work if no longer a CIO?*
A. *See answer to 6) above.*

Response Forms

In total we received 11 written response forms, all from parents. 10 had ticked the box to say that they fully support the proposal and 1 ticked that they do not support it (see below for detail). Just over half of the parents did not write any comments. There were no questions raised on any of the written response forms.

Concerns raised on hard copy written response forms:

"I think there is a big gap in the age groups which may be daunting for the young ones and be disruptive for the older ones and their development."

NOTE: Parent response - this respondent had indicated that they do not support the proposal.

Since the pandemic, Parklands Playgroup 2 year provision has been working in a much more integrated way with the nursery staff and children, and staff have generally found that mixing age ranges has been beneficial to the children. Younger children have benefited from the example of the older children, and older children have enjoyed helping to nurture the younger children. By working together as a wider team, staff have been able to share their skills set and qualities across all of the children and it has allowed for a much wider, richer provision for all of the children from 2 years and up. Staff are mindful of the difficulties which mixing age groups can bring and are experienced in handling this. They allow time and space for children to settle when they join the nursery, and quieter areas are available if children need time in a smaller, more contained space. Taking the children into school at a younger age also enables them to have a smoother and quicker transition into the 3-4's provision when they reach that age, since they are already familiar with the staff, the surroundings and nursery routines.

"Would like to send child now but too costly and not eligible"

NOTE: Parent response - this respondent indicated that they support the proposal. The parent had not given their name or their child's name on the form, so staff were unable to follow up direct with them to discuss their eligibility for provision.

Positive comments on hard copy written response forms:

"Full support"

"Fully support, helped his development/social skills being with younger children"

"Fully support."

Online Survey

In total we received 13 online survey responses (10 from parents, 1 from a member of staff, 1 from a governor and 1 from a member of the local community).

12 of the 13 online responses expressed full support for the proposal. The remaining 1 online respondent (parent of a child at Parklands) stated that they did not support the proposal, but gave no comment/reasons as to why, did not ask any questions and did not provide their name/contact details, so it was not possible to follow up on this to ascertain the reason.

There were no questions raised about the proposal online.

Comments from online survey responses:

"We love the nursery and they are about to accept my final child at age 2! Couldn't recommend the nursery school and all staff highly enough. Communication is fabulous any concerns they raise promptly and investigate. Which is extremely reassuring to me as a parent. I can entirely trust all the staff to act with my child's best interests first and foremost. So yes if this is what the nursery wants to do I fully support them. I do however expect the funding to reflect the number of children. I also support any payrise for staff taking on extra children to supervise, guide and support. The last point is important. Happy staff make for a happy setting!!!"

“I feel that offering places for 2 year olds in the nursery school provision can only strengthen outcomes for those children, giving them access to a greater range of expertise, resources and support at Parklands and from a younger age. This will allow staff to build stronger relationships with children and their families and make for a smoother transition to the 3-4 year provision for both children and staff.”

Senior Leadership Team Feedback

The Chair of Governors also spoke to members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) at Parklands, to discuss their thoughts on the proposal.

Benefits/positives to the proposal, as expressed by the SLT:

- Providing 2 year provision allows early identification, interventions and high quality teaching practice to lead to improved outcomes, this is particularly the case for children with SEND.
- Sustaining the nursery school – widening the offer.
- Due to low numbers in the 3-4’s, the opportunities and provisions can be limited. With an increase to numbers and staffing we would be able to provide a wider, richer provision both indoors and outdoors, leading to progress and development.
- Sharing expertise between the provisions benefits the children.
- Children joining the school at 2 years means their transition into 3-4’s will be much easier.
- More efficient for management/administration of the school – same systems and line management etc. This would free up the teacher to be in the provision more.
- Could also save us money on supply cover as more flexibility with staffing in times of absence.
- Can support development of staff more as all on the same terms / same management.

The SLT did not raise any concerns about the proposal.

Senior Leadership Team comments:

“this would be better for staff and far more efficient, pulling everything together”

“having one universal team would be great”

“I have really enjoyed us mixing the 2 and 3-4 year olds, there are real benefits to this – it brings out the compassion in older children and increases independence/growth in the younger children”

“[this would give] consistent provision for the children, flowing seamlessly”

“Having two separate provisions, two separate Ofsteds means that, although there is a shared vision, they are on two paths. To have one provision means we would have one shared perspective”

APPENDIX B

Consultation to change the age range at Parklands Nursery School (to provide 8 full time equivalent early education places for children aged 2 years)

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

September 2022

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the governing board of Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation and Local Authority members with an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) on the proposal for the governing body to lower the age range at Parklands Nursery School to include 2 year olds. The report has been prepared by the Executive Headteacher following an examination of published material, including school policies and discussions with parents and staff members.

The key question to be addressed is, whether or not the change in age range to include 2 year olds will result in quantifiable or different outcomes for different groups, or differential access to the services provided by the school. The impact of the Federation proposal is considered below in relation to the following standard Impact Strands:

- Gender;
- Race;
- Disability;
- Sexual Orientation;
- Religion and Belief;
- Age;
- Social Inclusion; and
- Community Cohesion.

In addition, in a school context, the arrangements for admissions are an important consideration for parents, students and other stakeholders. Accordingly, the position on admissions has also been reviewed. In conducting this study, no evidence has been found to indicate that the proposal to lower the age range to include 2 year olds will have any negative impact in any Equality Strand.

On the contrary; the proposal to lower the age range to include children aged 2 years demonstrates a clear intention by the school to strengthen even further the high quality early education and early support for children and families in the community it serves. The aim to expand the offer to include children aged 2 years shows a desire to further extend the school's capacity to drive equality of opportunity, as well as improving outcomes for learners and providing equality of opportunity for staff.

The consultation to lower the age range is expected to result in an overall positive equalities impact.

Evidence and Analysis

Admissions

The consultation has made it clear that the admissions process will remain the same and will continue to operate the local authority admissions policy in full. In accordance with this policy, places will normally only be offered up to the published admission number on the Government website, which is the number of places available at the school in the year of entry. The admissions policy will include children aged 2 years.

Currently numbers are: 33 children aged 3 years, with the Playgroup having 20 aged 2-3 years on roll. A child cannot be refused admission to the normal year of entry on the grounds of prejudice to the provision of efficient education and efficient use of resources, unless the published admission number has been reached. This means the change in age range will not result in a change to the admissions arrangements for the school and therefore no adverse impact will directly arise for any equality strand in relation to admissions.

Gender

The gender difference in attainment at the beginning of the year is that boys score lower for attainment on entry compared to girls. In the most recent OFSTED inspection of the school, no evidence was found of a wide gender imbalance, which is clear evidence that the school is motivated to support all children, regardless of gender.

Currently there is 1 male staff member, with this expected to increase to 2 from January 2023, so 2 year olds entering the school would have the benefit of support from both male and female staff. The opportunities presented through 'marketing' the school as providing education and care from age 2 would bolster the collaborative work already taking place between the Playgroup team and nursery school staff, and promote equality as an explicit element of our ethos. This is likely to further reinforce the school's position of promoting both genders working in the school and the achievement of all children.

Race

The school is representative of a diverse range of ethnic heritage, as illustrated in the chart below. The school works tirelessly to cater for all ethnic groups, with the aims remaining to support the best possible outcomes for all. The move to extend the age range and places is expected to increase budgetary flexibility to better allow the school to target resources effectively. Furthermore, the ethos for the school and the application of the Values & Principles of the UNICEF Rights of a Child (including equality, equity, and fairness) will provide additional opportunities to embed the significance of equality within the curriculum and in the ethos of the school for children from age 2 years. All members of staff are entitled to appropriate training, in order that they can play their full part in ensuring that the school promotes racial equality. Training is linked to priorities within the Federation Development Plan. The governors will also identify their own training needs in relation to race equality.

Since Parklands became a member of the Foundations for Children Nursery Schools Federation, this has given opportunities to strengthen inclusive practice even further. Two of the four schools in the Federation have a much higher percentage of the cohort as diverse races (*Highfield: 56% Asian, black African and Caribbean; and Camrose: 62% Bangladesh, African, Black Caribbean and Indian*). Our aim will be to ensure good practice in the school and staff team is strengthened even further by sharing best practice with the other three schools in the federation, to the benefit of the local community of Parklands.

"Children learn how to solve problems, such as taking turns so everyone can have a go. They are taught about other cultures and families and the need to respect others. Staff use 'group time' to discuss with children key events in their lives, such as who has had a new baby brother or sister."

Ofsted Nov 2019- Parklands.

Comparison to the other federation nursery schools.

Staff Race

Data shows that White British is the predominant race for staff members across the four schools in the federation, but with 7 other races working across the communities. Our aim will be to continue to strengthen our Early Years educational offer by ensuring a wider and larger diversity of race and ethnicity in our workforce. This will be through our recruitment and marketing strategies for the schools. We will continue to evaluate on our inclusivity through community feedback and questionnaires.

Disability

The proportion of children with learning difficulties and disabilities is high in all of the nursery schools. Current academic year children with a diagnosed disability or special educational need: Parklands 3, Croyland 8, Highfield 2, Camrose 8. On average, Parklands has at least one third of its cohort requiring speech and language therapy or a specific intervention at school level to support their development.

There is an Accessibility Plan in place which would also be effective for the provision of children from the age of 2. The approach is not focused solely on physical buildings issues (though these are addressed), but seeks to embed equality for disabled children and adults into the culture of the school in practical ways. This includes: accessibility, academic support, and social and emotional development strategies for students with disabilities and impairments. The school works closely with Specialist Support Services across the local authority to provide support, both in the home and at nursery. The school also supports children and parents with impaired or disabling mental health through the Deputy Head/SENDCO and/or the Family Support Worker. The change to the age range at Parklands will allow the SENDCO to further link with and liaise with specialist practitioners and professionals to share best practice from an earlier age in the child's life. The two-year progress check carried out by the school and Health Visitors will ensure early identification and support for children with any form of disabilities. Where a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or there is a request for Statutory Assessment, the home local authority will continue to be responsible for funding or the arrangements for this to take place.

The school will continue to work with local authority, NHS agencies and other partners to help ensure good opportunities and outcomes for children with special needs, impairments and disabilities. The school will continue to operate employment policies and practices based on those operated by the local authority.

“Leaders are ambitious for the success of all children, regardless of their needs. They identify quickly those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Each day, staff meet the needs of these children by adapting activities, so they will achieve well. They also ensure that they support children who are learning English as an additional language.” Ofsted Nov 2019- Parklands

Sexual Orientation

The school aims to demonstrate mutual respect between all members of the school community. The school's Equality Policies recognises the general duty to have due regard for the need to eliminate unlawful sexual discrimination and to eliminate sexual harassment. This approach will extend to provisions for children from aged 2 years.

Religion and Belief

Information about children's religions and beliefs are obtained when a child starts at the school. This is to enable teachers and practitioners to plan the curriculum that celebrates and values the whole community. A parent consultation ensures parents can share the importance of their religion and how they celebrate key events and beliefs. The school then creates a yearly calendar of all special events and festivals to ensure children are educated and learn the values of one another's beliefs, religions and cultures.

Provision is made to cater for the cultural, moral and spiritual needs of all children, through planning of learning experiences and the continuous provision. Children's and parents views are actively encouraged and respected, through the voice of the child documentation and parent consultations.

The aim has been and will continue to be to provide all children with the opportunity to succeed, and to reach the highest level of personal achievement. To do this, teaching and learning processes will ensure equality of access for all pupils, preparing them for life in a diverse society.

The practitioners and teachers at Parklands will role model how we appreciate religious difference and cultural diversity. Practitioners and teachers role model respectful practice of religious events and would challenge prejudice from children or parents where needed.

Children and parents experience a positive and inclusive school community ethos at the school, which is centred on the school's core belief of valuing the unique child and family. It is anticipated that the proposal to extend the age range will further strengthen and embed this positive and inclusive community ethos by bringing children and families into the school community from a younger age. The Federation principles of governance, curriculum and pedagogy across the four schools are ethically based on a tolerant and non-discriminatory ethos which should be acceptable equally to those with a religious faith and those with none.

Age

Parklands Nursery School currently offers provision for children from their third birthday up until 4yrs 11 months. In some cases, school-aged children have remained with us if they have not been provided with a school place, or if there is LA agreement for the child to remain in nursery for their Reception year. The school currently operates term time only.

Parklands Playgroup currently hires the use of the building and services at the nursery school. The Playgroup's current offer is for children aged 2 years, with standard admission into the nursery school from age 3 years. The school is committed to ensuring that all children, at every age and ability level, have an excellent foundation for future success. The school makes clear a consistently high expectation of all children regardless of age. To secure the best possible outcomes, a range of teaching methods are used throughout the school, ensuring that effective learning takes place at all stages for children. The proposal to extend the age range to include 2 year olds would enable the school to provide high quality early education and care from a younger age, where research has shown evidence of improved outcomes later on.

The nursery school currently provides a term time community-based 'stay and play' group for children of all ages. This enables parents with young children to access a play-based provision and seek early support or help prior to the child turning 2 and being eligible for a place.

Existing employment policies relating to age, including retirement age and pensions provision will continue to be aligned to local policies with this proposal. Teachers will continue to have access to the Teachers Pensions Scheme and support staff to the Local Government Pensions Scheme. The move to extend the age range to include 2 year olds will not result in measures to change terms and conditions of employment, nor any changes to pension entitlements as provided for in the Teachers and Local Government Pension Schemes. Current staffing ages range from early twenties through to late 60's across the four federation schools.

Social Inclusion

Parklands Nursery School in Northampton is smaller than the average nursery. It serves the Parklands ward to the north of Northampton but children also attend from across the town and from local villages. The majority of the school population is White British. The trend for the last five years is showing an increase of children from minority ethnic backgrounds and children learning English as an Additional Language. A small proportion of children are disabled or have special educational needs, but with a trend of 10-15% having speech and language delays.

"Leaders are ambitious for the success of all children, regardless of their needs. They identify quickly those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Each day, staff meet the needs of these children by adapting activities, so they will achieve well. They also ensure that they support children who are learning English as an additional language. They teach them important new words and phrases. These children learn to communicate well. They are taught about other cultures and families and the need to respect others. Staff use 'group time' to discuss with children key events in their lives."

Ofsted Parklands Nov 19

The four nursery schools in the federation are placed in areas of varied characteristics. Croyland Nursery School, Highfield Nursery School and Camrose Early Years Centre are characterised by very low family income, very low numbers of adult educated to level 3 or above, and high levels of domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse. The ethos of the federation is centred around giving children a secure foundation and the social skills required for personal success in later life.

“The senior leadership team sees that children are given an early understanding of fundamental British values. Consequently, children are well prepared for life in modern Britain. Staff and children celebrate together the diverse ethnic mix of families whose children attend the school, with maps displayed on walls showing the different countries that families come from. Children learn, for example, about the celebration of Eid-al-Fitr and sample food from other lands, as well as learning different dances from around the world. As a result, children are highly respectful towards others.

Camrose OFSTED, May 2017

“This inclusive nursery school is exceptionally well led. Leaders, including governors, work together as a strong team. They are aspirational for children. They lead with the belief that all children can thrive at the nursery. Staff share leaders’ desire for children to become independent, inquisitive learners. Children are very well prepared to start primary schools.”

Ofsted Croyland Jan 2020

“Current records of children’s learning in personal, social and emotional development, physical development, and communication and language show that children, including children with SEND and those who have English as an additional language, make excellent progress from their starting points. Most children leave the school with skills typically expected for their age in these areas of learning.”

Oftsed Highfield Mar 2019

Parental engagement is seen as important across the federation, with regard to aspiring for all children to reach their potential. All four schools work hard to engage with their local communities. Home visits are carried out for every child that starts at the schools and this would also be the case for children aged 2 years at Parklands if the age range is extended. All members of the nursery teams establish relationships with parents from the initial home visit. The four nursery schools offer family support for families who require support with a whole range of factors which could be influencing their outcomes. Family support workers establish respectful relationships with children and parents and offer Early Help and support to access other services and agencies.

The current 2-year provision from Parklands Playgroup offers places for children eligible for 2 year funded provision, so the most disadvantaged children in the local community (which includes low income households, looked after children and children with SEND). Any remaining places are then made available for parents not eligible for 2 year funding, with the cost remaining in line with current offer and reviewed termly through the governing board. Any proposal to increase charge would be scrutinised in line with cost of inflation, and local characteristics. The 2-year offer would remain in line with admissions across the four schools within the Federation, which prioritises eligible 2 year funded children applications.

Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any concerns they would like to discuss. There are regular parent consultations and parent events throughout the school year where parents can speak to their child’s teachers and keyworkers. This would all be available for parents of 2 year olds also if the age range of the school is changed.

Community Cohesion

The ambition and belief of the governors is for Parklands to be an excellent local community asset; and a place where all children who attend can reach their potential and achieve the highest standards. A central aim is to ensure fairness and to make sure that all children can succeed, whatever their background.

The governing board and leadership team, supported by the staff, have expressed a determination to work hard for the school and the wider community. The governing board has taken time to consider the options for future provision at Parklands and the best interests of the children and community the school serves. After careful consideration, the governing board concluded that extending the age range to include 2 year olds would support the vision of both the school and the federation as a whole, in strengthening the high quality education, care and early help we can offer children and families within the community of Parklands.

Assessing Disproportionate Impact and Actions:

Based on the current data analysis, the aims of the Federation and the ethos of Parklands Nursery, this proposal will have no disproportionate impact on any of the protected characteristics. The consultation for Parklands to extend its age range to include children from age 2 years and offer 8 full time places in fact shows the potential to have a positive impact on children and families in the Parklands community since it would enable children to access services and support from a younger age. The consultation report should be translated to ensure all community members can be actively involved.

Date of Completion: September 2022

Name of reporter: Lyndsey Barnett, Executive Headteacher

Ratified by Governors: _____



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

11th October 2022

Leader of the Council: Cllr Jonathan Nunn,

Report Title	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review 2021-2
Report Author	Katie A Brown, Complaints and Compliments Manager Katie.a.brown@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/ Checkers/ Approvers

MO	Catherine Whitehead	21/09/2022
S151	Martin Henry	13/09/2022
Other Director/SME	Sarah Reed, Executive Director Corporate Services Luiza Morris-Warren, Assistant Director Corporate and Customer Services	01/08/2022 30/08/2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson, Head of Communications	22/09/2022

List of Appendices

- **Appendix A** – LGSCO (Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman) Annual Letter for West Northants Council 2021-2
- **Appendix B** – LGSCO Review of Local Government Complaints 2021-2

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For Cabinet to consider the learning and recommendations from the LGSCO's Annual Review Letter and recognise the Council's comparative performance in relation to the national issues identified by the Ombudsman over the last 12-month period 2021-2
- 1.2 The Annual Review Letter is shared with the Leader of the Council, the Chair of the appropriate Scrutiny Committee and Members to encourage effective ownership and oversight of complaint outcomes.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides details of the Council's performance relating to volume of cases, timeliness of responses, learning and recommendations that have been implemented to resolve any identified failings and remedy injustice in individual complaints. It also highlights the key messages of the Ombudsman's national review into local authority complaints identifying areas of concern and offers recommendations for improving the Local Authorities complaints handling in line with best practise.
- 2.2 An annual letter from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's (LGSCO) office was issued to all local authorities on 27th July 2022. The letter gives details about the complaints and enquiries received in the period (April 2021 to March 2022) that have been assessed and / or investigated by the Ombudsman's office, the decisions made in that period and the Council's compliance with the recommendations recorded during the period.
- 2.3 The period covered in this annual letter includes some legacy complaints that originated with the sovereign authorities but were 'decided' on last year. Most of these complaints were made during the pandemic, which has in some instances impacted on the service delivery and timescales before the complaint reached the Ombudsman.
- 2.4 Whilst some complaints originated with the sovereign Council the Ombudsman's Annual Review Letter covers performance in the period following transition to West Northants Council and all the Ombudsman enquiries received in this period were managed by the centralised Complaints Team.
- 2.5 The annual review letter is a public document and is published on the Ombudsman's website. This annual letter was published on 27th July 2022 and individual case outcomes are anonymised and published throughout the reporting period. A high-level performance summary is provided on the interactive performance map hosted on www.lgo.org.uk.
- 2.6 The covering letter from the Ombudsman's office highlighted that over half of the Ombudsman's enquiries were not responded to within the timescale.
- 2.7 This report considers how the process for administering and responding to Ombudsman enquiries can be supported to improve the timeliness of responses and reduce escalations through -
 - An Increased focus on 'early contact' with complainants

- The profile of LGSCO enquiries to be raised internally
- For a clear escalation route to be agreed for any identified delays in complaints handling
- For the Council to produce local remedies guidance to support managers to offer a small financial remedy to customers where complaints are upheld and there is straightforward evidence of maladministration and / or injustice to the customer

2.8 The report also considers how practice can support the Ombudsman's best practise guidance to

- Mutually agree (I.e., Council and the complainant) the remedy at an early stage; so that complaints are not escalated;
- Learn from complaints and implement actions as a result
- meet complaints deadlines

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Note the proposed improvements to the process for administering and responding to Ombudsman enquiries in paragraph 2.7.
- b) Note the proposed practice improvements set out at paragraph 2.8.

4. Reason for Recommendations

The recommendations are focussed on encouraging local resolution at an earlier stage in the complaints process and to empower managers to resolve complaints at a local level and increase the satisfaction rate of cases remedied before they reach the LGSCO.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The central Complaints and Compliments Team administered **x 131** contacts from the LGSCO in this period. Not all these contacts have resulted in detailed investigations and some cases were closed after initial enquiries where there was no evidence of fault by the Local Authority, because they were 'premature' and needed to complete our local complaints procedure first OR the complainant was signposted to another process (i.e., appeal / Court / another regulatory body).
- 5.2 We had anticipated the criticism around the 'timeliness' of responses within the annual letter and it should be noted that whilst this is partially attributable to the transition to becoming a unitary council it is also due to extensions being requested for several cases where there have been resource pressures in services. If an extension is requested then the LGSCO still class this as a '**late**' response, they will also class a case as '**late**' if the resulting recommendations are not carried out in time.
- 5.3 To maximise the learning and improvement from the Ombudsman complaints' focus should be maintained on complaints that reached a detailed investigation and were '**Upheld.**'

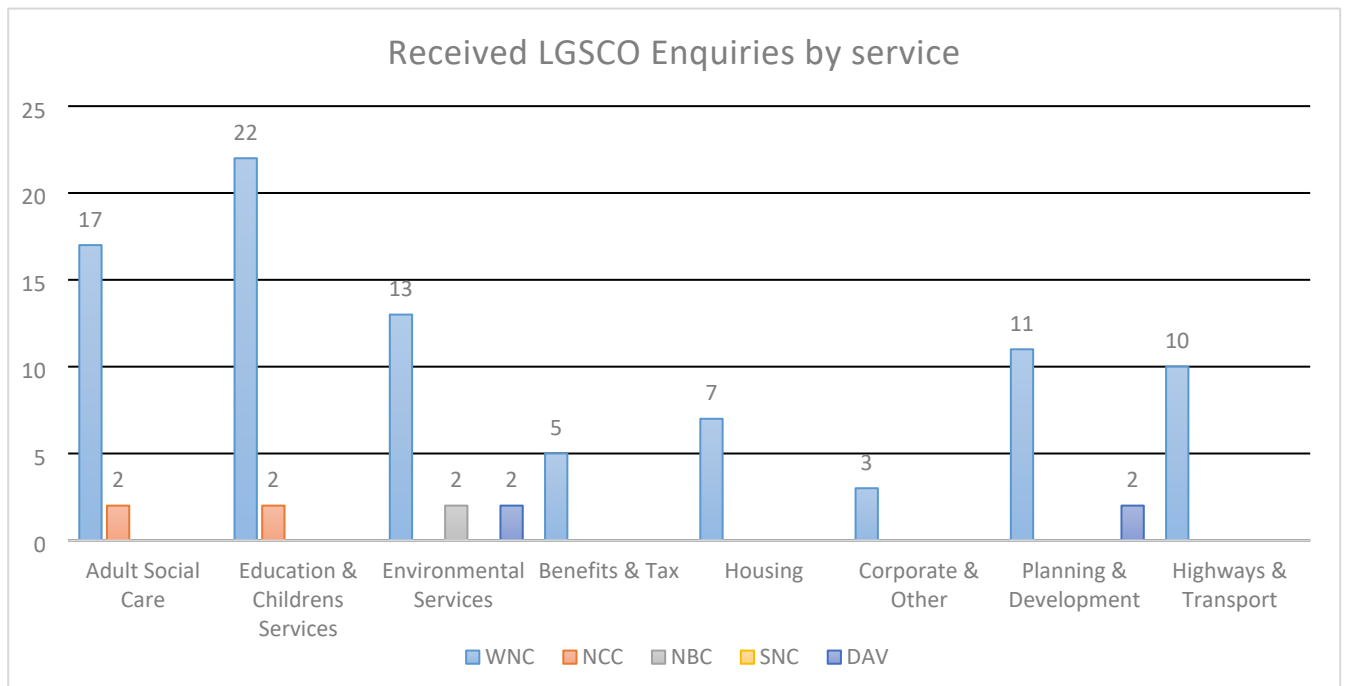
6.

Complaints upheld		Complaints Manager's Commentary:
<p>73% of complaints investigated were upheld.</p> <p>This compares to an average of 64% in similar organisations.</p>	<p>8 upheld decisions</p> <p>Statistics are based on a total of 11 investigations for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022</p>	<p>The LGSCO will uphold a complaint where the Council has already upheld the complaint at an earlier stage</p>
Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations		Complaint Manager's Commentary:
<p>In 100% of cases, we were satisfied the organisation had successfully implemented our recommendations.</p> <p>This compares to an average of 99% in similar organisations.</p>	<p>Statistics are based on a total of 4 compliance outcomes for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022</p>	<p>The Ombudsman's review reported that nationally compliance had decreased, so this is a positive for WNC</p>
Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation		Complaint Manager's Commentary:
<p>In 13% of upheld cases, we found the organisation had provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached the Ombudsman.</p> <p>This compares to an average of 12% in similar organisations.</p>	<p>1 satisfactory remedy decision</p> <p>Statistics are based on a total of 8 upheld decisions for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022</p>	<p>This is positive and higher than reported in previous years.</p> <p>It demonstrates a proactive focus on early resolution and is an area to build on.</p>

5.4 Overall, the total number of referrals to the LGSCO for WNC (West Northants Council) has decreased this year.

5.5 Overall, the total number of referrals to the LGSCO for WNC has decreased this year.

5.6 x34 detailed investigations (includes x 23 legacy complaints) compared with a total of 38 across the respective sovereign councils in 2020_21. Only 11 new complaints originating with West Northants services reached investigation stage.



5.7 Upheld decisions have reduced from 26 to 25 (includes x17 legacy complaints).

5.8 Performance has improved significantly as the process has become better embedded during the first year of operation and the culture around WNC complaints handling is developing.

6 Issues and Choices

6.1 The Current Process:

- All cases are processed by the central Complaints and Compliments team within x2 days of receipt
- Complaints allocated to Strategic Lead and copied to the Assistant Director and Business Support
- Response template provided
- Automated reminders set and individual chases made at x5 working days before due date / x2 working days before due date
- Case is identified on the weekly tracker until all actions complete and closed
- LGSCO complaints are reported on monthly scorecards and to service SLT's Quarterly
- All recommendations and learning are added to internal Learning Log
- Published guidance / decisions regularly shared with Service Leads for learning
- Communications Team is notified where appropriate
- Risk and Insurance Team are notified where appropriate

6.2 'Upheld' complaints for WNC related to

- EHCP (Education, Health, and Care Plan) delays (**recurring theme**)
- Building Control - inadequate communication with customer (**recurring theme**)
- Learning Disability Team (Adults) - Delays in decision making to progress case
- Financial Assessment Team - delayed removal of charge on property
- Empty Property (Housing) – delay in producing options appraisal and keeping neighbour informed
- Fostering (NCT (Northamptonshire Children’s Trust)) - delay in escalating the complaint
- Parking Enforcement – failure to take customers reasonable adjustments into consideration
- Complaints Team – delay in escalating the complaint to next stage

6.3 Service improvement recommendations implemented because of these complaints.

- Review of processes to ensure Education, Health, and Care (EHC) assessments and reviews meet phase transfer deadlines
- Review of processes to ensure relevant professional recommendations are included in Education, Health, and Care plans and available to schools being consulted
- Reminders to staff of the importance of keeping to required timescales in complaints handling

6.4 Continued **delays** in the EHCP process and a lack of locally available services and education placements is a nationally reflected issue but continues to generate high volumes of complaints. This is also the area where we have had to request the most extensions to timescales due to staffing pressures and the complexity of cases. The LGSCO has issued a focus report this month (July 2022) *‘Out of School, Out of Sight’* Learning from Complaints which should be drawn on the help us improve complaint handling in this area.

6.5 Adults Social Care has the higher percentage of ‘upheld’ complaints. This also reflects the national picture, but as there is quicker recourse to the LGSCO through the two stage adults’ complaints procedure, an increased focus on **early resolution** and local remedies could help. Most of these complaints relate to **inadequate communication** around charging for care and delays in implementing recommendations have occurred where there is reliance on another service (legal / finance) to offer advice or make account adjustments. These actions should be prioritised when the complaint has been upheld by the LGSCO.

6.7 The LGSCO will release their national review of Adult Social Care complaints in September 2022 and focus should be given to the best practise and service improvements identified in that report.

6.8 In terms of general service delivery, the way that we explain and communicate key decision making and procedures to customers is an area to work on to help prevent complaints. Also, considering how we make reasonable adjustments to support customers who need them to access or understand services. The LGSCO issued a focus report in May 2022 *‘Equal Access, getting it Right for People with Disabilities’* that should be drawn on for learning.

6.9 Key Messages from National Review:

- Adult and Childrens Social Care complaints make up the highest percentage of ‘upheld’ complaints.
- There is continued concerns about the capacity of Complaints Teams to deliver high quality services

- A Joint Complaints Handling Code is being developed with the Housing Ombudsman
- Councils should consider the ‘impact of a single complaint’ for learning and improvement

6.10 Next Steps:

- Learning and service improvement added to the organisational learning log and added to the regular reporting framework
- Commentary on the Council’s performance to be shared routinely with staff via Chief Executive’s blog with link to LGSCO Performance Map
- Intranet page to be set up to support Managers to explain the role of the LGSCO – the various stages of complaint assessment / best and expected practise and links to guidance
- To encourage Councillors to use the resources available via the LGSCO to identify issues affecting local people and support the scrutiny of public services in line with best practise
- Draft remedies guidance to come to future Cabinet meeting
- Detailed Annual Complaints and Compliments performance report to be shared with Cabinet by October 2022

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.7 Resources and Financial

Financial redress associated with ‘Upheld’ Complaints in this period are payments recommended by the Ombudsman in line with their published ‘Remedies Guidance’ to acknowledge a Complainant’s time, trouble, distress, injustice, and any quantifiable loss caused because of the complaint.

Service:	£ WNC	£ NCC	£ NBC	£ SNC	£ DAV
Adult Social Care	150	55,988.43*			
Housing	500				
Benefits & Tax			100		
Planning & Development					250
Environmental Services					200
Education & Childrens Service	100	1,700			
TOTAL	£ 58,988.43				

**Included the write off care charges due to inadequate guidance around financial assessment and failure to review care.*

7.7.1 Financial redress at this point suggests a missed opportunity to remedy the fault at a local level and negate the need for a further payment to be recommended by the LGSCO. In some cases, offering a local remedy may prevent the complaint from escalating to the LGSCO at all. It will also help to increase the Council's performance rating in relation to 'satisfactory remedies provided by the authority.'

7.7.2 Local remedies guidance will be produced to consider both monetary and non-monetary remedies to be offered in the resolution of complaints and the guidance will be shared with the Chief Finance Officers and Cabinet for review and approval.

7.7 Legal

7.7.1 The Council has responsibilities in relation to the investigation of complaints and under the Local Government Act 1974 the Ombudsman has powers to investigate complaints appropriately referred.

7.8 Risk

7.8.1 At this stage the risk to the Council is reputational damage due to the publishing of this performance information and individual case outcomes provided in the public domain.

7.8.2 Failure to improve the timeliness of responses to the LGSCO and evidence compliance with recommendations may lead to increased financial penalties and reduced customer satisfaction

7.8.3 Failure to have mechanisms in place to address the learning and outcomes from complaints investigations may lead to a public interest report being issued against the Council

7.9 Consultation - None

7.10 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be considering the letter and recommendations at its meeting on the 19th of September.

7.10.2 **Climate Impact** – None of the complaints investigated by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman in this period related to climate issues. Having one Central WNC Complaints' Team and flexible working will improve efficiency and effectiveness and help to reduce our carbon footprint. We are also continuing to support customers to use online / electronic methods of communication and continue to reduce our use of paper.

7.10.3 Community Impact

Implementing the recommendations and actions arising from this paper will improve outcomes for communities, by providing them with better and more responsive services.

7.10.4 Communications

Actions and learning from the report will be shared internally with the relevant stakeholders in line with our Internal Communications approach. The LGSCO also published individual reports, letters, and national comparisons on its website, making this available to the public. Links will be provided on the Council's website via our annual reporting for transparency.

8 Background Papers

8.7 Reference Appendices

8.8 Link to LGSCO Performance Map - [Your council's performance \(lgo.org.uk\)](http://lgo.org.uk)

8.9 LGSCO Remedies Guidance – [Guidance on Remedies - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#)

8.10 Link to LGSCO Focus Reports - [Information Centre - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman](#)

This page is intentionally left blank

20 July 2022

By email

Ms Earnshaw
Chief Executive
West Northamptonshire Council

Dear Ms Earnshaw

Annual Review letter 2022

I write to you with your annual summary of complaint statistics from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman for the year ending 31 March 2022. The information offers valuable insight about your organisation's approach to complaints. As such, I have sought to share this letter with the Leader of your Council and Chair of the appropriate Scrutiny Committee, to encourage effective ownership and oversight of complaint outcomes, which offer such valuable opportunities to learn and improve.

As noted last year, there are a small number of cases I am due to report about authorities abolished in April 2021 and I have included separate statistics for Northampton Borough Council, South Northamptonshire Council, Daventry District Council and Northamptonshire County Council in this letter.

Complaint statistics

Our statistics focus on three key areas that help to assess your organisation's commitment to putting things right when they go wrong:

Complaints upheld - We uphold complaints when we find fault in an organisation's actions, including where the organisation accepted fault before we investigated. We include the total number of investigations completed to provide important context for the statistic.

Compliance with recommendations - We recommend ways for organisations to put things right when faults have caused injustice and monitor their compliance with our recommendations. Failure to comply is rare and a compliance rate below 100% is a cause for concern.

Satisfactory remedy provided by the authority - In these cases, the organisation upheld the complaint and we agreed with how it offered to put things right. We encourage the early resolution of complaints and credit organisations that accept fault and find appropriate ways to put things right.

Finally, we compare the three key annual statistics for your organisation with similar authorities to provide an average marker of performance. We do this for County Councils, District Councils, Metropolitan Boroughs, Unitary Councils, and London Boroughs.

Your annual data, and a copy of this letter, will be uploaded to our interactive map, [Your council's performance](#), on 27 July 2022. This useful tool places all our data and information about councils in one place. You can find the detail of the decisions we have made about your Council, read the public reports we have issued, and view the service improvements your Council has agreed to make as a result of our investigations, as well as previous annual review letters.

Your organisation's performance

During the year, my investigators have raised concerns about your Council's responses to our enquiries. Unfortunately, half of our enquiries were not responded to within the requested timescale. We are aware that some of the issues we experienced were as a result of confusion between responsibilities when the new unitary authorities were establishing in Northamptonshire. While I appreciate this, delays to investigations can add to the frustration experienced by complainants and can cause further avoidable distress and uncertainty. I ask the Council to reflect on its practices and take the necessary steps to improve its liaison with my office.

Supporting complaint and service improvement

I know your organisation, like ours, will have been through a period of adaptation as the restrictions imposed by the pandemic lifted. While some pre-pandemic practices returned, many new ways of working are here to stay. It is my continued view that complaint functions have been under-resourced in recent years, a trend only exacerbated by the challenges of the pandemic. Through the lens of this recent upheaval and adjustment, I urge you to consider how your organisation prioritises complaints, particularly in terms of capacity and visibility. Properly resourced complaint functions that are well-connected and valued by service areas, management teams and elected members are capable of providing valuable insight about an organisation's performance, detecting early warning signs of problems and offering opportunities to improve service delivery.

I want to support your organisation to harness the value of complaints and we continue to develop our programme of support. Significantly, we are working in partnership with the Housing Ombudsman Service to develop a joint complaint handling code. We are aiming to consolidate our approaches and therefore simplify guidance to enable organisations to provide an effective, quality response to each and every complaint. We will keep you informed as this work develops, and expect that, once launched, we will assess your compliance with the code during our investigations and report your performance via this letter.

An already established tool we have for supporting improvements in local complaint handling is our successful training programme. We adapted our courses during the Covid-19 pandemic to an online format and successfully delivered 122 online workshops during the year, reaching more than 1,600 people. To find out more visit www.lgo.org.uk/training.

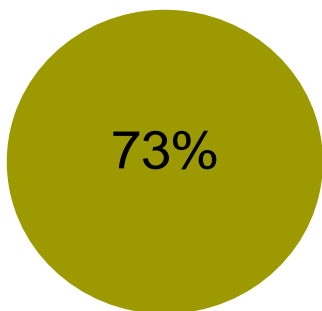
We were pleased to deliver two online complaint handling courses to your staff during the year. I welcome your Council's investment in good complaint handling training and trust the courses were useful to you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M King', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael King
Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman
Chair, Commission for Local Administration in England

Complaints upheld



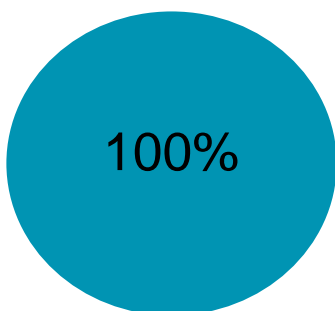
73% of complaints we investigated were upheld.

This compares to an average of **64%** in similar organisations.

8
upheld decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **11** investigations for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations



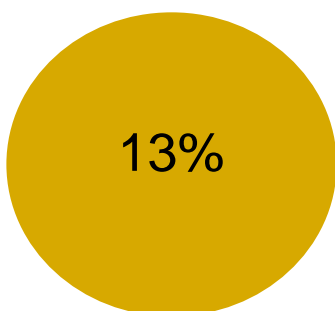
In **100%** of cases we were satisfied the organisation had successfully implemented our recommendations.

This compares to an average of **99%** in similar organisations.

Statistics are based on a total of **4** compliance outcomes for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

- Failure to comply with our recommendations is rare. An organisation with a compliance rate below 100% should scrutinise those complaints where it failed to comply and identify any learning.

Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation



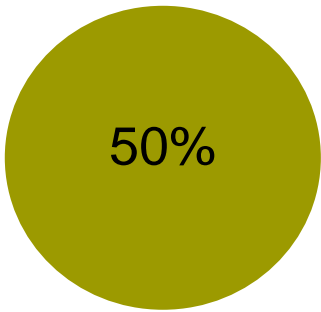
In **13%** of upheld cases we found the organisation had provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached the Ombudsman.

This compares to an average of **12%** in similar organisations.

1
satisfactory remedy decision

Statistics are based on a total of **8** upheld decisions for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Complaints upheld



50% of complaints we investigated were upheld.

This compares to an average of **51%** in similar organisations.

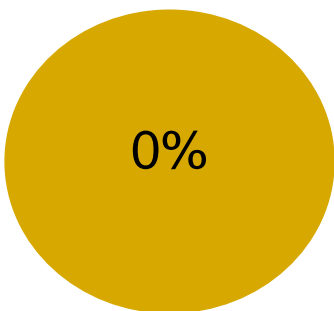
2
upheld decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **4** investigations for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations

No recommendations were due for compliance in this period

Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation



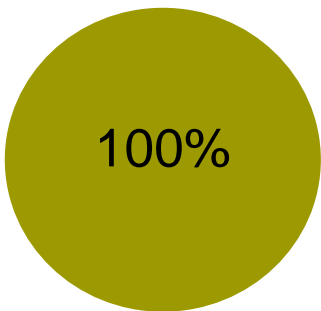
In **0%** of upheld cases we found the organisation had provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached the Ombudsman.

This compares to an average of **20%** in similar organisations.

0
satisfactory remedy decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **2** upheld decisions for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Complaints upheld



100% of complaints we investigated were upheld.

This compares to an average of **51%** in similar organisations.

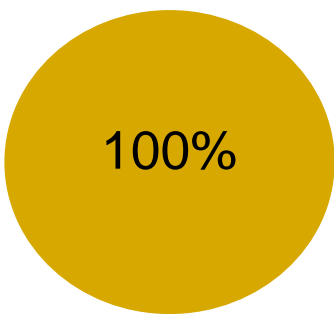
1
upheld decision

Statistics are based on a total of **1** investigation for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations

No recommendations were due for compliance in this period

Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation



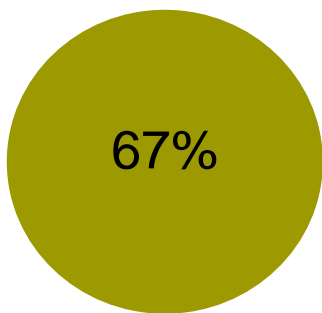
In **100%** of upheld cases we found the organisation had provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached the Ombudsman.

This compares to an average of **20%** in similar organisations.

1
satisfactory remedy decision

Statistics are based on a total of **1** upheld decision for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Complaints upheld



67% of complaints we investigated were upheld.

This compares to an average of **51%** in similar organisations.

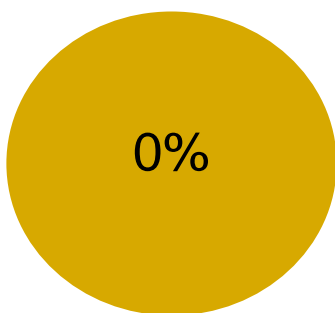
2
upheld decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **3** investigations for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations

No recommendations were due for compliance in this period

Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation



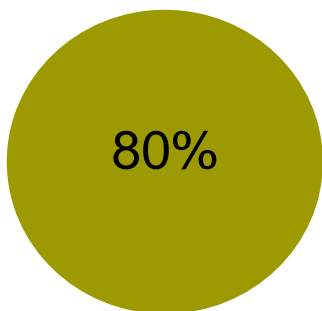
In **0%** of upheld cases we found the organisation had provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached the Ombudsman.

This compares to an average of **20%** in similar organisations.

0
satisfactory remedy decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **2** upheld decisions for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Complaints upheld



80% of complaints we investigated were upheld.

This compares to an average of **71%** in similar organisations.

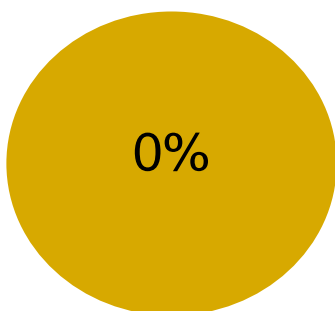
12
upheld decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **15** investigations for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Compliance with Ombudsman recommendations

No recommendations were due for compliance in this period

Satisfactory remedy provided by the organisation



In **0%** of upheld cases we found the organisation had provided a satisfactory remedy before the complaint reached the Ombudsman.

This compares to an average of **8%** in similar organisations.

0
satisfactory remedy decisions

Statistics are based on a total of **12** upheld decisions for the period between 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

***Review of Local
Government
Complaints
2021-22***

July 2022

Contents

Ombudsman's foreword	1
Putting things right	3
Compliance with recommendations	4
Learning from complaints	5
Decisions and reports	6
The impact of a single complaint	8
Raising the profile of complaints	12

Ombudsman's foreword



I am pleased to present our Review of Local Government Complaints for 2021-22.

Following disruption to our casework during 2020, the volume of our work returned to pre-pandemic levels and our complaint statistics for 2021-22 tell us:

- > We continue to uphold around two thirds of complaints we investigate
- > Complaints we investigate about Education and Children's Services have the highest uphold rate (77%)
- > We are recommending more service improvements than ever before, with 1,848 recommendations focused on policies, procedures and staff training

- > We issued 43 public interest reports about local authorities. Three quarters of which were about Education and Children's Services and Adult Care Services.
- > Compliance with our recommendations was at 99.7%

I am reassured to see that compliance with our recommendations remains high, signalling the system of redress we operate in is in good health. While it can sometimes be challenging to achieve compliance with our recommendations we cannot, and do not want to, override the local democratic process. Elected members play a significant role and are vital to the integrity of the process. I have been encouraged by several examples during the year of councillors holding officer decisions to account and striving to achieve the best outcomes for the people they represent.

While a small minority of councils failed to implement recommendations, a larger number failed to consistently complete recommendations within the timescales they had agreed.

Although we know delays can happen for a range of reasons, I encourage authorities to pay close attention to this final, but crucial, step in the complaints process; doing what you have agreed to do on time can help to rebuild complainants' trust and confidence after things have gone wrong. Additionally, delay in implementing our service improvement recommendations leaves authorities at risk of repeated failings. A complaint is not closed until the remedy is delivered; invest the time in this last step and keep sight of both the person and the opportunity to improve.

“

I have been encouraged by several examples during the year of councillors holding officer decisions to account and striving to achieve the best outcomes for the people they represent.

”

Despite this concern, I am often impressed by authorities' commitment to significant service changes and reviews that ensure others will not be similarly affected by the faults our investigations uncover. Later in this report, I have detailed case examples that demonstrate authorities' commendable approach. I hope others can learn from the added value these councils are gaining from their complaints.

We have kept a close eye on our casework and the impact the pandemic has had on complaints and authorities' ability to respond to them. We issued a [report on our findings](#) earlier in the year and concluded that, overall, councils adapted well in the challenging circumstances with few issues uniquely attributable to the pandemic.

We did, however, find existing concerns were exacerbated, including the capacity of complaints teams to deliver a responsive, high-quality service. It is with this concern in mind that we are working in partnership with the Housing Ombudsman Service to develop a joint complaint handling code. I am often asked what 'good' looks like in complaint handling and this code will offer a clear framework for authorities to work within and measure themselves against. We will keep you updated as this work develops.

Alongside this report, we publish our complaints data at local authority level, and upload annual data to the [your council's performance map](#). Now with four years' worth of data on councils' complaint outcomes and commitments to improve, I encourage you to take a look at how your authority is performing.



Michael King
Local Government and
Social Care Ombudsman
July 2022

Putting things right

2,231

cases with
recommendations to
put things right

15,826

complaints and
enquiries received

1,848

recommendations
to improve services
for everyone*

11%

upheld cases where
we agreed with the
authority's remedy

4,130

recommendations
to remedy
personal injustice*

** In many cases, we will recommend more than one type of remedy. For example, we may recommend an authority makes an apology, pays a sum of money, and reviews a policy or procedure.*

Compliance with recommendations

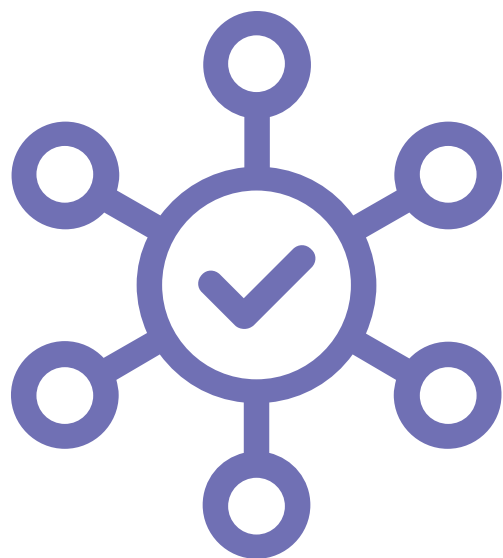


Our recommendations to put things right are non-binding and in most cases authorities agree to comply with our remedies.

We were satisfied with authorities' compliance with our recommendations in 99.7% of cases. But, in 18% of cases, compliance was not within the agreed timescales and was late. To ensure remedies are implemented on time, consider the following:

- > The timescales proposed for implementing recommendations at the draft decision stage to ensure they are achievable
- > Keep track and keep in touch; inform us of any delays
- > When a remedy is completed, let us know promptly and provide evidence
- > Apologies and payments to complainants should be simple to complete on time. Ensure your processes allow for swift action of these important remedies
- > The service improvement recommendations authorities agree to are reported publicly on our website; delay in implementation risks others being affected by the same fault.

There were seven cases where we were not satisfied that the authority had complied with our recommendations. When an authority fails to implement our recommendations, we can consider a range of actions, including issuing a public interest report and opening a new investigation into the authority's failure to provide the agreed remedy. Non-compliance is also reported publicly on our website.



Learning from complaints

Our casework provides a unique insight into the concerns of people who use local services. Where we identify recurrent problems across authorities, we will publish a [focus report](#) to feed back the learning from the complaints we investigate to the sector. These reports shine a spotlight on issues and help authorities to learn from others' mistakes and improve services. The reports also act as a useful tool for elected members; we include [suggested questions](#) councillors can use as part of their role to scrutinise services.

These were the topics we commented on during the year:

[Unprecedented pressure: Learning from complaints about council and care provider actions during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)



We look at the first 18 months of investigations to reveal how council and care providers coped with the unprecedented pressures and conclude the pandemic exposed fault lines that were already present.

While acknowledging the personal tragedies we heard, our investigations

did not suggest a systemic collapse of services, with evidence that councils and care providers pulled together under stress to maintain services as far as could be reasonably expected.

Authorities can use the report as a tool to help reflect and learn on how they worked differently during COVID.

[Help! Learning to improve council services for domestic abuse victims](#)



As councils take on more responsibility under the Domestic Abuse Act, we urge them to reflect on their practices and procedures using the lessons from our casework.

Issues highlighted include councils questioning victims' lived experiences and

downplaying the impact of the trauma they have endured, failing to work with other local services to keep victims safe, and leaving people at risk for longer than necessary.

Councils should use the learning from the report to drive action and improvement.

Decisions and reports

We are one of the only Ombudsman schemes to publish the decisions we make. We do this to share learning and be transparent.

Our decisions are published at www.lgo.org.uk/decisions and can be searched by theme, key word, category, decision outcome, date and organisation.

Cases that raise serious issues or highlight matters of public interest are given extra prominence and issued as public interest reports.

Our press releases highlight our public interest reports and can be found at www.lgo.org.uk/information-centre/news



Education & children's services

1,069 detailed investigations
77% upheld

21 published reports

[Birmingham City C: Disabled Facilities Grant](#)

[LB Haringey: Disabled Facilities Grant](#)

[Birmingham City C: Education - Transport](#)

[LB Lewisham - Care of Looked After Child](#)

[Birmingham City C: Education - Transport](#)

[LB Redbridge: Education - SEN provision and EHC Plans](#)

[Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council: Children's Services - Family and Friends carers](#)

[Leeds City C: School Admissions](#)

[Central Bedfordshire Council: Education - SEND](#)

[Manchester City C - Education - SEN assessment and reviews](#)

[City of Wolverhampton Council: Children's Services - Adoption](#)

[Staffordshire CC: Education - Transport](#)

[Devon CC: Education - SEND](#)

[Staffordshire CC: Children's Services - Leaving Care](#)

[Hertfordshire CC: COVID-19](#)

[Staffordshire CC: Education - SEN assessments and reviews](#)

[Isle of Wight C: Education - SEN provision and EHC Plans](#)

[West Sussex CC: Children's Services - Adoption](#)

[LB Camden: Child Protection](#)

[Wirral MBC: Education - SEN provision and EHC Plans](#)

[LB Croydon: Children's Services - Other](#)



Adult care services

990 detailed investigations
69% upheld

13 published reports

[Devon CC: Charging](#)

[LB Ealing: Safeguarding](#)

[Dudley MBC: Home care](#)

[Lincolnshire CC: Charging](#)

[Essex CC: Assessment](#)

[North Yorkshire CC: Charging](#)

[Gloucestershire CC: Assessment](#)

[Northumberland CC: Charging](#)

[Kent CC: Assessment](#)

[Nottinghamshire CC: Safeguarding](#)

[LB Bexley: Charging](#)

[Rotherham MBC: Safeguarding](#)


[LB Croydon: Care plan](#)

Decisions and reports

 **Housing**


397 detailed investigations
71% upheld

Two published reports
[Birmingham City C: Allocations](#)
[LB Bromley: Homelessness](#)

 **Highways & transport**


212 detailed investigations
55% upheld

No reports published

 **Corporate & other**

108 detailed investigations
62% upheld

One published report
[LB Haringey: Land](#)

 **Benefits & tax**


327 detailed investigations
59% upheld

Three published reports
[Cotswold DC: COVID-19](#)
[LB Camden: COVID-19](#)
[LB Camden: COVID-19](#)

 **Planning & development**

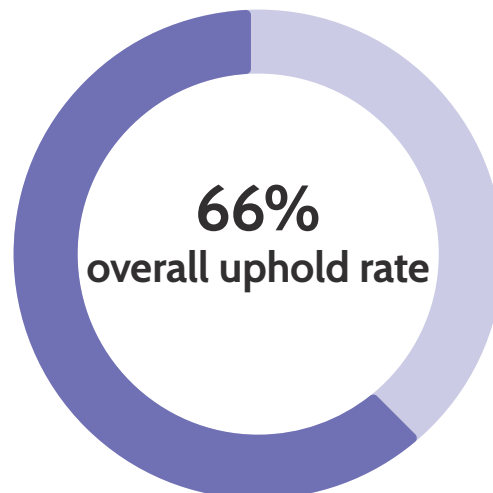
565 detailed investigations
45% upheld

No reports published

 **Environment & public protection**

380 detailed investigations
68% upheld

Three published reports
[Birmingham City C: Refuse & recycling](#)
[Calderdale MBC: COVID-19](#)
[Luton BC: Antisocial Behaviour](#)



The impact of a single complaint



A single complaint can make a difference to many people. During our investigations, we will assess if others could be affected by the same issue and recommend ways for services to improve. The most positive outcomes are achieved when authorities commit to our service improvements and the case summaries below are great examples of this. By sharing them here, we are giving all authorities the opportunity to learn and check their own practice in these areas.

Full details of these cases can be found by clicking on the links, or you can search the case reference numbers at www.lgo.org.uk/decisions



Fairer treatment of family foster carers

Case reference: [19 014 589](#)

Our investigation found that Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council failed to properly consider an aunt and uncle as family foster carers meaning they missed out on the financial support they were entitled to.

We recommended, and the council agreed, to backdate fostering allowance for the couple as well as make payments for distress caused.

The council also agreed to consider complaints from other family carers who may have been disadvantaged in a similar way; as a result, a further six families received a remedy for the support they had missed out on.



**76% of Family
& Friends carers
complaints upheld**

“A further six families received a remedy for the support they missed out on.”

The impact of a single complaint



Housing register delay reduced
Case reference: [20 007 658](#)

An investigation into significant delay in processing an application to Birmingham City Council's housing register found the case was not an isolated event.

We found systemic delay, resulting in a wait time of up to 12 months for the council to deal with applications. The council agreed to our recommendations to apologise to the complainant and backdate the application. It also agreed to improve its service for future applicants by committing to an application processing time of four to six weeks and to reviewing its Housing Allocations Policy to ensure any delay by the council did not impact on an applicant's priority band date.

Within three months of our report the council reported it had succeeded in reducing the wait time to four months and was on course to achieve its goal.



**69% of housing
allocations
complaints upheld**

“Within three months the council reported it had reduced the wait time to four months and was on course to achieve its goal.”

The impact of a single complaint



Affordable care home placements offered

Case reference: [20 003 362](#)

Our investigation found that Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council failed to offer a care home placement within the personal budget it had set, leaving the complainant with no choice but to pay a third-party top-up fee.

The council agreed to apologise and refund the top-up fees paid. We also asked it to review its procedures to ensure people were always offered an affordable care home placement within their personal budget.

The council agreed and volunteered to make further improvements by carrying out staff training and procedural changes that would help avoid the same faults from recurring.

To determine if others had already been similarly affected, we asked the council to review other cases. As a result, it reimbursed a further 29 families.



81% of residential care complaints upheld

“We asked the council to review other cases.

“As a result, it reimbursed a further 29 families.”



The impact of a single complaint



Education for out of school pupils reviewed

Case reference: [19 018 501](#)

Our investigation found Central Bedfordshire Council failed to provide alternative education to a young boy who was unable to attend regular school, meaning he missed out on a year of education.

We recommended payments to the boy's family and a review of its policy for pupils out of school to ensure that decisions and actions about non-attendance are taken quickly, named officers are assigned to cases and alternative education provision is made available.

In light of the complaint, the council also agreed to review the cases of other pupils out of school who may have been similarly impacted.



**90% of Alternative
Provision complaints
upheld**

“The council also agreed to review the cases of other pupils who may have been similarly impacted.”

Raising the profile of complaints

Listening to public concerns is an essential component of a well-run, accountable authority that is committed to public engagement, learning and improvement. We encourage officers and elected officials to use the information we publish to determine the health of their local complaints system.

Complaints officers can use the range of information we publish to support their own complaint handling, learning from cases we have published and the remedies we have recommended. They can raise the profile of complaints in their authority by feeding relevant information into service areas, management teams and to elected members.

Elected members have important roles in scrutinising local performance and retain the final decision on whether to accept our non-binding remedies and service improvements. They can champion the voice of complainants and use local democratic processes to hold officers to account where appropriate.

Resources to use

- > Our [council performance map](#) places all our council complaint statistics in a single, interactive hub. It is a mine of searchable information and allows comparisons to be made between similar councils.
- > Each council page also includes our annual review letters, links to decisions we have made, public interest reports published, and every service improvement the council has agreed to make. Annual review letters of other authorities can be found here.
- > We also publish [data tables](#) providing complaints information at local authority level, which can be freely analysed and segmented.

What to look for

- > **Uphold rates** show the proportion of investigations in which we find some fault and can indicate problems with services. How does your authority compare against the national averages or other similar authorities?
- > **Offering a suitable remedy** for a complaint before it comes to us is a good sign your authority can accept fault and offer appropriate ways to put things right. How often does your authority do this, and how does it compare with others?
- > **Compliance rates** show the proportion of cases in which we are satisfied our recommendations have been implemented (based on the evidence authorities give us). Compliance below 100% is rare. Does your authority have a 100% compliance rate – if not, what is it doing to scrutinise complaints where it failed to comply?
- > **Service improvement recommendations** show what your authority agrees to do to make things better for everyone. Do you track the service improvements your authority agrees to make? How are they being implemented, and their impact monitored?

We want authorities to operate, and benefit from, excellent complaint systems. Where support is needed to achieve this, we offer online complaint handling training.

To find out more visit www.lgo.org.uk/training.

**Local Government and Social Care
Ombudsman**

PO Box 4771

Coventry

CV4 0EH

Phone: 0300 061 0614

Web: www.lgo.org.uk

Twitter: [@LGOmbudsman](https://twitter.com/LGOmbudsman)

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

11 October 2022

Member for Finance: Councillor Malcolm Longley, Cabinet

Report Title	Household Support Fund 3 Proposal: Distribution of Funds and Recipients for HSF3
---------------------	---

Report Author	Sue Brooks, Public Health Project Manager Susan.brook@northnorthants.gov.uk
----------------------	--

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Monitoring Officer	Catherine Whitehead	28/09/22
Chief Finance Officer/S151	Martin Henry	26/09/2022
Other Director/SME	Stuart Lackenby	
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) HSF3 Guidelines

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Household Support Fund 3 scheme has been announced by government as part of the Cost-of-Living support packages. The draft allocations and guidelines for the scheme from DWP have been distributed. The HSF3 scheme operates between 1st October 2022 and 31st March 2023 and this report sets out the preferred option to complement the WNC Anti-Poverty Strategy and indicates how the scheme could be delivered to maximise the local impact across a wide set of situational needs. The three original options proposed were discussed at the Executive

Leadership Team and a favoured option, which is most closely aligned with the local needs, has been put forward for further approvals and contained within this report.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Household Support Fund (3), announced by the Department for Work and Pensions on the 26th May 2022, is the third version of the Fund, the previous scheme (HSF2) operated successfully between 1st April 2022 and 30th September 2022 across West Northamptonshire. DWP Guidelines indicate *“Authorities have the flexibility within The Fund to identify which vulnerable households are in most need of support and apply their own discretion when identifying eligibility. Rather than focus on one specific vulnerable group, Authorities should use the wide range of data and sources of information at their disposal to identify and provide support to a broad cross section of vulnerable households to prevent escalation of problems. Authorities should ensure that they consider the needs of various households including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities.”*
- 2.2 The expectation is that it should primarily be used to support households in the most need with food and energy bills because of the recent cost of living increases. The fund can also be used to support households with essential costs related to those items and other essential household costs. The draft DWP guidelines have been issued and the key changes are that there will be no ringfence of any proportion of funding for any cohort of people. Also amongst the changes is a requirement for all authorities to operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis i.e., residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support. There is also an expectation of authorities to particularly consider those groups who may not have benefitted from any of the recent cost of living support.
- 2.3 The latest fund can be delivered to households between 1st of October 2022 and 31st March 2023. There is no DWP stipulation of how the funds must be allocated or indeed the recipient cohorts however we know from experience that families on low benefits with children on free school meals are reliant on financial support over school holidays.
- 2.4 West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has been allocated a sum of £2,599, 628.53. Payment for the grant will be made in arrears, following the submission of an interim MI return by 25th January 2023 for spend for the period 1st October 2022 to 31st December 2022. A final MI return will be required showing total spend from 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023 by 28th April 2023
- 2.5 The report provides a background to the HSF fund and the recommendations section provides the key focus of the type of support that the Unitary is recommending. This support ranges from Children’s Winter Food Support; households who contain employed contributors but who are on low income and do not receive full cost-of-living benefits; to a food and fuel concept which is operated through a Voluntary Community Services Enterprise (VCSE) and distributed through the voluntary sector. Management and oversight will be provided by the Public Health Recovery and Wellbeing Programme Team.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet/Committee:

- a) Notes that the Household Support Fund (3) investment is to be managed locally.
- b) Approves the Recommended Scope and Diversity of Distribution as set out in section 4 of this report.
- c) Approves the control and oversight approach to be undertaken through a central operational team.
- d) Authorises any funds that have not been assigned or committed to by 31st January 2023 according to the distribution methodology set out in section 4, to be redistributed in line with the wider Department for Work and Pensions Guidelines (attached as Appendix A)

4. Reason for Recommendations

- To ensure that the Household Support Fund (3) is directed to funding a lower income sector of the working community, and families with children.
- To enable the distribution of funds to meet the wider communities' financial needs, where other grants and funding are not available
- To ensure that the application process is managed in-house to provide additional security and confidentiality of data
- To minimise the duplication of grants for the same purpose
- To provide financial support to underpin the West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy and ensure residents most in need receive that support
- To build on the successful Household Support Fund (2) partnership with the VCSE in distributing funds via the downstream voluntary organisations to residents that may not otherwise be identified through the benefits system

5. Report Background

Building on the Success of Household Support Funds 1 and 2

5.1 This report follows on from two very successful Household Support Fund (HSF) scheme operating from December 2021 until March 2022 (referenced as HSF1), and April 2022 until September 2022 (HSF2) respectively.

5.2 During the operation of HSF 1 we were able to build a highly efficient on-line application portal which enabled residents to self-service their application rather than utilising the voluntary sector set up. Not only did this provide an effective option but it also removed a level of pressure from our partner, the Citizens Advice Bureau. In total we were able to distribute close to 100k food and fuel vouchers across Northamptonshire and issue all funds provided for, as well as achieving over 82% of the funding going to families with children.

5.3 For HSF2 we were able to distribute funds across several cohorts; families with children, pensioners who received pension credit and additional funds for these pensioners who were also registered as disabled and households who evidenced that they were suffering poverty for both food and fuel. This last category was distributed, for the first time, by a set of voluntary organisations managed by the Northamptonshire Community Foundation (NCF). All elements of the distribution were successfully managed and over 95% of all allocated funds were distributed.

5.4 Following the announcement on 26 May 2022 of a third tranche of government funding from the Department of Work and Pensions, Table 1 below sets out our proposed methodology to reach out and distribute just under £2.6m to approximately 17,620 households which acknowledges the increased hardship that families and individuals may experience over the period 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023.

5.5 Where any funds have not been assigned or committed to by 31st January 2023 in accordance with the distribution methodology in table 1 below, in order to maximise the Council’s reach and support to the community, it is proposed to redistribute them in line with the wider Department for Work and Pensions Guidelines (attached as Appendix A), and under the control and oversight of the Public Health Recovery and Wellbeing Programme Team, acting as a central operational team.

5.6 Table 1: Proposed Scope and Diversity of Funds Distribution

COMMUNITY COHORT	HSF3 REFERENCE	£ RECOMMENDED	AVERAGE AWARD	DISTRIBUTION METHOD	HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED
Families with Children	Children's Food Support	1,008k	£15 x 6 weeks of planned school holidays (October 22 – April 23)	Retail voucher	11,200
Anti-Poverty for those Working	Issued via online application process to Employed with Low Earnings	884k	£200	Cash to Bank	4,420
Community Engagement, Foodbanks and Winter Emergency's	Local community groups (to include Food Bank Donations and winter emergency's). Allocated funds to VCSE to	650k	Up to £250 per household as assessed on a case-by-case basis. Up to £20k per food bank and	Food or Fuel Vouchers or Cash to Bank or Practical Products via third party	2,000

	distribute via voluntary organisations		large charities donation		
--	--	--	--------------------------	--	--

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 There were three considerations that have been considered by officers:
- 6.1.1 Wider Distribution Option – this option created a wide range of recipients for delivery over the six months of the scheme. It included families with children, households on low income, pensioners, community hubs and donations to food banks. It was felt that this option was too complex and may confuse residents where applications were required. It was discounted due to feasibility concerns.
- 6.1.2 Simple Segmentation – this option consolidated many of the recipient types which simplified and enhanced the understanding of the delivery scope. However, it was felt that a greater proportion of the funds should be provided to families with children and households who are receiving a very low income despite a working household member. It was discounted due to a desire to recalibrate the distribution of the funds.
- 6.2 Lower Income Segment – was the preferred option and represents the recommendation within this report. This option rebalanced the funding for families with children and the lower income segment but also allowed funds to be allocated to the community through food banks, community engagement activities, voluntary organisations and support for households with winter emergencies
- 6.3 Significant feedback was sought from recipients of the HSF1 and HSF2 schemes who recognised that within the requirement of the scope presented by DWP, their ability to apply for a proportion of the funding was essential. This provided a level of control to the households.
- 6.4 The use of an on-line application portal has been developed as this is a requirement of the Department for Work and Pensions. This will be used for applications from the sector who are working but remain on a low salary. Steps have been taken to adjust the design to ensure fraudulent activity is minimised.
- 6.5 The experienced of HSF 1 demonstrated that individual voluntary sector organisations have a limited capacity to meet the level of payment distribution in a short period of time and therefore several voluntary organisations within the food support sector will be provided with funds proactively.
- 6.6 Utilising supermarket vouchers for the payment of the HSF award provides additional household income and enables fuel or food to be paid for which can offset the normal household bills.

6.7 The following table illustrates how the recommended option meets the guidelines and best practices set out by DWP

DWP Guidelines	Option 3 Lower Income Sector
The Fund should be used to support households in the most need – particularly those who may not be eligible for the other support government has recently made available	MET
There may be groups who are vulnerable to rising prices even though they are supported through these schemes, for example large families or single-income families.	MET
The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities.	MET
Support which can make a quick but sustainable impact on energy costs is particularly encouraged – for example, insulation of hot water tanks, fitting draft excluders to a door, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods.	MET
The Fund can also be used to support households with the cost of food and water bills, essential costs related to energy, food and water, and with wider essential costs.	MET
In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.	MET
Authorities have the ability to deliver the scheme through a variety of routes including providing vouchers to households, making direct provision of food or goods, or issuing grants to third parties (with the exception of grants for advice provision).	MET
Every area must operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis i.e. residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support.	MET
However, support is not restricted only to vulnerable households in receipt of benefits.	MET
Authorities should also use other sources of information to identify vulnerable households, including advice from professionals who come into contact with vulnerable households such as social workers and Supporting Families keyworkers and housing workers.	MET

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 The Household Support Fund is incremental to the base budget for 2022/23. It is recommended that a temporary team is recruited to manage the fund and provide clear distribution controls to be approved formally. The staffing costs will be extracted as Administration Costs from the fund as allowed for in the terms and conditions. All fund monies are expected to be distributed into the community by the end of March 2023.

7.1.2 There are no direct resources or financial implications to Council budgets arising from the proposals that are not already covered by the grant.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 The Council has statutory duties in relation to the needs of vulnerable individuals and to apply resources in order to alleviate hardship. The council must also have regard in relation to these decisions to the public sector equality duty . As these measures are intended to remove obstacles for many people with protected characteristics the aim of these proposals is to seek to address inequality.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 Excess requests, for use of funds, from the assumptions provided and therefore the grant will be exhausted. The mitigation would include utilisation of the other Public Health funds available as appropriate.

7.3.2 Excess funds remain prior to the closure of the scheme. The mitigation would provide weekly tracking of the funds run rate and as the distribution rate is modelled early contingency arrangements can be put in place

7.3.3 Duplicate requests may be received. The mitigation will be in the form of a control record, held at the centre, of all beneficiaries receiving the drawdowns from the fund.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 Consultation with internal HSF stakeholders has occurred and a formal lessons learnt document has been produced post the closure of HSF (2). Consultation with the various voluntary organisations and Northamptonshire Community Foundation has also been undertaken to provide input to the wider use of the Voluntary Sector. As a result, changes to the application process, the product choice and the back-office procedures have been updated to be more efficient and user friendly.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 The Programme will ensure that any requests from the Scrutiny Commission will be responded to, and formal engagement or presentations required will take place.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 Nothing specific relating to the recommendations in this report

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 The community will benefit significantly from this Programme. Additional funds will support those who are experiencing severe financial hardship during the winter period and working with voluntary organisations will enhance the co-ordination of the many referral teams within the council and external.

7.7.2 The distribution of funds is closely aligned to the areas of deprivation within the region, thus ensuring that the communities living in areas of highest poverty are prioritised.

7.8 **Communications**

7.8.1 Communication will be critical to the Programme

7.8.2 The inclusion of specific web pages, member briefings and external press statements will be managed internally.

7.8.3 The communication themes will be linked to the Cost-of-Living information which is introduced by both Central Government and the localised teams

7.8.4 HSF3 will also benefit from the wide-ranging voluntary organisations we operate with and their local network of communications

8. **Background Papers**

None

Household Support Fund (1 October 2022 – 31 March 2023): – DRAFT Guidance for County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England

Introduction

1. Additional funding* has been made available to County Councils and Unitary Authorities in England to support those most in need to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. This funding covers the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 inclusive. Local Authorities have discretion on exactly how this funding is used within the scope set out in the accompanying grant determination and this guidance. This guidance sets out the required collaboration between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Local Authorities, including their delivery partners (such as District Councils as well as any charitable or third-party organisations) to successfully meet the policy intent within the agreed framework. It also provides the framework that Authorities need to work within and the arrangements for distribution of funding and reporting.
2. DWP is providing funding to County Councils and Unitary Authorities (including Metropolitan Councils and London Boroughs), under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, to administer The Fund and provide assistance to households most in need. **Note: County Councils and Unitary Authorities will be referred to as ‘Authorities’ and the Household Support Fund will be referred to as ‘The Fund’ throughout the remainder of this guidance.** Authorities must work together with District Councils to ensure the funding meets its objectives by identifying those most in need.
3. The expectation is that The Fund should be used to support households in the most need – particularly those who may not be eligible for the other support government has recently made available, including the Cost of Living Payments set out on 26 May 2022 and the energy support set out on 3 February, enhanced on 26 May 2022, and detailed on [29 July](#) but who are nevertheless in need (details on eligibility for these schemes are at Annex A). This may include but is not limited to people who are entitled to but not claiming qualifying benefits, people who are claiming Housing Benefit only, people who begin a claim or return to payment of a benefit after the relevant qualifying date as well as people who have fuel costs but who cannot access the £400 of energy support from the Energy Bill Support Scheme or the equivalence package confirmed on 29 July. There may be groups who are vulnerable to rising prices even though they are supported through these schemes, for example large families or single-income families. It is important to stress that The Fund is intended to cover a wide range of low income households in need including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities.
4. Energy bills may be of particular concern to low income households during the period of The Fund and Local Authorities should prioritise supporting households with the cost of energy. Support which can make a quick but sustainable impact on energy

* Funding amount and individual Authority allocations will be made available once formal approvals have been received.

costs is particularly encouraged – for example, insulation of hot water tanks, fitting draft excluders to a door, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. The Fund can also be used to support households with the cost of food and water bills, essential costs related to energy, food and water, and with wider essential costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, it can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need.

5. Authorities have the ability to deliver the scheme through a variety of routes including providing vouchers to households, making direct provision of food or goods, or issuing grants to third parties (with the exception of grants for advice provision). Every area must operate at least part of their scheme on an application basis i.e. residents should have the opportunity to come forward to ask for support. There is flexibility on exactly how this can be run, including through third parties rather than directly by the Local Authority.
6. Authorities have access to DWP's Searchlight portal which provides information on individual citizens' entitlement to (and confirms receipt of) DWP welfare benefits. Since June 2021 we have provided Authorities with information relating to Universal Credit (UC) claims with limited capability for work or earnings below the free school meals and free prescription thresholds in their area. In April 2022 DWP established a data share covering people receiving the Guarantee Credit and/or Savings Credit elements of Pension Credit, as well as for all claimants on income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA (IR)). Authorities may find this information useful in identifying those most in need.
7. In October, DWP will also introduce a further data share for those who are only in receipt of Housing Benefit. This group is not eligible for the means-tested Cost of Living Payments unless of pension age or eligible for a Disability Cost of Living Payment and Local Authorities should consider how they could use this data to provide support to this group.
8. However, support is not restricted only to vulnerable households in receipt of benefits. Therefore, Authorities should also use other sources of information to identify vulnerable households, including advice from professionals who come into contact with vulnerable households such as social workers and Supporting Families keyworkers and housing workers. As above, Authorities should also have a mechanism to consider applications for support.
9. This guidance applies to Authorities in England only and when finalised, should be read in conjunction with the Household Support Fund Grant Determination issued alongside it.

Communication

10. The Authority must, as appropriate and practical, reference that the grant is funded by the Department for Work and Pensions or the UK Government in any publicity material, including online channels and media releases.
11. Local Authorities must make public their plans for The Fund, for example on their Authority website.

Objective and key principles

12. The objective of The Fund is to provide support to vulnerable households in most need of support to help with significantly rising living costs.
13. Although this is considered an extension to the previous two Household Support Fund schemes, it is a new grant subject to its own grant conditions as will be set out in the Grant Determination letter. Any underspends from the previous schemes cannot be carried forward.
14. Funds should be spent or committed before 31 March 2023 and cannot be held over for future usage. All Authorities are encouraged to ensure wherever possible that any vouchers issued are redeemed before the end of The Fund, or shortly thereafter, or consider recycling unused vouchers. It is, however, acceptable for vouchers that have been purchased and delivered to households before the end of The Fund to be spent shortly thereafter (see paragraphs 104-107 on Committed Spend).
15. When administering The Fund Authorities are encouraged to adopt the following principles:
 - use discretion on how to identify and support those most in need, taking into account a wide range of information;
 - use the funding from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford energy and water bills, food, and other related essentials. Authorities can also use the funding to support households who are struggling to afford wider essentials;
 - in exceptional cases of genuine emergency, the funding can additionally be used to support housing costs where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need, subject to the provisions at paragraph 30 below.
 - this includes payments made, or committed to, by the Authority or any person acting on behalf of the Authority, from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.
 - work together with District Councils and third parties, including where necessary and appropriate other local services. This may include social workers, housing and family support services, and may incorporate intelligence and data from wider children's social care systems to help identify and support individuals, families and households within the scope of The Fund.
16. When deciding how to help people, Authorities should consider:
 - how they plan to provide support to vulnerable households, i.e. paying into bank accounts, use of cash and vouchers, provision of goods;
 - any risks associated with these payment methods – see section Managing the risk of fraud.

Working with other organisations

17. Authorities must work collaboratively with District Councils and other organisations in their area who may come into contact with those households who may benefit from this grant. Authorities that do not have the mechanisms in place to administer this grant should consider whether District Councils are better placed to do so on their behalf. Authorities are encouraged to engage with District Councils as quickly as possible to ensure roles, responsibilities and effective arrangements are put in place to deliver The Fund promptly and efficiently.
18. Third party organisations may include but are not limited to:
 - Registered charities and voluntary organisations

- Schools
- Food banks
- General Practitioners
- Care organisations

19. Where Authorities are working with Third Party Organisations (TPOs), this should be done on an objectively fair, transparent and non-discriminatory basis, having regard to the time available to deliver The Fund. As with District Councils, Authorities should make arrangements with any TPOs as quickly as possible.

20. Where a TPO returns unused funding after The Fund has ended the Authority can re-issue any returned funding within a reasonable timeframe but only under the category that the spend was originally reported against. Authorities are able to distribute funding themselves and do not have to go back through the original TPO.

21. For audit purposes where an Authority re-issues returned TPO funding they must follow this process:

- Authority must confirm by email, copying S151 officer,
- the amount that has been returned,
- reason for the return (e.g., TPO underspend),
- what the original spend was reported against in their FINAL MI return,
- confirm they intend to spend the total unspent amount against the same category of spend for the same group.

Establishing eligibility

22. In accordance with their general legal duties, Authorities must have a clear rationale or documented policy/framework outlining their approach including how they are defining eligibility and how households access The Fund. We expect Authorities to review any existing approach and to have a strong rationale for their targeting so that funding is available to the households who most need it.

23. Authorities have the flexibility within The Fund to identify which vulnerable households are in most need of support and apply their own discretion when identifying eligibility. Rather than focus on one specific vulnerable group, Authorities should use the wide range of data and sources of information at their disposal to identify and provide support to a broad cross section of vulnerable households to prevent escalation of problems. Authorities should ensure that they consider the needs of various households including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities.

24. Authorities should particularly consider how they can support those vulnerable households who are ineligible for other government support with the cost of living, including the:

- Energy Bills Support Scheme and the equivalence package confirmed on 29 July;
- Council Tax Rebate and the associated £144m Discretionary Fund;
- Cost of Living Payments for those on means tested benefits;
- £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment;

- One-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment (through the Winter Fuel Payment)

25. The eligibility criteria for the schemes listed in paragraph 24 can be found at Annex A. The majority of households in England will receive some form of support from at least one of the above schemes. Authorities should have regard to the fact that receipt of any of the above support should not exclude a resident from receiving support through The Fund in principle and households in receipt of support from these schemes may still be in need. It remains at the discretion of Authorities to establish their local eligibility and identify those most in need in their area.
26. The schemes in paragraph 24, however, do not cover everyone. For example, these schemes do not cover – and Authorities should consider prioritising – households:
- Who are eligible for but not claiming qualifying benefits;
 - Who become eligible for benefits after the relevant qualifying dates;
 - Are in receipt of Housing Benefit only;
 - Who are ordinarily eligible for benefits but who had a nil award in the qualifying period due to, for example, a fluctuation in income;
 - Who have fuel costs but who cannot access the £400 of energy support from the Energy Bill Support Scheme or the equivalence package confirmed on 29 July;
 - This list is not exhaustive and there may additionally be households that are vulnerable to rising costs despite being in receipt of this government support with the cost of living
27. Authorities must operate an application-based service for support to ensure those in need have a route to emergency support. This can be delivered directly by the Local Authority or by a third party on their behalf. Authorities should establish eligibility criteria for their application service and should communicate with residents to ensure that their scheme and the mechanism for applying is clear and accessible. If they wished, Authorities could make the entirety of their scheme application-based, but as with previous schemes Authorities can also proactively identify households who will benefit from support. However a Local Authority chooses to provide this funding, they must make sure that this support is clearly advertised to residents.
28. Authorities can also proactively identify households who will benefit from support. Where this is the case, Authorities should consider how they can ensure that they are focusing on those in the most need to prevent escalation of problems. There is no requirement for Authorities to undertake a means test or conduct a benefit check unless this specifically forms part of the Authority's local eligibility criteria. However, in relation to housing costs, Authorities must establish whether other forms of support are available to the household, such as Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs).

Types of support

29. Eligible spend includes:

- Energy and water. The Fund should primarily be used to support with energy bills for any form of fuel that is used for the purpose of domestic heating, cooking, or lighting, including oil or portable gas cylinders. It can also be used to support with water bills including for drinking, washing, cooking, as well as for sanitary purposes and sewerage.
- Food. The Fund can be used to provide support with food whether in kind or through vouchers or cash.
- Essentials linked to energy and water. The Fund can be used to provide support with essentials linked to energy and water (including for example period products, warm clothing, soap, blankets, the purchase of equipment such as fridges, freezers, ovens, slow cookers), in recognition that a range of costs may arise which directly affect a household's ability to afford or access energy, food and water. In particular, we encourage LAs to consider supporting households on low incomes to repair or replace white goods and appliances with more energy efficient ones, or to invest in simple energy efficiency measures which will pay back quickly, such as insulating a hot water tank, fitting draft excluders to a front door, or replacing inefficient lightbulbs or white goods. The intention of this is to provide sustainable support which could result in both immediate and long-lasting savings for the household.
- Wider essentials. The Fund can be used to support with wider essential needs not linked to energy and water should Authorities consider this appropriate in their area. These may include, but are not limited to, support with other bills including broadband or phone bills, clothing, and essential transport-related costs such as repairing a car, buying a bicycle, or paying for fuel. This list is not exhaustive.
- Housing Costs. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency where existing housing support schemes do not meet this exceptional need, the Fund can be used to support housing costs. Where eligible, ongoing housing support for rent must be provided through the housing cost element of Universal Credit (UC) and Housing Benefit (HB) rather than The Fund. In addition, eligibility for DHPs must first be considered before emergency housing support is offered through The Fund. The Authority must also first consider whether the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and therefore owed a duty of support through the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG).
 - i. In exceptional cases of genuine emergency, households in receipt of HB, UC, or DHPs can still receive housing cost support through The Fund if it is deemed necessary by their Authority. However, The Fund should not be used to provide housing support on an ongoing basis or to support unsustainable tenancies.
 - ii. Individuals in receipt of some other form of housing support could still qualify for the other elements of The Fund, such as food, energy, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials.
 - iii. The Fund cannot be used to provide mortgage support, though homeowners could still qualify for the other elements of The Fund (such

as energy, food, water, essentials linked to energy and water and wider essentials). Where a homeowner is having difficulty with their mortgage payments, they should contact their lender as soon as possible to discuss their circumstances as lenders will have a set procedure to assist.

iv. The Fund can exceptionally and in genuine emergency be used to provide support for historic rent arrears built up prior to an existing benefit claim for households already in receipt of UC and HB. This is because these arrears are excluded from the criteria for DHPs. However, support with rent arrears is not the primary intent of the fund and should not be the focus of spend.

- Reasonable administrative costs. This includes reasonable costs incurred administering The Fund. These include for example:
 - i. staff costs
 - ii. advertising and publicity to raise awareness of The Fund
 - iii. web page design
 - iv. printing application forms
 - v. small IT changes, for example, to facilitate MI production

- Eligible spend does not include:
 - i. Advice services including debt advice;
 - ii. Mortgage costs.

30. It is expected that the focus of support should be on bills and that support for housing costs should only be given in exceptional cases of genuine emergency. Beyond this, Authorities have discretion to determine the most appropriate Fund for their area, based on their understanding of local need and with due regard to equality considerations.

31. There is no prescriptive definition of essentials. Authorities have discretion to assess what is reasonable to assist those in genuine need this winter with regard to the examples above.

32. Individual awards can be whatever type and amount is deemed appropriate by Authorities for the receiving household, bearing in mind the overall spend eligibility priorities listed above and the risk of fraud and error. Awards to any given household can either cover only one of the spend eligibility categories listed above, or can cover several.

33. Authorities should not make The Fund eligibility conditional on being employed or self-employed, or directly linked to a loss of earnings from employment or self-employment. This will ensure that there is no National Insurance Contribution liability payable on any payments by either the claimant, the Authority or employer.

Funding overlap

34. Authorities should consider household circumstances when making a decision on how to spend this grant. Households may be receiving other forms of support, and

this should be taken into account to avoid duplicating provision where possible. In particular, Local Authorities should prioritise those who have not already received additional support for the cost of living. However, families receiving other forms of assistance are not excluded from receiving support through The Fund.

Individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds

35. Authorities can provide a basic safety net support to an individual, regardless of their immigration status, if there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example if:
- there are community care needs
 - they have serious health problems
 - there is a risk to a child's wellbeing
36. The rules around immigration status have not changed. Authorities must use their judgement to decide what legal powers and funding can be used to support individuals who are ineligible for public funds or statutory housing assistance.

Access to data

37. The Household Support Fund is being classified as Local Welfare Provision (LWP). The provision of DWP data to Authorities is under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) 'Department for Work and Pensions and local authorities (Access, handling, exchange and protection of Department for Work and Pensions' and HM Revenue and Customs' data)'.
38. Authorities who have signed and returned the relevant section (Annex C) of the current DWP/LA MoU have legal permission to access DWP's Searchlight portal and specific UC, Pension Credit, ESA (IR) and Housing Benefit Only data via a monthly data share for the purpose of The Fund.
39. Authorities will need to ensure they sign future iterations of the MoU and the appropriate Annex to continue to have the legal permission to access the below data sources for Local Welfare Provision.
40. Staff accessing Searchlight will need to be registered with the Employee Authentication System (EAS). Further information on Searchlight can be found in the Local Authority Searchlight Training Pack available in the Searchlight folder on Glasscubes (the LA/DWP online collaboration tool). If your Authority needs to discuss access to Glasscubes, contact DWP at LAWELFARE.LASUPPORT@DWP.GOV.UK

DWP Searchlight

41. This portal provides information on individual citizens' entitlement to (and confirms receipt of) DWP welfare benefits. Therefore, this data can be used to help Authorities identify those families and individuals to whom to target this support. Authorities may also wish to establish if other forms of support are available to the household. In relation to housing costs they must do so including by checking whether the household could receive DHPs. The Authority must also first consider if the claimant is at statutory risk of homelessness and therefore owed a duty of support through the HPG.

42. Searchlight can only be used to verify a specific individual's DWP benefit information. Therefore, if an Authority identified a group of potential customers who may be eligible for The Fund from their own records, they can access Searchlight to verify each claimant's DWP benefit entitlement (although benefit entitlement is not a condition of support).

Monthly Data Share

43. We are providing Authorities with details of UC claimants in their Authority whose income is below the Free School Meal and Free Prescription thresholds and those with limited capability for work both at individual level and summary level by Ward. We are also providing Authorities with details of customers in receipt of Guarantee Credit and/or Savings Credit element of Pension Credit and their appointees if appropriate, as well as for all claimants on income-related Employment and Support Allowance. Authorities may find this information useful in identifying those most in need.

44. We are also introducing a further data share for those in receipt of Housing Benefit only. Individuals in this group are not eligible for a means-tested Cost of Living Payment and so this data share will allow Authorities to identify them and more easily consider their need for support.

45. The UC, Pension Credit, ESA (IR) and HB only data will be provided monthly via Transfer Your File.

46. Authorities will receive 2 data shares on a monthly basis.

File one contains Individual data of -

the National Insurance number and names of UC claimants within the Authority area and:

- income below the thresholds of £7,400 per year for Free School Meals and income below the Free Prescription threshold of £935 per month as identified in their last UC assessment period;
- those with a Limited Capability for Work indicator within the last assessment period; and
- the number of children in the household.
- those whose award is subject to the Benefit Cap
- those in receipt of the Removal of the Spare Room Subsidy and Local Housing Allowance (available Autumn 2022)

the National Insurance number, names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of customers in receipt of Guarantee Credit and/or Savings Credit element of Pension Credit and their appointees if appropriate, as well as for all claimants on income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA (IR)).

the National Insurance number, names, addresses and contact telephone numbers of customers who are in receipt of HB but not in receipt of a means tested benefit (for example: UC, Income based Jobseekers Allowance, ESA (IR), Income Support and Pension Credit)

File two – contains aggregate data showing those UC claimants at or below the:

- Free School Meal income threshold;
- Free Prescription income threshold; and
- are in the Limited Capability for Work group.

For a full breakdown of the file contents see **Annex B**

47. Authorities also have access to their own non-DWP data to help identify vulnerable households who may be eligible for support under The Fund.

Reporting requirements

48. Authorities are required to make two Statements of Grant Usage and management information (MI) returns – **see the Grant Determination** when finalised. The deadline for completing these returns is shown in the table below. Completed MI returns should be sent to LAWELFARE.PDT@DWP.GOV.UK

49. An interim MI return is required by 25 January 2023 for spend for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022. The interim MI return will be used to determine eligible spend to 31 December 2022 and an interim grant payment will be made to your Authority for this period when the information in your return has been verified.

50. A final MI return is required showing total spend from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 by 28 April 2023. The final MI return will be used to determine total eligible spend to 31 March 2023 and a final grant payment will be made to your Authority for this period when the information in your return has been verified.

51. Authorities should use the standard MI reporting template provided, which incorporates the Statement of Grant Usage. For the purpose of this section:

- **Grant allocation** – refers to the amount of grant allocated to a TPO to distribute to vulnerable households.
- **Grant award or spend refers** to the amount provided or paid to vulnerable households under the remit of this grant.

MI return	Reporting period		Deadline
Interim MI return	From: 1 October 2022	To: 31 December 2022	Deadline: 25 January 2023
Final MI return	From: 1 October 2022	To: 31 March 2023	Deadline: 28 April 2023

52. It is the responsibility of Authorities to provide the MI returns to DWP. Failure to return the MI by the deadline may result in a delayed payment or a payment being refused.

53. Where Authorities (including District Councils) issue awards directly to vulnerable households they should either obtain information at source or via information or data

they have access to, to complete the split of spend and number of awards across the reporting categories e.g. households with children and pensioners and food, energy bills, essentials linked to food and energy bills, wider essentials and (in exceptional circumstances) housing support. Where Authorities decide to deliver support to vulnerable households through TPOs they should use whatever information the TPO holds, or other available data, to split the level of spend and volume of awards across the eligibility criteria to the best of their ability.

54. The different elements of the MI template are shown below together with guidance on how to complete them.

Table 1 Governance

Table 1: Governance	Response
Local Authority (full name)	
Section 151 officer (name)	
Section 151 officer (email address)	
Is the Section 151 officer / CFO copied into the return to DWP? (Y/N)	
Reporting Period	
Approved signed off by	
LA Single Point of Contact	
Date Returned to DWP	

55. Each MI return must include your Section 151 Officer's name and email address to provide assurance on validation of funding spend. If the Section 151 Officer is also the SPOC for the scheme, please input details in both response fields.

56. We also require you to copy your Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer into the email, providing this assurance when you return the MI template to DWP. This will be checked against DWP records. By doing this you confirm that the Section 151 Officer has agreed the correctness of spend reported.

57. Please indicate that you have done this in row 4 of the table "Is the section 151 officer / CFO copied into the return to DWP?" If the MI is incomplete/incorrect it will be returned to the Authority by the DWP for correction and re-submission which must also be copied to your Chief Financial Officer/Section 151 Officer.

58. Table 2: Total Awards

Table 2: Total Awards	
Item	Spend (£s)
a) Total amount provided to vulnerable households	
b) Administration Costs	
c) Total LA spend (a+b)	£ -

59. Total amount provided to vulnerable households – this is the total amount of The Fund that has been paid/awarded to vulnerable households. It includes amounts paid by Authorities and by TPOs on behalf of Authorities. It should not include amounts allocated to TPOs that have not been spent during the reporting period. This cell will automatically populate from the total in table 3. Note, all cells which automatically populate are shaded grey and are protected.

60. Administration costs – this includes reasonable costs incurred administering The Fund. These include for example:

- staff costs
- advertising and publicity to raise awareness of The Fund
- web page design
- printing application forms
- small IT changes, for example, to facilitate MI production

61. Total LA spend – this is the total of the above. It is the amount that will be used to determine the grant funding payment from DWP to cover the full cost of administering the grant in an Authority area. A single grant payment will be made in arrears on the receipt of a fully completed and verified MI return. This cell will automatically populate from the figures in rows a and b.

62. Table 3: Total Value of Awards Split by Household Composition

Table 3: Total Value of Awards Split by Household Composition						
		a) Households with Children	b) Households with Pensioners	c) Households with a Disabled Person	d) Other households	e) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c+d)
Row 1	Spend (£s)					£ -
Row 2	Volumes					-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped					-

63. Table 3 relates to grant spend, the volume of awards made, and number of households helped in relation to households with children, pensioners, a disabled person and all other households. Rows 1 and 2 relate to grant awards made by Authorities (including District Councils) directly to vulnerable households, and grant awards to vulnerable households made by TPOs. Row 3 refers to the number of households helped.

64. Spend (£s) - this is the amount paid/awarded to vulnerable households within the eligibility criteria. Authorities should make every effort to gather information to establish the household type. For example, for households with children whether a child resides in the household (including being the only member of the household) in order to complete the template as fully as possible. This information is important for DWP to evaluate how successful The Fund has been in providing support to households with children.

65. Authorities should either gather information or check existing records they hold or have access to, to establish whether the household includes a child or a pensioner (as defined below) or a disabled person and complete columns a, b and c accordingly. Responsibility for MI reporting rests with Authorities. Where Shire Counties pass grant allocations to District Councils, District Councils should pass the information relating to columns a, b and c to the County Council/Unitary Authority to collate the information and send one collated template to DWP.

66. For the purposes of recording spend in the MI template, if an award relates to more than one of 'Households with Children', 'Households with Pensioners' (i.e. pensioners living with children) and Households with a Disabled Person (for example disabled people living with children), Authorities have the flexibility to categorise and record the spend under the household composition(s) which they consider more fitting. In determining this, Authorities should, as far as is possible, consider who the award is principally intended to support.

67. For the purpose of the Reporting Requirements for this grant (and without prejudice to other schemes):

68. The definition of a household with a child is a household containing any person:

- who will be under the age of 19 at the time of award or;
- a person aged 19 or over in respect of whom a child-related benefit (for example, Child Benefit) is paid or free school meals are provided.

69. The definition of a household with a pensioner is any household containing any person:

- who has reached state pension age at the time of award

70. The definition of disability and disabled people aligns with the definition in the Equality Act 2010. Therefore, a disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

- 'substantial' is more than minor or trivial, e.g. it takes much longer than it normally would to complete a daily task like getting dressed;
- 'long-term' means 12 months or more, e.g. a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection.

71. For Tables 3 to 6

- Volumes - this is the number of individual/separate payments made to vulnerable households within the eligibility criteria. If multiple awards are made to the same household throughout the period of The Fund each award should be counted separately. Where an award is made to a household with multiple children, it should be classed as a single award.
- Number of Households Helped: This is the number of individual households helped by The Fund within the eligibility criteria. There should be only one record for each household helped, even if multiple awards are made to the same household throughout the period of The Fund.
- Reporting TPO Spend and TPO Volumes - we acknowledge that some TPOs, for example, charitable and voluntary organisations such as food banks, have limited or no access to household information and may not be in a position to provide this information to the same level of accuracy as Authorities. We are therefore asking Authorities and TPOs to report the actual level of spend and the volume of awards across the different eligibility criteria in rows 1-3 to the best of their ability.

72. Table 4: Total Value of Awards Split by Category

Table 4: Total Value of Awards Split by Category								
		a) Energy and Water	b) Food excluding FSM support in the holidays	c) Free School Meals support in the holidays	d) Essentials linked to Energy and Water	e) Wider Essentials	f) Housing Costs	g) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c+d+e+f)
Row 1	Spend (£s)							£ -
Row 2	Volumes							-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped							-

73. Table 4 relates to grant spend, volume of awards made, and households helped in relation to food, energy and water bills, essentials linked to energy and water bills, wider essentials, and (in exceptional circumstances) housing costs.

74. Table 5: Total Value of Awards Split by Types of Support

Table 5: Total Value of Awards Split by Types of Support							
		a) Vouchers	b) Cash Awards	c) Third Party Organisations	d) Tangible Items	e) Other	f) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c+d+e)
Row 1	Spend (£s)						£ -
Row 2	Volumes						-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped						-

75. Table 5 relates to grant spend, volume of awards made, and households helped in relation to vouchers, Cash Awards, Third Party Organisations, Tangible Items and Other.

76. By Tangible Items we mean products that are of a physical nature such as clothing or household items.

77. Table 6: Total Value of Awards Split by Access Routes

Table 6: Total Value of Awards Split by Access Routes					
		a) Application-based Support	b) Proactive Support	c) Other	d) Total amount provided to vulnerable households (a+b+c)
Row 1	Spend (£s)				£ -
Row 2	Volumes				-
Row 3	Number of Households Helped				-

78. Table 6 relates to grant spend, volume of awards made, and households helped in relation to Application-based support, Proactive Support and Other.

79. By application-based support, we mean any awards made through a successful application for support made to the Authority by eligible recipients or through third parties who run self-referral support services on behalf of the Authority.

80. By proactive support we mean any awards made as a result of the Authority proactively identifying recipients.

81. Total - Table 3 Row 1 column g, Table 4 row 1 column g, Table 5 Row 1 column f and Table 6 column row 1 d are protected and will automatically add up spend across the different headings. This figure will automatically populate Table 2 row a.

82. When allocating spend and the volume of awards across the eligibility criteria please follow the guidance below.

- Each award needs to be allocated four times – one allocation for each of Tables 3-6 so that when you report on the total spent on:
 - i. Table 3, award by household composition;
 - ii. Table 4 award by category of spend;
 - iii. Table 5 type of support; and
 - iv. Table 6 access route

The total amount you have paid will be the same across the four tables.

83. Tables 3 to 6 ask for spend and award volumes to be recorded against four sets of criteria, one for each table. Therefore, the details of each award need to be recorded four times; once against one set of criteria in Table 3, then a second time for Table 4 and again in Tables 5 and 6. Shown below is a worked example of how the MI template should be completed.

84. Authorities are asked to report and manage spend in relation to all of these areas. For example, if a £100 award of vouchers is made following a successful application for support to a household with children for food, you would allocate £100 to the 'Households with children' section in Table 3, £100 to the 'food' section in Table 4, £100 to the Vouchers section of Table 5 and £100 to the Application-based support

of Table 6. You would also allocate one award and one household supported in these sections of Tables 3 to 6.

85. If The Fund payments are paid directly to a vulnerable household's Council Tax Account in lieu of a different payment method i.e. for food excluding FSM in the holidays /energy and water; then the amount paid must be recorded under the intended heading, in this case food excluding FSM support in the holiday. If the payment is in relation to both food and energy in equal measures put 50% of the award in each of the two categories.

Additional guidance and examples when working with TPOs

86. Please include, where possible, the amount of spend across the following categories:

- households with children, households with pensioners, households with a disabled person, other households, and
- energy and water bills, essentials linked to energy and water bills, wider essentials, and (in exceptional circumstances) housing costs.

87. For example, if you have allocated:

- grant funding to a food bank to provide food to vulnerable people, establish the amount of that allocation the food bank has spent and enter in Table 4 the full amount spent under "food excluding FSM through the school holidays" as you know that the grant allocation has been spent in respect of food in term time and not covering FSMs, and in Table 3 provide the split across household composition to the best of your ability in accordance with the example below.
- grant funding to a charity that specialises in providing vulnerable children with clothing, establish the amount of that allocation the charity has spent and enter the full amount spent in 'households with children' and the full amount of the grant spent in 'wider essentials'. This is because you know that the purpose of the grant is for children and the nature of support is clothing which comes under wider essentials.
- As this is TPO spend record the full amount of the grant spend under "Third Party Organisations" in Table 5 and record the full amount of the grant spend under "Other" in Table 6. For all entries, please add volumes of awards and numbers of households helped when completing the MI.

88. The amount of MI available will vary considerably across each TPO. Please use whatever information is already available or reasonable to collect to be as accurate as possible.

89. Shown below are some examples of how to complete the template.

Example 1

90. A food bank operates on an open basis where anyone can turn up and pick up food and supplies. This is not an award made directly to vulnerable households by an Authority. The cost is picked up by a TPO, for example, the food bank. The MI template should be completed as per guidance below. The award was not made as a result of an application nor proactive support.

91. The total value of grant spent, the volume of awards made by the charity or voluntary organisations providing the food bank and number of households helped should be entered in Table 3 (The Authority or food bank provider will need to provide the split

between household composition to the best of their ability) and column b (Food Excluding FSM support in the holidays) of Table 4. These values should be reported in column c (Third Party Organisations) of Table 5 and column c (Other) of Table 6.

Example 2

92. The Authority directly provides vouchers to vulnerable households as a result of the Authority proactively identifying the recipients. These could be redeemable at a number of food outlets including supermarkets or food banks. Food voucher amounts can vary depending on how many children reside in the household. Authorities are expected to collect or verify information to establish whether the award is made to a household with children or a household with pensioners or a disabled person. The MI template should be completed as follows:

- the value of awards should be entered in Table 3 in 'spend' row 1 column a (households with children), row 1 column b (households with pensioners), row 1 column c (households with a disabled person) and row 1 column d (other households) based on the information the Authority has been capturing to split spend across these categories.
- the volume of awards should be included in Table 3 row 2 (Volumes) column a and row 2 column b based on the information the Authority has been capturing to split the volume of awards spent across these categories.
- the number of households helped should be included in Table 3 row 3 (number of households helped) column a and row 3 column b based on the information the Authority has been capturing to split the number of households helped across these categories.
- the value of awards should be entered in Table 4 row 1 column b because it relates to food excluding FSM support outside the holidays.
- the volume of awards should be included in Table 4 row 2 column b because it relates to food
- the number of households helped should be included in Table 4 row 3 (number of households helped) column b because it relates to food
- the value of awards should be entered in Table 5 row 1 column a because it relates to vouchers
- the volume of awards should be included in Table 5 row 2 column a because it relates to vouchers
- the number of households helped should be included in Table 5 row 3 column a because it relates to vouchers
- the value of awards should be entered in Table 6 row 1 column b because it relates to proactive support
- the volume of awards should be included in Table 6 row 2 column b because it relates to proactive support
- the number of households helped should be included in Table 6 row 3 column b because it relates to proactive support

DWP engagement

93. LA relationship managers from DWP's LA Partnership, Engagement and Delivery division will contact Authorities to provide support and gather information throughout

The Fund. Examples where LA relationship managers will contact Authorities for initial compliance include:

- the MI templates have not been completed and returned;
- the MI templates have not been copied to the Authority's S151 officer or CFO.
- An incorrect template has been used – MI should only be returned on the MI template provided no local versions or PDF copies are acceptable.

94. They will also contact Authorities where further clarification is needed in respect of the information provided on the MI reporting template, if for example:

- critical data is missing, or the data looks odd, or
- the Authority is reporting a high value of awards where they have not been able to establish the household composition. We may need the Authority to explain why that is the case and provide supporting evidence.
- the Authority is reporting a high value of administration costs. We may need the Authority to explain why that is the case and provide supporting evidence.
- there is a significant gap between actual and allocated spend. We may need the Authority to explain why spend was so low.

95. They will look to identify good practice and identify case studies where appropriate.

96. Authorities are required to complete a delivery plan to outline their intentions for The Fund and to demonstrate some of the ways in which they intend to allocate their funding. The delivery plan will be due one month after the start of The Fund on 28 October 2022. At the end of the The Fund we will also ask for a summary of spend against the final delivery plan with this due at the same time as the final MI in April 2023.

97. DWP will also continue to engage with Authorities throughout the course of The Fund and will provide opportunities to engage with the Department and other Authorities to share good practice and work collaboratively. DWP will continue to respond to questions we receive via the designated inbox as quickly as possible.

98. Where Authorities work with District Councils and TPOs it is the responsibility of Authorities to collect and collate MI and complete one collated MI return and submit to DWP.

DWP funding arrangements

99. The Fund is ring-fenced to be spent as detailed in this guidance and the accompanying grant determination. To ensure that the objectives of The Fund are being met during the course of the grant and reduce administration costs for all concerned, including the need for DWP to recover underspend, grant payment will be made in arrears upon DWP being satisfied with the MI returns. This will enable DWP to adjust the amount of the payment based on the MI returns.

100. Payment of The Fund from DWP to Authorities will be made in arrears after the interim MI return in January 2023 and the final MI return at the end of grant period in April 2023 after we have verified the MI. If an Authority feels that the payment arrangements will create significant cash flow problems, please notify DWP as soon

as possible with supporting evidence. Both an interim and a final MI return will be required and grant payments will be made in respect of the periods 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 and 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

101. MI returns **must be endorsed by the S151** officer in accordance with their statutory assurance responsibility in order for the grant payment to be made by copying your Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 Officer into the email.

102. The guidance for completion is provided on a separate tab within the MI template.

103. The definition of spend includes grant funding that has been provided to vulnerable households, within the scope of the eligibility criteria, and within the period of The Fund 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023.

104. Spend also includes 'committed spend'. For the purpose of The Fund committed spend relates to grant funding that has been spent and delivered to vulnerable households even though the vulnerable household may not have used their grant funding. An example would be the award of a food voucher on 31 March 2023 to a vulnerable household. It would be unreasonable to expect the household to be restricted to redeem the voucher on the day of receipt. In this example, spend has been committed by the Authority, support has been provided to a vulnerable household and, therefore, should be included as eligible grant spend. It would be reasonable to expect the vulnerable household to redeem the food voucher during the month following the end of The Fund.

105. However, committed spend does not include large volumes of food vouchers, procured quite late in The Fund, which cannot be distributed to vulnerable households within the period of The Fund.

106. Authorities that plan to order vouchers in bulk should attempt to be realistic in the volumes ordered to avoid holding large stocks of unused vouchers at the end of The Fund. Alternatively, Authorities may want to consider:

- Purchasing vouchers on a sale or return basis, so that they can return any unused vouchers, or
- Expired vouchers returned to an Authority after The Fund has ended can be recycled and re-issued within a reasonable timeframe but must be done so under the same categories of spend as originally reported and under the same terms as The Fund they were issued under.
- For audit purposes where an Authority recycles and reuses expired vouchers they must follow this process:
 - Authority must confirm by email, copying S151 officer,
 - the amount that has been returned,
 - reason for the return (e.g., expired voucher),
 - what the original spend was reported against in their FINAL MI return,
 - confirm they intend to spend the total unspent amount against the same category of spend for the same group.

107. The definition of committed spend for the purpose of The Fund does not affect its accounting treatment in accordance with normal rules.

108. The timetable for provision of funding is as follows:

Funding:

Payment	Amount (%)	Date	Notes
Interim	Actual grant spend up to 100% of grant allocation*	February/March 2023	Payment made in arrears
Final	Actual grant spend up to 100% of grant allocation*	June/July 2023	Payment made in arrears

*Subject to eligible spend criteria

Managing the risk of fraud

109. Fraudsters can target funds of this type.

110. As with any welfare payment to vulnerable recipients there is a risk of fraud, as recipients might appear to be eligible when they are not.

111. To help mitigate this risk, Authorities should involve District Councils and other organisations chosen to administer The Fund to help identify vulnerable families, households and individuals.

112. Authorities wishing to work with TPOs to deliver The Fund must carry out suitable due diligence checks to ensure they are viable and able to deliver the support. So, for example, ensuring all charities are registered and taking extra caution if they are new organisations.

113. Authorities are also encouraged to ensure checks are in place to verify the identity of those eligible.

114. Authorities are encouraged to ask neighbouring Authorities to work together to help prevent double provision and/or no provision – especially where allocation of provision is by school in one area and by residential address in another.

115. It is for Authorities to decide how payments are made to recipients. However, when making decisions, Authorities should consider the risks involved. Although they still carry fraud risks, vouchers should be used instead of cash where possible as this helps to mitigate the risk of the money being spent by the recipient on things outside of the policy intent.

116. Authorities should ensure that they consider and put in place suitable controls when making use of vouchers as part of The Fund. Authorities may wish to consider

restricting access to these vouchers; and also consider restricting usage to ensure that they cannot be spent outside the intended scope of The Fund.

117. It is important to be vigilant to fraud and error risks in relation to housing costs, and to assure yourself that the appropriate checks are in place. Authorities should take appropriate steps to ensure they take into consideration household income and rent liability which may be requested and reviewed as set out in the grant determination. We expect Authorities to work with district councils to ensure support is going to those with genuine need and to help minimise the risk of fraud on housing support.

118. Where possible, any payments made into a bank account should be in the same name of the person that is eligible for that payment. Authorities have access to a range of data sources, and checks can be carried out against this data to verify the identity of the recipient. Authorities are also encouraged to use existing tools at their disposal to verify personal bank accounts.

119. If the Authority has any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity in the use of any grant paid under this Determination, it must notify DWP immediately, explain what steps are being taken to investigate the suspicion and keep DWP informed about the progress of the investigation. For these purposes 'financial irregularity' includes fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of grant for purposes other than those for which it was provided.

120. If you suspect fraud, you should notify DWP of the:

- number of instances
- total amount lost

121. This will help DWP identify any emerging threats and share them with other Authorities, so they can take steps to prevent and detect any fraud in their Fund.

Complying with Subsidy (previously State Aid) rules

122. The funding is intended to benefit households most in need of support with energy bills, food, related essentials, wider essentials and (exceptionally) housing costs, in order to help with global inflationary challenges and the significantly rising cost of living. The funds should not be used for any economic undertaking.

123. Whichever way you use the funding, including where you work in partnership with others, you should consider all Subsidy rules (previously state aid) issues. Check whether the 'de minimis' regulation exception applies. You should also follow government procurement procedures where relevant.

Administration costs

124. The Household Support Fund funding allocation includes reasonable administration costs to enable Authorities to deliver The Fund. Authorities should deduct their administration costs from the total allocation to determine the amount remaining.

125. In all cases, Authorities should keep administrative costs to a reasonable level.

126. Administration costs for each Authority will be published on www.gov.uk alongside detail of all spend and volumes related to The Fund.

Public Sector Equality Duty

127. In accordance with the public sector equality duty, DWP has had due regard for the potential equalities impacts of this grant.
128. Under the Equality Act 2010, all public authorities must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty. For the purposes of this grant, you should consider how any support that helps people facing severe financial hardship impacts those with characteristics protected under the Equality Act.
129. When developing your local delivery frameworks, you should ensure people are not disadvantaged or treated unfairly by The Fund. For example, any application process should be easy to access and to navigate.

Contact

130. If you have any queries about the content of this guidance or use of the funding, you can contact DWP: LA-PED.LAGRANTSPROJECTTEAM@DWP.GOV.UK

DRAFT

Annex A: eligibility for cost of living and energy support

Detailed eligibility requirements for the Cost of Living Payments can be found at:

[Cost of Living Payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment)

Further details on the Energy Bills Support Scheme can be found at:

[Energy Bills Support Scheme explainer - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-bills-support-scheme-explainer)

Eligibility requirements for the Council Tax Rebate and information on the associated £144m Discretionary Fund can be found at:

[The council tax rebate 2022-23 – billing authority guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/council-tax-rebate-2022-23-billing-authority-guidance)

DRAFT

Annex B: data share field list



2022-04-19 LWP
Data Share Field De

This document will be updated to include information regarding the additional data share of those who are only in receipt of Housing Benefit only when the details are confirmed.

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

11th October 2022

Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Engagement, and Regulatory Services: Councillor David Smith,

Report Title	New Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the former Daventry District and former South Northants administrative areas of West Northamptonshire Council.
Report Author	Joanna Oakes, Community Projects Officer, joanna.oakes@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Monitoring Officer	Catherine Whitehead	16/08/2022
Chief Finance Officer (S.151)	Martin Henry	23/08/2022
Other Director/SME	Stuart Timmiss – Place and Economy	16/09/2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications	Bethany Longhurst	16/08/2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Order

Appendix B – PSPO Consultation Questionnaire, Results and Comments

Appendix C – Dog related Council complaints 2018-2021 for former Daventry and South Northants Council Administration areas

Appendix D – Press release – Northamptonshire implements a no smoking policy for Country Park Play Areas

Appendix E – LGSCO Report: <https://www.lgo.org.uk/assets/attach/6252/Focus-Report-Reasonable-Adjustments-F.pdf>

Appendix F – Currently in-force former Northampton Borough Council PSPO

Appendix G – Equality Impact Assessment

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report is to provide feedback on the results of the public consultation for a proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the former administrative areas of Daventry and South Northants which make up part of the West Northamptonshire Council Unitary Authority.
- 1.2. The report also seeks Cabinet approval of the draft proposed PSPO at Appendix A and a resolution delegating the formal making of that Order, as well as the necessary compliance with the remaining statutory requirements to bring it into force, to the Executive Director for Place and Economy.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 gave powers to local authorities to introduce Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) to control a range of issues linked to anti-social behaviour, including the control of dogs. Although the vast majority of dogs cause no problems and the vast majority of owners look after their pets in a responsible manner, the control of dogs remains a significant issue to the public with dog fouling being a particular concern to many.
- 2.2 As part of the Councils commitment to the Public Health Northamptonshire plan and other statutory public health requirements, it needs to do all it can to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke, make smoking less visible to children and address the anti-social issue of smoking associated litter.
- 2.3 By introducing the proposed PSPO, WNC would introduce powers to require dog owners to comply with certain requirements across those parts of its administrative area which were formerly comprised of Daventry and South Northants Districts, in order to encourage more responsible dog ownership. In addition, there is a proposed requirement to prohibit smoking in certain public spaces - children's play areas, playgrounds, educational facilities, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas (MUGA), bowling greens, fenced or otherwise – across the same geographic areas. As well as reducing passive smoking in these areas, the prohibiting of smoking will help reduce littering of cigarettes and associated items and will help keep open spaces safer, cleaner and greener for all.
- 2.4 The nine proposed measures are:
 - Proposal 1 - Failure to clean up after your dog. Persons in control of a dog must clean up and remove its faeces from the area and place it in a bin or take it home for disposal.
 - Proposal 2 – Dog exclusion zones. Persons in control of a dog must not take it into or onto any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise: Children's play areas; Educational facilities; playgrounds; skateparks; tennis courts; multi-use games areas (MUGA); bowling greens.
 - Proposal 3 – Dogs on leads. Persons in control of a dog must ensure the dog is on a lead in cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens, allotments, car parks to which the public have access and sports grounds, sports fields and pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity.

- Proposal 4 – Dogs on leads by direction. Persons in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer.
- Proposal 5 – Dogs on leads near schools. Persons in control of a dog must put their dogs on leads near school entrances or exits during school days.
- Proposal 6 – Appropriate means to pick up dog faeces. Persons in charge of a dog must carry a poop bag or other appropriate means for clearing up after their dog.
- Proposal 7 – Prohibition of smoking. All persons are prohibited from smoking tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances within the following areas, whether fenced or not: children’s play areas, playgrounds, educational facilities, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas (MUGA) and bowling greens.
- Proposal 8 – Fixed Penalty Charge. The maximum fixed penalty charge for breaches of the PSPO shall be £100 as the maximum permitted by legislation.
- Proposal 9 – Maximum number of dogs. Persons in charge of multiple dogs shall not be allowed to walk any more than four at any one time.

2.5 A consultation exercise has taken place and responses were strongly in favour of the Council implementing all nine proposed measures.

2.6 Additional concern regarding dog fouling on sports pitches has been raised. Further evidence and consultation is needed to ascertain if additional measures may be required. The implementation of the PSPO should be progressed in the meantime to prevent further detriment from occurring in the locality.

2.7 This report recommends implementing a new PSPO across the former administrative areas of Daventry and South Northants Districts, which now form part of West Northamptonshire Council. It sets out the nine proposals which, if adopted, would be in place for a statutory maximum period of three years, unless reviewed and the subject of a further report to Cabinet to vary or replace.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- a) Approve the introduction of a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) across the former Daventry and South Northants District administrative areas of WNC with all nine proposed measures set out at paragraph 2.4 above to be included, to remain in force for a period of three years until September 2025.
- b) Resolve that the Draft PSPO at **Appendix A** shall be made by the Council as a result.
- c) Delegate the power to formally make the PSPO and to comply with the remaining statutory requirements to bring it into force (as set out in the legal implications at paragraph 7.2 below) to the Executive Director for Place and Economy.
- d) Agree to the gathering of further evidence take place between October and December 2022 and consultation to commence in January 2023 to determine if additional measures may be required regarding dog fouling on sports pitches. The consultation to be agreed with the Portfolio Holder prior to start.

4. Reason for Recommendations (NOTE: this section is **mandatory and must be completed**)

- 4.1 Section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides local authorities with powers to create a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) where they are satisfied that activities carried out in a public place:
- Have had, or likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
 - Is, or is likely to be persistent or continuing in nature.
 - Is, or is likely to be unreasonable.
 - Justify the restrictions to be imposed.
- 4.2 Not having a PSPO currently in place makes it more difficult for the Council and Police Officers to control dog-related nuisance across the area or to enforce the prohibition of smoking in specific open spaces.
- 4.3 The proposed draft PSPO at **Appendix A** is considered to be an appropriate and proportionate response to dog control issues which are being experienced across the former administrative areas of Daventry and South Northants Districts. It is also deemed an appropriate way to attempt to reduce littering of cigarettes and associated items and to help support the Councils commitment to the Public Health Northamptonshire plan to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke and make smoking less visible to children.
- 4.4 All nine proposals have been strongly supported in the public consultation, as shown by the material included within **Appendix B**.
- 4.5 Introducing the proposed new PSPO across the area will bring consistency for residents who live, work and visit public open spaces in the former administrative areas of Daventry and South Northants Districts. It will also make consistent messaging easier.
- 4.6 It reinstates many of the proposals that were contained within Daventry District Councils Dog Control PSPO, which expired in 2021, so many residents and visitors to much of the area proposed to be covered are already familiar with the proposed requirements and prohibitions.
- 4.7 It will provide a degree of consistency across the whole of West Northamptonshire Council's administration area, as the former Northampton Borough currently has a PSPO which is due to expire on 18th September 2023, it contains similar measures to control dog related nuisance.
- 4.8 By implementing the proposed new PSPO until September 2025, it provides the opportunity to extend the PSPO across the former Northampton Borough area once it expires in September 2023. This will bring alignment and consistency to the whole of the WNC administrative area.
- 4.9 By approving the prohibition of smoking proposal, this will bring all children's play areas into alignment with the ban on smoking that is already in effect in West and North Northamptonshire Council Country Park play areas. In addition to children's play areas, by prohibiting smoking across playgrounds, educational facilities, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas (MUGA), bowling greens, fenced or otherwise, it will help make smoking less visible to children and residents can continue to use the facilities to help maintain and enjoy a healthy lifestyle without being negatively impacted by second-hand smoke and associated littering.

- 4.10 By approving and implementing this PSPO, West Northamptonshire Council will be taking steps towards achieving some of its Corporate Strategy priorities, specifically:
- **Clean and Green** – helping maintain our parks and green spaces to a high standard with accessible green space for all.
 - **Thriving Villages and Towns** - helping to raise standards in our communities, improve the towns and villages and reducing anti-social behaviour.
 - **Improved Life Chances** - The banning of smoking in specific open spaces and the Dog Control PSPO will take steps towards improving health of children, some adults and reduce pressure on the health service.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) introduced new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). This legislation also replaced the Dog Control Orders made under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The Police and Local Authorities are responsible for tackling anti-social behaviour.
- 5.2 Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) can be used to address particular nuisance or problems in public places that have a “detrimental effect” on the local community.
- 5.3 PSPOs may lawfully impose legally enforceable restrictions on certain activities or conduct of any person in the area to be covered. They may also lawfully impose legally enforceable specific restrictions on persons engaged in certain activities or conduct in the same area. A PSPO is designed to ensure that residents and visitors can use and enjoy public spaces without experiencing anti-social behaviour and suffering detrimental impact.
- 5.4 Following an extensive consultation exercise in 2015, the former Daventry District Council introduced a PSPO to tackle irresponsible dog ownership. This was further extended following subsequent consultation in 2018. Its extension saw a 36% decline in dog related complaints over 3 years (**see Appendix C**). Enforcement Officers noted that the presence of the Order across the former Daventry District area provided a robust footing for them to engage with members of the public who may benefit from words of advice and encouragement in assisting them to control their pets effectively and to refrain from smoking in children’s play areas. Due to the impact of Covid and the formation of the new unitary council, WNC, this PSPO has now expired but many residents are still familiar with its requirements as responsible dog owners and responsible citizens.

The problem

- 5.5 Research suggests that there are now estimated to be 12.5m dogs in the UK and that 33% of all households in the UK own a dog, with 3.2 million households in the UK having acquired a pet since the start of the pandemic in 2020. In further research conducted by The Dogs Trust, a quarter of owners also reported their dog has developed a new problem behaviour during the pandemic lockdown. It is estimated that dogs produce more than 1,000 tonnes of waste each day, with up to 31% of dog owners admitting to not cleaning up after their pets. 13% of owners nationally now use professional dog walking services.

- 5.6 In 2021, the former Councils of Daventry District and South Northants received more than 230 complaints about dog fouling and dog control issues and, whilst the majority of dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some who are irresponsible.
- 5.7 Dog mess is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets. Whilst WNC receives many dog fouling complaints each year, it believes that the true number of incidents is far greater than the number reported.
- 5.8 Many specific public open spaces are also affected by dog fouling such as sports grounds and pitches but again, the true extent of the issue is not known as the evidence is lacking due to organisations and clubs clearing it away and not reporting to the Council.
- 5.9 Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, but it can also be dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement or contaminated soil can cause toxocariasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness and seizures. Dog faeces can also pass Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively if left on land which is grazed by farm animals. Neospora can cause abortions in cattle or result in weak calves and Sarcocystosis can cause neurological disease and death in sheep.
- 5.10 In Northamptonshire there are approximately 96,000 smokers, with the County seeing more than 7,000 hospital admissions, 300,000 GP appointments and more than 1,000 smoking related deaths each year. As part of The Council's commitment to the Public Health Northamptonshire plan, we need to do all we can to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke and make smoking less visible to children. Children's play areas, playgrounds, educational facilities, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas, bowling greens, fenced or otherwise, are all public places for residents to go to maintain and enjoy a healthy lifestyle which can be supported with the banning of smoking in these specific areas. This no smoking policy has already been adopted across all Country Park play areas in West and North Northamptonshire (**Appendix D**).
- 5.11 Cigarette butts are the most prevalent form of litter in England and account for 66% of all littered items. The vast majority of cigarettes butts are single-use plastic and contain hundreds of toxic chemicals once smoked. Littered cigarette filters can persist in the environment for many years and release these chemicals into air, land and water, harming plant growth and wildlife. Littering is a separate criminal offence under section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, so the Council cannot lawfully prohibit littering of any kind within its area, but it can impose restrictions with a view to proactively preventing the littering of discarded cigarettes taking place in the first place within certain areas.
- 5.12 WNC is keen to take measures to combat these problems and is proposing to use a new PSPO to give its enforcement officers the power to deal with dog owners who fail to properly control their dogs in public open spaces across the former Daventry and South Northants District areas and to prohibit smoking in the specific public spaces outlined in 5.9.
- 5.13 WNC sought the views of members of the public and other interested parties by running a 6-week statutorily required consultation process from 21st February 2022, with the aim of

considering whether to make a new PSPO to encourage responsible dog ownership and to prohibit smoking in certain public open spaces across the former administrative areas of Daventry and South Northants Districts. Many of the proposals were in place in the former Daventry District until December 2021. The geographic scope of any new PSPO would cover a combined area of five hundred square miles with a population of 177,000. It is a largely rural area which includes 130 Parishes, three towns and 104 schools. The results of this consultation, the questionnaire and comments can be found at **Appendix B**.

- 5.14 Breach of any PSPO prohibition or failure to comply with a requirement is a criminal offence under the Act, punishable upon conviction in the Magistrates' Court by a maximum £1,000 fine. However, Council officers and other authorised persons and Police officers can issue a person with a fixed penalty notice (FPN) of no more than £100 for a breach as an alternative to being prosecuted. It is proposed that there is no reduction of the fine for early payment.
- 5.15 The proposal is for the Order to take effect for the maximum period of 3 years until September 2025. A PSPO currently covering the former Northampton Borough Council administrative area currently remains in force and is due to expire on 18th September 2023. It currently contains some dog control measures and can be viewed at **Appendix F**. When that Order expires in September 2023, the intention would be to review any PSPO made as a result of this report and explore extending it to cover the entire WNC area, subject to another public statutory consultation process, to be commenced in Spring 2023.
- 5.16 The original proposal was to make an Order to remain in force for a period of only 1 year. However, upon consideration of the consultation responses and the risk of reoccurrence of the conduct and activities proposed to be restricted and prohibited by the Order after one year, the proposal is now to make an Order for the statutory maximum term of 3 years. This change to the duration of the proposed Order has been taken after seeking legal advice and takes into account the strong public support received from the consultation exercise and the length of time taken to collate and analyse the results due to the high number of responses and comments received. It also provides more efficient use of Council resource.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 *The Committee could choose not to approve a new PSPO covering the proposed area and designed to encourage more responsible dog ownership, as well as furthering the requirements of the Public Health Northamptonshire Plan.*

This is not recommended because of the potentially serious impact which a small number of irresponsible or inconsiderate dog owners and smokers could have on the wider community. Education and encouragement regarding responsible dog ownership and control would be made more difficult. Messaging of the requirements across different parts of the West Northamptonshire authority would also be more difficult to achieve. Over time, there is a concern that levels of anti-social behaviour regarding dog control and ownership would increase. The consultation exercise has demonstrated public support for the introduction of a PSPO in the proposed terms.

- 6.2 *Wait until the former Northampton Borough PSPO is due for renewal or extension in September 2023.*

This is not recommended. Implementation of a PSPO is a lengthy process and will leave authorised Council officers and Police officers in the former Daventry and South Northants District areas without any means to try and encourage responsible dog ownership. It is anticipated that there would be a greater risk of more people experiencing a greater detrimental impact on the wider community of those who live, work or visit the areas where the PSPO would be enforced.

6.3 *Approve the making of the proposed draft PSPO at Appendix A to cover the former Daventry and South Northants Districts administrative area until 18th September 2023 only.*

This is not recommended. As set out above at paragraph 6.2, implementation of a PSPO is a lengthy process. The large number of consultation responses received has taken longer to collate and analyse than anticipated. Once approved, PSPO signage needs to be printed and erected around the WNC area which covers approximately five hundred square miles, three towns and 130 parishes. The PSPO would only be in effect for a relatively short duration of time before the Council would be required to consider whether to extend the Order, which would involve undertaking another statutory consultation process again. This would be an inefficient use of resource, may damage the reputation of the Council and may not allow enough time for adequate education and enforcement before it expires. This may lead to an increased detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.

6.4 *Approve the making of the proposed draft PSPO at Appendix A to cover the former Daventry and South Northants Districts administrative area until September 2025.*

For the reasons outlined in paragraph 4 above, **this is the preferred recommendation.**

6.5 *Delegate authority to make the PSPO approved at either paragraph 6.3 or 6.4 above and to carry out the remaining necessary statutory processes to bring it into force, outlined at paragraph 7 below, on behalf of the Council, to the Executive Director for Place and Economy.*

This is recommended. Cabinet cannot in practice carry out the remaining necessary statutory processes set out in the legal implication comments below, which are required to be completed in order for any PSPO to be formally made and lawfully brought into force. These tasks will have to be completed by Council officers and so a formal delegation to do so is required once Cabinet approves the draft Order at **Appendix A.**

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 The consultation has been undertaken using existing resource and existing budgets.

7.1.2 Signage for the resulting PSPO will need to be printed and installed at each of the sites across the Parish and Town Councils. The cost will be covered from existing budgets.

7.1.3 Due to the formation of the new Unitary Authority of West Northamptonshire any existing signage will need to be replaced as it is old, not fit for purpose and no longer valid. This will take time due to the large geographical area.

- 7.1.4 The placing of signage will be undertaken by existing officers who work out in the community. Some signage may be supplied directly to schools, Town and Parish Councils for them to site.
- 7.1.5 It is proposed that the signage scheme will be supplemented by notices and public information to enhance public understanding of the requirements of the PSPO. This will be undertaken by WNC Communications Team and will use existing resource.
- 7.1.6 An indicative print cost for signage of £6,336 has been identified for the scheme; however, this is prior to tender for supply and subject to the PSPO measures decided upon.
- 7.1.7 Enforcement of the new PSPO will be undertaken within existing resources and budget. Kingdom LA Support, an Environmental Enforcement Contractor will also be used to support enforcement and help provide a visible presence across the former South Northants and Daventry District area. Kingdom is already working in the former Northampton Borough area; their contract is due to expire in January 2023.
- 7.1.8 Targeted, intelligence-led enforcement activity will continue to be carried out by Council officers and the Police where possible. Officers already deal with a wide range of environmental enforcement issues and are specifically trained in carrying out enforcement activities in a sensitive and proportionate manner.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 The making of a PSPO is power available to the council under statute. In making an order, the local authority must be satisfied that what has been happening in the relevant area has had or will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and that it has been persistent or is likely to continue. The provisions within the Order must then address that specific activity and take into account the matters required by statute and as set out in this report. Consultation and Publication is required before an Order can be made and the Order can be subject to appeal. There are therefore a number of risks associated with the making of a PSPO which Members should be aware of. Those risks are set out below alongside the mitigations that have been put in place to minimise those risks.

7.3 Risk

- 7.3.1 *Risk 1 – Appeal against the making of a PSPO.*

Risk mitigation - Is by ensuring that the Order is legally robust by consultation and is compliant with the legal requirements.

- 7.3.2 *Risk 2 – The PSPO and its measures cannot be enforced adequately.*

Risk mitigation – Ensuring that the PSPO is robust and its implementation is subject to a plan of execution, which will include the installation of signage, education and sufficient publicity of the Order, clear instruction to officers responsible for its enforcement and a proportionate response as those affected by the introduction of the PSPO become aware of its requirements.

7.3.3 *Risk 3 - Inadequately delivered public awareness and promotion campaign of the PSPO's implementation fails to raise public awareness.*

Risk mitigation – The Council will deliver a comprehensive promotion campaign once the Order is made and following its implementation and will ensure the publicity and notification of the Draft Order through August 2022 prior to any decision to make the Order.

7.3.4 *Risk 4 - Reputational damage to WNC if the PSPO is not introduced.*

Risk mitigation – The consultation has been undertaken with those likely to be impacted by introduction of the Order. There is strong support for all of the proposed restrictions and requirements. PSPOs are intended to prevent anti-social behaviour and other unreasonable conduct from detrimentally affecting the lives of people who live in areas affected by such things, as well as those who work in and visit them. Consulting the public and organisations in the proposal area has informed WNC that a PSPO is required to restrict the conduct and activities addressed by the proposed Order or introduce specific requirements to control them.

7.4 **Consultation**

7.4.1 In accordance with statutory guidelines and required by Section 72 of the Act, the Council has conducted a public consultation. The consultation ran for 6 weeks from 21st February 2022 to midnight, 4th April 2022. The results of the consultation have been crucial in developing the draft PSPO set out at **Appendix A**. The consultation results and comments are provided in **Appendix B**.

7.4.2 The consultation was carried out online through the West Northamptonshire Council Consultation Hub. It was supported by a West Northamptonshire Council communications campaign to raise awareness and encourage participation.

7.4.3 More than one hundred businesses were notified in the proposal area including vets, dog trainers, behaviour experts, groomers, WNC animal licensees – dog boarders, kennels, breeders and pet shops.

7.4.4 All Parish Councils and Town Councils in the proposal area were notified and asked to share with residents, clubs, organisations and groups in their area.

7.4.5 Over twenty different animal welfare and animal assistance charities and organisations were notified. These included The Kennel Club, The Dogs Trust, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Assistance Dogs UK, Autism Dogs, Canine Partners, Dog Aid - Assistance in Disability, Dogs for Good, Medical Detection Dogs, Support Dogs, The Seeing Dogs Alliance, RSPCA, Association of Professional Dog Walkers and Sitters, National Association of Pet Sitters and Dog Walkers (NARPS UK), Canine and Feline Sector Group.

- 7.4.6 All primary and secondary schools in the former administrative areas of Daventry District and South Northants were notified and asked to share details of the consultation with parents and carers.
- 7.4.7 Libraries across West Northamptonshire were asked to support and promote the consultation and accessing of it for residents.
- 7.4.8 Notification of the consultation was sent to those on the WNC Consultation Register and the WNC Resident's Panel.
- 7.4.9 Statutory partners were notified including Northamptonshire Police Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner along with other interested groups including Northamptonshire Football Association, Ramblers Association, Keep Britain Tidy, The Canal and Rivers Trust, National Trust, Northamptonshire Police Dog Legislation Officer, Community Safety partners. WNC staff including the Chief Executive, Senior Leadership Team, Assistant Directors, Environmental Health and Environmental Crime Officers, Neighbourhood Wardens, Dog Wardens, Rangers, Regulatory Services Lead Officers and the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Engagement and Regulatory Services. All were given the opportunity to comment on the consultation.
- 7.4.10 Results of this consultation have shown strong support for all nine proposals which were proposed for inclusion within a new PSPO. The full report, including the consultation questionnaire, can be found at **Appendix B**.
- 7.4.11 The Council received 1,275 responses to the consultation. 3% of all those that responded were organisations, Charities, Parish/Town Councils and businesses. 97% were individuals.
- 7.4.12 Consultees were asked to comment on nine specific proposals:

Proposal 1 - Failure to clean up after your dog. 74% of consultees responded to this proposal. 93% of responses strongly agreed or agreed that persons in control of a dog must clean up and remove its faeces from the area and place it in a bin or take it home for disposal. 58% stated that dog fouling was a very big or fairly big concern in their area. Of those that stated it was a very big or fairly big concern, 89 different villages and towns across the former administrative areas of Daventry and South Northants were identified and over 180 locations given. Dog fouling was the main concern (68%) with an additional 11% citing dumped dog poo bags and an additional 12% citing irresponsible dog owners as the concern.

Proposal 2 – Dog exclusion zones. Persons in control of a dog must not take it into or onto any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise: Children's play areas; Educational facilities; playgrounds; skateparks; tennis courts; multi-use games areas (MUGA); bowling greens. 889 people (70%) responded to this question, of those, 71% strongly agreed or agreed with this proposal with the worst affected areas being Children's play areas 38%, playgrounds 25% and multi-use game areas (MUGA) 19%, educational facilities 10%. However, these are also the most common facilities found within most villages and towns, skate parks were cited in 4% of cases, tennis courts in 2% and bowling greens 2%. Fouling, loose dogs and irresponsible owners were given as the most common reasons for this and accounted for 58% of responses.

Proposal 3 – Dogs on leads. 67% of people responded to this question with 83% of responses strongly agreeing or agreeing that persons in control of a dog must ensure the dog is on a lead in cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens, allotments, car parks to which the public have access and sports grounds, sports fields and pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity. 62% of respondents stated that in their area, dogs not being under adequate control was a very big, fairly big or a small concern to them, although 33% stated this was not a concern in their area. Sports grounds (34%), car parks (18%) and all forms of burial sites (16%) accounted for 68% of responses where an issue with dogs off lead had been identified within the last 12 months with loose dogs accounting for 41% of problems faced and out of control dogs accounting for 33%.

Proposal 4 – Dogs on lead by direction 66% of people responded to this question with 80% strongly agreeing or agreeing that persons in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer. Although 65% of respondents have not had concerns about owners not putting dogs on leads in the past 12 months. Of the remaining 35%, those that did have concerns were relating to poor dog control issues 39%, loose dogs 21% and irresponsible owners 21%. There were an additional 181 comments about the proposal to put dogs on leads when asked, 50% of these were relating to enforcement.

Proposal 5 – Dogs on leads near schools. 65% of people responded to this question with 84% agreeing strongly or agreeing that persons in control of a dog must put their dogs on a lead near school entrances or exits during school days. Dogs not being kept under control near a school was considered a very big concern or fairly big concern for 20% of those that commented on this question. Of those residents that had concerns, loose dogs accounted for 30%, out of control dogs 18% and irresponsible owners accounting for 21%.

Proposal 6 – Appropriate means to pick up dog faeces. 65% of people responded to this proposal, of those that did respond, 95% strongly agreed or agreed that persons in charge of a dog must carry a poop bag or other appropriate means for clearing up after their dog. 67% of responses suggested that it was a very big concern or a fairly big concern. In excess of 40 different villages and towns across the former administrative areas of Daventry District and South Northants were identified as places where residents had a concern about dog owners not having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces in the last 12 months.

Proposal 7 – Prohibition of smoking. 64% of people and organisations responded to this proposal, of those that did, 78% strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal to prohibit all persons from smoking tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances within the following areas, whether fenced or not: children's play areas, playgrounds, educational facilities, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas (MUGA) and bowling greens. Smoking in these areas was considered a very big concern or fairly big concern or small concern for 57% of respondents with the remaining responders stating that they did not know or that it was not a concern for them. In the last 12 months, 32% of people stated that they had had concerns about smoking in a play area, 13% in an educational facility, 22% in a playground, 13% in a MUGA, 11% in a skatepark, 5% in a tennis court and 4% in a bowling green. Of those respondents 15% that stated that they had concerns, 185 comments were received, of those, 26% were concerns relating to smoking around children in play areas and schools, 6% of comments were concerns relating to second-hand smoke, 7% to illegal substances, 10% to litter and 8% related to teenagers smoking.

Proposal 8 – Fixed Penalty Charge. This proposal received a 63% response rate. The proposal states that the maximum fixed penalty charge for breaches of the PSPO permitted by The Act is £100. 70% strongly agreed or agreed with this proposal. 30% of people and organisations made 266 additional comments relating to the fixed penalty charge with 38% of comments relating to enforcement, 23% stated the fine was too low and 7% stating the fine was too high.

Proposal 9 – Maximum number of dogs. 63% of those that took part in this consultation responded to this question. 57% strongly agreed or agreed that persons in charge of multiple dogs should not be allowed to walk any more than four at any one time with 20% of responses neither agreeing or disagreeing or did not know. 50% of those that were concerned about a person walking too many dogs said it was either a very big concern (11%), a fairly big concern (13%) or a small concern (26%), however, 86% of people stated that they had not had any concerns in the last 12 months where a person was walking too many dogs for them to control well. Of those that did state they had problems with a person walking too many dogs, 129 comments were received, 46% of those related to issues surrounding dog control.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 Not considered. None received.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 The Council has made a commitment in the Corporate Plan to use resources wisely to protect the environment, where everyone can live well and safely together and be a place where everyone thrives. It aspires to be an authority that puts the environment first and encourages and supports others to do the same to help shape a cleaner, greener West Northants. Although the proposed PSPO is not lawfully capable of being created and in order to assist the Council in achieving any of its environmental goals, it is anticipated that this will be a knock-on effect should the Order be brought into force.

7.6.2 The Order needs to be maintained at all times to ensure sufficient education and enforcement can take place if necessary.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 The former administrative areas of Daventry District and South Northants are largely rural with 3 towns, 130 parishes and cover an area of approximately 500 square miles. There are miles of public footpaths, bridle paths and byways which cross fields and private land. Whilst the scope of a PSPO does not extend to private land to which the public do not have access, with or without a fee, including agricultural land, it does cover the public footpaths, bridle paths and byways that may cross that land. WNC will endeavour to support this message with a targeted communications education campaign to advise and remind owners about responsible dog ownership. Some of these requirements will fall outside of the scope of the PSPO i.e. dog identification, microchipping, livestock worrying etc. All are requirements of responsible dog ownership and are covered by their own legislation.

7.7.2 As a result of the consultation, a list of “areas of concern” for dog fouling have been gathered across the affected area, these will be used for targeted patrol, education, appropriate signage and enforcement.

7.7.3 Following concerns that the requirement to put dogs on leads on sports grounds, fields and pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity may not reduce the amount of dog fouling, it is intended that an additional consultation and evidence gathering will be undertaken to identify if there is a need for further restrictions to be brought in.

7.7.4 During the public consultation, the Council received a complaint advising that a telephone number was omitted, thereby making the Consultation inaccessible to them. The complainant was spoken with to capture their views, a Service telephone number was added, an internal review took place with the Equalities Officer and the Consultation and Engagement Team. The complaint has been shared with the Consultation and Engagement Service to make sure that their procedures are robust if future errors occur. The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Service (LGSCO) also released a focus report in May 2022. This pays reference to the way that Councils support customers with equal access and reasonable adjustments and this learning and best practise has been incorporated into the review of the complaint. A copy of the LGSCO report can be found at **Appendix E**.

7.7.5 Feedback was provided by the consultation to ensure that due regard was given to the Equality Act 2010. See **Appendix G** for the full Equality Screening Assessment for the impact of any resulting PSPO on protected groups, a summary is provided:

- **Age** - will be mitigated against by using Officer discretion or exemption from the requirements of the PSPO to pick up after their dog if affected.
- **Disability** - nothing in the proposed PSPO shall apply to a person who is registered as a blind person on a register compiled under section 29 or the National Assistance Act 1948; or is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (register charity number 293358) and upon which the person relies for assistance; or has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out common day-to-day activities in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK, or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of training assistance dogs and upon which the person relies for assistance. Has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability.
- **Pregnancy and maternity** – will be mitigated against by using officer discretion or exemption from requirements of the PSPO to pick up after the dog if affected.

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 During August 2022, and prior to this Cabinet meeting, sufficient publicity and notification has been provided by the WNC Communications team to promote and inform those living, working or visiting the area that could potentially be affected by the introduction of the new Order. A press release supported by social media has been issued. Town and Parish Councils have also been supplied a copy of the Draft Order. The Draft Order has also been put on the WNC website.

- 7.8.2 The implementation of the PSPO will be fully supported by another Communications campaign once the new PSPO has been approved, this will be a mixture of press release, social media, Parish and Members briefing paper, posters, information on the WNC website including the Order and frequently asked questions (FAQs). Signage will also be printed and positioned across the affected area and in specific locations such as graveyards, near schools etc.
- 7.8.3 A Communications campaign will also be run to advise and remind owners about responsible dog ownership which fall outside the scope of a PSPO. i.e. dog identification, microchipping, livestock worrying etc.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 West Northamptonshire Council Corporate Strategy: [Our strategy | West Northamptonshire Council \(westnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/our-strategy)
- 8.2 Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Legislation.gov.uk: [Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/8)
- 8.3 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, guidance: [Home Office Statutory Guidance for frontline Professionals](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-policing-act-2014-guidance)
- 8.4 Local Government Association Guidance: [Public spaces protection orders: guidance for councils \(local.gov.uk\)](https://www.local.gov.uk/public-spaces-protection-orders-guidance-for-councils)
- 8.5 Equality and Human Rights Commission - [Assistance dogs: a guide for all businesses | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses)
- 8.6 Professional Dog Walkers' Guidelines: [dog walking guide online.pdf \(dogtrust.org.uk\)](https://www.dogtrust.org.uk/dog-walking-guide)
- 8.7 Daventry District PSPO (Expired December 2021): [Daventry District Council - Public Spaces Protection Order - Enhanced Dog Control Powers \(daventrydc.gov.uk\)](https://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/public-spaces-protection-order-enhanced-dog-control-powers)
- 8.8 West Northamptonshire Council Northampton area PSPO: [PSPO - Variation March 2021 | West Northamptonshire Council - Northampton Area](https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/pspo-variation-march-2021)
- 8.9 Keep Britain Tidy Report: [20200330 KBT Litter Composition Report - FINAL.pdf \(keepbritaintidy.org\)](https://www.keeppbritaintidy.org/20200330-KBT-Litter-Composition-Report-FINAL.pdf)
- 8.10 Dog ownership statistics, Pet Food Manufacturing Association: [Pet Population 2021 | PFMA](https://www.pfma.co.uk/pet-population-2021)
- 8.11 Dog ownership statistics, The Dogs Trust: [How dogs helped us through the pandemic | Dogs Trust](https://www.dogs-trust.org.uk/how-dogs-helped-us-through-the-pandemic)
- 8.12 Dog problem behaviour, The Dogs Trust: [Dogs Trust Lockdown Behaviour | News | Dogs Trust](https://www.dogs-trust.org.uk/dogs-trust-lockdown-behaviour)
- 8.13 Dog waste statistics, Keep Britain Tidy: [Dog fouling & the law | Keep Britain Tidy](https://www.keeppbritaintidy.org/dog-fouling-the-law)

- 8.14 PSPO Daventry and South ELT Report September 2021.
- 8.15 Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Infographic for Northamptonshire: [ASH Ready Reckoner 2022 - Action on Smoking and Health](#)
- 8.16 Public Health call to Action for Tobacco: <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/health/Pages/smoking.aspx>



West Northamptonshire Council

West Northamptonshire Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control and Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places) 2022

West Northamptonshire Council ("the Council") makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act").

The land described in this Order and outlined in blue on the plan at Appendix 1, which is described in greater detail at Appendices 2 and 3 and which includes the land described on the plan at Appendix 4, being land in the administrative area of the Council to which the public or any section of the public have access, on payment or otherwise, as right or by virtue of express or implied permission, is land to which the Act applies and will be protected by this Order.

The Order may be cited as the West Northamptonshire Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Control and Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places) 2022.

Articles

1. If a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies, any person who is in control of the dog at the time must remove the faeces from the land forthwith unless;
 - (i) there is a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to the failure to do so.
2. All persons in control of a dog on land to which this Order applies must have with them an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces deposited by that dog unless;
 - (i) there is a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
 - (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to the failure to do so.

The obligation is complied with if, after a request from an Authorised Person, the person in control of the dog produces an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces.

3. All persons in control of a dog must not take it onto or keep it on any of the following land, irrespective of whether it is enclosed or fenced on all sides or not or whether the dog is kept on a lead;
 - (a) Children's play areas which are designated and marked for children's play,
 - (b) Any Educational Institution, when open and in use by pupils.

- (c) Skateparks,
- (d) Tennis Courts,
- (e) Multi-use games areas (MUGA) and
- (f) Bowling greens

Unless;

- (i) there is a reasonable excuse for doing so; or
- (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to doing so.

4. All persons in control of a dog must ensure that it is kept on a lead at all times whilst it is on the following land, irrespective of whether it is enclosed or otherwise fenced on all sides or not;

- (a) Cemeteries,
- (b) Burial sites,
- (c) Graveyards,
- (d) Memorial gardens,
- (e) Allotments,
- (f) Car parks and other off-street parking places,
- (g) Sports grounds, fields and pitches, when in use for authorised sporting activity,
- (h) Land at Daventry Country Park as detailed on the plan at Appendix 4.
- (i) Any land within 50 metres of any entrance or exit of an Educational Institution, when open and in use by pupils.

unless

- (i) there is a reasonable excuse for failing to do so or
- (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to the failure to do so.

5. All persons in control of a dog on land to which this Order applies must comply with a direction given to them by an Authorised Person to put and keep the dog on a lead unless;

- (i) there is a reasonable excuse for failing to do so or

- (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to the failure to do so.

An Authorised Person may only give a direction under this Order if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person, or to a bird or another animal.

- 6. A person in charge of multiple dogs is not permitted to walk more than 4 dogs at any one time on land to which this Order applies unless
 - (i) there is a reasonable excuse for doing so; or
 - (ii) the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to doing so.
- 7. All persons are prohibited from smoking tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances within the boundaries of the following land and whether it is enclosed or otherwise fenced on all sides or not;
 - (a) Children's play areas which are designated and marked for children's play,
 - (b) Any land within 50 metres of any entrance or exit of an Educational Institution, when open and in use by pupils.
 - (c) Skateparks,
 - (d) Tennis Courts,
 - (e) Multi-use games areas (MUGAs) and
 - (f) Bowling greens

For the purposes of this Order:

Any person who habitually has a dog in their possession shall be taken to be in control of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in control of it.

Placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land, which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be sufficient removal from the land.

Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device for or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.

Articles 1 to 6 shall not apply to any person who;

- (a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948,

- (b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which a person relies for assistance,
- (c) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of training assistance dogs and upon which that person relies for assistance or
- (d) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out common day-to-day activities and in the reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability.

For the avoidance of doubt with regard to Articles 1, 2, 5 and 6, “Land in the administrative area of the Council to which the public or any section of the public have access, on payment or otherwise, as right or by virtue of express or implied permission” includes, but is not limited to;

- (a) all roads, footpaths, pavements, alleyways and grass verges maintained at public expense as well as any bridleway or other public right of way over privately owned land and
- (b) all parks and open spaces, including commons, grounds and wooded areas, owned, operated, managed or maintained by the Council or any Parish, Town or Community Council.

For the avoidance of doubt with regard to Articles, 3, 4 and 7, the categories of land set out therein are those which are owned, operated, managed or maintained by the Council, any Academy, any Parish, Town or Community Council or any amateur sporting club.

Interpretation

“Authorised Person” means an employee of the Council, or any employee of a partnership agency or contractor, who is authorised in writing by it for the purposes of giving directions under the Order.

“Assistance Dog” means a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.

“Disability” has the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation.

“Authorised sporting activity” means an organised sporting event, including but not limited to amateur football or rugby games, taking place on land owned, operated, managed or maintained by the Council, any Parish, Town or Community Council or any amateur sporting club, with its implied or express consent.

“Educational Institution” means any school, academy or college that provides primary or secondary education as defined by section 2 of the Education Act 1996.

Enforcement

Any person who fails to comply with Articles 1 to 7 above without a reasonable excuse for doing so commits an offence under section 67 of the Act.

A person committing an offence under Section 67 of the Act may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice ("FPN") of £100.00 by a Constable or Authorised Person, in accordance with section 68 of the Act, payment of which will discharge liability to conviction for that offence.

In consulting upon the prohibitions within this Order and upon making it, the Council has had particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly as set out in Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

This Order came into force on **xxx** 2022 and lasts for a period of three years from that date. This Order can be extended pursuant to section 80 of the Act.

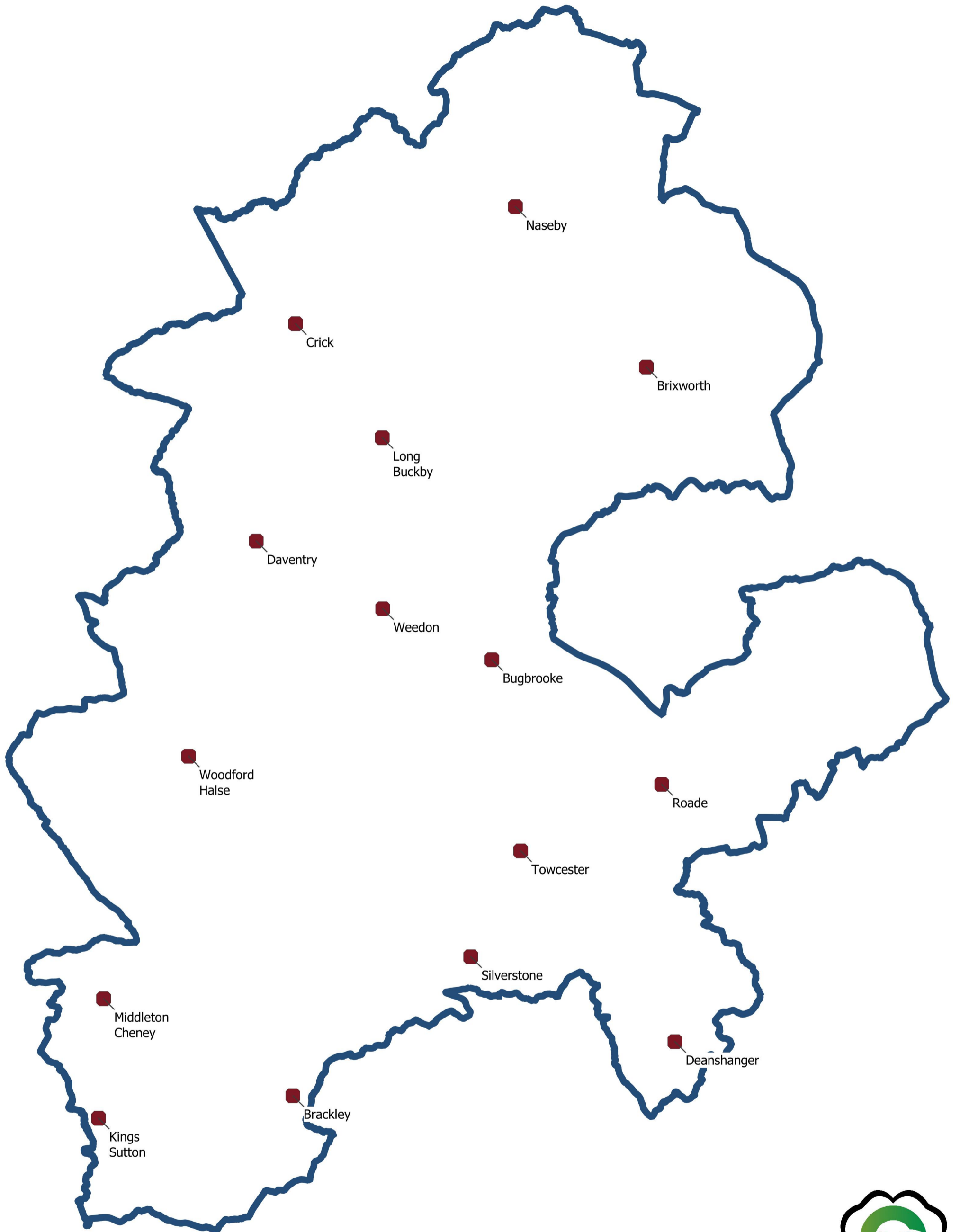
Dated: **xxx** 2022

Signed:

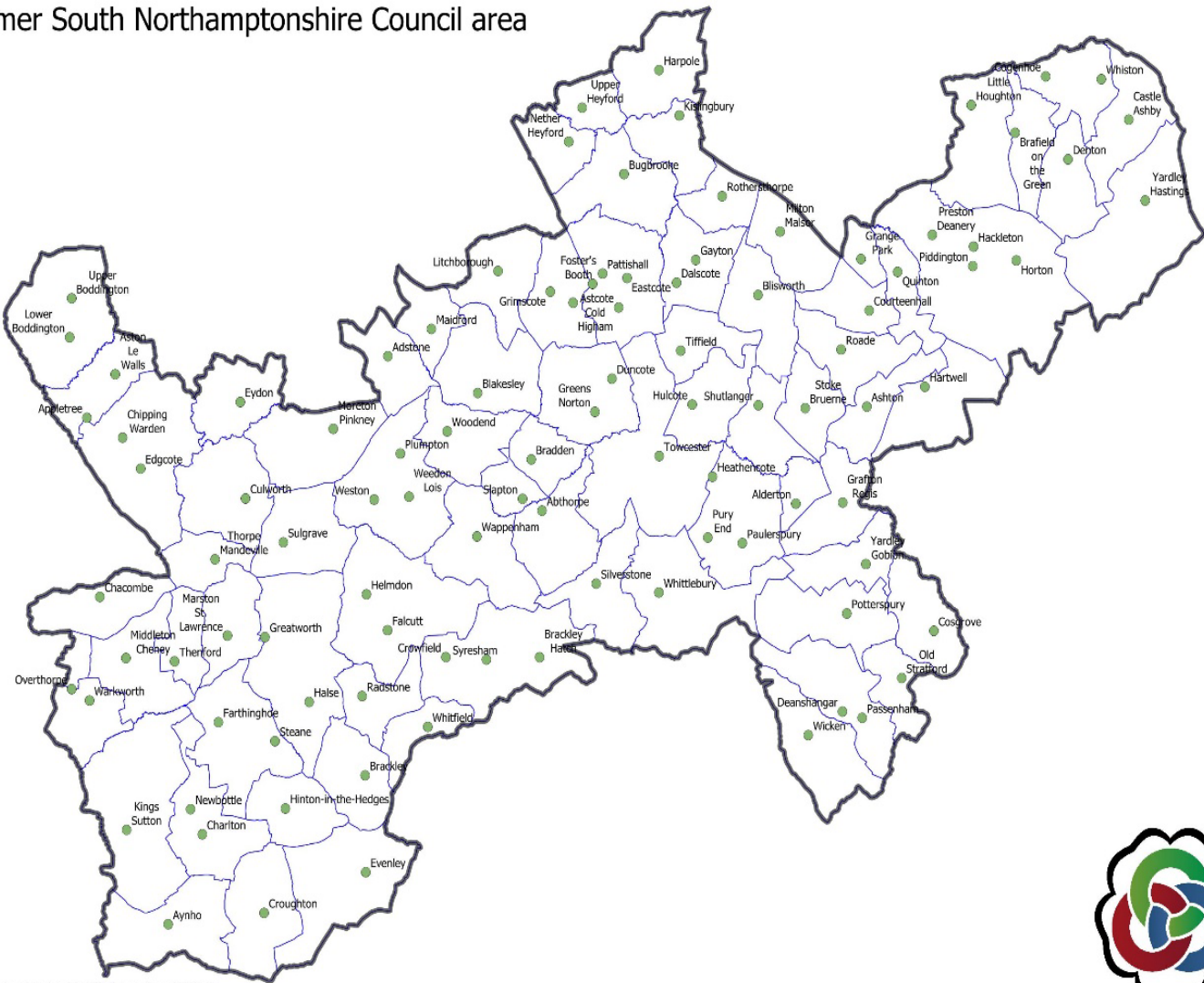
Stuart Timmiss
Executive Director of Place and Economy
For and on behalf of West Northamptonshire Council

Contact details: West Northamptonshire Council,
Lodge Road, Daventry, NN11 4FP.
Telephone: 0300 126 7000
www.westnorthants.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1



Former South Northamptonshire Council area



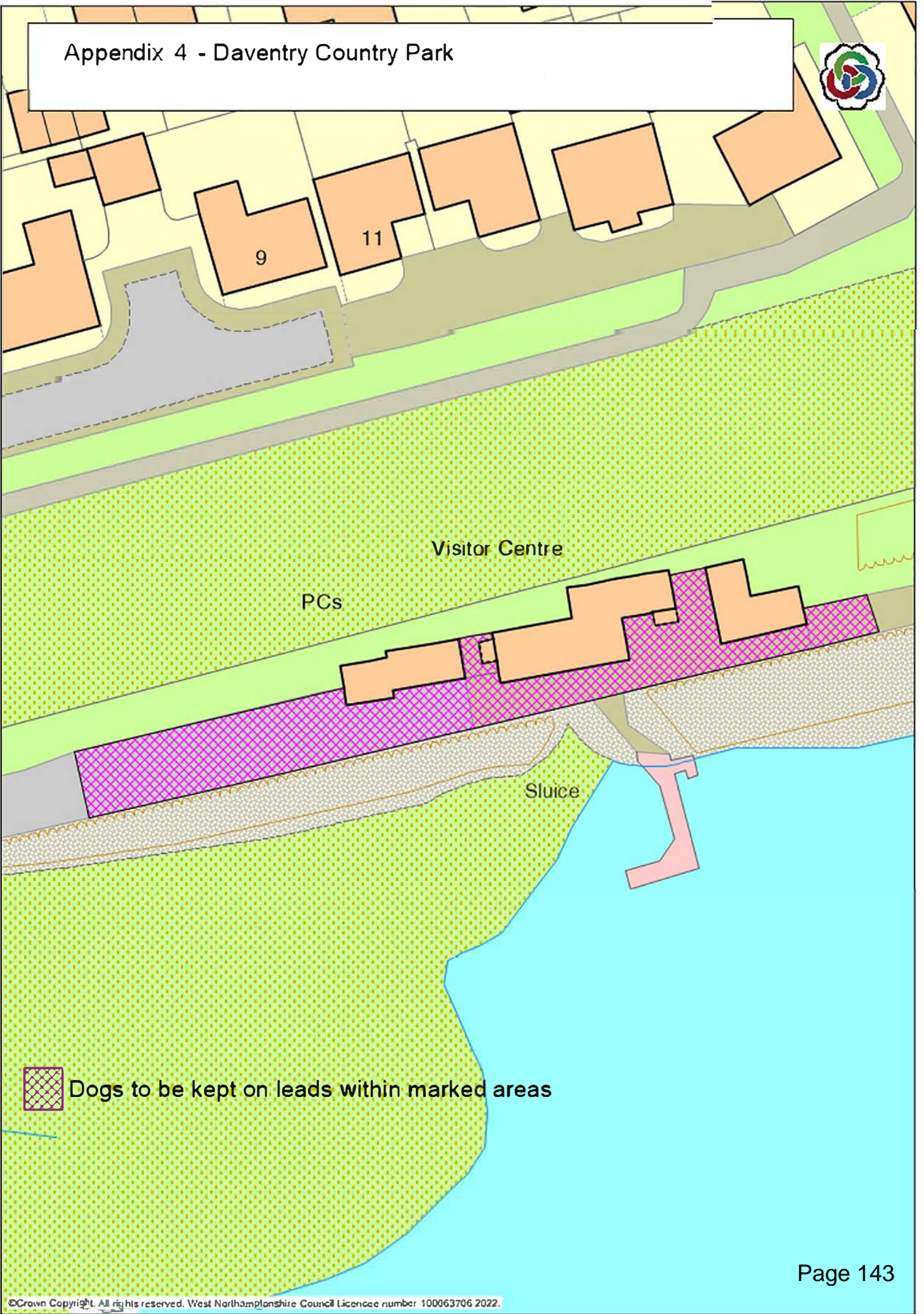
© Crown copyright and database rights 2022. Ordnance Survey 100063706.

Former Daventry District Council area



© Crown copyright and database rights 2022 Ordnance Survey 100063706.

Appendix 4 - Daventry Country Park



This page is intentionally left blank



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

**Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO): ownership
of dogs and prohibition of smoking in certain
places. Consultation Results**

Contents

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO): ownership of dogs and prohibition of smoking in certain places. Consultation Results	1
Contents.....	2
Methodology	6
Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation Questionnaire: ownership of dogs and prohibition smoking in certain places.....	8
Overview	8
What's the problem?	8
The consultation process	9
How to share your views	9
Background to the Proposals	9
Maps of affected areas	11
Results	14
Proposal 1. Failure to clean up after your dog. Persons in control of a dog must clean up and remove its faeces, poo or mess from the area and place it in a bin or take it home for disposal.....	15
Question 1A To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 1?	15
Question 1B How much of a concern is dog fouling in your area?.....	16
Question 1C: If you consider dog fouling a "very big concern" or a "fairly big concern", please give details of the problem location in the town or village. Be as specific as you can.....	16
Question 1D: Do you have any additional comments about dog fouling?	59
Proposal 2. Dog exclusion zones. Persons in control of a dog must not take it into or onto any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise: Children's play areas; Educational facilities; playgrounds; skateparks; tennis courts; multi-use games areas (MUGA); bowling greens.....	84
Question 2A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 2?	84
Question 2B: In the past 12 months, have you had any concerns about dogs in any of the following, please tick any of the following that apply - Areas of concern - Children's play areas; Educational facilities; playgrounds; skateparks; tennis courts; multi-use games areas (MUGA); Bowling Greens.....	85
Question 2C: If you have had any concern in any of these areas, please say where it was and what happened?	86

Question 2D: Have you had any concerns or seen anything of concern with dogs in other public spaces in the last 12 months in the former Daventry District or South Northants area?	99
Question 2E: If yes, where did it occur and what was the concern?	100
Question 2F: Do you have any additional comments about a dog exclusion zone?	115
Proposal 3. Dogs on leads. Persons in control of a dog must ensure the dog is on a lead in cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens, allotments, car parks to which the public have access and sports grounds, sports fields and pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity.	136
Question 3A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 3?	136
Question 3B: How much of a concern are dogs not being kept under control in your area?	137
Question 3C: Have you had any concerns with dogs being off lead in any of these areas in the last 12 months, please tick all that apply: Cemeteries; burial sites; graveyards and/or memorial gardens; Allotments; Car parks to which the public have access; Sports grounds, sports fields and/or pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity; Other (please specify).....	138
Question 3D: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?	140
Question 3E: Do you have any additional comments about dogs on leads.	156
Proposal 4. Dogs on lead by direction. Persons in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer.	172
Question 4A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 4?	172
Question 4B: Have you had any concerns about owners not putting dogs on their lead in the past 12 months?.....	173
Question 4C: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?	174
Question 4D: Do you have any additional comments about the proposal to put dogs on leads when asked?	194
Proposal 5. Dogs on leads near schools. Persons in control of a dog must put their dogs on leads near school entrances/exits during school days.	206
Question 5A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 5?	206
Question 5B: How much of a concern do you think dogs not being kept under control near a school is in your area?	207
Question 5C: Have you had any concerns with dogs being off leads near schools in the last 12 months?	208
Question 5D: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?	208

Question 5E: Do you have any additional comments about dogs on leads near schools? 211

Proposal 6. Appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess. Persons in charge of a dog must carry a poop bag or other appropriate means for clearing up after their dog..... 221

Question 6A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 6? 221

Question 6B: How much of a concern is it that dog owners should have appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess?..... 222

Question 6C: Have you had any concerns about dog owners not having appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess in the last 12months? 223

Question 6D: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen? 224

Question 6E: Do you have any additional comments about persons having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess?..... 237

Proposal 7. Prohibition of smoking. All persons are prohibited from smoking tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances within the following whether fenced or otherwise: Children’s play areas; Playgrounds; Educational facilities; Skateparks; Tennis courts; Multi-use games areas; Bowling greens..... 251

Question 7A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 7? 252

Question 7B: How much of a concern is smoking in the areas listed? 253

Question 7C: In the past 12 months, have you had any concerns about smoking in any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise. Please tick any that apply..... 254

Question 7D: If yes, where was this and what happened? 255

Question 7E: Do you have any additional comments about prohibition of smoking? 264

Proposal 8. Fixed Penalty Charge. The maximum fixed penalty charge for breaches of the PSPO permitted by the Act is £100. A potential fine of £100 may be an effective deterrent against non-compliance with the PSPO. Any enforcement including the issuing of fixed penalty notices will be undertaken in line with the Council's enforcement policy..... 274

Question 8A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 8? 274

Question 8B: Do you have any additional comments about the fixed penalty charge? 275

Proposal 9. Maximum number of dogs. Persons in charge of multiple dogs, should not be allowed to walk any more than 4 at any one time. 288

Question 9A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 9? 288

Question 9B: How much of a concern is a person walking too many dogs?..... 289

Question 9C: Have you had any concerns in the last 12 months where a person was waking too many dogs for them to control well?	290
Question 9D: If yes, please tell us where this occurred and what happened	291
Question 9E: Do you have any additional comments about the maximum number of dogs?	302
Other comments not covered by the specific proposals.	318
Additional comments received about the proposals to promote responsible ownership of dogs or prohibition smoking in certain public places grouped by theme.	318
Overall comments received about dog control proposals.....	319
Overall comments about smoking proposals.	331
Overall non-specific comments.....	334
Equality Information Questions	339
Responses received as an Individual or Organisation.....	339
Responses received for gender.	339
Responses received to indicate if respondents were pregnant or had a new baby in last 6 months.....	340
Responses received to indicate age group of those that responded.	340
Responses received to indicate disability and type of disability.	341
Responses received to describe ethnic origin.	342
Responses received to best describe how respondents think of themselves.	343
Responses received to describe marital status.	343
PR Campaign – PSPO consultation.....	344
Press/Media:.....	344
Articles:.....	344
Partner websites:	344
Social media	345
Channels used:	345
Copy of consultation questionnaire.....	346

Methodology

In accordance with statutory guidelines and detailed in Section 72 of The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) has conducted a public consultation. The consultation ran for 6 weeks from 21st February 2022 to midnight, 4th April 2022.

- The consultation was carried out online through the West Northamptonshire Council Consultation Hub. It was supported by a West Northamptonshire Council communications campaign to raise awareness and encourage participation.
- More than 100 businesses were notified in the proposal area including vets, dog trainers, behaviour experts, groomers, WNC animal licensees – dog boarders, kennels, breeders and pet shops. They were issued with posters to circulate or display in their businesses to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage participation.
- All Parish Councils and Town Councils in the proposal area were notified and asked to share with clubs, organisations and groups in their area.
- Over 20 different animal welfare and animal assistance charities and organisations were notified. These included The Kennel Club, The Dogs Trust, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Assistance Dogs UK, Autism Dogs, Canine Partners, Dog Aid - Assistance in Disability, Dogs for Good, Medical Detection Dogs, Support Dogs, The Seeing Dogs Alliance, RSPCA, Association of Professional Dog Walkers and Sitters, National Association of Pet Sitters and Dog Walkers (NARPS UK), Canine and Feline Sector Group.
- All primary and secondary schools in the former administrative areas of Daventry District and South Northants were notified and asked to share details of the consultation with parents and carers.
- Libraries across West Northamptonshire supported and promote the consultation and assisted with accessing it for residents.
- Those on the WNC Consultation Register and the WNC Resident's Panel were notified.
- Statutory partners were notified including Northamptonshire Police Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner along with other groups and organisations who could be potentially affected by the introduction of an order. These include Northamptonshire Football Association, Ramblers Association, Keep Britain Tidy, The Canal and Rivers Trust, National Trust, Northamptonshire Police Dog Legislation Officer, Community Safety partners. WNC staff including the Chief Executive, Senior Leadership Team, Assistant Directors, Environmental Health and Environmental Crime Officers, Neighbourhood Wardens, Dog Wardens, Rangers, Regulatory Services Lead Officers and the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Engagement and

Regulatory Services. All were given the opportunity to comment on the consultation.

- Results of this consultation have shown strong support for each of the nine proposals which would be contained within a new PSPO.

Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation

Questionnaire: ownership of dogs and prohibition smoking in certain places.

Overview

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is considering whether to make a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to promote responsible dog ownership and prohibit smoking in certain public spaces across the former administrative council areas of Daventry District and South Northants.

A PSPO allows councils to impose restrictions on the use of specific areas. A PSPO can deal with persistent and unreasonable nuisances and anti-social behaviour that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life for the local community in a particular area. They intend to help ensure that the public can use and enjoy public spaces and can help to make West Northamptonshire a better and safer place to live.

The feedback that you provide will be used to inform any potential restrictions that could be contained in the new PSPO.

A PSPO, for dog related matters, does operate in the former administration council area of Northampton Borough which expires on 18th September 2023.

What's the problem?

In 2021, the WNC received more than 230 complaints about dog fouling and dog control issues and, whilst the majority of dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some who are irresponsible.

Effective implementation and enforcement of dog control prohibitions and requirements via PSPOs have historically reduced dog related issues.

Dog mess is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets. Whilst WNC receives many dog fouling complaints each year, it believes that the true number of incidents is far greater than the number reported.

Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant but also dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis, a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness and seizures.

WNC is keen to take measures to combat these problems and is proposing to use powers contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Act ('the Act') to give its enforcement officers powers to deal with dog owners who fail to properly control their dogs in public open spaces across the former Daventry and South Northants District areas.

The consultation process

Legally, we must have evidence to show the need for the Order. The activities controlled by the PSPO need to have had, or be likely to have, an unreasonable and detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and are, or are likely to be, persistent and continuing in nature.

The feedback we receive during this consultation can form part of the evidence we need to draft and implement a new PSPO for the former Daventry and South Northants district areas.

Any PSPO made following this public consultation exercise will be reviewed in 2023.

The former Northampton Borough Council, dog related, PSPO expires on 18th September 2023 and a PSPO covering the entire WNC area is likely to be considered.

How to share your views

We are keen to hear from the local community. We are inviting you to read the background to the consultation and complete an online consultation questionnaire.

If you have any queries, comments or would like a copy of this questionnaire in another format (including paper, easy read or large print) you can contact us by email or telephone. Our contact details are as follows:

Email address: <mailto:environmentalimprovement.ddc@westnorthants.gov.uk>

Telephone: 01327 302260

The consultation will close at midnight on Monday 4 April 2022.

Your opinion is very important to us, so if you would like to have your say, please follow the link below to the online survey.

Background to the Proposals

The Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). This legislation also replaced the Dog Control Orders made under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) can be used to address particular nuisance or problems in public places that have a "detrimental effect on the local community".

The proposed PSPO would allow WNC to extend its powers to prohibit certain dog related activities or require dog owners to comply with certain requirements across its administrative area in order to encourage more responsible dog ownership. In addition, there is a proposed requirement to prohibit smoking in certain public spaces.

Following an extensive consultation exercise in 2015 the former Daventry District Council at that time introduced a PSPO to tackle irresponsible dog ownership. This

was further extended following subsequent consultation in 2018. Its extension saw a 36% decline in dog-related complaints over 3 years.

Due to the impact of Covid and the formation of the new unitary council, WNC, this PSPO has now expired but many residents are still familiar with its requirements as responsible dog owners.

WNC is now seeking the views of members of the public and other interested organisations with a view to considering whether to make a new PSPO with the aim of encouraging responsible dog ownership, many of which were in place in the former Daventry District until December 2021 and, extend its geographic scope to include the former South Northants area which covers a combined area of 500 square miles and has a population of 177,000.

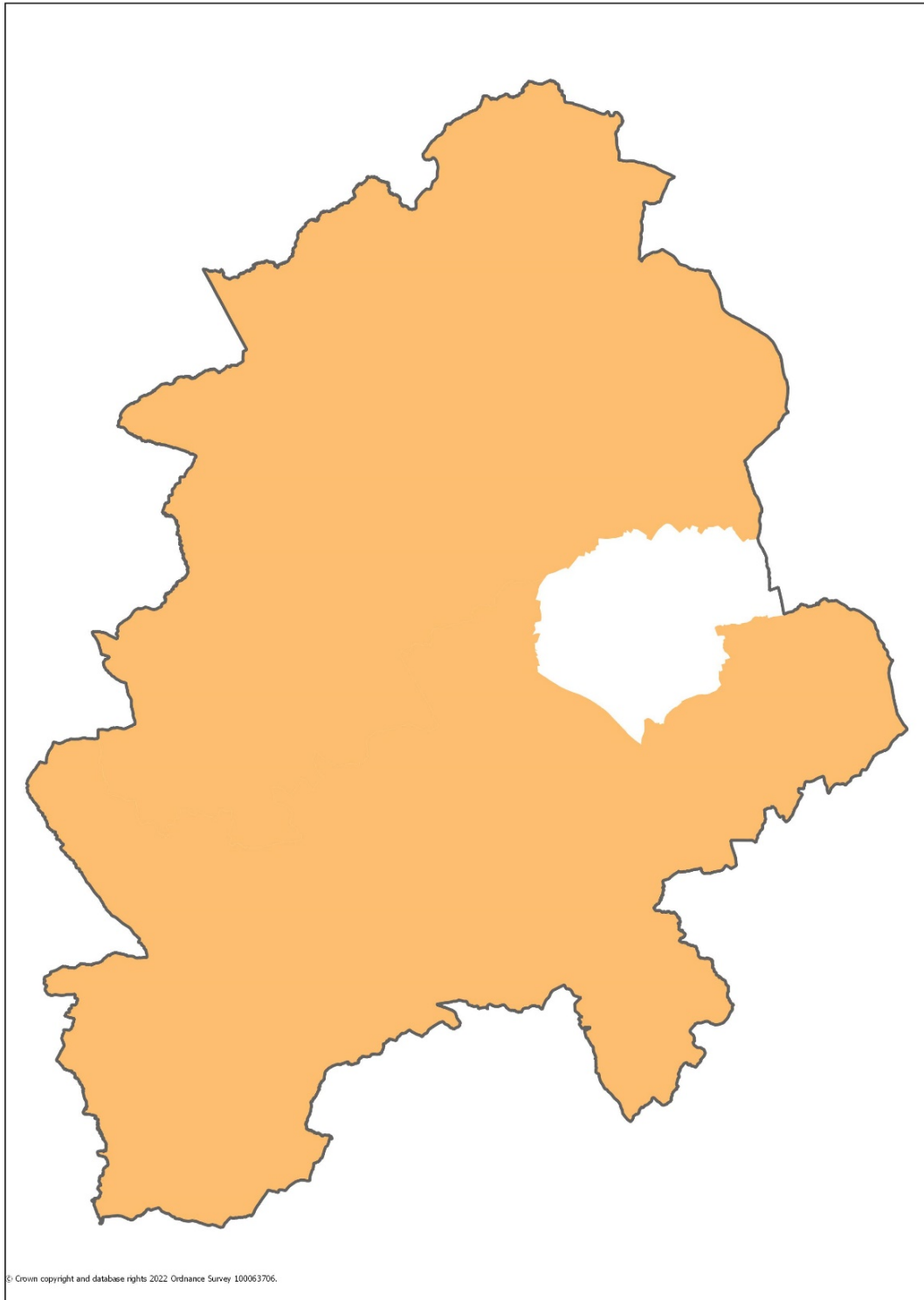
Under the new PSPO, WNC would be able to prohibit certain activities or require dog owners to comply with certain specific requirements.

We would like to hear your views on each of the potential prohibitions and requirements.

You can view maps of the areas the PSPO may apply to.

Maps of affected areas

WNC Proposed PSPO area – Combined former Daventry District and South Northants Council Areas



Former Daventry District Council area



© Crown copyright and database rights 2022 Ordnance Survey 100063706.

Former South Northamptonshire Council area



© Crown copyright and database rights 2011. Ordnance Survey 100063706.



Results

The Council received 1,275 responses to the consultation. 3% of all those that responded were organisations, Parish/Town Councils and businesses. 97% were individuals.

Comments from respondents have been redacted to remove personal information but are otherwise untouched to preserve transparency and openness.

Consultees were asked to comment on 9 specific proposals:

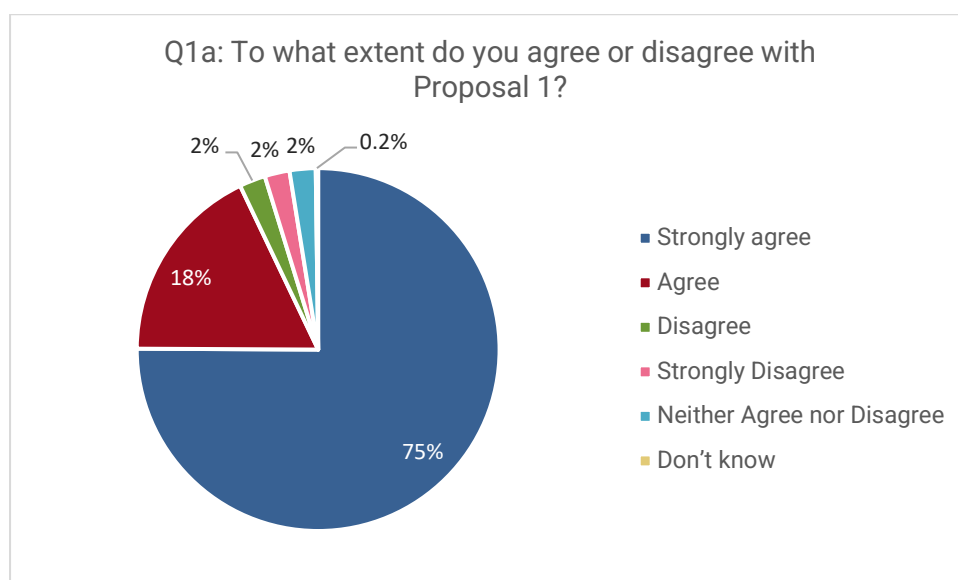
- Proposal 1: Failure to clean up after your dog. Persons in control of a dog must clean up and remove its faeces, poo or mess from the area and place it in a bin or take it home for disposal.
- Proposal 2: Dog exclusion zone. Persons in control of a dog must not take it into or onto any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise: Children's play areas; Educational facilities; Playgrounds; Skateparks; Tennis courts; Multi-use games areas; Bowling greens.
- Proposal 3: Dogs on leads. Persons in control of a dog must ensure the dog is on a lead in cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens, allotments, car parks to which the public have access and sports grounds, sports fields and pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity.
- Proposal 4: Dogs on leads by direction. Persons in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer.
- Proposal 5: Dogs on leads near schools. Persons in control of a dog must put their dogs on leads near school entrances/exits during school days.
- Proposal 6: Appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess. Persons in charge of a dog must carry a poop bag or other appropriate means for clearing up after their dog.
- Proposal 7: Prohibition of smoking. All persons are prohibited from smoking tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances within the following whether fenced or otherwise: Children's play areas; Playgrounds; Educational facilities; Skateparks; Tennis courts; Multi-use games areas; Bowling greens.
- Proposal 8: Fixed penalty charge. The maximum fixed penalty charge for breaches of the PSPO permitted by the Act is £100. A potential fine of £100 may be an effective deterrent against non-compliance with the PSPO. Any enforcement including the issuing of fixed penalty notices will be undertaken in line with the Council's enforcement policy.
- Proposal 9: Maximum number of dogs. Persons in charge of multiple dogs, should not be allowed to walk any more than 4 at any one time.

Proposal 1. Failure to clean up after your dog. Persons in control of a dog must clean up and remove its faeces, poo or mess from the area and place it in a bin or take it home for disposal.

74% of consultees responded to this proposal. 93% of responses strongly agreed or agreed that persons in control of a dog must clean up and remove its faeces from the area and place it in a bin or take it home for disposal. 58% stated that dog fouling was a very big or fairly big concern in their area. Of those that stated it was a very big or fairly big concern, 89 different villages and towns across the former administrative areas of Daventry and South Northants were identified and over 180 locations given. Dog fouling was the main concern 68% with an additional 11% citing dumped dog poo bags and an additional 12% citing irresponsible dog owners as the concern.

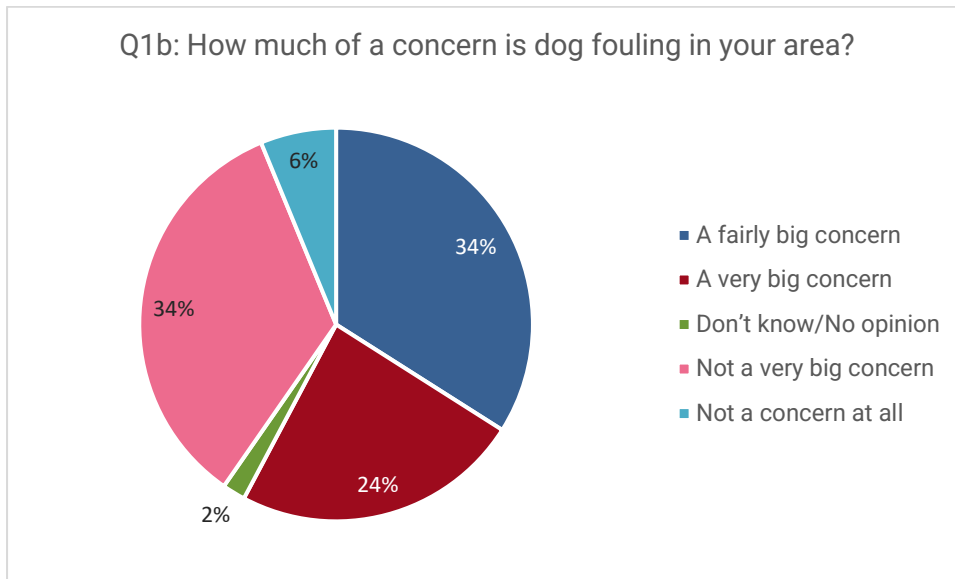
947 responded.

Question 1A To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 1?



Q1a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 1?	Total	% Total
Strongly agree	711	75%
Agree	169	18%
Disagree	22	2%
Strongly Disagree	21	2%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	22	2%
Don't know	2	0.2%
Grand Total	947	100%

Question 1B How much of a concern is dog fouling in your area?



Q1b: How much of a concern is dog fouling in your area?	Total	% Total
A fairly big concern	322	34%
A very big concern	225	24%
Don't know/No opinion	18	2%
Not a very big concern	323	34%
Not a concern at all	59	6%
Grand Total	947	100%

Question 1C: If you consider dog fouling a "very big concern" or a "fairly big concern", please give details of the problem location in the town or village. Be as specific as you can.

Q1c: Named Town/village	Total	% Responses
Yelvertoft	1	0.2%
Yardley Hastings	5	0.8%
Wootton	4	1%
Woodford Halse	8	1.2%
Woodend	1	0.2%
Whistley Woods	1	0.2%
West Haddon	4	0.6%
Welton	1	0.2%
Welford	14	2.2%
Weedon Bec	1	0.2%
Weedon	10	2%
Wappenham	1	0.2%
Walgrave	1	0%
Upper Boddington	1	0%

Unnamed	139	22%
Towcester	22	3.4%
Thorpe Mandeville	2	0.3%
Syresham	7	1.1%
Stoke Bruerne	1	0.2%
Spratton	1	0.2%
Silverstone	14	2%
Rothersthorpe	9	1%
Roade	22	3.4%
Quinton	1	0.2%
Potterspury	1	0.2%
Pitsford	3	0.5%
Paulerspury	1	0.2%
Pattishall	2	0.3%
Onley Park	1	0.2%
Old Stratford	3	0.5%
Norton	1	0.2%
Northampton	21	3%
Nobottle	2	0.3%
Nether Heyford	3	0.5%
Naseby	3	0.5%
Moulton	8	1%
Moreton Pinkney	1	0.2%
Monksmoor park	1	0.2%
Milton Malsor	2	0.3%
Middleton Cheney	2	0.3%
Long Buckby	18	3%
Little Houghton	3	0.5%
Little Brington	1	0.2%
Litchborough	1	0.2%
Lilbourne	1	0.2%
Kislingbury	1	0.2%
King's Sutton	9	1%
Jurassic Way	1	0.2%
Hollowell	1	0.2%
Holcot	5	1%
Helmdon	1	0.2%
Hellidon	1	0.2%
Hartwell	4	1%
Harlestone	2	0.3%
Hardingstone	2	0.3%
Hackleton	1	0.2%
Greens Norton	8	1%
Great Brington	3	0.5%

Grange Park	2	0.3%
Foxfields country park	1	0.2%
Farthingstone	1	0.2%
Eydon	7	1%
Evenley	1	0.2%
East Farndon	2	0.3%
Duston	7	1%
Denton	1	0.2%
Deanshanger	2	0.3%
Daventry	49	8%
Culworth	2	0.3%
Croughton	7	1%
Crick	17	3%
Creaton	3	0.5%
Croughton	1	0.2%
Cottesbrooke	3	0.5%
Cold Higham	1	0.2%
Cogenhoe	6	1%
Chipping Warden	2	0.3%
Charlton	1	0.2%
Chacombe	1	0.2%
Bugbrooke	12	2%
Brixworth	25	4%
Bringtons	3	0.5%
Braunston	9	1%
Brampton Valley Way	1	0.2%
Brampton	5	1%
Brackley	53	8%
Boughton	1	0.2%
Borough Hill	2	0.3%
Boddington	4	1%
Blisworth	5	1%
Barby	2	0.3%
Badby	8	1%
Aynho	3	0.5%
Ashton	2	0.3%
Alderton	1	0.2%
Grand Total	642	100%

Q1c: Named town/village specific location	Total
Alderton	
Unnamed	1
Ashton	
Footpaths/verges	1

Road Hill to Hartwell Road	1
Aynho	
Black Path	3
Badby	
Badby Woods	1
Chapel Lane	1
Footpaths/verges	1
Unnamed	4
Woods	1
Barby	
Almond Close	1
Elkington Lane	1
Blisworth	
Footpaths/verges	1
Playing fields	1
Sports areas	1
Stoke Road	1
Tunnel southern portal - Lock 20	1
Boddington	
Misc. open spaces	2
Unnamed	2
Borough Hill	
Unnamed	2
Boughton	
Buckton Fields	1
Brackley	
Banbury Road	1
Beaumont Crescent	2
Cricket club field	1
Footpaths	2
Halse Road	2
High Street	1
Leisure centre	2
Magdalen Meadows	1
Manor Road	2
Misc. open spaces	1
Old swimming pool	2
Pavillons Way park	1
Poppyfields Way	3
Radstone Fields	1
Roman Estate	1
Saimon Close	1
Spencer Gardens	1
St James Lake	1

Turweston footpath	1
Unnamed	22
Waynflete avenue	3
Western fields	1
Brampton	
Chapel Brampton	2
Church Brampton	2
Valley Way	1
Brampton Valley Way	
Unnamed	1
Braunston	
Ashby Road	1
Footpaths/bridleways/streets	1
High Street	1
Unnamed	6
Bringtons	
Footpaths	2
Unnamed	1
Brixworth	
Ashway playing fields	2
Ashway playing fields to main road	1
Eaglehurst pocket park	1
Footpaths/verges	1
Froxhill Crescent	1
Holcot Road	1
Main road	1
Pitsford reservoir footpath	1
Playing fields	2
Pocket Park	1
Spratton Road park	1
St David playing field	1
St David's recreation ground	1
Tantree Way	1
The Ashway	1
Unnamed	8
Bugbrooke	
Playing fields	1
Sports areas	2
Towpath	1
Unnamed	8
Chacombe	
Unnamed	1
Charlton	
Unnamed	1

Chipping Warden	
Edgcote Estate	1
Edgcote House footpath	1
Cogenhoe	
Footpaths/verges	2
Playing fields	2
Unnamed	2
Cold Higham	
Streets	1
Cottesbrooke	
Unnamed	3
Croughton	
Unnamed	1
Creaton	
Footpaths/verges	1
Playing fields	2
Crick	
Boat House Lane	1
Bucknills Lane	2
Church Lane	1
Footpaths/verges	2
Haswell Road	1
High Street	1
Jubilee Wood	1
Playing fields	2
Streets	1
Unnamed	4
Yelvertoft Road	1
Croughton	
Footpath Portway to Park End	1
Park End to Portway	2
Portway to Park End	1
Unnamed	3
Culworth	
Sports areas	1
Unnamed	1
Daventry	
Alleyway to Parker EACT Academy	1
Ashby Fields	2
Ashby Road	1
Badby Road	1
Badby Road West	1
Borough Hill	3
Chaucer Way park	1

Country park	6
Daneholme Field	1
Daneholme Park	2
Eastern Way playing fields	1
Footpaths/verges	2
Headlands area, Spider Park	1
Hemans Road	1
Icon Building	1
Lang Farm Park	9
Lang Farm to Monksmoor	1
Middlemore	2
Misc. open spaces	1
Monksmoor Park	1
Old railway	1
Parks	1
Steffen Hill Pocket park	1
The Grange	1
The Hollow	1
Timken	1
Unnamed	2
Verges	1
Yeomanry Way	1
Deanshanger	
Footpaths/bridleways/streets	1
Unnamed	1
Denton	
Footpaths	1
Duston	
Errington Park	1
Lovat Drive	2
Sandy Lane	1
Unnamed	3
East Farndon	
Unnamed	2
Evenley	
Unnamed	1
Eydon	
Cemetery	1
High Street	3
Lime Avenue	1
Unnamed	2
Farthingstone	
Unnamed	1
Foxfields country park	

Unnamed	1
Grange Park	
Misc. open spaces	1
Unnamed	1
Great Brington	
Church	1
Hamilton Lane to Althorp	1
Oak Avenue	1
Greens Norton	
Freemans Way	1
Mill Lane	1
Unnamed	6
Hackleton	
Recreation ground	1
Hardingstone	
Hardingstone park	1
Park	1
Harlestone	
Unnamed	2
Hartwell	
Ashwood Lane	1
Unnamed	3
Hellidon	
Unnamed	1
Helmdon	
Church Street	1
Holcot	
Unnamed	5
Hollowell	
Creaton Road	1
Jurassic Way	
Unnamed	1
King's Sutton	
Balmoral	1
Blenheim Rise	1
Footpaths	1
Footpaths/verges	2
Hampton Drive	1
Sandringham	1
Unnamed	2
Kislingbury	
Unnamed	1
Lilbourne	
Unnamed	1

Litchborough	
Unnamed	1
Little Brington	
Unnamed	1
Little Houghton	
Footpaths	1
Village Green	1
Village	1
Long Buckby	
Brington Road	2
East Street	2
Grasscroft	2
High Street	2
Skinyard Lane	1
St Lawrence churchyard	1
Station Road	2
Unnamed	3
West Street	1
Wharf	2
Middleton Cheney	
Unnamed	1
Waters Lane	1
Milton Malsor	
Green Street	1
Rectory Lane to Green Street	1
Monksmoor park	
Unnamed	1
Moreton Pinkney	
Unnamed	1
Moulton	
Cross Street	1
Crow fields common	1
Crowfields	2
Unnamed	4
Naseby	
Playing fields	1
Unnamed	1
Verges	1
Nether Heyford	
Unnamed	2
Village Green	1
Nobottle	
Unnamed	2
Northampton	

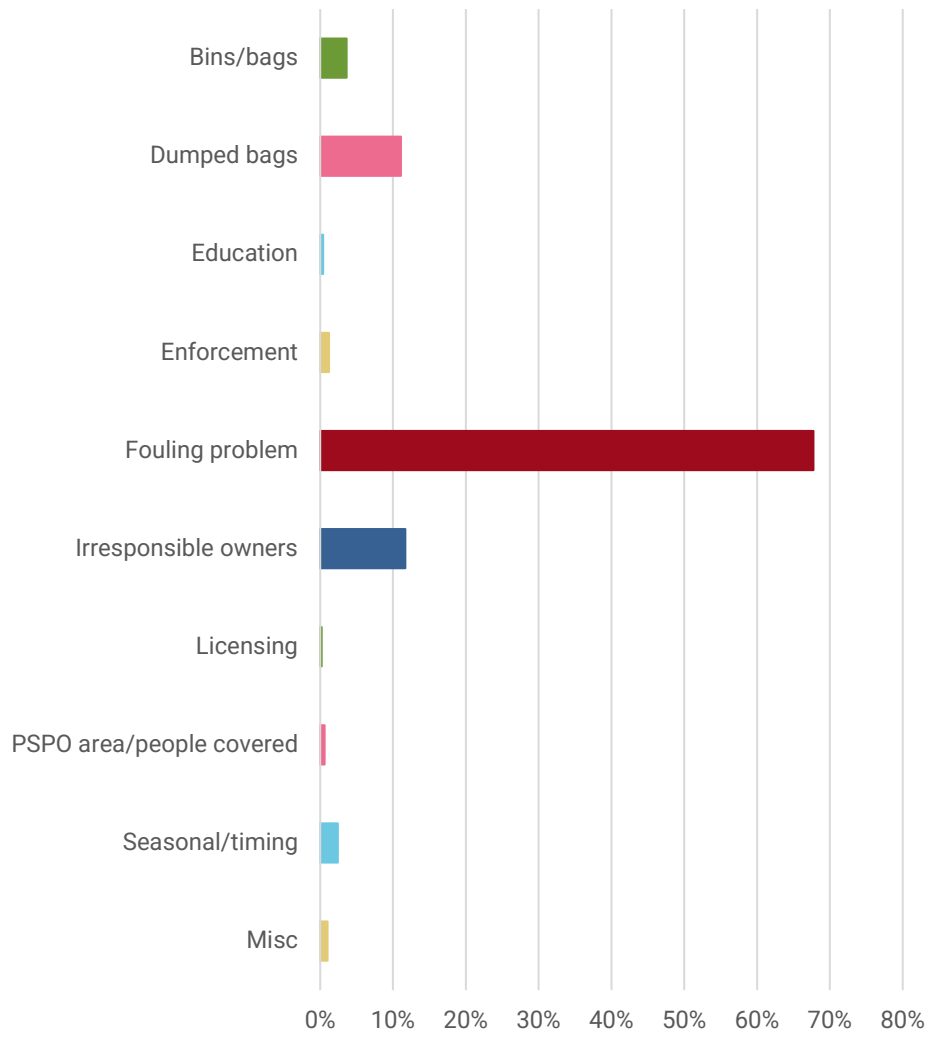
Billing Road	1
Bradlaugh Fields	1
Brampton Valley	1
Dallington Park	1
Duston	2
Grange Park	1
Kingsthorpe	1
Little Billing	1
Lyncrest Road	2
NN2	1
NN3	1
Obelisk Estate	1
Unnamed	2
Upton Park	1
West Hunsbury	1
Weston Mill Lane	2
Wootton Rec	1
Norton	
Bridle path to Welton	1
Old Stratford	
Falcon Drive	1
Pocket Park	1
Towcester Road	1
Onley Park	
Unnamed	1
Pattishall	
Footpaths/verges	1
Unnamed	1
Paulerspury	
High Street	1
Pitsford	
Unnamed	3
Potterspury	
Unnamed	1
Quinton	
Unnamed	1
Roads	
Churchcroft	1
Cripple Road	1
Footpaths/bridleways/streets	1
Footpaths/verges	1
Grafton Road	1
High Street	1
Pianoforte Road	2

Stratford Road	1
The Keys	1
The Leys	5
Unnamed	7
Rothersthorpe	
Banbury Lane	2
North Street	3
Unnamed	4
Silverstone	
Brackley Road	1
Brook	1
Footpaths/verges	1
Green Lane	2
High Street	1
Pocket Park	1
Sports areas	1
SRA Playing fields	1
Unnamed	4
Winterhills footpaths	1
Spratton	
Unnamed	1
Stoke Bruerne	
Canalside	1
Syresham	
Abbey road	2
High Street	2
Main road	2
Village	1
Thorpe Mandeville	
Unnamed	2
Towcester	
Bickerstaffes Road	1
Burcote Park	1
Northampton Road	1
Park/Recreation ground	2
Racecourse	1
Racecourse Development	1
Silverstone Brook	2
The Furlongs	1
Unnamed	6
Watermeadows	6
Unnamed	
Footpaths	1
Footpaths/bridleways/streets	3

Footpaths/verges	24
Northampton Road	1
Park/Recreation ground	1
Parks	1
Playing fields	7
Streets/verges	1
Towpath	1
Unnamed	94
Verges	4
Farmland	1
Upper Boddington	
Millennium Way	1
Walgrave	
Unnamed	1
Wappenham	
Unnamed	1
Weedon	
Footpaths/bridleways/streets	3
Jubilee Field	2
Sports areas	1
The Whettles footpath	1
Unnamed	3
Weedon Bec	
West Street	1
Welford	
Footpaths/verges	1
Newlands Road	1
Playing fields	1
Towpath	1
Unnamed	7
West Street	1
Wharf pub	1
Village	1
Welton	
Unnamed	1
West Haddon	
Footpaths/verges	1
Playing fields	1
Unnamed	2
Whistley Woods	
Unnamed	1
Woodend	
Unnamed	1
Woodford Halse	

Footpaths/bridleways/streets	1
Playing fields	1
Unnamed	6
Wootton	
Park/Recreation ground	1
Simpson Manor	1
Unnamed	2
Yardley Hastings	
Footpaths	1
Park/Recreation ground	1
Recreation ground	1
Village Green	1
Village	1
Yelvertoft	
Unnamed	1
Grand Total	642

Q1c: If you consider dog fouling a "very big concern" or a "fairly big concern", please give details of the problem location in the town or village.



Q1c: If you consider dog fouling a very big concern or a "fairly big concern", please give details of the problem location in the town or village, broken down by the type of problem.		
No. responses	498	
No. comments	496	% Comments
Misc.	5	1%
Seasonal/timing	12	2%
PSPO area/people covered	3	1%
Licensing	1	0%
Irresponsible owners	58	12%
Fouling problem	336	68%
Enforcement	6	1%
Education	2	0%
Dumped bags	55	11%
Bins/bags	18	4%

Question 1C: Comments from respondents who chose a fairly big or a very big concern

The jubilee field in Weedon is covered every single week. I've even tried to address the situation with dog owners who I've caught not picking up and been abused by them for it.

- Jubilee Field Weedon. The Whettles footpath Weedon.
- Various roads and walk ways and recreation ground in Potterspurty. One is even known as "dog shit alley".
- There are 2 places in particular in Weedon where kids play and they have grassroots football, constantly have to clean it up before games, also in the alley ways, which for many is the route to school
- Bugbrooke sports pitches (football club, and rugby club)
- Quinton
- The green areas that run alongside Silverstone Brook in Towcester, from behind the leisure centre down to the waitrose car park.
- Everywhere
- All grass areas in Daventry. Green spaces and play fields
- everywhere in the county that i take my dog I see dog poo, especially the country parks.
- Whilst I Not a very big concern that fouling is a fairly big concern I do not think that these blanket regulations are the best way to tackle the issue.
- Dallington Park
- Weedon Village has a persistent issue with a minority of dog owners who do not pick up their dog's poo, leading to fouling around the village streets.
- There is a significant dog mess issue in Charlton, has been that whole time I have lived here. Its often near the school and on the pavements on the way out of the

village. Lots of residents claim to know who it is and have even challenged him, but he refuses to pick up. Lots of us are thoroughly fed up with it.

- The Park at the rear of Chaucer Way in Daventry quite often has dog mess not picked up. But there is no dog poo bin anywhere in the vicinity and only very recently a litter bin has been installed in this park, the first in years. There really is a need for more dog poo bins on the Headlands Estate, Daventry.
- Daventry on the old railway line.
- Generally around Upper Boddington - particularly on the millenium way.
- This has regularly been reported by the local newsletter since its inception over 40 years ago. It is by far the biggest disappointment by responsible dog owners and non dog owners. The local forest picnic area is unusable as such due to the dog mess. Regularly used footpaths are dotted with it and local appeals to the better side of these owners have fallen on deaf ears.
- Borough Hill
- There has been an increase in dog fouling in the last year in the green spaces around Daventry. These include Daneholme Park, Lang Farm Park, field by the icon building, Country Park and Borough Hill.
- Dumping of dog poo bags is absolutely rife in Northampton and is on the increase, it even occurs when there are bins nearby to use. Something needs to be done about this problem across Northampton and the county because dog-owners are not getting the message that it is an offence to dump bagged dog waste just as much as, if not more than, general littering.
- Grassy public areas where my son plays and on all paths we walk to and from school it's disgusting and I'm fed up of seeing it. Far too many dogs are off lead around public play walking areas and the owners oblivious as to what their dogs are doing!
- Dog fouling on green areas at back of our house and also on local pavements. St Giles park new duston area
- High Street and Sports Fields
- In Silverstone since lockdown the problem has arisen. This is especially true of areas where people walk with their children.
- I live in Brackley and I've noticed that more and more frequently there is dog poo left on pavements and in public areas. I see it a lot on the school run everyday. I walk through Beaumont Crescent, Spencer Gardens and Manor Road on the school run and see dog poo most days. I also see it in other areas of the town. I'm a dog owner so I understand the importance of cleaning up after them and I'm always shocked that so many people don't.
- The new racecourse development in Towcester, in particular Bessie's Lane.
- This problem has got much worse over the last couple of years in my local area. Specifically Bradlaugh Fields and the fields/ woodland areas surrounding the Obelisk Estate. The pavements themselves on Obelisk Rise/Dixon Road have issues with dog fouling.
- I am a dog owner and I clear up after my two dogs. I also believe most owners do clear up. I am frustrated when a few owners don't clear up or when I see dog poo bags left on fences etc. Such behaviour gets all owners a bad name. The only time I can excuse a mess is when a dog is unwell and the excrement is liquid. This is very rare.

- I live in Silverstone and it is everywhere, I have children and it is heartbreaking having to watch their every step.
We drive to more remote footpaths to avoid the poo locally, especially in the local woodland.
Current legislation means the paths in the woods and fields are exempt, the Forestry have given up and say stick and flick, so we can't step off of a path. It's a bit to stop.
I don't have a dog and have to contribute to dog bins, I now have to pay for my green bin too, we should bring back dog licences, dog owners should cover the cost of dog poo, not us none dog owners just like those without gardens don't pay for green bins.
- Deanshanger, piles of dog mess left on footpaths and in the local parks. There are plenty of bins just lazy owners.
- Staverton lane leading to Jurassic way dog walkers leaving their mess not bothering to pick it up.
- Almond Close and Elkington Lane, Barby.
- Lots of mess on the watermeadow in Towcester and also on the recreation field by Waitrose.
- Daventry country park
- Roade Village has a widespread dog fouling problem which is caused by a few irresponsible dog owners
- There is lots of mess where we leave things are getting worse
- In Roade village, the high street, cripple road, pianoforte road, the keys, churchcroft and the Stratford road. Always covered in dog mess.
- You will still get some dog fouling on pavements where it's not been cleared up. Unacceptable
- Roade. Outside houses on the pavements, not so much of a problem on green space.
- Silverstone, pavements, SRA playing fields, pocket park, green lane and wintethills public footpaths.
- Daventry .. plenty of fouling on the grass verges, as people walk up London Road, turning right down Western Avenue, left into Christchurch Drive, right along Badby Road West, and then straight over crossroads heading towards town.
So many dog owners fail to pick up their dog mess and dispose of it correctly. You see bags hanging from trees, or thrown down next to a bin.
The problem increases during the winter months - as under cover of darkness, dog owners just leave the mess, as they know they stand very little chance of being caught.
- I live in Lovat Drive in Duston and I walk my two dogs in this area. There is always dog mess on the pavements of Lovat Drive and Lyncrest Road and on the pavements and grass verges in Ellesmere Avenue and Malcolm Drive. These are also routes which people walk whilst taking their children to Lyncrest school, which is a major concern. People also leave their bags of collected poop lying on the ground and stuffed into and under hedges.
- Big concern in the winter months. Dog mess on footpaths and playing field but generally better in the summer as people can be seen.
- Roade village is rapidly becoming a dog's toilet. Dog mess frequently left on pavements, poo bins overflowing.

- I walk a lot in Brackley and notice a lot of dog faeces on green areas especially noticeable around the leisure centre field and the path that loops around it (past the Humphries drive pond and down the path towards Stepping Stones pre school.) Another area where there seems to be a problem is the grass areas on Somerville Road and around the Pavillons Way play area (extending onto the grass area in between the play area and the Banbury Road.
- It is not policed so how can this be put in place. Its disgusting that people take their dogs to open fields and football fields and allow this to happen where children play.
- Brampton valley way.
- Metalled footpath from the Church to Billing Road and all public footpaths and bridleways in the area.
- In Weedon there are a substantial number of dog-walking routes which are frequently the subject of dog litter infractions despite much local publicity and education attempts
- Hartwell in general a few spoiling it for the many responsible dog owners
- Dog fouling itself not an issue, dog owners not bothering to dispose of their bags of dog waste in an appropriate bin are the issue, most days I walk in the Watermeadows, Towcester, I'll come across a bag or two of dog waste left on the ground, close to a filled dog bin or out in the meadows bin. Good that it's in a bag, bad that the bag is left on the ground rather than taken to the nearest appropriate bin, or home.
- The amount footpath along the path at the back of the Haystack, on footpaths around Lang Farm up to County Park
- Little Billing, Northampton
All on the pavements
- Moulton village is terrible & there is dog mess left everywhere - on the footpaths, on grassed areas, in public fields. I am a dog owner myself, and the amount of dog fouling left is unacceptable & frankly disgusting. I am capable to clean up after my dog so why should others be allowed to not bother!
- Footpaths around West Haddon - dog walkers think because its the countryside it does not need picking up- it does
- Dog appear to poo in the road and owner does not pick it up
- Location - Brixworth and the wider ward.
We do have some problems of dog poo not being cleared up, but my concerns are that it is all very well bringing extra rule and penalties but these things only work if they can be enforced.
West Northants council has far more important challenges than spending money on wardens to do this job.
- Deanshanger village most of us are responsible and pick up after our dogs but sadly not all and public spaces suffer because of it
- It about being a responsible dog owner - it's a health hazard and is found on outdoor footwear and brought into the home
- To me concern means worried about. I can't think of any specific areas but I Do know I have to always watch where I'm going anywhere in Brackley.
- Dog fouling is a problem both in the village - dog faeces are left on the High Street, on peoples doorsteps in particular and on the local footpaths and in the sports field. Equally there is a significant problem where people collect the dog

faeces in a bag and then leave the bag on the path, throw it in bushes or hang it in a tree. Last year, at one point in time there were 14 bags of dog faeces hung in a tree along a local footpath. This type of behaviour is almost worse than just leaving dog faeces on a path as once in the bag it stays there, potentially for months, unless someone collects it and disposes of it. The problem was considerably worse during COVID restrictions with many people visiting Pitsford area and a significant increase in dog faeces and bags of faeces in and around the village along with litter including bottles cans etc.

- Footpaths around The Bringtons and in particular there are always bagged poo just left around by paths
- Affect all open spaces, footpaths, pavements in and around the town of Brackley
- Oak avenue Great Brington
- Many of the footpaths and verges around The Brington's and Nobottle suffer with dog fouling, dog walkers even pick up the dog poo and then hang the bags in trees or hedgerows.
- Dog ownership has hugely increased as has problems with fouling and dogs not under proper control
- Playing fields in Brixworth and paths around the Country park.
- Daventry. Badby Road West, Yeomanry Way, The Grange
- Most dog owners do pick up their dogs "poo". It's only a small minority
- I am a dog owner myself and I see people daily that just let their dogs poo in the heli park in Daventry on Badby road. I have often approached the individuals and commented only to be met with verbal abuse. They also allow them to poo on the street and outside houses on the estates and surrounding areas. It's not acceptable.
- Particularly located in areas where people can't be seen along footpaths, bridle paths, forests and canal paths in all villages in SNC and DDC that I go to.
- Hellidon does have neither poo bins nor rubbish bins. If people expect dog owners to clear up, at least suitable disposal facilities should be provided.
- The pathway next to Sandy Lane, Duston. Errington Park, Duston is getting worse and generally around the area now, even on footpaths.
- Flore Village, Brodie Lodge playing field, Champion Fields way grass area, Brockhall Road, and footpaths & grass verges all around the village
- Dog poo is often left on footpaths across the fields between Walgrave Cemetery and Old
Also it is left on footpaths in the village. [...] sprayed the poo with bright yellow. However [...] no one does this now,
I take my dogs out for second walk in the dark and even with a head torch have come back with poo on my shoes from less conscientious dog owners. I always pick up no matter where.....
- In Braunston, regular dog foul on paths and grass verges, especially on our walk to/from school and around the paths near the school grounds.
- Crick village. Lots of fouling on footpaths around the village. Especially church street and Bucknills lane. A poo bin would be good on Bucknills lane
- There is dog fouling along Magdalen Meadows, Brackley near Bracken Leas School and I usually find at least one example of fouling on my daily walk. It is unpleasant and there is no need for it given the large number of dog bins available.
- People still leave poo in the middle of the path and don't clear it up.

- Monksmoor Park. Dogs fouling on the pavement and not picked up
- Not only do people not pick up their dogs poo in the country park but also on and around Lang Farm. Some even take the trouble to pick the poo up in a bag but then throw it in the hedges.
- Most areas that I exercise my 2 dogs in Daventry on Lang farm and Country park are littered with dog faeces
- Various areas of Long Buckby
- I live in Braunston and own 2 dogs.
We have a big issue with dog owners not picking up after their dogs (Footpaths/fields and towpaths)
The problem is always worse during the darker mornings and nights.
- In and around Braunston
- Silverstone village is littered with dog poo. I see it every time I walk my dog on the roads and on lanes around the village. I've also seen many people allow their dogs to foul and walk away without picking their mess up.
- Always picking dog mess up when I walk my dog especially in the alley from Bickerstaffes Road through to Baden Powell crescent
- Silverstone brook area in Towcester.
- Greens Norton
On public paths as well as footpaths
- Between leisure centre and Waitrose in Towcester also recreation grounds and watermeadows.
- Dog fouling on playing field and on the main footpath fields right on the path where you walk.
- Welford village, pavements around the entire village have this problem but it is especially noticeable on Newlands Road and West Street.
- Woodford Halse streets
- Brackley in general, number of dogs and bins have increased but so have people willing leave their dog mess around.
- Dog fouling on pavement and bags of poo left in verges
- Nether Heyford village green
- Despite adequate bins there are still large deposits on pavements and more importantly in narrow passageways where it's hard to avoid. These tend to appear very early mornings or overnight so not when offenders are likely to be observed. CCTV needed?
- In Welford village there are periods of time where dog fouling on the pavements is an issue. This is round the main circular of the village. It tends to coincide with when it gets darker earlier, but also with school holidays. It is particularly bad on Newlands Road and the High Street although there are other areas affected.
- People letting their dog foul outside people paths, driveways beside dog disposal bins and in fields.
This is in Kingsthorpe Brampton Valley, and all of NN2 area
- Towcester seems to have a bigger problem now than ever before!
There needs to be more bins located on streets around Towcester town centre
I have 2 dogs and always pickup but end up often taking it home due to lack of bins or bins being too full
- I come across dog poo in Welford and it makes me so cross as a responsible dog owner myself. There is simply no excuse to not pick it up.

- There has been fouling on footpaths within the village, areas where children will be walking to and from school and any member of the public going about lawful business
- Wootton area where I live the problem is large. Park grassed areas plus paths and tracks.
Even worse though where my kids go to school, Moulton, often on pavements not just on grass.
- Dog fouling has become the main topic of local online discussions mainly on public access land and verges rather than on the paths around the village. (Chacombe)
- Predominately on footpaths and our playing fields, more evident in the winter with darker mornings and evenings.
- Holcot
- All around brackley there is evidence of dog "poo" laying on the footpath. Halse Road is particularly bad on a regular basis
- Towcester Road, Old Stratford
Falcon Drive, Old Stratford
- People failing to clear up after their dogs or just dumping the bags of faeces.
- Dog fouls left on park areas such as Simpson Manor and Wootton Recreation Park and Hardingstone Park
- I see it every day in every place!
- [Name] has had a continued issue regarding dog fouling on public rights of way and paved footpaths across the village, dog owners failing to pick up as well as bagged mess left on the ground.
There has been a noted increase since the initial COVID 19 lockdown but continues on a daily/weekly basis.
[Name] Parish Council are reporting dog fouling on the WNC reporting tool but there has been no noted reduction, even with publications on the PC Website, community news letter, social media posts and notice board posters.
- Having a presence of PCSO and dog wardens inspecting the areas where most complaints are recorded. Perhaps have free dog bags in certain areas, such as parks and open spaces.
- Towcester.
- Around Hopping Hill Primary school- outside the school gates
- More to the point, how to you intend to police this? There's dog poo all over. If you need specifics just send a member of the council on a walk around the area
- Path ways and open green space in Rothersthorpe village
- Streets of Moulton are left very dirty especially during the winter months when it's dark. Often have to clean the wheels of my grandson's push chair. Even had dog mess left by our house entry. Too many dogs these days with owners who think they have a right to mess up the Streets.
- I live in Croughton and the public footpaths around the village perimeter are frequently littered with dog mess. I have also seen it in the middle of the footpath in High Street. Public footpaths AF 10 and AF9.
- Near daventry country park and surrounding paths
- West Hunsbury - bridalway and parks
- I live in Croughton and I evidence the problem of (fresh) dog turds left on public footpaths both in the village and on the surrounding countryside every time I take a long walk around the village. Whilst we have bins provided in the village which

are used, the perpetrators of this foul practice even go so far as to leave bags of poo at the side in open countryside sometimes hanging from trees fences or gates! Most affected routes include AF10, AF9, the link between Park End and Portway.

- Pavements in Moulton often have dog mess, especially in the centre of the village and those leading to and from Crowfields. Crowfields is so bad for dog mess that I wear wellies when walking there, even in dry days, to make it easier to clean my footwear.
- Everywhere that people walk their dogs will have cases where mess is not picked up. Send people to clean up parks and pavements if you must spend money on dog poo. At least that would clean up other litter as well.
- Unacceptable levels of uncleared mess, where dogs have clearly been dragged whilst toileting.
- Walking my dog daily round the village, I frequently see evidence of dog fouling. I have helped the Parish Council to put up further reminder notices and sprayed the poo...it has had little effect, Reminders have been put on our village website and there are many bins around the village. Unfortunately, some people will always be ignorant.
- In Rothersthorpe there is always dog poo on Banbury Lane, church street and north street. Inconsiderate dog owners allow their animals to do this at night or in areas where they cannot be seen from peoples houses. I live on [road] and cut the grass on land owned by the council but I'm not going to do it any more if there is dog poo there.
- Poo on street verges almost permanent feature in holcot. Concerned about my young kids playing near it. Lots of dog walkers in this area due to pitsford and Sywell reservoirs and loads of footpaths. Lack of dog poo bins seems to lead to people bagging the poo then hanging it on a low branch's. Scale of problem has been highlighted by locals spray painting the poo orange.
- In different places around the Village and in the Church yard .
- I am in Kislingbury and a dog owner, surprised at how much dog mess there is on the lovely walks we are able to use. There are poo bins around (although some need fixing)
- A few irresponsible dog owners among many responsible owners allowing dogs to foul on busy paved areas and do not pick up
- Enormous amounts of dog fouling noticeable on the towpath between Blisworth Tunnel southern portal and Lock 20 in Stoke Bruerne. This is an area designated a Conservation Area.
- There are constant complaints about dog fouling on Boddington Parish Council's 2 public spaces as well on footpaths and residents' gardens, and posters about picking up faeces, prohibiting dogs from the playing field and keeping them on a lead on the Jubilee field where they can be walked are totally ignored. The PC has no power to challenge this anti social behaviour. There are complaints about bags full of dog faeces being thrown into hedges and gardens even though proper bins have been provided nearby. [Role] SNC and Cherwell were working together I discovered that Cherwell had enacted very good byelaws and rules about these problems and were able to prosecute offenders, SNC had not bothered to do anything. Its about time this was taken seriously and proper action can be taken against these offenders.
- Rothersthorpe

- As a regular dog walker I am very aware of the amount of dog faeces left uncollected in grassed areas. I do feel there could be more bins available ie country park, icon field, Borough hill, daneholme field.
I also walk the black path, (old railway line) and that is a noticeable problem area, despite there being bins.
- It is not so much the open fields as the areas around the village that are the problem
- Woodford Halse
- Croughton. People leave the dog poo bags tied to bushes on railings on the floor, leave dog foul mess on my driveway on my grass verge in my garden, dogs allowed to run wild on the street whilst not on the lead
- Roade, South Northants. There's no specific area and there appear to be several irresponsible dog owners not picking up
- Most of the village, Hartwell. In particular Ashwood Lane...piles of dog faeces..there is a bin but certain people feel its ok to just let their dogs poop anywhere as the rain will wash it away. One in particular has 5 dogs and never cleans up !!!!!
- Roade. There are a few dog owners who just let their dogs poo where they wish, or for their dogs to roam off lead without them.
- Naseby playing field and footpaths within village
- Seems to be worse once the clocks go back in autumn in Lilbourne.
- Most streets you walk down in Brackley have dog mess. Just today I came across 3 lots in a few meters along Banbury road. And then again on manor road.
- Full dog poo bags thrown around Northampton road
- In Brackley you cannot walk down a path without encountering some dog faeces.
- Long Buckby and surrounding villages, public footpaths
- We live in Welford and on several occasions we have come across dog mess when we have gone for walks, usually by the Wharf pub at the end of the bridge and when walking along the canal. When leaves are on the ground it makes it particularly difficult to see it resulting in small children as well as adults walking through it, which is disgusting and unnecessary, and completely selfish of the owners who do not bother to pick up after their pets.
- Constant dog mess on footpaths along wayneflete avenue, which is used for school runs by very young children. Also grass verge as you just turn down Westhill avenue on the right hand side of the road.
- Although we have several dog waste bins many of them are in the same location whilst there are long lengths of pavement where no bins are present- top end of Pavillions way, length of Halse road, and along the high Street.
- Always lots of dog fouling around Brackley whenever walking my own dog. Plenty of bins and bags provided but some people too lazy to pick it up
- There is no reason for a dog owner not to clean up after their dog. The exception being those who are listed above.
- The Leys roade from people walking through from New estate.
- In Long Buckby it is a big problem, see it regularly and living on West St one of the busier roads, we often have dogs fouling our front lawn. Also regularly found in St Lawrence church yard.
- Bugbrooke village
- It's a problem everywhere and the guilty dog owners usually allow their dogs to do it early morning or late at night. This is not a Northamptonshire issue this is a UK

wide issue and happens everywhere. I believe the only way to address this is through education you are wasting money thinking any form of enforcement officer will work. Just put more bins and free bags. This is a problem that will never go away, spend our money on road safety and addressing our safety on the streets with dog owners who dont have control over their dogs and make other people fearful if going for walks because of out of control dogs.

- Weedon Bec
West street
- Big problem from a handful of dog owners especially near the school which is terrible with kids constantly stepping into this.
- Not enough dog poo bins in Hartwell.
- Much of the publicly available footpaths in and around my village are out of public view and isolated - the paths are fouled by dogs I can go on a three mile walk and see up to five incidents of mess. I'm a country lad and I know the difference this is not a natural animal faeces.
- I think it's more the overflowing dog poo bins that then cause knock on problems of not being picked up
- The footpath that is often neglected by the local authority that runs from Old Town near the vicarage down over the river, under the A43 and onto Turweston is often littered with dog faeces. However it is also terribly neglected in general and often impassable due to mud and lack of maintenance.
- In the village of Holcot all too often dog mess is found on pavements and on the footpaths surrounding the village. It has occurred also on the village allotments where please grow vegetables to eat!
- Often see it on the pavements in the village. No particular area.
- Roade village.....dog fouling in certain areas. High Street and the Leys seem to be worse
- High St and Lime Avenue Eydon NN11 3PP. Also fouling on bridleway leaving Eydon by Cemetery.
- I constantly have dog poo on the pavement in front of my house.
- On numerous occasions we have had to dodge dog mess as we have come out of our front garden onto the public foot path outside. Whether it's coming in or going out there always seems to be several areas.
- Grange park country park. Pavements all around
Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. wootton rec.
- All of Brackley streets and green areas.
Too many dog owners do not pick up after their dogs.
Also cat owners relinquish responsibility too for their pets. It's not just dog mess. I have seen many cats fouling green areas, in peoples gardens, gravel pathways etc. this has also happened in my own front and back garden.
- Grassy areas around Brackley are usually used as dog toilets and it is not cleaned up by all owners
- Please walk around the village of Roade. Dog mess such a big issue. I dare not let my 21 month old granddaughter walk for fear of her treading in dog mess. What a statement!
- It is around. However there is no one enforcing the current legislation. See my reply on 1d.

- dog mess in front gardens would you believe
dog mess in kiddies play park
dog mess on pavements
- Treading in dog mess is a right old palaver. Because it's unnecessary, it's incredibly frustrating to have to undertake the cleaning process of at the very least shoes and worse carpets.
- We live on a dog walking route and regularly find dog poo/bags on the grass verges. We also voluntarily litter pick in the surrounding area and regularly find dog poo bags.
- Its not the poo so much, more that people put the poo in a bag and then leave the bag.
- Moulton Cross Street near the secondary school.
Dog walking favourite route and it's where children walk to school through the public right of way. Any dog muck left has a very high chance if children treading in it.
- Numerous occasions of dogs mess found in the street I live in (The Leys- Roade) and around the village.
- I live in Hartwell. While nearly all dog owners are responsible a meaningful minority are not and they give other dog owners a bad press. I am a dog owner myself and to be honest it annoyed me more after I got a dog than before.
- As a dog owner I always clean up after my dogs and find it frustrating that others do not do this. This sometimes results in me being targeted/accused of not cleaning up after my dogs. My concern is that this could also result in me not being able to walk then where I'd like to because of other people being irresponsible dog owners.
- There are some irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to foul and do not clear up after themselves but there are many who are responsible and should not be penalised and 'tarred with the same brush'. There are very few dog poo bins in the villages and they are spread too widely which means that people have to resort to using the litter bins.
- Particularly in winter, dog fouling is a fairly big concern in Welford. There is a lot to be found on pavements, and the fields and footpaths are terrible. It makes it very difficult to walk around the village with my young daughter for fear of her treading in dog mess.
- Crow Fields Common - there are bins all around but many people seem incapable of using them...
- Dog fouling is a problem on footpaths and grass areas along the footpath.
- Playing fields in Brixworth - The Ashway, St Davids Recreation Ground and Spratton Road Park.
- I live in the village of Naseby, which due to it's age and rural location, isn't particularly well lit at night and doesn't have footpaths along all roads. There has been an increase in the past few months of dog faeces not being picked up. This is both within the village on the footpaths, and on the verges on the lanes that don't have footpaths.
I have said it's a fairly big concern as the issue is frequently complained about on social media, and there was someone in the village marking faeces with bright orange spray paint (great when visibility is low as helps see it to avoid stepping in it, but doesn't look good in terms of the aesthetics of the village).

Of late, there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of faeces left on the verges of the Thornby Lane, a very popular single-track road for walkers. The verges have to be used to safely allow vehicles to pass.

- In and around Chipping Warden, as dog walking is quite prolific around the Edgcote Estate.
- There are poo bins around Welford. However the Playing Field through which some dog owners walk their dogs has also been subject to dog poo not being cleared up by the dog walker.

As the Playing Field (off West End) is used for all sorts of activities by young people a PSPO for the Playing Field would help to remedy this problem

- As a dog owner myself, I find it appalling that others don't clean after their dogs.
- Around Towcester the public footpath's often have bag's with dog faeces left on the side of the path or thrown by a nearby bush or gate.
- Owners allow their dogs to poo on footpaths in the village regularly. The majority are big poos so therefore big dogs that make a substantial impact. I am a dog owner and always carry poo bags and clean up.
- Moulton
- The pocket parks, recreation areas and public pathways of NN3 are often littered with dog mess.
- The new estate (The furlongs) opposite the racecourse in Towcester.
- Brackley, up by leisure centre on all paths and of football fields. Also at old swimming pool grass area.
- Faeces is found all over playing fields used by Clubs for both children and adults in the area as well as considerable fouling taking place and being left on pavements, especially in cut-through alleyways in the area.
- Welford - We have sufficient dog-bins, along many common walks for pet owners, yet daily you will find owners have not cleared up after their walk with their pet
- I have 2 young children and they have repeatedly stepped in dog poo when in and around the village of Greens Norton. It is disgusting that people do not clean up after their dogs. There are special bins available but are just too lazy and ignorant to use them. There needs to be a greater fine for offenders
- Brixworth. Several areas : footpaths to the main road towards Northampton going out of the village.

Ashway Playing Fields: some days are ok but in the main by the hedge (Eastfield Road side.) it can be a problem.

The foot path from the new houses down from the Ashway Playing Field towards the main Road (going towards Northampton) .

These are the main areas I walk but other areas could be a problem without my knowledge.

- All over the village.
- There are a lot of secluded paths around the village (Greens Norton) where my children go to school. I believe there are a lot of responsible dog owners in the village but unfortunately a few consistent offenders.
- The village is Greens Norton. There's always been a dog poo problem in the village. It's all over, everywhere. We got a puppy last summer and unfortunately he likes to eat dog poo which is disgusting but also dangerous to his health. I'm constantly having to drag him away from it when we walk around the village. On a typical

walk I think he would sniff out between 20-30 separate pieces in a 30 minute period. That isn't an exaggeration.

- The level of dog fouling in Greens Norton is utterly appalling, and has been for the 10 years I have lived here with my young family. The fouling is on many pavements and public footpaths, including those across agricultural fields for which many apparently feel it is perfectly okay not to pick up after their dog. The grass embankment on Mill Lane and the fields next to Freeman's Way are the worst affected. We now have had a dog for the past 9 months and despite picking up after our own dog, are now even more acutely aware of the issue.
- The village of Chipping Warden has a big problem with dog walkers not picking up their dogs poo, including visitors from other local areas who come to Chipping Warden to walk dogs. This includes the paths and grassed area within the village, and the path leading from the village to Edgcote House.
- Any where where there is a grass verge. Some dog owners don't seem to care about picking it up out of grass.
- Dog fouling is a persistent problem across many areas which results in reports to the Police Neighbourhood teams as ASB. The complaints from the public are generally focused on the more built up housing areas and specifically areas with public parks used by children and families.
- Greens Norton and local pathways are often impacted despite many freely available dog poo bins
- Children can walk in it
- Brixworth, I have raised a concern on your website as it's in a pocket park where kids should be able to play.
- In the parks and alleyways there is often dog poo
- Big concern in Brixworth around Tantree way and pocket park off Eaglehurst. Regular occurrence
- On paths dog poo bags thrown into the trees dog hits over flowing
- As clerk to [name] there is seldom a monthly pc meeting where the issue has not been raised.
it can be anywhere across the whole parish.
- I visit Brixworth for my children's school and see poo on the pavements near the school fairly regularly. This necessitates me reminding my children to look where they are going to avoid stepping in it.
- I live in Moreton Pinkney and there are several residents who let their dogs out by themselves. This results in their mess not being removed at all. It's usually found on grass verges and on the paths.
- Dog waste is often left in the green spaces & verges within Monksmoor Park. There are very few dog or waste bins.
- Duston, Harlestone
- Braunston. Along most of the pavements across the village, high street, Ashby Road, welton road, church road, footpaths along and to the canal
- All footpaths within and through the village.
- Pavements in Brixworth. Froxhill Crescent, Brixworth. Path down to Pitsford Reservoir from the Brixworth bypass. Path around the reservoir. Ashway playing field, Brixworth. We have found dog poo on our front garden.
- Daventry, headlands area, hemans road then up through the alleyway near Parker Eact Academy.

Around spider park Daventry Headlands is also disgusting. It's like dodge the poo and daneholme Park Ashby Road Daventry.

- The people who don't pick it up won't change their behaviour.
- Burcote Park, Towcester
Non-residents frequently don't pick up after their dogs
- There is often dog fouling on the paths in Cogenhoe and the playing field.
- Foxfields Country Park, Grange Park.
Most green spaces of Grange Park.
- Silverstone has a number of dog owners who do not feel it's necessary to pick up their dog poo. As a football mum I frequently poo pick the football pitch at the Silverstone Recreation Association the children play on at the weekends and train on during the lighter months.
However the issue is rife across the village - left on the main pathways which are used by children to walk/cycle to school.
- Whilst I have moved from Brackley town itself it was great to see that there were ample bins made available for people to deposit their dogs extremely, sadly there are still people reluctant to clean up after their dog. I have now moved to Croughton where there are only 4 bins in the village. To my mind and seeing this is obviously not enough and have suggested that to promote responsibility for your dog that more are made available! I strongly Not a very big concern with the proposal to encourage those amongst us to follow suit and clear up after their dog. In regard to smoking, whilst I stopped smoking years ago, it is so unpleasant to walk past smokers immediately outside premises and you are "forced" to hold your breath or move totally out of their way! I look forward to both proposals taking effect! Thank you
- Council need to consider popular/frequent dog walking routes and provide more bins. Some of the school routes do no have bins near them and seem to have more cases of dog pooh on paths on these routes close to the schools
- Brackley Cricket club field
Brackley High Street
- Croughton. There was one in the churchyard three days ago, and the footpaths surrounding the village are covered in it
- Regular dog walker who consistently picks up other dogs mess in Poppy fields park even though bags and bins are provided. Most frustrating
- Poppyfields Way - Especially outside of Radstone School
- Brixworth village, almost every walk I go on I will see dog mess somewhere.
Brampton Valley way and surrounding paths/byways has dog poo bags hanging on trees at regular intervals for its entire length most of the time.
- Dog owners tend to be selfish and thoughtless.
They ignore signs asking them to keep their dogs on leads in certain places, just ignore them.
Many dog walkers are too busy on their phones to have any idea what their dog is doing.
We desperately need dog wardens and good fines.
- Bugbrooke village, nn7.
It's full of dog mess, along the public footpaths and pavements.
- Bugbrooke

Along pavements, grass verges and public footpaths over the fields which are walked all the time by many people

- I walk my dog around the village streets and across public footpaths and bridleways. There will always be some dog poop at some point on our routes, and often several. It gives responsible dog owners a bad name. There is a bridleway near by that it is impossible to walk without picking your way around multiple heaps. Sadly this would be excluded as its agricultural land, but perhaps "stick & flick" into the overgrowth could be a rule in these areas.
- On many footpaths around Bugbrooke and more particularly on the playing fields which are used by 6 adult teams and more than 300 young players under 16 every week
- In Bugbrooke village most instances of uncleared dog fouling seem to happen in the early morning or late evening. I assume this is when irresponsible dog owners go undetected.
Some folk seem to think that farmland or fields used for animal grazing are also suitable for their dogs to do their business without clearing up. There have also been instances on sports fields. Some dog owners let their dogs run loose before the animal has relieved itself and therefore are unaware where the poop is.
- People thinking that is ok to let dogs foul on others front lawns, picking it up does not make this acceptable.
- There not enough bins around the streets
Street bins need to come back
- Bugbrooke . Dog poo in alleyways in the village and in the fields which is easy to step into.
- Dog mess on footpaths throughout Brackley. More poonbins are required.
- Faulty big concern, always see dog fouling around the streets most days, especially where children are walking to school, Pre school and nursery
- Brackley - some people allow dog fouling on pavements and do not pick it up.
- Lots on the Ashway playing field in Brixworth. I regularly pick it up but it comes back daily. Can you install CCTV ?
- I have young children, and the walk to school we have to be careful not to stand in any dog mess. This is on the Holcot Road, Brixworth mainly.
There are also large amounts on the Brixworth village playing fields, off The Ashway which dog owners daily allow their dogs to run free on. This can upset children when dogs run up to them. Coming into contact with dog excrement whilst playing on the fields is a big problem, and also a health hazard.
- We need more dog waste bins in the village where I live
- Waters lane Middleton Cheney
- As a dog owner - I see dog mess essentially in more of the wooded path areas of Brackley town which border agricultural land or part of the round Brackley open space walks. Irresponsible owners appear to think this is ok as it's out of sight or just plain irresponsible. More signage and poo bin in these locations might help
- Pattishall
Eydon
Culworth
Farthingstone
Daventry

All locations that I either live at or walk the dog around. Always see dog poo left on footpaths and right so way!!

- All along Waynflote Avenue and Beaumont Crescent in Brackley there is grass verges which have to be used for primary parents parking to drop off and collect their children. On several occasions my primary school child has stepped in dog foul and it causes a lot of work especially if they are on their way into school.
- Regular offenders - I am a responsible dog owner and often witness failure to pick up dog foul.
- Cogenhoe Playing Field
- Pocket park ,off Falcon Drive in Old Stratford
- People letting their dogs mess on the footpath and leaning it there with no attempt to pick up. Others picking it up and leaving the bag.
- Brackley, some just cannot be bothered to pick it up
- Brackley.

Problems along footpaths at st James Lake

- Dog poo is a big problem in Bugbrooke. It's just left on the paths and in the grass verges, I often find it on the corner of the grass on my drive way. The alleyways leading to the primary school are regularly a minefield for parents to get their kids to school without getting poo on their shoes also for parents with pushchairs and prams.
- It's on every footpath in the village and the problem is getting worse, not better.
- Saimon Close play area is often used as a dog toilet
- As Clerk to the Parish Council, there is rarely a meeting goes by where complaints from residents regarding dogs fouling on footpaths or communal green spaces is a matter of discussion.

We are only a small parish but we have three dog mess bins situated at popular dog walking areas and still people don't seem able to collect up the mess and use the facilities provided.

- On footpaths around the village and on public footpaths in the field
- Thorpe Mandeville dog owners discarding dog waste bags in roadside verges although near to home.
- It is present on pavements and rights of way around Crick.
- Dog mess along the tow path and in the allotment areas despite numerous polite messages asking dog-owners to clear the mess away and numerous dog bins and rubbish bins in the village.
- Cottesbrooke and surround fields to the village, a lot of people drive here from neighbouring villages 2/3 times a day to let their dogs have a run off lead as it is quieter here (which I have no issue with)

However as the dogs are running around doing their business, I have seen on an almost daily basis owners fail to pick up after their dogs. We keep horses in the neighbouring fields and have to walk across the public areas to access the fields and I'm often having to dodge the poo, some of it quite obviously on the verge of the road. It's disgusting

- All across the village, with specific issues on the outskirts where it's less populated.
- Cottesbrooke village, many poop bags left at the side of road where people park
- I live in Yardley Hastings right next to the village green. Although the Parish Council have placed a litter bin on the Green I often find dog faeces have been left on the grass.

- Nether Heyford - public footpaths, village green and surrounding verges.
- Yardley Hastings - issues on pavements and around the recreation ground and access routes
- Hackleton Recreation Ground and footpaths/rights of way around the whole of the parish
- Paulerspury. There are many dogs owned locally and most owners are responsible in removing their dog's faeces immediately and placing in the provided dog waste bins. However, it is clear that there are persistent owners who allow their dogs to foul High Street verges, bridleways and footpaths, perhaps because it is a rural area, but without thought to other users. It's clear these owners do not even carry poo bags for the purpose.
- I live in Woodford Halse and the amount of dog poo just left on the paths on the estate is disgusting, it doesn't get cleaned up and then it gets walked and tramped further.
- I represent the Playing Field Association and we clearly signposted that we don't allow dogs on-site. Despite this, we still have a small number of occasions a year (mostly from visiting teams) who ignore the signs and still bring dogs onto our premises.
- Village footpaths and fields
- We have a playing field in our village that sadly acts as the largest dog waste bin..... it needs to be in place and the irresponsible dog owners need to be challenged for failing to be inline with the law and part of a civilised society!
As no one with authority ever is around to challenge these individuals it needs to be comprehensive and acted upon. It would soon stop with a few fines being dealt out .
- Footpaths and adjacent land in Great Central Woodland, Woodford Halse
- Woodford Halse has many irresponsible owners whose dogs foul the pavements, footpaths, bridle ways and also the sports field adjacent to the village football club. At the latter location there is a gathering of mothers after the morning school drop off time, they let their dogs off the leads and they run around unsupervised as the owners are too busy chatting with each other to notice their dog capping. In addition there's the early morning and late evening dog walkers who don't pick up as they can't be seen in the dark, there's very little street lighting around. I'm a responsible dog owner who picks up and I carry a torch during the hours of darkness for two reasons, the first so I can see what my dog is up to and secondly so I can avoid treading in someone else's dog mess.
- Braunston village and along the canal and footpaths around the village
- Braunston - the track at the top of Ashby Road. The road leading from Welton Road to the canal. Most of the foot paths and grass verges around the village including the High Street and play areas. People walking dogs that are not on leads and when they are in a field they still do not pick up the mess
- Close to Spratton Primary School school road.
Spratton REC
- People are dilatory about picking up in grassy areas like the Cricket Field and Recreation Field in Culworth.
They like to let dogs off leads
- Dog fouling is a regular occurrence on most footpaths in and around Evenley, all of which are very regularly used.

Dog fouling is an occasional occurrence on the village green, which is of major concern with the amount of use, type of use, and the number of children playing there.

- I own a dog and the footpath from the back of manor park nether Heyford nn7 3nn down to the mill is disgusting, people leave mess on the path, even in the kissing gates.
- Main footpath up to Badby woods
- Badby: Path from Chapel Lane parking area up to Badby Woods
- The playing field is a dog latrine even though there is a bin just inside the gate to the field. Most of us are aware of some of the culprits. I would not want any child of mine to play games on our playing field for this reason.
- the lane i live in is used a lot by dog walkers who allow their dogs to foul on the grass edges
- People failing to clean up after their dogs on pavements in the village.
- Irresponsible dog owners use a had shovel to scoop their dog poo into the canal. Or simply kick it in leaving a bigger smear on the tow path
- People do not clear up after their dogs, and seem oblivious to the issue
- I cannot believe that a minority of people let there dogs poo in the playing areas around my village of Woodford halse they will go out after dark to do this so as not to get caught.
- Despite having 19 dog waste bins throughout our village people still leave dog waste on pavements.
- All snc villages have issues
- Although incidents are isolated, the result is unpleasant - especially as it appears to be the owners of large dogs in particular who either don't have the means with them to pick up after their dog, or who don't for some reason consider it necessary.
- Blisworth, especially on the football field
- Roade village NN7
Some dog owners think rules don't apply to them ! Dog poo in the Rec (a dog free zone) dog poo on paths around the village and dog poo in the football pitch at the rear of the village hall, people moan on the village Facebook page all the time but others just take the mickey, what's the answer 🙄♀
- There are many instances of owners not picking up after their dogs and this can be seen each time you go for a walk. You will find at least one, whether on the pavement or a field.
- Badby village greens and local footpaths including Badby woods.
- Litchborough - on pavements and public footpaths.
- I am a dog owner. To keep Woodend tidy I mow the roadside grass and bank bordering our garden and almost always find dog poo in the grass. This is despite notices to clear up and a general waste bin opposite. Some people just don't care.
- Dog fouling on the footpaths in Roade generally
- I live in the High Street in Eydon (NN11 3PP). Dog fouling is of absolutely HUGE concern here. Despite many letters being published upon this subject in the local news sheet and efforts by the Parish Council this problem has long been endemic in Eydon. I firmly believe that it rests with the widespread use of so-called "wander leads". Virtually every day I see dog owners simply walk ahead of a fouling dog - often by a great distance - and in so doing can pretend not to notice

what their dog is doing. May I PLEASE request that the use of "wander leads" is BANNED from the public areas defined in this consultation? Surely, it is not too much to ask that dog owners use traditional, short, fixed-length leads? These give the owner full control and stop them from pretending that they cannot see what their dog is doing.

- On pavement
- Eydon Parish
Many people do not keep their dogs on a lead, so the dogs are free to foul the footpaths in the village centre and the public footpaths and bridleways surrounding the village.
- The leys Road
- Eastern Way Playing field. People either don't watch their dogs or have no intention of picking up after their dogs.
- Brixworth. Dog mess can be seen on pretty much any footpath within the village, also on recreation grounds.
- Green Street in Milton Malsor. A person constantly lets their dog foul outside the little row of cottages and it is not just one or two, it's multiple and weekly.
- Observed on pathways around Daventry Ashby Fields, Lang Farm, Middlemore and on nearby cross country footpaths and bridleways, including poo bags hanging from trees.
- Church and chapel brampton and harlestone firs. Those that do pick up leave the bags on the floor and don't come back to collect them
- Milton Malsor is blighted by dog mess all over the place. There's a narrow alleyway which links Rectory Lane to Green Street, which isn't overlooked in any way, and as a result some dog owners let their dogs foul there and don't pick up. Going through there in the dark is horrible for that reason.
There are plenty of dog bins so there's no excuse.
- Particularly dislike the amount of dog mess left on foot paths (not pavements) and in fields often used by dog walkers. Owners should be educated to pick everything up anywhere that their dogs foul.
Speaking as a "responsible" dog owner.
- Borough hill.pocket park
- Lots of dog mess in East Farndon on footpaths in the village itself and grass next to footpaths. Fresh dog poo appears on a regular basis.
- Black path in aynho
- In badby its usually ok but there are some persistent dog owners who just do not pick up. On paths. If you are in a public place they should pick up. By the woods there are always black bags hanging from branches. Yuk. We need a bin up there too please
- Ashton village, dog fouling is particularly bad on the bridle path that connects Roade Hill and Hartwell Road.
- Grange Park has a lot of open public spaces. Even though there are 20 dog poo bins within the estate, dog fouling is still a big issue for the local residents.
- Black Path, Aynho, which I understand is covered by a bye law which prohibits dogs. However, this is not enforced. Signs would help.
- Onley Park
Yelvertoft
- East Farndon

- BRAUNSTON has an excess of lazy dog owners, who constantly leave dog mess where their dog has dumped it. This might be on a pathway, someone's garden or public green area
- Cogenhoe Playing Fields is a big issue - people also like leaving the 'bags' as presents at the entrance to and from the field behind this
- One of the biggest reoccurring items on our Parish Council agenda is dog fouling. Wappenham is a lovely village in South Northamptonshire and seemingly suffers from the same problem as many other parts of Northamptonshire in that people in control of dogs do not pick up poo and dispose of correctly.
- Public footpath near nn7 1na, subject to fouling regularly , dog poo bags hung on hedges
- While I live in the countryside, the guidelines are that poop should be picked up if it's on a footpath, not in fields. But I think it should be picked up on verges as well. The biggest problem is that frequently when the poop is picked up, the bags are left hanging on fences or hedges, left in piles at gates or often flung up into the trees. where it is extremely difficult to retrieve.
- Dog fouling is a concern in most places and I am full support of this proposal. I live in Brackley and the majority of the walking routes that are not paved often have dog mess and it is a big risk to health.
- Dog poop is at times left on the pavement but main problem dog owners put poop in a bag but then leave the bag on the floor
- Rothersthorpe Village - particularly North Street
- Gt brington. The walks behind the church and the path from Hamilton lane to althorp since covid many new visitors to the area and many pikes of dog poo. From big dogs
- Rural area with many dog owners not picking up their dog mess or leaving the bags in field or public footpaths due to lack of bins on routes.
- We live in Rothersthorpe and it's awful. We have a terrible problem with dog fouling both on the paths, but also near footpaths on country walks. We need more dog poo bins, to try and encourage people to use them. As there is only one in the village. The majority of walkers walk the opposite direction to that one bin. We have had residents slip in dog poo. And due to the narrow paths have to walk in the road to avoid it, especially North street.
- Pocket park in steffen hill in daventry is usually covered in dog mess.
- Some people in Boddington a) ignore the areas where dogs are banned; b) do not keep them on a lead and allow dogs to foul in gardens and open land. Even when dog poo is collected and bagged it is sometimes then thrown on public/private land rather than being disposed of properly.
- Dog fouling seems to be a National problem, I feel further measures should be taken nationally to address the problem, we do have issues in our village, Rothersthorpe, we used to be able to obtain free posters and leaflets from Keep Britain Tidy, but these seem no longer available, we do regularly highlight the problems in our monthly newsletter
- I am constantly having to pick up other people's dog poo. I ALWAYS pick up and bin my own dog's poo. Many of the parks in Daventry either have piles of dog poo everywhere so you tread in it if not careful. If I see it I pick it up. A couple of times I've challenged people who've left their dog's mess behind and all you get is abuse.

I walked through the cemetery behind Tesco and people have been dumping bagged dog poo next to grave stones.

- Footpaths approaching Badby Woods.
- Crick, fouled footpaths and verges
- Crick village:
Dog fouling within the playing fields and green spaces in the village are a big concern.
Dog fouling can be found in most streets within the village and in general I've witnessed it's the owners of bigger dogs that don't pick up after them.
- Spencer gardens Brackley. Dogs fouling on grass directly in front of ground floor flats .
- I live in Creton and dog poo can be found in many places in the village both on footpaths as well as the village playing field.
- I live in the village of Rothersthorpe. There is constantly dog mess left along the grass verges in Banbury Lane, including the verges in front of peoples homes. More recently, dog mess has been left on the footpath down North Street.
- I live close to the Grand Union Canal at Long Buckby Wharf and [name]. Despite bins being available, many dog owners fail to use them and either just leave their pets excrement on the path, or bag it then throw the bag into the hedge or throw it into a field or hang it onto a fence or hedge like an ornament, often within a few feet of a bin. I recently litter picked a section of the canal between Whilton Locks and Long Buckby Wharf and collected over 30 discarded bags, many within sight of a bin.
- Creton Playing Field. Unfortunately dog owners see the playing field as a dog exercise area and let their dogs run free and do not clean up after them.
- There are numerous new dog owners in Bugbrooke that fail to pick up dog fouling around village streets and public walking areas.
- Borough hill and the pathways around the schools the places I usually find dog mess, used to be a problem on jellicoe close until a few homes put cctv up covering their gardens.
- Around the centre of Alderton
- Brackley public walking areas
- Brackley play areas/ st James lake where dogs roam freely and foul around areas that children and adults use.
- Whereas most dog owners behave responsibly, there are a minority who ignore the impact dog fouling has on our community, especially in and around ~Moulton village centre. In addition, Moulton PC owns Crow Fields Common which is a designated nature reserve. Dog fouling is much more difficult to monitor in this open space. The area is often used by professional dog walkers for exercise. There are also threats to ground-nesting birds in the Spring.
- Within the parish of Thorpe Mandeville there is a problem with poo bags being left in ditches, on verges and even hung on or possibly thrown into trees
- Problem areas include Church Hill and Creton Road Hollowell but all outlying roads affected as well as footpaths and bridlepaths.
- Church Street Helmdon
- King's Sutton, people allow their dogs to mess on pavements, play areas on the village rec and on the village green.
They do not use the provided dog bins.

- Everywhere. Even within 5 meters of an existing poo bin. Specific areas includes public paths in the village on the way to the fields and on the village park
- Along most paths
- Kings Sutton particularly Hampton drive, Sandringham and Balmoral
- Dog poo on paths and especially on right of way paths across fields. When walking small children they should be safe to run or walk without holding their hand. But this is impossible due to danger of dog poo
- There is often dog poo on the streets in Kings Sutton
- Kings sutton- the fields behind Blenheim rise and through alleyways across the village are persistently fouled by only very specific dog owners not picking up poo. Generally 95% do but it is the same repeat offenders who don't.
- Dogs that are not controlled properly by irresponsible owners are a common problem across the area and on farmland. Not only is this in regard to attacks on livestock, but also in regard to dog fouling along footpaths and the owners not picking it up. Equally disgusting is owners who do pick it up and then leave the bag hanging in a bush, either placed carefully in the bush or tossed away into vegetation.
- In Little Houghton we have constant issues of people not clearing up after their dogs, both around the village and also on the footpaths surrounding the village. We also have the issue of people picking up their dogs mess but leaving the bags laying or hanging around.
- Syresham Village, general nuisance around the village caused by a minority of dog owners not clearing up after their dogs. The parish has 7 dog waste bins provided and there are plenty of notices around the village to remind dog owners to clear up dog faeces, but still the problem remains.
- On the streets and fields, public rights of way, around the village of kings Sutton.
- Dog foul left in bags on hedges, and in gateways.
Yardley Hastings footpaths
- Our Parish Council Minutes (Yardley Hastings) record the fact that dog fouling has been a regular concern over many years. The problem is not confined to specific areas, occurs generally on the central part of the village.
- Welford village. Frequent dog mess on footways & issue on footpaths & bridleways
- Despite the Parish Council supplying a bin for dog excrement, the area known as Whistley Wood is still impossible to walk through safely without encountering dog excrement. In addition, there is at least one dog owner who fails to clear up after their dog in the High Street, Abbey Road and Main Road Syresham, this is a popular square walk for people without dogs and dog owners alike, but you really have to keep your eyes open constantly.
- Weedon
- Everywhere people walk their dogs, playing field, canal towpath, footpaths, pavement, etc
- Northampton Road towcester
- certain areas suffer regularly.
- On Lang Farm in Daventry, the walk by the ponds
- Northern Valley Park on Lang Farm and along the canal that runs from Lang Farm down to Monksmoor.
- Daventry country park
- Duston

I am a dog owner myself and get really annoyed when see owners not picking it up or they do and put in bag and dump it still.

In Gibraltar they take dna sample and match it to data base and fine the owners something like that

Also more enclosed spaces for dogs on fields so they can run in safe environment
Also dogs that are not good with others should have to wear I need space leads to pre warn other dog owners

- Not enough dog poo bins provided by the Council. Those that do exist are not emptied frequently enough, especially at weekends & public holidays. Most of the problems are in Northampton. But then, Northampton always has been a midden compared to Daventry, Towcester & the villages.
- Pitsford NN6
- Norton village. This is particularly on the bridle path leading to Welton. Many dog owners do not appear to feel they need to pick up their dogs meds or at least flick it into bushes. It is just left and you have to constantly watch where you walk to avoid this.
- Green space at the old swimming site off Manor Road but many of the green spaces. The play area at Poppyfields is a disgrace. I picked up 3 lots, 1 of which was literally next to the dog waste bin provided.
- The council has provided more and more bins for people to deposit the dogs excrement. There are still places were bins would be beneficial but you can't have them every few hundred yards to please people.

If you own a dog it's your responsibility to pick up there dirt and bin it or take it home.

Apart from the health issues dog poo can cause blindness for one people should be fined for ignoring their dogs poo.

In long grass you can't see it then you spread it round in your feet or worse still in your home.

It's just laziness on the owners who don't pick up.

- West Haddon playing fields and streets
- I run a daycare and we use the water meadows to walk our dogs . The amount of poo we collect on top of our own dogs on a daily basis is appalling . So many people own dogs now and the areas of where you can walk them is much smaller due to the housing being built means that the watermeadows is the main place in town to walk . But people take advantage of it
- Welford village
anywhere in the village
- Blisworth very often found on pathways and at the Playing Field
- Grange park green areas
- The hollow, daventry
- Silverstone-footpaths often have dog foul left on them, as well as footpaths through fields
- Croughton.

Footpaths AF10 & AF9 and footpath link between Portway and Park End.

I walk regularly around the village and surrounding footpaths in open countryside and every time encounter both fresh and old dog turds left by an irresponsible minority of dog owners!

Even dog poo bags left hanging in the hedges, on fences or gates!

We have dog bins which are well used but still suffer errant turds left to be trodden in or which simply litter the street or countryside!

- Holcot has an issue from visitors to Pitsford reservoir who park in the village instead.
- Being in a rural location people tend to assume it's ok to leave mess
- The slip way down Swan Lane to the bridge, the alley way leading to Grafton Road are biggest problem areas I see near me. Many times my little ones have ended up covered in dog foul from falling etc.
- We live in Stoke Bruerne and when walking canalside the dog mess is horrendous. Whilst I'm sure its residents of the village who allow their dogs to foul and don't pick up, we also experience a lot of visitors to the village who let their dogs foul.
- Generally around streets
- It seems to be left on the paths making it that we could walk into it and then bring into the house - young children playing stepping into it - dog owners need to clean up after themselves
- People pick up poo in bags then dump them in hedges, or just fail to pick up at all.
- Welford NN6 6HN. Main issue is dog owners not paying attention. Dog mess - in the middle of the pavement on school routes.
- It's not very nice if left and children are playing or even as adults having to watch where we walk at times.
- I live near the racecourse and want it kept nice for people.
- Walking around Brixworth it is not uncommon to find dog poo or discarded filled poo bags littered on the pavement or on playing fields.
- Walking around Brixworth it is not uncommon to find dog poo or discarded filled poo bags littered on the pavement or on playing fields.
- Main route to school littered with dog poo most of the time.
- High Street Silverstone.
Brackley Road Silverstone
Green Lane Silverstone
- Brackley town centre.
- St David playing field and Froxhill Crescent, Brixworth
- Towcester.
Towcester Rec, Watermeadows.
- The path way from the church down behind Roman estate and mill lane
- Radstone estate Brackley
- Cana footpaths, public footpaths and right of way through fields where dogs free roam away from owners where they can't see where they foul, community areas where children play also have dogs free roaming and fouling all within Bugbrooke.
- People with dogs off lead walking through village not looking at their dogs are doing and so missing the poo. People just not picking poo up and leaving it for people and children to walk on. People leaving poo in fields with cows and sheep
- Frequently see dog fouling on pavements, just this morning very close to our local primary school (School Road, Pattishall). The local Facebook page frequently has angry posts from because of irresponsible dog owners.
- Not enough bins. More needed and emptied more. Full to bursting sometimes
- Constant dog poos not being picked up in the path running alongside the west of Brackley, often near the edge of the path as if that's acceptable. There are also constant foulings on the path in the farmers field to the left of Brackley.

- Middleton Cheney
- Despite having three bins in our village, some dog owners still allow their dogs to foul footpaths.
- There are problems with dog owners not picking up dog poo throughout the village and on footpaths/ bridleways - a local landowner has shut off a permitted use foot path solely due to constant littering and dog mess
There is one solitary (and fairly useless) bridleway that is barely fit for riding - again mis-used by lazy dog owners
- Church with Chapel Brampton Parish. Dog fouling is a problem on rights of way around the parish and we would like to reinforce our 'no dogs' policy on the playing field adjacent to the school in Chapel Brampton
- Blisworth: Last Friday I walked the length of Stoke Road, 1.5km, and found dog mess on the pavements approx every 200 metres. Many of the verges across the village have dog mess because owners think they do us a favour by moving it to the edge when it means its more difficult to see. Footpaths have dog mess because owners believe they can get away with it as they are not visible.
- The largest problem in the local area is the abandonment of bags of dog poo, bagged up, but not placed in bins: just dropped. Obviously no passer-by wants to pick up a randomly dropped bag of dog poo, not knowing how long it has been there or whether the bag has decayed and might burst.
- I live in Yardley Hastings and on the walk to school there is sometimes dog mess or in the park.
- Badby and Daventry absolutely disgusting people leaving dog poo everywhere
- Pretty much all the footpaths, bridleways and grass verges in and around the villages of Ashton and Roade are affected by dog fouling.
- In recent years fouling has increased exponentially. A noticeable rise. Long Buckby
- There are an increasing number of dogs in Boughton parish area. Whilst most owners clean up after dogs, there is evidence to the contrary, particularly in green areas of Buckton Fields.
- All of the footpaths in the countryside surrounding Crick village are covered in dog mess
- Along canal towpaths and bridle path
- In the Towcester and Brackley area also surrounding villages in the South Northants, there are numerous reports of dog fouling including surrounding villages. Residents are frustrated as people continue to ignore signs, well aware there are no consequences.
- People who pick their dog poo in bags but then hang it in hedge rows are worse than those who do nothing with the mess. The lane to Northampton boat club behind Riverside retail park is bad.
- On the footpaths in the village, it is not picked up, although the village has 20 dog bins.
- It's everywhere footpaths and fields and alleyways
- Kings Sutton. Some dog poo left unpicked on pavements and verges.
- Not too much within actual village streets in Kings Sutton, although dog poo is regularly seen in 'hidden' areas. However, in the fields and footpaths dog poo is a bigger issue and widespread.

Question 1C: Comments from respondents who chose not a very big concern or not a concern at all

- Rarely an issue in our street, thankfully responsible dog owners. However makes me cross when people don't pick up after their dogs in the park & especially sports areas. I personally often challenge people at Bugbrooke playing fields, in particular when they have their dogs running free across the rugby pitches. It is surprising how people choose not to abide by keeping to the edge of the pitches, with dogs on leads.
- There are some places in Welton that this is a problem.
- 1a needs rewording as an assistance dog does not need to be trained by a prescribed charity, please refer to the equalities act
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf>
- The poo bags strung from trees are more disgusting than if it was left to biodegrade naturally. Stick and flick would be better on bridle tracks to avoid this.
- A lot of places I walk has a considerable amount of dog poo left. This is normally from inconsiderate one dog owners who are on their phone.
I have 8 dogs, which I can confidently say I collect and dispose of all dog mess in accordance with the law.
- It's NOT the dog poo which is so much of the issue but the plastic bags the poo is put into. The poo will be gone after the rains but the plastic doesn't rot for decades.
- If we had more bins and maybe dog poop bag dispensers then this issue would be better managed. Of course you're going to get one or two exceptions. How many people have died in this area because of poo.
Bins need to be positioned properly not clumped together. We have three bins together at new housing estate.
- No a problem at all in open rural spaces. There are millions of insects and bacteria to remove it
- Dog poo is a concern, but general putting out a much bigger issue and energy would be better focused on all littering, not just this one area.
- Footpaths around the village of Denton
- There is dog poo left by certain dog owners which is annoying but it's not a major problem, annoying yes but I think Woodford Halse is quite clean when you take into account the amount of dogs in the village.
- As a dog owner we always pick up the poo and dispose responsibly. However there are some dog owners who let the responsible owners down. This is most notable along The Leys and railway crossing by the Pianoforte estate.
- Not a problem in my village but bigger issue in parks / green spaces
- On paths all round Brackley especially Halse road
- Our property faces the 'country park' and have regularly seen dog owners not cleaning up after their dog.
- Humphries Drive / Pavillons Drive area, Brackley
- Dog poo being left on footpaths, in playing fields & greens, in Brackley and Turweston. The footpath in Brackley leading from Old Town to Turweston is particularly bad (locally nicknamed dog shit alley), as well as the greens adjacent to

it - Octavian Way and Nether Close greens; the footpath from the Old Town-Turweston footpath on to Mill Lane; the footpaths from Watery Lane to Church Road; the footpaths from Church Road to the High Street; footpaths on Manor Road, Hill Street, Halse Road; the footpath from Halse Road to Martial Daire Boulevard. I have seen dog poo left in many other places in Brackley but the named paths are the ones I walk most frequently and know to be dirty often.

- Brackley:

Recreation ground (Leisure Centre) & surrounding pathways/grass areas.

Pathway linking Martial Daire Blvd to Avenue Bernard/Dumas Cul de Sac.

Double field between Daniaud Court/Hanover Drive.

Tudor Way Park

- Brackley

- I find dog poo in the parks near Wootton and the park in Hardingstone

- Waynflete Avenue, Brackley is dog-shit alley.

- It's everywhere you go

- Manor Road, Brackley,
Waynflete Ave, Brackley,
Poppyfields Way, Brackley

- I walk along many footpaths around Brackley and often see dog poo left. There seems to be a perception by some that you don't need to pick up the pop of you are on the footpaths that go around the edge of the town near the fields.

- I live in Crick, dog fouling in general across the local fields is not too bad however people do leave poo bags in hedges. The worst is actually in the village itself, people just leave it, the marsh is particularly bad.

- Pavements in Crick. High Street regularly has deposits left. Also Boat Horse Lane Calvert where road narrows.

- On pavements around the village. Confusing advice at jubilee wood where notice that says flick poo under hedges for insects.

- Having had a dog in the past I know that cleaning up all the excrement is not always possible, residue is left. During dry weather this is not washed into the ground.

Since covid, it has been acknowledged that there has been a huge increase in dog ownership and the small park up the road from me has become a dog walking area for a great number of dogs, twice a day.

The park is also a meeting place for children and young people, lounging, playing sport and enjoying the space generally.

We know that dog faeces carry harmful bacteria, the chances of a person being affected by these has increased considerably.

There are fields less than half a mile away, exercise for the dogs and the owners.

- On public foot paths along the top of haswell road through the pathway onto yelvertoft Road. Poo is often left uncleared and full poo bags left in piles by the fence.

- With the increased number of dog owners since covid, the amount of poo just left on the floor in Crick has increased a lot.

We have ample dog poo bins, but people are lazy. I guess the issue will be enforcement.

- Fouling is noticeable all the time on roads and paths throughout our very rural parish.

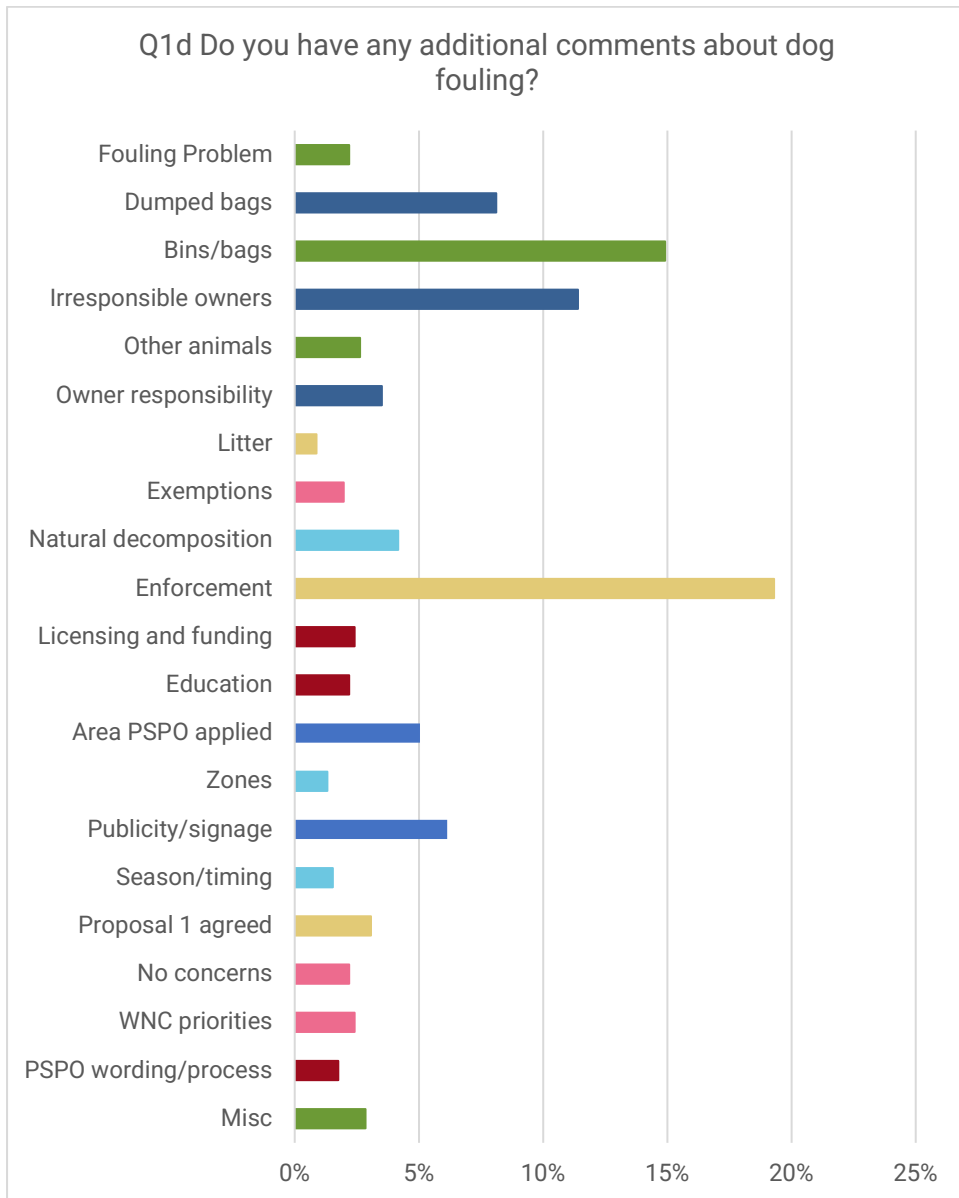
- It's all over the place in Long Buckby! Station Road, High Street, Brington Road, East Street, Skinyard Lane to name just a few paths I see it on regularly. Most public paths have piles of dog fouling, or worse, small amounts spread out over a distance where the person walking the dog has taken no notice of the dog trying to go to the toilet and just kept dragging it along.
- As a dog owner I have always picked up after my dog and I include farmland, unfortunately right outside my house is a grass verge with a street lamp and a sign indicating that people should pick up after their dogs, as I actually mow the verge to keep it tidy, every time I go out to do this, there's another mountain of dog poo, before I notice it's there, the wire of my mower has already gone through it, it's been happening for a couple of years, but never see who it is unfortunately, Long [name], near the top of [name]. I do not walk my dog around streets so no idea what it's like anywhere else, I drive to field footpaths to walk, carrying plenty of poo bags.
- Daventry Timken/royal park estate. Not enough bins about
- A number of local residents (Naseby) refuse to pick up after their dogs, in spite of valiant attempts made by the PC with signage and spray paint.
- Little Brington. The volume of dog faeces has massively increased since the pandemic. There is now also a large and persistent problem of dog 'poo bags' being left beside paths and by stiles & gates.
- Quite a lot of dog fouling found on the footpaths around West Haddon.
- Playing fields in the village and public footways used by dog owners en route to exercise areas
- Every countryside public footpath around the shire. The dog owners think that the countryside foot paths are there for their pastime. They either let their dogs foul everywhere and not pick it up or They throw the dog bags full of crap in the trees or just leave on the path. This is a working environment which produces their food. They are so far removed from how food gets into the supermarkets it beggars belief. Paid dog walking businesses use the countryside as a doggy toilet.
- Crick Playing Field is a recreational field to be used by children, using play equipment, any person wishing to use the gym equipment, young people using skatepark, dog walkers, where dogs should be kept on leads. The field is also used weekly in the summer for car boots.
Thoughtless dog owners that fail to clean up after their pets put the general public at risk.
- Little Houghton footpaths and village green
- Badby village and its surrounding area
- The village location is cogenhoe nn7
I have lived in this village for over 30 years and I'm disappointed to how bad it's got over the last couple of years especially when the pathways are more often than not covered in dog poo and walking children to school has become a big problem.
- Pretty much the whole of Towcester. I have to avoid it on a daily basis. I would also say I am a dog owner and always pick up
- On grass verges and footpaths around the Shires estate in Towcester.
- I am a proud dog owner, I find the worst of the fouling is on grass verges around the streets.
- In Badby increasing incidents of dog fouling on pathways & on verges in quieter lanes.

- Silverstone - continual complaints of dog fouling and not being picked up afterwards on FB chat.
- People who pick their dog poo in bags but then hang it I hedge rows are worse than those who do nothing with the mess. The lane to Northampton boat club behind Riverside retail park is bad.
- In the Towcester and Brackley area also surrounding villages in the South Northants, there are numerous reports of dog fouling including surrounding villages. Residents are frustrated as people continue to ignore signs, well aware there are no consequences.
- I don't consider it a problem
- This is a real issue imo strict cleanliness ought be observed in every area
 - Bags carried by owners
 - Bin provided by council
 - Appropriate Signage
 - And penalties
 - Wardens would be needed
- Issue is on streets

Question 1C: Comments from respondents who chose Don't know, No opinion or did not answer

- [name] welcomes the exemption "A registered blind person, or a person with a disability affecting their mobility, manual dexterity or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects and who relies upon a dog trained by a prescribed charity for assistance would be exempt from this order – agricultural land is also exempt from this order."
- Dog fouling found on verges and open spaces around village.
Dog fouling found in children's playground.
Dog owners trespassing in private fields with dogs off the lead. Grass is cut late summer for animal food. Not very nice!
- Pure laziness

Question 1D: Do you have any additional comments about dog fouling?



Q1d Do you have any additional comments about dog fouling?		
No. responses	368	
No. comments	456	% Comments
Misc.	13	3%
PSPO wording/process	8	2%
WNC priorities	11	2%
No concerns	10	2%
Proposal 1 agreed	14	3%
Season/timing	7	2%
Publicity/signage	28	6%
Zones	6	1%
Area PSPO applied	23	5%

Education	10	2%
Licensing and funding	11	2%
Enforcement	88	19%
Natural decomposition	19	4%
Exemptions	9	2%
Litter	4	1%
Owner responsibility	16	4%
Other animals	12	3%
Irresponsible owners	52	11%
Bins/bags	68	15%
Dumped bags	37	8%
Fouling Problem	10	2%

Question 1D: Comments from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with proposal 1

- Most complained about subject in Parish Plan - Potterspury
- I totally agree with clearing up after your dog however dog bins around the country park and Lang farm are always full to overflowing, so is the problem not with dogs owners but, you the council, for not actually emptying the bins?
- Should apply to agricultural land aswell
- The bins are often overflowing. Make dog owners pay a fee to provide more bins
- More bins to be provided will help. Dog waste or general
- Ensure good maintenance on dog bins
- As you have outlined dog poo is very unpleasant and dangerous - it is not the fault of the dogs that it is sometimes found in public areas but irresponsible owners. Every action possible should be taken to stop people leaving mess on footpaths, open areas, etc.
- In rural areas off the public path dog poo should be left to decompose.
- How can it be enforced, particularly on footpaths through agricultural land?
- I think it is very important for dog owners to be held responsible for picking up after their pets. I don't agree with all parks & open spaces prohibiting dogs though.
- We have poo bins. We also have lazy owners so any initiative that will help reduce fouling of the area and dispersing of full poo bags in the hedgerows would be gratefully received.
- If a problem provide free bags and more regular bins
- Too many people sling their dog poo bags into trees which creates a hazard.
- Bins too far apart
- Dumping of dog poo bags is absolutely rife in Northampton and is on the increase, it even occurs when there are bins nearby to use. Something needs to be done about this problem across Northampton and the county because dog-owners are not getting the message that it is an offence to dump bagged dog waste just as much as, if not more than, general littering.
- It is actually possible to walk miles in various areas without encountering a single dog bin. Although you feel there may be ample, perhaps an increase on routes to & from green spaces would help.
- It's disgusting..... and we have a dog

- I have lived in areas where we were encouraged to flick it into the undergrowth and this worked very well in countryside locations
- I think that having fines is all well and good but the chances of someone in authority seeing a dog fouling and it being left behind so that a fine can be issued are slim. I think other punishment options might be more effective. However, I understand that it is difficult to know what an appropriate punishment would be.
- Some places get a lot of wild animal toileting going on, which gets blamed on dogs and their owners
- Unfortunately the council do not have the means to police this effectively and therefore those who do not care will persist in letting their dogs roam and not clear up after them.
- Bring back dog licences, the bigger the dog fouling problem, the more the licence costs.
Dog DNA can be held too to help combat dangerous dogs and livestock worrying. Dog poo is harmful to livestock too so the PSPO needs to cover all agricultural and Forestry land.
- Yes. Working dogs when working or training in a public area, need to be considered in this proposal. Also, it should still be permissible for dogs to be allowed to dig in ditches, hedgerows and verges on lanes/roads where the speed limit is above 30 MPH, as is the current statute law.
- Signage should be put in place drawing attention to fouling and antisocial behavior
- More signage needed warning of the consequences of failing to clean up after your dog
- Nothing is done
- More bins needed
- The infrastructure for dogs in Brackley is very good to excellent. I'd commend their approaches to WNC and all Town / Parish Councils to replicate
- Usually the same offenders.
- People should be responsible for cleaning up after their pets as the poor dogs can't do it themselves.
It is disgusting to leave it lying on the ground.
- There seems to be no way to catch the perpetrators. No deterrent.
- I appreciate the amount and placement of the dog faeces bins.
- Maybe patrol areas where this is persistent so fines can be given.
- It is not acceptable to hang dog poo bags on hedges or thrown in a heap as often seen by the gate to the churchyard.
- Who clears it up NOT the irresponsible owners
- Nope, vast majority of dog owners observe all the rules and are great, responsible owners.
- I don't see the point in bringing in new laws if the current ones are not enforced.
- A more watchful eye from Council Staff
- Yes, when I was a dog owner - up until 6 yrs ago with 2 dogs - I always picked it up and binned it or brought it home but where I live in a rural village owners seem to think that they can just hang bags on the trees - if they pick it up at all.
- Equally there is a significant problem where people collect the dog faeces in a bag and then leave the bag on the path, throw it in bushes or hang it in a tree. Last year, at one point in time there were 14 bags of dog faeces hung in a tree along a local footpath. This type of behaviour is almost worse than just leaving dog faeces

on a path as once in the bag it stays there , potentially for months, unless someone collects it and disposes of it. The problem was considerably worse during COVID restrictions with many people visiting Pitsford area and a significant increase in dog faeces and bags of faeces in and around the village along with litter including bottles cans etc.

Just having a dog on a lead doesn't prevent fouling.

- Brackley Town Council have provided 70+ dog poo bins around most of the public open spaces. Which are emptied on a weekly basis.
- By far the biggest need is that for a reintroduction of dog licences (and cats, which are also a major problem for gardeners due to the mess they make in others people's gardens, which can be as bad as dogs', and also due to their wholesale slaughter of small creatures by cats which this 'nation of animal-lovers' doesn't seem to want to know about).

There are simply far too many of them, and far too many irresponsible owners who seem to think everybody else just has to put up with their badly behaved dogs. I'm not talking about 7s 6d. The licence need to be a substantial deterrent, albeit with a rising scale over time, and with no allowance for single people or pensioners. The only exceptions should be farm and other working dogs, and dogs for the blind of course.

With licences we'd have not just fewer dogs but also more responsible ownership - including cruelty - and you wouldn't have to be so concerned tying yourselves in knots and with surveys like this.

Think big - take this issue to central government!

- The minority will not stop until there is evidence of people being caught and fined. It's ok to have signs stating people will be fined but they are ignored because nobody polices the areas.
- Very often people bag the fouling then leave it bagged or hang it on trees
- There should be some leeway for natural decomposition provided not on the path or main route across open fields not used for sporting recreation.
- As a dog owner I think it is imperative that fellow dog owners clean up after their dogs, this is an integral part of dog ownership and care. That said it would be good to see a better provision of bins in and around countryside walks to encourage less enthusiastic owners to dispose of their waste.
- As mentioned above, I'm a dog owner and I clean up after my pet. I think tighter controls on this is needed but also that we do not penalise those who are good dog owners!
- Need more enforcement, patrols and cameras to catch and fine people. It's terrible to see it bagged up and hung on hedges and trees. It takes longer to decompose than flick with a stick. I didn't realise it wasn't law to pick up after your dog.
- It gets particularly bad when the clocks go back & dark nights, as people know they can not be seen leaving it there. We seem to have owners with large dogs in particular who think it is OK to let their dogs off the lead & walk ahead of the dog so can claim they did not see the dog do it. We have a large number of people with big dogs who let their dogs walk around the village off a lead with their owner not controlling the dog
- Please do something to stop dog fouling
- Difficult to police in rural areas

- Many areas now adopt "stick and flick" policies, for example in woodland. The Council should consider such policies as an option to picking up in areas where it would be considered appropriate.
- Can dog owners who leave full poo bags lying around receive an even larger fine? At least poo is biodegradable whereas the bags are not.
- More poo bins needed all over and emptied more regularly
- A few people allow their dogs to walk without a lead so they can't always see where their dogs foul
- Hanging the bags on trees, bushes and fences is also offensive
- There appear to be dog owners who routinely do not clean up after their dog. Suspect they walk their dogs early morning or late at night when less likely to be seen.
- More bins in Towcester or more regular emptying of bins would be beneficial
- As a dog owner myself I find it hard to believe the amount you see. It's not pleasant but I have picked up other dogs whilst picking up my own dogs. I just don't get why would you want your dog treading in the mess then bringing home.
- It's not a major problem
- I often see filled dog poo bags tossed into hedgerows or abandoned elsewhere. This is even more disgraceful given the plastic litter also created. This should be specifically targeted as an issue. This is a common problem on the footpath around Sulby reservoir
- You already have notices for fining people £1000 for fouling not sure what you're achieving here
- I walk the dog in open countryside using footpaths and bridleways. There are plenty of wild animals that leave a mess the worst being fox poo! I never leave dog mess in the centre of the path but the dog usually goes in the verge and long grass where the poo will biodegrade naturally. There are no bins in the open countryside and carrying a bag of dog poo for an hour is unreasonable if it is in an area where it will do no harm. I absolutely understand the need in parks and urban areas but don't apply this draconian rule across the whole district
- Not enough dog bins in the Bringtons
- As a dog owner myself and walking 3 times a day in and around Towcester, I do see some dog fouling but not a lot. The area at the Recreation ground, Towcester forum / meadow and the park area near / next to the shire estate. I find these are the main areas where there can be dog owners that do not pick up, even though there are plenty of bins.
- I just wonder how anyone who has a dog that fouls can actually walk off and still have a conscience!
- As a dog owner I find it very difficult to come to terms with the knowledge that unless your dog is running free and your dog is defecating you will know by having to stop! I also find it hard to understand why filled poo bags are left along footpaths, be it across open land or within the village-- there are adequate bins, for of course more always welcome!
- [name] consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points

have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place.

We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.

- Lots of it is down to people too busy on their phone to even notice, or owners who let dogs off lead.
- Up the penalties and raise the profile of what happens to offenders
- Perceived lack of dog fouling enforcement in council area.
- All dog bins should be removed and just a communal bin for all waste next to a recycling bin should be there instead. A lot of dog owners say that the dog bins are in such a state that they don't use them anymore and they are regularly messed about with by vandals.
- I've confronted someone directly years ago about their dog pooing and them not looking back to check. I told them what the dog did and to clean, he did not clean but instead started racial abuse at me, I was with my 3 little children at the time
- Yes. Why am I, as a non dog owner, subsidising dog poo collection bags and bins? Dog owners should pay directly for this service when they register their dogs. This can be linked to a central data base and a fee added to specific addresses through council tax
- Can the council introduce any dog licensing or a system whereby there is a charge for owning a dog and the money put into the cost of additional street cleaning, bins, monitoring etc?
There needs to be visible and effective enforcement so dog owners who abuse their environment are aware of the consequences.
Public campaigns are needed so it becomes socially unacceptable to leave dog mess (including hanging poo bags in trees!)
- I live on a major dog walking route and regularly find dog waste in my recycling and garden waste bin when left outside (private footpath), meaning I have to lean in and remove it. Can you please publicise more widely that dog waste should be put only in the general waste bins.
- Strong fines should be given to people not picking up dog mess
- A visible campaign of education to make it more socially unacceptable than it currently is needs to take place both in schools and in the wider society to give confidence to those calling out those who do it and embarrass those who do not clean up after their dogs into changing their attitude.
If fines are to be levied they need to be widely enforced and a scheme of annual dog licensing to fund dog wardens could be introduced?
- It is well known that dog fouling can have a detrimental effect on the ecological balance of flora and fauna in wildlife conservation area. If fouling , including peeing, is kept to the areas adjacent to paths then the impact is reduced overall as it is confined to a smaller area. This is easily achieved if dogs are kept on a lead.
- 1a needs rewording as an assistance dog does not need to be trained by a prescribed charity, please refer to the equalities act
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf>
- To stop this we need more dog poo bins and the restrictions alone won't stop this. We also need street cleaning services to clear up the problem, at the moment we don't get these but I have no idea why.

- I do not think agricultural land should be exempt - dog foul should be picked up from all public areas including farmland where livestock are likely to eat or be infected by dog foul!
- Dogs being let off lead leads to it being everywhere
- Any dog fouling is a big concern and parents should not have to be on the alert for dog fouling all the time when out walking with their children just in case there is some.

It would be great for us all to be able to walk anywhere whether in a town, one's own village, parks, foot paths around the countryside; in fact any public space, without encountering dog fouling

We are very pleased that West Northants are taking this initiative. Thank you very much.

- More poo bins would be good (some people collect the dog mess then throw the bag on the floor, excuse can only be that they can't see a poo bin in easy reach) signs and reminders
- Dog fouling is just plain laziness on the part of the owner.
- Whilst I agree with the policy, your exemption with regards to Assistance Dogs is woefully incorrect and illegal.

There is no central register for Assistance Dogs within the UK and as such not all dogs are trained by one of the eight charities that make up AD(UK). Some are trained by other organisations, some by individual trainers, some by the dog owner and some by a combination of all the above - in each case, as long as the dog mitigates the handler's disability, it is considered a valid Assistance Dog under the Equality Act of 2010.

Whilst I do understand that rather than the type of *Assistance Dog* (eg those for medical detection, psychological or neurodiversity assistance, or hearing dogs for the deaf) it is the capability of the *handler* that is the quality you are exempting in this instance, it is still important to state that such dogs do not have to be trained by a specific charity to be valid.

Just putting "...relies upon a trained Assistance Dog for assistance..." is more accurate and legally appropriate.

- More bins needed.
- Drop the wording about official charities as this discriminates against legitimate owner trained/ other charity or privately trained assistance dogs who are equally valid in the law to aduk partnerships. (nb assistance dog owners will pick up after their dogs anyway, and most are trained to toilet on command!)
- Does the exemption relating to carriageways with a speed limit of more than 40mph still apply?
- Agricultural land should NOT be exempt since dog faeces may contain bacteria which, if ingested by certain animals eg cows, can cause them to abort their calves.
- It's pervasive and disgusting
- See above..more poo bins needed.

Previous comment: Most of the village, Hartwell. In particular Ashwood Lane...piles of dog faeces..there is a bin but certain people feel it's ok to just let their dogs poop anywhere as the rain will wash it away. One in particular has 5 dogs and never cleans up !!!!!

- The other thing I find distasteful is the hanging of poo bags in trees and on fences despite there being many poo bins around the village
- Do not think it should be allowed on agricultural land. Humans are going to eat the crops eventually and cattle/sheep can be harmed.
- Not necessary to clean up dog poo on bridlepaths, considering that horses have more impact on fouling this area.
- I don't see why agricultural land should be excluded. Dog faeces could be dangerous to animals grazing the agricultural land!
- Why the exclusion for agricultural land? Agricultural land is used to produce our food. Irresponsible dog owners are potentially polluting your meals! Farmers who are red tractor assured have to jump through hoops to meet the requirements for their own dogs, but anyone else can bring dogs of unknown status on to the same property without restriction.
- Totally unacceptable
- It is thoroughly antisocial not to remove dog mess and causes considerable offence and inconvenience to fellow residents. Owners found to be committing this offence should be fined.
- I have 3 dogs and am disgusted that many dog owners do not pick up after their animals
- As a dog owner I am aware that dog faeces can sometimes be more liquid, for example if the dog eats something that disagrees with it, how would the powers be applied in this event assuming the owner had made some attempt to clean up the faeces but could not pick it all up
- I thought that it was already a legal requirement to clean up after your dog?
- This is a waste of time. Surely you have more important issues to consider such as the drug problem with the odours very evident in the street, houses installing wood burners, promoting the environment by collecting green waste, fox holes in roads, etc
- Disgusting
- No. I don't want my money wasted on this issue. Educate educate educate and focus on more important matters
- I have noticed there are a number of damaged bins, I have also seen bins that are overflowing and often there are places without a bin altogether
- Quite often bags containing mess are hung in hedgerows. I have challenged someone before and was told they were coming back for it. They didn't. Littering is littering it can't be conditional.
- Only that it's one thing to introduce such a power but the point is raised that a power is only enforceable if you have the capacity to police it. I don't see this being enforced and is just a paper exercise.
- Target those who don't pick up only
- Signage is inadequate particularly on the entrances to footpaths. Full poo bags are often left on paths or hanging on trees and not taken away for correct disposal by dog walkers. Perhaps they mean to collect them on the return walk then forget
Enforcement seems to be non-existent.
- It's disgusting.
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. Wootton Bassett

Is there resource to enforce this?

Reposition bins in grange park so you don't cycle into them

- There are many signs about picking up dog poo and disposing of it properly but I have never seen or heard of an individual being prosecuted for not cleaning up after their dog. Signs are not a deterrent, action is.

- It's not just dogs!

Cat owners need to take responsibility too.

- Not sure how you can encourage social responsibility with dog owners.

- as above

I'm not a dog lover at all but understand the are of great comfort to the elderly It maybe its the elderly who find it difficult to bend down to clear up the mess

Previous comment: dog mess in front gardens would you believe dog mess in kiddies play park

- I'm frustrated that some of my taxes are spent on someone else's choice of leaving dog mess behind.

- No but what on earth does smoking have to do with dog poo???

- We always pick up our dogs poo, as do I have no doubt the majority of dog owners. Those that don't should have their noses rubbed in it.

- When my dog has diarrhoea would find it unreasonable to be fined for not cleaning up the mess when out on a walk as unlikely to be equipped!

- The problem is you have to enforce it. I have complained several times to the council about one particular individual on the village who has 5 dogs and doesn't pick up. So you can imagine the mess he leaves behind - including in and around a cemetery! I have even supplied his address and times he walks his dogs and where and nothing happens. If you introduce these orders they need to be backed up with action otherwise what's the point? I also don't understand why agricultural land is excluded. Unless it's your own land you should pick up.

- There needs to be more poo bins.

- There are sufficient bins around the village so I don't understand why people don't use them.

- I agree with how unpleasant it is. It is just lazy for dog owners not to pick up. I manage to pick up after my dog, I just don't see why others can't too!

Who will enforce it, though?

- There are also inconsiderate dog owners who allow their dogs to foul Hall Lane (a bridleway) and adjacent fields which are used for livestock. Currently it is lambing season and the last thing farmers need is dog fouling in these fields. Both fields near the village are public footpaths DU005

- I think that not only more dog bins should provided, but they also should be emptied much more often.

- Suggest the penalty should be £150

- See above.

Previous comment: Owners allow their dogs to poo on footpaths in the village regularly. The majority are big poos so therefore big dogs that make a substantial impact. I am a dog owner and always carry poo bags and clean up.

- It would be helpful if more dog bins were provided.

- It is irresponsible of the owners to leave, many of whom are on their phones and take no notice of what their dog is doing.

- It's extremely difficult to police - I have no solution for this other than to enforce a harsh punishment/fine for anyone who is caught and hope the deterrent works as a form of policing.
- In areas close to schools, playing fields whereby children would be more active - stronger fines should be imposed
- It is a big problem and needs to be addressed.
- It is important to have legal powers in place to effectively deal with dog fouling given that it poses a potential harm to health and is the subject of many complaints,
- I think in general dog owners are good at removing fouling, I think people who run with dogs are not watching as they run ahead of a dog and therefore do not see the act.

Children are also not always aware of the dog fouling as they may be distracted by others and not understand the importance of removing fouling.

Brixworth is well served with a variety of professional dog walking professionals and I'm sure this maintains the dogs in their care to be correctly managed, this also sets the standards for good habits but sadly when not in their care the standard may well slip.

- Enforcement will be the key.
- It would be good if a dog warden could patrol occasionally to check people have poo bags with them and to spot antisocial behaviour
- I am aware that Towcester and regions to the East of Towcester have dog wardens and they have the right to actively fine dog walkers who don't carry poo bags on them. As someone who considers themselves a responsible dog owner, I would like to see this applied in Greens Norton also.
- There is also a big problem with dog owners who do pick and bag their dogs poo, and then leaving the bag contains the poo on paths, in hedges etc!
- I think it is getting worse with the increased amount of people having dogs (I have recently got a dog myself) but people must pick up after their dog.
- It ends up on buggy wheels and kids shoes, it's disgusting.
- Children can't play in pocket park because of this. Seems to be a regular dog.
- Disgusting
- It's hard to regulate
- That in some cases a stick and flick technique is better on a bridleway or footpath. Better for the environment than a bag if you can flick it in a hedgerow for example. However parks, pavements etc definitely needed.
- I feel it shouldn't be the minority who are ruining our countryside and public areas that punish the majority of responsible dog owners
- as above. Don't punish the responsible people who own multiple dogs when the issues arise from 1 or 2 dog households.

Previous comment: A lot of places I walk has a considerable amount of dog poo left. This is normally from inconsiderate one dog owners who are on their phone.

- It needs addressing in Brixworth as the occurrence is high.
- Impact is worse when it's left on a path.
- I agree absolutely with this proposal.
- There are bigger problems in the world
- If this Order is enacted, additional bins will be needed to dispose of dog fouling bags at more sites, particularly in Towcester.

- I think proposal 1 should be applicable to agricultural land - it can cause issues/illness for livestock grazing the land as well as potentially ending up in animal feed like silage, Straw and hay. It should not be permissible to leave dog poo anywhere, there is no need.
- No not really apart from it is unpleasant and dangerous to have to clean the pram wheels by parents and of course childrens shoes.
- More bins
- Sometimes it is not a dog leaving a mess behind (ie cats/foxes etc) but dogs always get the blame.
- This should also apply to agricultural land. What percentage of public footpaths are on agricultural land? Round here I'd say it's about 80%. Why should we (and the farm workers) have to put up with dog shit all over the pathways?
- Perhaps education and offering small seminars on the law in relation to dogs and what being a responsible dog owner means would be a positive approach
- Majority of dog owners where I live clean up after their dog. There are many bins provided to dispose of dog mess so no excuse
- We need dog wardens and serious fines.
All the green bits of our village just become dog toilets.
Disgraceful.
- Said it all above.
Previous comment: I walk my dog around the village streets and across public footpaths and bridleways. There will always be some dog poop at some point on our routes, and often several. It gives responsible dog owners a bad name. There is a bridleway near by that it is impossible to walk without picking your way around multiple heaps. Sadly this would be excluded as its agricultural land, but perhaps "stick & flick" into the overgrowth could be a rule in these areas.
- Some people think it is OK for a dog to foul on a sports pitch as they pick it up afterwards. It can never be right to allow a dog to foul on areas where people play and by the nature of the game fall over
- I believe some covert cctv could change things dramatically.
- Fouling is not acceptable in playing fields, school areas, playgrounds etc regardless of it being picked up.
- I think this should be all of Northampton and more bins need to go up
- Many responsible dog owners pick up the poo but get a bad name by those who do not.
- Should apply to litter too, this is a huge issue here
- There needs to be more dog bins available
- One thing I hate to see is when dog poo is picked up and bagged responsible but then just thrown into the hedgerow !!
- Generally most dog owners are considerate and in control of their dogs. Please do not punish the majority for the poor behaviour of a few.
- I always pick up after my dog, some owners choose to walk their dog at night and do not pick up. Does not matter when you walk, it should always be picked up.
- Anti social and should be tackled
- Would be good to impose on the spot fines to those found guilty of dog fouling.
Maybe run a focused campaign over a few months to hit the message home hard.
Get local social media groups to post about it more to raise awareness

- I'm not sure that disabled persons should be exempt from this order - Equality is important for all persons even if there are specific difficulties or challenges meeting the requirements.
- If you can't clear up after it you shouldn't have it
- Poo bins often overflowing.
Need more bins emptied more regularly.
- Needs enforcement to stop it
- It takes just one dog owner to make zero concerns in major concerns. And fortunately whenever I chose to walk around my neighbourhood, that dog owner hasn't been using my paths.
- Covered above.
Previous comment: People letting their dogs mess on the footpath and leaning it there with no attempt to pick up. Others picking it up and leaving the bag.
- You need a better method of consequence/sanction for people who leave their dogs poo.
I'm not sure if it'd be viable but I've always thought, if you had to register the dog's DNA when you bought it, then had dog wardens that took samples from random spot checks round villages and towns and send fines to the owners when the DNA matches some poo that's been left,?!? Just an idea, there are notices about fines but they get ignored as the people who do it never get caught.
- No, but something needs to be done about it as it's a very big and unpleasant problem in Brixworth.
- Provision of more dog poo bins, or particularly near schools and high pedestrian areas, for example in Brackley how many poo bins on the high street, Pavillons way, Stuart road, Martial Daire Blvd boulevard, Magdalen meadows, Banbury road - near all the schools? Not many.
Who would police such been regulations when police are already stretched?
Would also be useful to have a fenced in dog field in Brackley to encourage central place to allow dogs to roam.
- As a dog owner I am lost for words as to why some other dog owners would not clean up after their dog apart from they are lazy or ignorant
- As well as not clearing up any mess, the habit some dog walkers/owners seem to have got into of leaving the bagged up mess hanging off a branch or a bush also needs to be included in this order.
- How is this to be monitored as leaving dog mess in the street or other public areas is already an offence.
- Most dog owners are responsible and pick up after their dogs. More legislation is not needed
- It is disgusting and dangerous.
- Many dog-owners are very considerate so should owners who consistently ignore the rules be made to pay for the increasing costs of supplying dog bins as well as the cost of having them regularly emptied?
- I don't believe it can be addressed by a PSPO because as a dog owner I believe most fouling occurs during darkness, either early morning or late evening when no one else is around. The majority of dog owners are good citizens who clear up after their dogs and it is a shame to punish them for the actions of those whose citizenship falls short.

- Whilst I agree that picking up poo is the right thing to do, too many dog owners collect it and then leave the bags along the paths of their walk, particularly in countryside or woodland where there are no bins. Unbiodegradable plastic bags left on pathways or flung into undergrowth and trees is far worse for the environment as the poo cannot decompose and the countryside becomes littered with plastic. If this law comes into effect, the council should make a far greater level of provision of bins in areas where they are currently absent.
- This questionnaire is designed to get the answers that you want. It is poorly designed. It does not allow a contra view to the proposals or allows us to comment against the proposal.
My impression it is designed in a way to get a foregone conclusion and therefore is not a democratic process.
- The issue is regularly mentioned at our Parish Council meetings.
- Very difficult to police, unless photographic/video evidence.
- It is not a huge problem but it does happen. Mostly because people don't watch their dogs 100% of the time they are on the green.
It seems to come in spates as for some reason. I thought it was already illegal not to pick up your own dog waste.
- Good to extend rules to cover bridleways and rights of way across fields in rural areas. People feel they don't need to clean up if they are away from hard pathways. Also include paths along canals please.
- I think children's play areas should be fenced off and no dogs allowed. Football, rugby, cricket pitches, bowling greens should be "no dogs allowed" or dogs on leads.
- I've reported the dog fouling issue before and we've had a dog warden come out and spray paint the poo but other than that nothing. There is also no dog bin on the new Woodford Halse Estate so no means for people to dispose of.
- Dog owners seem to think it is ok to not pick up after their dog in a field
- It's terrible, I have had my dog for 15 years have reduced mobility and thinks it's like most things in life - follow the rules or sufferer the consequences. I personally challenge the lazy individuals but feel it needs decisive action and to have more wardens would be advantageous.
- Most dog owners are responsible and dispose of dog mess properly and carefully. One must be aware of tarring all dog owners as being irresponsible - this is not the case as is evidenced in many areas.
Please be aware of the large proportion of good dog owners.
- This should also apply to horses. Horse manure is highly offensive.
Dogs urinating on grass contains the same bacteria as dog poo and therefore the same health risks.
- Don't stigmatise responsible dog owners or restrict them... Target the guilty with severe penalties
- People taking dogs to the village School with small children and pushchairs together with one or two dogs. The leads are not short and form a trip hazard for other who are on the foot path
- Culworth PC provides 7 bins located in ideal positions but people haven't brought bags or the weather is inclement and they don't want to bend down

- Evenley does not have dog waste bins due to the cost of emptying them. As a result poo bags are sometimes dropped in 'normal' rubbish bins which is extremely unpleasant particularly in the summer months.
Poo bags are also often found on the side of footpaths, gates, etc as people leave them there due to the absence of dog waste bins.
It is a great idea to investigate this issue but better provision of specific dog waste bins must be considered for this to be a success.
- More people on the ground to catch offenders rather than relying on public to report
- More bins within villages should be available . Though signs have a purpose they can look conspicuous in a lovely rural environment
- This could be happening because owners are unaware that their dog has fouled on the pavement as dog is not walked on a lead.
- Dog owners should be held responsible
- Tends to be the same people that don't pick up after their dog, these people need fining to stop it from happening.
- Will any pspo be enforced because current on in NBC area is not
- Make it a bigger offence
Take more action against culprits
Advertise in a blunt way what dog poo can do to children, might make a few people reconsider their actions
- It could be made clearer, maybe with signs, showing the public how to report incidents and who to report to.
- Have seen people on mobiles not looking to see what dog is doing and carry on walking oblivious that their dog has fouled the area
- It makes no difference if a dog is on or off the lead. It will poo where it wants. It is the owner who needs to watch what the dog does at all times and not wander off chatting and ignoring it.
- There are some dog owners that will pick up their dog mess in appropriate bags, but then discard the bagged mess in the countryside. This is an even worse hazard as animals can choke on the bag or curious children can pick up the bags.
When clearing up the village verges and other public spaces these stinking festering bags must be picked up by the volunteers, along with all the litter.
This plastic wrapped poo does not decay or wash away in the rain.
- I have never heard of someone being fined
- Live in Holcot. There is fouling on public footpaths that is not picked up, but this is down to one or two dog owners. Unfortunately, if one or two dog owners don't bother then the dog poo builds up.
- More bins required as they get very full in roade
- Why not use penalty fines to fund more wardens.
- I don't agree that agricultural land should be exempt. If it is in reach - Eg you don't have to trample crops to pick it up - then it should be cleared up.
- I'm not sure about the exemption for agricultural land.
First, lots of people walk on footpaths from Milton Malsor to Collingtree (because the road is so busy and unpleasant to walk on with no pavements) and the paths have a lot of dog poo which you have to avoid. Second, don't farmers argue that cows inadvertently consume dog poo on pastures and it can make them ill?
- Is there any evidence that spraying faeces with paint has a deterrent effect?

- Is this not already law anyway?
I think the people who do not control their dogs are those same irresponsible minority who do not clean up after their dogs.
- Please install a dog poo bin in Charwelton to encourage more owners to bin it.
- Fines need to be higher in order to be a real deterrent
- Need more dog bins for the bags as this will encourage better management of dog fouling.
- Some dog owner not only don't remove the fouling but take the time and effort to put it in a bag and leave that - like they think there helping by doing half the job of clearing it up!
- Of more concern is uncontrolled cat poo on pavements.
- More needs to be done e.g. undercover patrollers. Target areas.
Problem seems worse at night so something to target those people - e.g. patrollers with night vision glasses.
- Agricultural land should not be exempt as fig fouling can cause cattle and sheep to abort and where it is left on footpaths across agricultural land it makes for a very unpleasant experience
- In Proposal 1 above it says, in the para mentioning registered blind persons, ... agricultural land is also exempt from this order...
It is not clear to me whether this statement relates to 'registered blind persons' or whether the statement about agricultural land being exempt relates to foot paths across farmers' fields.
- It's disgusting
- there are dog bins but no idea if they are used/emptied (I dont go looking) as I have 2 children to look after!
- These are great ideas, but how do you plan to enforce it? In the town parks on one occasion only did I see community officers handing out bags and talking to people with dogs. They were frequently spoken to abusively.
- There should be strict enforceable penalties for those owners who do not clear-up after their dogs. I would even go as far to implement some sort of dog ownership ban for the repeat offenders.
- Why do dog owners feel that in the country you can leave your dog poo!! Children could run in it or fall over in it!! Pick it up!!
- There are not enough bins and the debate goes round of where they need to be located for collection. Who can answer this? Please write to the clerk at brington PC and tell us! Thank you
- Lack of dog poo bins in Little Brington and ignored as there are no enforced consequences. Any signs regarding dog owner responsibilities are very old / faded / broken.
- More bins needed.
Going further than fouling, please consider soft muzzles for dogs over a certain size or breed. The bigger the dog the more damage they can do if they bite a person / child or another dog or animal.
- As a responsible dog owner, I do not like the idea of being persecuted because of others. There are a lot of responsible owners who enjoy the country walks and I wouldn't like to see us prohibited from using any areas, just because we have our pets with us.

Let's get more dog poo bins, more signs more education. More lighting, for winter nights which would not only help the dog owners clear up. But also act as deterrent, in fear of being seen. And more powers to take action from those who ignore the law.

- Despite bins & bags being available irresponsible owners who allow dogs off lead & therefore do not know if they have fouled or are just unwilling to collect their dogs poo, puts responsible dog owners in a bad light.
- As well as dog poo being left, there are often full dog poo bags left on the side of paths or in hedges, especially walking Brackley to Turweston (Old Town footpath to Turweston).
- The problem is always worse in winter; some of this is most probably due to the darker mornings/evenings and dog walkers not being able to locate their dog's mess. However, if more people were encouraged to keep their dog on a lead then this would be less of a problem! Unfortunately there will always be irresponsible owners or children who take their dogs out and never clean up after them.
- The irresponsible dog owners don't take the dog poo home but chuck the black bag in the tress or hang them on branches. Some of them don't even pick them up as they are busy on their phones so don't even know when their dog has done a poo or pretend not to have noticed so that they don't have to pick it up.
- Not enough bins along roads, as they are only located by open spaces
- It's just totally unacceptable and there is no need, and yes actually I do have a dog!
- I think it needs to be a specific offence to hang a bag of dog poo from a fence, tree, or anywhere else. Picking it up and hanging it up is no better.
- There are already notices all over the village of Crick about dog fouling, yet there are actually very few.

Of far greater concern to me, a responsible dog owner who picks up after my own and any other dogs poos I come across, is the littering. If I went round with a spray can and sprayed the litter, as occasionally happens with dog poo, then the streets would be a different colour.

I think there is an over reaction to dog owning by a minority that seems to be happy to live with litter all around them

- If it were possible to segregate the dog walking area from the general public area that would be a real step forward.
It has been done around the swings and slide but this is to contain the toddlers and young children not to exclude dogs.
- If owners did not either let their dogs off the lead, or give them a long uncontrolled lead, then they would see when their dog stopped to poo. Not to mention being more concerned with their phones than their dogs.
- We are surprised that agricultural land is excluded from this proposal. Dog fouling in fields where livestock are present, or will be present, is a very serious problem for farmers.
- It's disgusting and unhygienic, and people who leave it without clearing it up should be banned from owning dogs. I also particularly hate those people who pick up and bag the poo, then leave it in hedges or other people's gardens! With the rise in CCTV and ring doorbells etc, there should be a specific law to enable that footage to be used to issue automatic fines, escalating with the number of fines given, until a prosecution for ASB and a ban from keeping dogs.

- Need more bins
- It's really antisocial and a danger to farm animals & children
- It disgusts me especially if found on & around my property, when I don't own any animals.
- Responsible dog owners clean up after their pets. It would be nice if horse owners also had to clean up after their horses on public bridleways and footpaths.
- As a dog owner I feel quite strongly that there should be a penalty for failing to clean up
- One major issue is the lack of dog waste bins. There are only 2 bins, 1 at the centre of the village on the green and the other which is largely at the 'start' of a popular walk. This becomes an issue when external visitors come to the fields and badby woods as there are no additional bins although there is access to place them
- The bins around the new Wood Burcote estate park are always overflowing. We could do with more or bigger ones.
- Need more bins to place dog poo in
- The bins need to be emptied more than once a week
- Many instances of people bagging poo and then dropping or leaving full bags on the path. Also flinging them into bushes and trees. I've spoken to farmers who would rather the poo be left so it decomposes rather than have the bags lying round where livestock have chewed them
- Poo bins need to be emptied more regularly on Whittlebury Road, please can they contain some sort of de-odouriser?
- Fine for not picking up dog poo is far too low £500 minimum would stop it quickly if enforced .
- I feel it would be a huge step in the right direction for PSPO's in South Northants to improve the environment for residents and especially young children who have to avoid certain routes that are renowned for dog fouling.
- See above
 Precious comments: Dog fouling seems to be a National problem, I feel further measures should be taken nationally to address the problem, we do have issues in our village, Rothersthorpe, we used to be able to obtain free posters and leaflets from Keep Britain Tidy, but these seem no longer available, we do regularly highlight the problems in our monthly newsletter
- I keep my horse in Barby and a public footpath runs through his field. Again, people either do not pick up their dog mess or bag it and hang it up on trees! It has definitely become more of a problem over the last 2 years.
- Dog poo also need to be picked up in fields as it is dangerous to livestock
- I completely agree that there should be consequences...but who will police it to make sure it improves?
- We need to generate a culture where it is as unacceptable as drink driving
- I regularly walk the canal towpath with my grand children and have to continually guide them around piles of dog mess. Sadly, enforcement is nil in our area, despite it being a 'hot spot'.
- Completely agree with this (as a dog owner myself). I would welcome fines and community payback (how draconian of me), for people who think it's OK to leave poo on the streets.

- Every single day when walking my dog I see dog fouling in the streets in Bugbrooke. Found fouling outside my property a few times. Streets are quite dark at night and people just don't pick up.
- Absolutely dog poo should be cleared up. We have a dog and always clear up, so why can't others?
- Irresponsible and anti social
Dog licenses should be reintroduced to cover the substantial costs involved in emptying poo bins and creating more responsible dogs owners
- Local campaign with spray paint marking has impacted some areas but it is essential that this legal enforcement is retained.
- Yes, we need to have tougher punishments for people putting our children at risk by not cleaning up after their dogs.
- People dont pickup poo even when a bin is nesrby. On 6 occassions now ive found poo within 5 meters of a poo bin. Being s dog owner myself i carry bags and if i have enough dpares i pickup other peooles mess but sometimes i discover it at the start of my walk and dont want to use my bags in case i run out.
- Disgusting. Dangerous and anti social
- There are four bins in Thorpe Mandeville, each of which during 2021 was marked with a ban on poo bags. As a result from time to time poo bags are lined up in front of the bins. Judging by the limited frequency, this is probably done by non-residents. Residents meanwhile are not necessarily close to their own bins but have to grin and carry home.
- Needs wardens to police areas of concern and hand out on spot fines.
- Although it does happen around the village of King's Sutton, i think if there were more poo bins in the village would help the situation, down the new estate there should be a poo bin as plenty of people take there dogs for walks on the green there and with we believe another 31 houses to be built there im sure a few more dogs as well. could do with a poo bin down the station and one up by the church, i say this as i take my dog for a walk every morning around the village, and by thursday you can bet most bins are full.
Is this a problem that's getting worse or is it because we have been in lock down and people have not been picking up
- Dog Dog faeces can leave a farmer when not picked up in grass pasture that grazing livestock are present in, also leads to diseases that affect livestock. A leading cause of abortion in cattle in the UK, estimated as high as 10% in both beef and dairy herds is neosporosis. This can also affect sheep and horses. Dogs can also contaminate pasture with Sarcocystosis and tapeworm that affect farmed livestock. If people were required to take dog mess home or dispose of it in a dog bin then this issue could be reduced.
In the narrative on proposal 1 it says that proposal 1 applies to public footpaths and bridleways. However in bullet point 3 above it says that "agricultural land is also exempt from this order". The NFU would be grateful if this could be clarified as it raises a serious concern that irresponsible people will use rights of way across farmland with impunity, and the issues our members already experience get worse. Please can this be clarified, and if you are saying that public footpaths across agriculture land are not covered by the PSPO then this decision is reverses so that the order does cover agricultural land. Please can WNC confirm back to [email address] what is intended by this specific exemption.

- Responsible dog owners clean up after them...
- Residents are reticent to report other residents, and if there are no investigations and no fines, there is no deterrent.
- There are inconsiderate people who do this and they are often the ones who take their dogs on short 'poop' walks, you see the foulings at the beginning of walks but far less so further on. As a dog owner who does pick up I take issue with the fact that there are enough dog poo bins, there are absolutely NOT enough dog poo bins, But this is just a general reflection on the incompetence of your council. I also think this is one of those issues that is a useful distraction for a council to make it look like they are doing something on a 'serious' issue when, a) they can't enforce it and b) on actual local issues like crime, pot holes, ASB, library provision, schools etc they have neither the resources nor the competence to deal with them.
- I notice that "Agricultural" land is exempt. Why? the faeces spread disease to livestock and this statement should be removed from the proposals outlined.
- The Parish Council has provided a number of general litter bins around the village. There is a village newsletter published four times a year and delivered to every house in the village free of charge, and in this publication regular articles have been included encouraging local residents to use poo bags and to deposit them either in the litter bins which the Parish Council has provided or in the black bins emptied fortnightly by the WNC.
- Dogs should not be permitted in playing fields & areas with sports pitches due to problems arising from dog fouling
- I think that it is totally unsociable to leave dog excrement anywhere, also discarding bags of excrement should be made an offence, this practice can harm farm animals and horses. It is possible to trace the dog by DNA testing, so all dogs should have their DNA registered, in order that owners who fail to comply can be prosecuted and banned from keeping animals.
- There is no need for it
- Lazy owners
More bins would be helpful in high traffic areas. Top of Northampton Road
- Heavy fines for bad dog owners
- Not enough bins along the paths and green on Lang Farm, and no bins along the canal toe path.
- No need for it, and gives responsible owners a bad name
- Dog owners must provide their dogs with exercise either on or off the lead. Where land permits, off the lead is acceptable. However I agree dog owners must clear up.
As a responsible dog owner, I not only clear up my dogs mess, but also any other I see.
I understand that this is not always the case, but surely education is better than sanctions?
Also I understand dog free zones might work in area of large footfall and where dogs can be walked nearby. However this might cause issues for some owners where they are resident.
- I don't have any objections to people digging a hole or placing dog mess into bushes etc if our in the country side
- My understanding is that there is no dog warden in West Northants so how it will be policed remains to be seen.

- If you can catch these offenders they should be fined on the spot.
- There is too much of it, not enough owners take responsibility
- If fines are levied then a proper enforcement structure needs to be in place. Can this be funded by local mandatory licensing of dogs at an annual fee to fund enforcement.

A

- Dog ownership should be done through a paid licence. This could fund wardens to check areas for irresponsible owners.
- Should also be an offence for cat owners to fail to collect waste when they know their animal is fouling
- More poo bins needed, general litter bins used which have an open top and don't get emptied as often! Hartwell
- It's disgusting not to clean up after your dog in public spaces.
- Perhaps put poo bags in high street brackley
- Orange spray paint has previously been used but not successfully
- Not all dog owners are bad we don't all leave a mess
- This has happened on my front garden to which I have put in place CCTV
- Needs to be a campaign on it, it really angers me
- More signs on fines and give power to residents to report people for dog fouling
- I think there has to be understanding when dogs have bad bellies and the excrement cannot be physically picked up...
- Dogs off leads and owners who can't control them - there have been several instances whilst out riding where they have put my horses and myself at risk
- We have 8 dog bins but many of the litter bins are full of dog mess bags meaning litter spillage on the pavement. The smell in summer is unpleasant because the bins are not emptied often because of extra costs.
- NOTHING will happen until punitive action is actually taken and is reported as being taken (name & shame, regardless of personal 'sensitivities'). Since this is unlikely to happen with current WOKEN approaches, this whole exercise is a waste of time. You can't even fund Highways to re-lay our roads, let alone fund the dozens of Dog Wardens required to implement these pathetic proposals.
- Frequently, dog fouling is collected but then the bag is abandoned in the locality rather than disposed of appropriately.
- It's unsociable to allow your dog's feces to lie around - they are unsightly and it is unhygienic.
- People bagging it then hang on tree or throw into hedge row
- I feel it would be a huge step in the right direction for PSPO's in South Northants to improve the environment for residents and especially young children who have to avoid certain routes that are renowned for dog fouling.
- Fine for not picking up dog poo is far too low £500 minimum would stop it quickly if enforced .
- Outside peoples drives - many people I know have had issues where their children have walked in it

Question 1D: Comments from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with Proposal 1

- Areas where dog fouling is a problem can be dealt with under existing means. For example dog fouling in a built up area (i.e. within a 30mph zone or less) can be dealt with in this way. However a roadside verge in the countryside does not need to be included in the same way in my opinion. Otherwise we would need to consider other animals (e.g. fox, badger faeces, which have similar health issues) - and I trust that we are not going down that route!
- It's already the law, I'm not sure this proposal will do anything different than already required by law
- if you dont have the manpower to enforce the current laws covering things like this what is the point of making the enforcement problem worse?
law abiding citizens are already doing what they should do, non law abiding citizens will think, dickheads how are they going to enforce this and carry on not cleaning up after their dogs all you are doing is pissing responsible dog owners off by increasingly reducing the availability of places that its acceptable to walk a dog.
- Most owners are responsible. This is just more petty facism and harassment.
- Adding in public footpaths and bridleways is not enforceable, given how rural the area is and surely a flick it with a stick similar to woodland areas would be better advice. If I am walking a 20 mile walk through countryside there will be little to no bins to put the waste in. If public footpaths and bridleways are to be included additional bins will need to be supplied to areas near to main walking routes
- All concerns that I have regarding dog fouling is on pavements. I've never encountered a problem on footpaths / bridleways and I spend several hours a day walking local footpaths.
- I agree on paved public rights of way and parks, but to extend this to the entire countryside is ridiculous when so much of it is covered in farm animal excrement.
- I think WNC has much more important things to deal with.
- I have PROWs on my land and detest dog mess being left. However that is the responsibility of dog owners and I strongly object to local govt wasting taxpayer funds in efforts to micro-manage our lives. Petty fines will never be enforceable or enforced in rural areas, and nor should they be in a free country. Bins in parks are sufficient and stop treating all adults like children because of the few miscreants. Let the local council spend our money on more important things instead.
- Everyone must be obliged to lick up their dog poo. Can't pick it up? Don't have a dog.
For fields and forests apply stick and flick.
- People should clean up after dogs everywhere. Agricultural land is used for food production and people using footpaths and bridleways shouldn't allow their dogs to run off the paths and should clear up where ever their dogs foul.
- How are you going to enforce on bridleways and footpaths? Without a large number of officers spending an inordinate amount of time walking those paths this proposal is window-dressing. Who will be enforcing and how often as there is no one doing so in villages and towns at the moment.

- Once outside of village or town boundaries it is much more eco friendly to 'stick and flick' as is recommended by many national trust parks. It doesn't result in hanging bags of dog poo!
- Never seen the dog warden - so what is the point?
- By providing people with an exclusion option it means that it affects the behaviours of everyone. We are all equal, that's what the fight is for and should be treated as such
- There is a constant attack on pet ownership and dogs provide many benefits to society in general preventing mental health issues. There needs to be more support for responsible dog ownership and clearer support for communities
- Fouling of agricultural land is an ignorant behaviour by dog owners as is fouling pavements etc. However this country is so full of rules and regulations brought in by local councils that I fear for the future. Everything you do is money making for your budgets.
- When out in the fields we use a stick and flick the poo deep into a hedge row. Better than carrying it for miles and less plastic too. Often poo bins are overflowing and smell. While they are useful in pedestrian areas in rural areas I think flicking is a better option
- Dog faeces in open fields will biodegrade. Wild animals such as badgers and foxes as well as larger corvids will dismantle faeces for their contents and worms will take the scattered remains into the ground.
People put faeces into non/ biodegradable bags and leave the bags either on the ground or, worse, hanging from surrounding branches or gate posts if there is no bin immediately visible.
- Northants has some fantastic open countryside. I have a concern that rules are being continuously imposed to limit access to the countryside, rather than positive measures to open up more countryside. I appreciate a balance is needed, but more control regulations act as a barrier to access not an enabler.
- People often think the issue is bigger than it is. One dog poo and everyone takes note and worries that there is a dog poo issue. Yet in reality, another hundred dogs and owners have walked by there without issue.
- Cat fouling presents a bigger issue
- Generally in this village it is not a problem. Except for previous incidents of victimisation and bullying that occurred towards dog owners from vigilante busy bodies who took upon themselves to police their neighbourhoods behaviours in numerous ways including dog mess and leads.
It would not be good for community cohesion to give any additional powers to these individuals who already think they have rights over their fellow neighbours.
- Dog fouling is a divisive issue that I believe is significantly exaggerated. In my area, excrement on pavements and on grass verges is often caused by the many other animals that inhabit the countryside, including foxes, badgers and deer, but is almost always blamed on dogs by those who can't distinguish between the excrement of different species. The only dog owner I have ever seen not clean up his dog's mess is an extremely elderly man with an old Labrador, who fouled in an area beyond his owner's vision, given his owner's poor eyesight. I immediately cleaned up the mess myself. This is not to say that fouling does not happen, but it is not nearly as common as many often believe. Moreover, there are adequate laws already in place to deal with dog fouling.

- Responsible people will clear up after their dogs. A regulation will not make others clear up after their dog.
- Dog owners are all tarred with the same brush. There are not enough poo bins and the ones that are provided are in the wrong places.
- It is not a huge problem in Ayho though that said there do seem to be very many more dogs around the village. I do definitely agree with owners picking up after their dogs in the immediate village but not so much when well away from village.
- A lot of fuss over nothing - it's the discarded bags and plastic waste that's more of an issue.
- Most dog owners are as you say responsible I do not Consider 250 complaints out of a population of 177,000 a big concern.
- That the bins provided get emptied more regularly. To stop certain individuals leaving the mess behind.
- More bins would help

Question 1D: Comments from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed to proposal 1 or did not answer

- When was the Dog Warden last seen in Badby?
If there is no deterrent, some people will do what they want. Funds are available for mobile speed cameras, divert some resources to controlling offending dog owners.
- "Trained by a prescribed charity" needs to be removed, you cannot discriminate against types of assistance dogs.
- I am curious as to why you feel a PSPO is the way forward with this when you already have legislation in place with the Dogs Fouling of Land Act. Surely it is better to effectively enforce under this legislation than to change to a different piece of legislation and add more areas such as bridleways which are not currently covered under the Dogs Fouling of Land Act. I would sincerely hope that you are not looking at adopting the 'carry a means to pick up after the dog'. This is very lazy policing when time could be spent patrolling and actually catching the minority who blatantly chose not to clear up after their dog.
- As a landowner with footpaths across my land I do find the bags hanging in the hedgerows and from branches totally unacceptable, but sadly very common.
- Not a major issue
- No only as above.
Previous comment: Dog fouling found on verges and open spaces around village.
Dog fouling found in children's playground.
Dog owners trespassing in private fields with dogs off the lead. Grass is cut late summer for animal food. Not very nice!
- This survey appear bias to this being an issue in order to re-apply a control order. The vast majority of owners are responsible locally. We do not need the council wasting our money in this way
- To be honest, I'm more concerned about discarded alcohol containers and needles in the area (Daventry) than dog fouling. I have reported this several times but there is little in the way of response (Council and Police).

I suspect that as the majority of dog owners/walkers are generally law-abiding they are easier targets than the aforementioned drunken/drugged miscreants. Call me cynical but isn't this just another revenue generator for the Council?

- Huge decrease in recent years
- There is already plenty of legislation regarding dog fouling. Stop creating more problems for the sake of it. Take a leaf from Welsh legislation re dog mess in field and woods and apply some common sense for once
- More bins
 - More enclosed dog places
 - Council provide parks for kids
 - Why not dog friend places with agility things so only owners go to this this part and separate from children areas
 - Also could be eco and environmentally friendly with Astro grass so long grass etc isn't an excuse for owners and could be cctv operated and maybe a small entry fee to help maintain the area so that only dog owners go. We are limited in Northamptonshire for safe enclosed areas
- It should be encouraged to dispose of as environmentally responsibly as possible. In wooded areas it should be kicked or flicked into bushes/shrub areas. A far more significant concern were I live is horse excrement which is never cleared up.
- I agree that removing dog fouling is important but environmental impact of plastic waste should be considered. For example a dog fouling off a path in a wood may have less environmental impact that someone removing that waste with a plastic bag that then takes years to degrade and pollutes our environment.

Comments from Organisations received for Proposal 1 - Failure to clean up after your dog.

Guide Dogs Charity

- The charity Guide Dogs welcomes the exemption "A registered blind person, or a person with a disability affecting their mobility, manual dexterity or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects and who relies upon a dog trained by a prescribed charity for assistance would be exempt from this order – agricultural land is also exempt from this order.

National Farmers Union East Midlands Region

- Dogs that are not controlled properly by irresponsible owners are a common problem across the area and on farmland. Not only is this in regard to attacks on livestock, but also in regard to dog fouling along footpaths and the owners not picking it up. Equally disgusting is owners who do pick it up and then leave the bag hanging in a bush, either placed carefully in the bush or tossed away into vegetation.

- Dog Dog faeces can leave a farmer when not picked up in grass pasture that grazing livestock are present in, also leads to diseases that affect livestock. A leading cause of abortion in cattle in the UK, estimated as high as 10% in both beef and dairy he

Northamptonshire Police

- Dog fouling is a persistent problem across many areas which results in reports to the Police Neighbourhood teams as ASB. The complaints from the public are generally focused on the more built up housing areas and specifically areas with public parks used by children and families.

Dogs Trust

- Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place.
- We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.

The Kennel Club

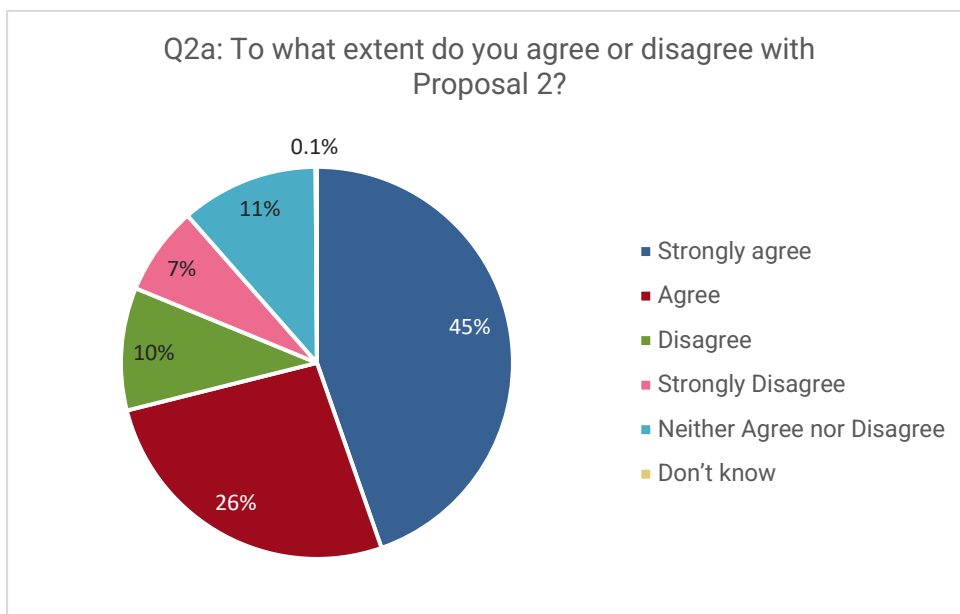
- The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the local authority to employ further proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect. These proactive measures can include: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog faeces can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog.

Proposal 2. Dog exclusion zones. Persons in control of a dog must not take it into or onto any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise: Children’s play areas; Educational facilities; playgrounds; skateparks; tennis courts; multi-use games areas (MUGA); bowling greens.

889 people (70%) responded to this question, of those, 71% strongly agreed or agreed with this proposal with the worst affected areas being Children’s play areas 38%, playgrounds 25% and multi-use game areas (MUGA) 19%, educational facilities 10%. However, these are also the most common facilities found within most villages and towns, skate parks were cited in 4% of cases, tennis courts in 2% and bowling greens 2%. Fouling, loose dogs and irresponsible owners were given as the most common reasons for this and accounted for 58% of responses.

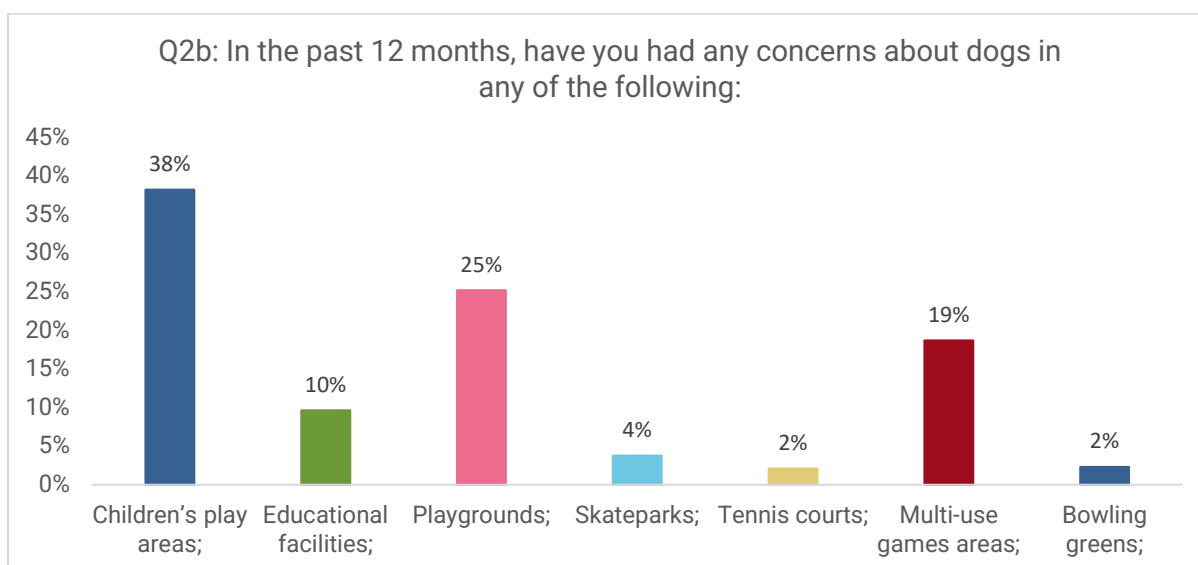
889 responded.

Question 2A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 2?



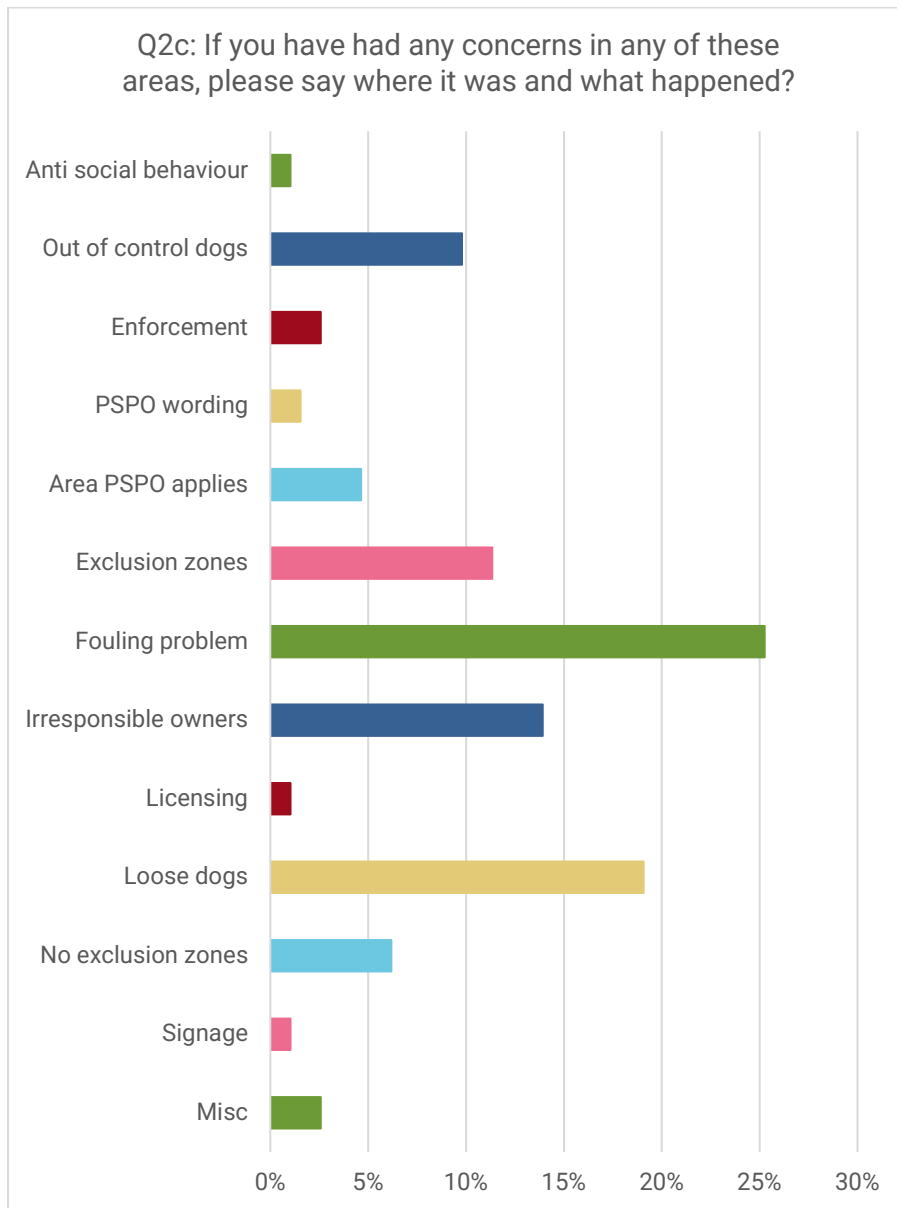
Q2a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 2?	Total	% responses
Strongly agree	397	45%
Agree	235	26%
Disagree	90	10%
Strongly Disagree	65	7%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	101	11%
Don't know	1	0.1%
Grand Total	889	100%

Question 2B: In the past 12 months, have you had any concerns about dogs in any of the following, please tick any of the following that apply - Areas of concern - Children's play areas; Educational facilities; playgrounds; skateparks; tennis courts; multi-use games areas (MUGA); Bowling Greens.



Q2b: In the past 12 months, have you had any concerns about dogs in any of the following:		
No. responded	Total	% responses
Children's play areas;	182	38%
Educational facilities;	46	10%
Playgrounds;	120	25%
Skateparks;	18	4%
Tennis courts;	10	2%
Multi-use games areas;	89	19%
Bowling greens;	11	2%
Grand Total	476	100%

Question 2C: If you have had any concern in any of these areas, please say where it was and what happened?



Q2c: If you have had any concerns in any of these areas, please say where it was and what happened?		
No. Responded	214	% comments
No. comments	194	100%
Misc.	5	3%
Signage	2	1%
No exclusion zones	12	6%
Loose dogs	37	19%
Licensing	2	1%
Irresponsible owners	27	14%
Fouling problem	49	25%
Exclusion zones	22	11%
Area PSPO applies	9	5%
PSPO wording	3	2%
Enforcement	5	3%
Out of control dogs	19	10%
Anti social behaviour	2	1%

Question 2C: Comments from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with Proposal 2

- As mentioned in question 1. The playing field in Weedon is regularly littered with dog muck.
 - The above facilities in Potterspurty are fenced and we are not aware of dogs being a problem. However Meadow View Recreation Ground (football pitch) is open and dog fouling is a problem.
 - Dogs in the play park at towcester Recreation ground.
 - Dogs should only be allowed in on a lead.
 - Bugbrooke playing fields, rugby pitches.
 - Local cricket/football field has to be cleared before use, every use.
 - The Headlands Daventry... open space with playground locally called the Spider Park.
- Regularly fouled by dogs. Dogs off lead on this area
- Even though I haven't seen any dogs near the skatepark there is no legal notice warning people of the dangers and liability like there should be at a skatepark. Maybe this is something the council could/should look into.
 - All the main parks in Northampton - Abington Park, Racecourse, Eastfield Park, Becket's Park, Midsummer Meadow, Victoria Park...
 - All kids football ply areas should be fenced off from dogs including around brackley leisure centre
 - High Street , Camp hill and Sports Fields. Bugbrooke.
 - I have children who are scared of dogs and the amount of dog owners who do not have control of dogs and let them run and jump up to them is increasing. One of

my children had a particularly frightening experience when in the park at Brixworth with her friends when a large dog scared her and the owner just didn't care

- Peoples dogs running around whilst my children play despite the signs saying no dogs.
We were subject to a dog attack as a family three years ago, although we physically only received scratches, it had a significant impact on my children's confidence.
- Springfield park Deanshanger
Football Club Deanshanger
Both regularly have dog mess on them
- Staverton playing field people taking their dog in there
- Barby sports field (where the cricket club play) and the park/play area on Daventry Road in Barby.
- Playing fields and sports fields in Towcester, Silverstone and Whittlebury
- Many families walk their children to school with their dog as well, to exclude them from schools is detrimental
MUGAs are open here, so exclusions are impossible?
- The green by churchcroft usually has dog mess when clearly signposted that dogs aren't allowed in this space.
- Roade recreation ground. A family playing in the park with a dog.
Churchcroft play area, dogs regularly on there with no leads.
- Daventry sports Park is full of dog poo and clean ups have to happen before every match.
- too many off the lead dogs on footpaths, owners seem to think other footway users are in the wrong, verbal abuse from them is appalling. a lot of children and adults are wary of dogs and do not want to be sniffed and jumped on. and told he won't hurt you. Friend's coat was damaged by a dog jumping on her, the owner was not very nice
- Daventry Country park many dogs off leads. They jump up at you. Owners say - only being friendly. I don't want muddy (nor worse) paw prints on my clothing!
- Brackley cricket club, dog ran and jumped up at me and resulting in a mini puncture wound that took over 2 weeks to go. Many other times have had dogs jump up at me despite actively trying to walk away from them.
- Play park Little Brington and sportsfield Great Brington, especially latter when pub is open (shut for 2 years but expected to re-open eventually), especially with non-residents walking dogs there at night.
But I don't want to ban dogs from these places because to do so would create real difficulties for the many responsible dog-owners who use them.
The answer is licencing and fewer dogs.
- The Grange
- I think it needs to be clear what you are asking. In the park I walk my dog she has the run of the field but I do not allow her into the play area, but it isn't fenced off. I think it needs to be clear that dogs can go in these areas just not the play area itself i.e it needs to be fenced off.
- Dogs have been in the play area fouled and then the mess left behind or walked into
School on shoes.

- Errington Park football pitches and others in the local area. I have friends who manage a kids football team who now have to do a sweep of the pitch to make sure there's no dog poo on it before playing
- Brodie lodge playing field
- Some children's play areas are not fenced e.g. Helicopter Park near The Grange. Would recommend that children's play areas are made secure from dogs being able to access.
- Dog mess in the Braunston children's play area.
- People exercising their dogs on sports pitches.
- Dogs have run up to our children and caused them distress by jumping at them. Our youngest was knocked down by a dog. Our local playing field would not be covered by this and yet many children play sports on their and have dogs interfere with their games
- Brackley park and Radstone park
- Towcester Recreation Ground
- It is not only in those areas, country parks are a big issue with dogs off the lead; not only for dogs that are nervous but for people who dont like dogs jumping up at them or sniffing around them.
- Rec area in Wootton and Foxfields Grange Park suffers badly from dog fouling. All very busy with kids areas.
- Chacombe playing field (Betty Cameron field)
- not specifically as our small children's play area is fenced off but generally around it, especially in winter months
- Walgrave village hall & playing fields
- All around the leisure centre playing fields in Brackley. Dogs run around doing their business with little or no control
- Kids playing football and calling in dogs poo on the pitches or in playing areas. It is a health hazard
- All parks in Old Stratford including playing fields for sports/football pitches which should also be designated as multi use sports areas
- All childrens play areas should be fenced and gated for protection
- My daughter has autism, she is terrified of dogs. We feel we can't play anywhere or walk anywhere without dogs jumping up at us and her. I feel dogs have more rights than children! I'm sure the dogs are friendly, but she doesn't understand that. And I'm worried her over action could cause a dog to hurt her as she screams and squeals. I've seen them run around playgrounds whilst the owners are ignoring them. can tolerate it in a country park where a dog is off a leash. But I don't understand why in a playground they can't sit with their owners. West Hunsbury park i quite often see dogs on the slides!
- Brackley Parks
 - The memorial garden where children play after school supervised by parents/guardians
 - Children's play area bins are used by dog owners to deposit poo bags. Not acceptable for young toddlers as these can carry disease and attract rats etc
 - Outside the school entrance in Rothersthorpe.
 - Our village already bans all dogs from out local park. The recreational footpaths around pitsford lake are rife with dogs of leads scaring my kids and coming up to them with their jaws at face height. People always say 'don't worry he's ok' but

you never know if that's true and dog owners sometimes become aggressive if you say anything.

- Disabled and peripheral with learning difficulties often visit Stoke Bruerne and do not, in some cases, have the capability to avoid any dog mess
- Boddington Parish Council's Charles Cooper playing field and playground and Jubilee field at London End.
- Are you going to fence off play areas not currently fences off as this would be beneficial to children and families and dog owners alike.
- Croughton park
There are signs on entry to the park that no dogs are allowed yet people still allowed are dogs in and allow them to foul without cleaning up
- Roade
- Roade Recreational Ground
- Dogs in fenced Naseby play area, which were promptly removed upon challenge - "No Dog" signs have been installed which seem to have stopped other occurrences.
- People walking dogs round a playing field in Lilbourne and when tackled said they had permission.
- Occasionally seen in the park by st.peters church in brackley
- I have visited so few places in last 2 years I could not say how bad the issue is in the area where I live
- There was a recent "incident" at my son's primary school with a dog and a child. The school were not specific about what happened but it was said that a child was in tears. The school emailed all parents and let them know of the "incident" and new rules about not leaving dogs tied up unattended at the school gate. I raised strong objections to dogs even being allowed on site at all in the mornings. Schools are for children's education, they are not a dog socialising event and the number of dogs at morning drop off is significant. The small alleyway entrance means that on occasions when we pass dogs coming the other way, I have to put myself between my 5 year old and a dog twice his size. Some dogs do not seem well controlled by their owners and I have witnessed school staff checking for dog mess. A blanket ban on dogs of parents (unless working dogs that help people etc) should be implemented. I urge you to contact the school...Waynflete Infants School Brackley, to find out more about the incident. Also I should say, despite their rule about dogs not being left tied up unattended, I have witnessed the rule being flouted on many occasions and intend to let them know this. Dogs and school children mixing on site, in my opinion are a safeguarding risk that should not be taken and the school I, in allowing dogs on site, are failing in this regard, in my opinion.
- Weedon
Newcroft playing field
Children's fenced off play area.
From my observations I have tended to noticed, than teenage boys early evening have been allowing their dogs..
- Croughton playing fields - people training new pups despite an existing parish council prohibition
- A family with a dog on the playing field in Welford. Right next to the play area. Not just walking through.

- Dog poo is always present on the village play grounds
- Grange park
- If dogs are to be excluded then fencing must be placed around ALL play areas. This is not for preventing the dogs from entering but allowing parents to ensure their children are safely within a confined area if they need to wait away from the area with their dog. For example, the play area on Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground is fully open and dogs can access it freely.
- Children's play area in Poppyfields park, Brackley.
- I am aware that some people take their dogs into the local recreation ground also dogs are taken off lead in the green area behind the Village Hall.
- quite often cant remember dates but it's a problem that is on going
- I'm concerned that users of these facilities will be inconvenienced by the thoughtless actions of others by deliberately leaving behind dog mess.
- Football pitches with dog mess on and not cleared up. A slide tackle into one of these isn't nice, although keeps the opposition away from you.
- Old Stratford Community Centre Deanshanger Road Football field.
- In the main responsible dog owners do not take their dogs to these places but once more those responsible owners are targetted.
It would be worth considering how you will implement and uphold these laws if they are introduced as often irresponsible owners are challenged and give abuse to those challenging them.
- The gated area of Welford play park is within a larger green space area where many people still walk their dogs despite signage suggesting otherwise. It means that children are unable to play freely and safely for fear of being chased by a dog or falling in dog mess.
- As per my previous answer, the dog fouling on the Playing Field is adjacent to the MUGA and children's play area
- Dogs leaving there mess.
- Moulton Public gardens; dogs let loose where there are children playing. Dog mess found by a bench in the park.
- The play equipment near Billing Brook open area. Dog fouling
- On the furlongs estate opposite the racecourse in Towcester and outside the kids school at Greens Norton Primary school
- Brackley Leisure centre.
- Playing Fields located to the side and rear of Brackley Leisure Centre and Stepping Stones Nursery.
- There are people who take their dogs into Greens Norton Park where they are banned. My son is scared of dogs and a few times we have had to leave because of this. I have also found poo on the ground which is unacceptable. They are either illiterate or ignorant as signs are there. Probably the latter.
- reports received about concerns in a number of locations
- Last month I saw a family with their dog on the playing fields by the community centre / childrens play area in Greens Norton despite it being prohibited to take a dog on there.
- There are clear signs at the entrance to the Greens Norton recreation ground and kids playground that say dogs are not allowed. However, I have recently seen people meeting with other dog owners allowing their dogs off leash in the same area.

Worst of it is that poo has been reported in the kids playground including the fenced off area for toddlers and younger children.

- There is an increasing level of concern with dogs off leads because of media reports of dog attacks. Many minority groups also have concerns so may feel excluded from using certain areas if dogs are routinely allowed off leads.
- Greens Norton park - although fouling not a big issue dogs not on a lead in the play area is.
- Dogs running loose around children play areas
- I have been concerned about the amount of people around the school pick-up/drop off areas.

There have been a number of occasions that my child has been scared by a dog barking at her.

- I keep on seeing people bring puppy's into Brixworth school in arms, I do not bring my dog so resent people bringing theirs.
- Dogs at the school. Dogs running near play equipment, it's unnecessary.
- Pocket park Eaglehurst. Walk through green from Holcomb road to Tantree way. Brixworth
- Dogs shouldn't be allowed in open parks ie Brixworth village park no lead dog quite aggressive.

School no dogs allowed

- all of those areas in Greens Norton playing field
- I noted a dog in Scaldwell park this weekend, and dogs are not allowed in there. It would be nice to have children's areas worry free in this regard, not everyone likes dogs or wants to deal with poo.
- There have been instances of dog(s) fouling the children's play area in the village. A new gate was installed but the dog(s) still appear to get in.
- Around Cogenhoe
- Dogs seen in play parks on Grange Park.

While not in the school but just outside school gates of primary school in Grange Park which made some little ones very anxious.

- Owners not picking up
- The primary school field in Bugbrooke
- They need to be kept off playing fields, too.
- Bugbrooke NN7.

Many dogs are allowed to run around whilst children play.

Many times at school drop off near the play park and the field have I witnessed badly behaved dogs jumping all over children, a lot of children have cried and the owners response is usually always the same "oh he/she is friendly or won't hurt you"

Children should be able to play without dogs jumping at them and frightening them.

- Bugbrooke Football ground and Bugbrooke Rugby ground.
- Local playing fields and football training areas
- Rectory farm (probably not in the desired area but as I said should be all Northampton)
- The main park in Brackley high street (NT owned but given over to BTC) has clear no dogs allowed signs yet mums with children and dogs just ignore it, let their dogs run free and leave dog mess in the field.

- Large amounts of dog excrement on the village playing fields off The Ashway, Brixworth which when playing football and running with children they came into contact with.
- Brackley town park does not allow dogs, even though it has a separate fenced off part for the childrens play area. The rest of the park is under utilised, which is a shame.
- Already signs saying no dogs in the play areas of Brackley - common sense
- many parents bring their dogs into the school drop off area at Waynflete infant school and sometimes they are disturbing
- Dogs in the play area in the new estate at the end of Johns Road, Bugbrooke.
- Cogenhoe Village hall play area & car park - dogs just let out of the boots of cars, no leads & they run straight into play area regardless of notices & children being present and then wee on the play equipment
- Teenagers drinking and smoking substances in dog walking areas and other open space areas. Incidents of vandalism and broken glass.
- Saimon Close play area
- At Bugbrooke Community Centre people allowing dogs to run off the lead across sports pitches and fouling
- Childrens' playground.
No idea of dog or owner.
Fouling removed.
- Fouling has been an issue on Crick Playing Fields.
- Cottesbrooke, in the local parks, dogs are often let loose to run around the football pitches
- Nether Heyford Childrens Play Area - numerous times see parents with their dogs in the play area. If challenged just get verbal abuse. As always it won't change those people that don't care.
- Hackleton Recreation Ground dog fouling is an ongoing problem
- Reports of dog fouling in the above areas in Denton
- The children's play area on the Woodford Meadows Woodford Halse Estate. There has been dogs fouling in the park there and it doesn't get cleaned up.
- Nether Heyford Playing Fields, (mostly) from visiting teams.
I suspect most town teams are allowed to exercise their dogs on public town pitches, and ignore our signage saying no-dogs
- Asked the owner to remove dog as they are not allowed
- Creaton playing field and play area. Dogs are often of the lead, owners heads in the phones , Miss or may be not the dog leaving a calling card. Happens daily!!
- Dogs running out of control on the SARA fields, Woodford Halse
- See Proposal 1.

Previous comments: Woodford Halse has many irresponsible owners whose dogs foul the pavements, footpaths, bridle ways and also the sports field adjacent to the village football club. At the latter location there is a gathering of mothers after the morning school drop off time, they let their dogs off the leads and they run around unsupervised as the owners are too busy chatting with each other to notice their dog capping.

In addition there's the early morning and late evening dog walkers who don't pick up as they can't be seen in the dark, there's very little street lighting around.

I'm a responsible dog owner who picks up and I carry a torch during the hours of darkness for two reasons, the first so I can see what my dog is up to and secondly so I can avoid treading in someone else's dog mess.

- Dogs being taken into school grounds
Dogs fouling in children play areas
Along the canal towpaths
- Dogs being taken into school grounds
Dogs fouling in children play areas
Along the canal towpaths
- In Christmas Period, Chipping warden play area along \Culworth Ropad had plenty of dog poo as gate is open/ no gate
- rec in yardley hastings
- Why hasn't canal tow paths been included, people use this public facility for walking their dogs, moorings up boats with dogs on board for weeks at a time
- I do not like dogs, and a lot don't. I hate it when they come up and salivate over you, and jump up at you and dirty your clothes
- woodford halse Ryefields play area and woodford halse sports field and local woodland area in the village.
- Despite having signs advising dogs are not allowed in recs and play areas in the village, people ignore these signs (and allow their dogs to go to the toilet and not clean up after them). When asked to leave they don't or always have some excuse.
- Dog poo left on football pitch and dogs let loose in a dog free play zone
- Dog mess left around play aires and playing field.
- Towcester recreational ground has dog foul all of the time
- Responsible dog owners should be allowed to walk or exercise their pets in public parks or sports fields, excluding the specific play areas defined above. In other countries there are often defined doggy toilet areas in parks, making it much easier to bag and dispose.
- Daventry skatepark playground behind the Police Station. There was dog poo next to the swings.
- Some children's play areas are in parks. The parks are used for a variety of purposes including dog walking. Children's play areas need to be fenced to allow children to play without stepping in dog mess/ being wary of dogs, but also dog owners to be able to walk dogs off the lead (provided of course that they still pick up the pooh)
- Use playground as a cut through. Brings dogs with them to football matches.
- New st rec Daventry, some folk seem to think it's ok for their dogs to run all over the place, dogs should be kept on leads in all parts of public parks at the very least.
- I live in Brackley and often walk round the excellent open spaces. On multiple occasions dogs that are off their leads have ran up to us and/or jumped up. This is very worrying as you can never tell if the dog is going to be friendly or aggressive. There should be specific areas where dogs can be off their lead that is separate from non-dog owners. I have no objection in people owning dogs and the majority behave well, however, it is not fair that owners and their pets can put the safety of others at risk and/or assume that others have no fear of dogs/want to be around dogs.

This is also applicable for those dogs on leads, non-dog owners/those who do not wish to be around dogs should not have to go out in fear because of dogs.

- Local playing fields
 - Brackley park
 - Badly behaved dog off the lead running towards my toddler
 - Have seen dogs using playground equipment slides/roundabouts/swings on a couple of parks in Brackley.
 - Recreational ground by the Leisure centre in Brackley. Older youths with their dogs off the lead whilst they 'hang out' with friends. The dogs approach dogs on leads and children in pushchairs and are not called back or under any control.
 - Dog poo everywhere
 - Many owners do not keep dogs on a lead. I am often bothered by dogs in Brackley. St James Park is a specific concern as the dogs run up to you and also they worry the wildlife.
 - Note:2b, I have no reason to go to any of these areas so don't really know. There is extensive dog fouling on various other open areas of grassland including those near the side of the roads
 - The play area at the park in Long Buckby is frequently used as a dog toilet, although it is also used by underage drinkers who then smash glass around the swings and play equipment.
 - Dogs sometimes access the play areas in both Little & Great Brington
 - Dogs with owners entering the Play Area n Harlestone Manor, even though it is a fenced area and has No Dogs Allowed sign.
 - Our childrens play area is fenced so dogs are unable to get in. But the skatepark and equipment for older children are just placed within the field so any dog mess if not cleared up could cause a problem
 - Our childrens play area is fenced so dogs are unable to get in. But the skatepark and equipment for older children are just placed within the field so any dog mess if not cleared up could cause a problem
 - Uncontrolled and aggressive dogs on little Houghton village green
 - Again cogenhoe village nn7 after an extended area being built for the children unfortunately this area is not fenced off however there are signs to keep your dog on a lead until past the equipment a lot of people follow this however there are many that don't
 - Multiple reports of dogs let loose and being aggressive with other dogs on playgrounds or school grounds which is very concerning. Although a caretaker may place a 'no dogs allowed' sign, there is no process to back this up if someone decides to disregard warnings and allow their dog to run loose around vulnerable old/young people.
 - Should also include sports playing fields
 - As described above
- Previous comment: Crick village: Dog fouling within the playing fields and green spaces in the village are a big concern.
- I am a Trustee for Creaton Playing Field Association. Dogs are only permitted on the field on a lead and only on the two public footpaths that cross the field. There has been a gradual reduction in respect for this and certain individuals have taken to exercising their dogs off a lead on the field.

- Upton country park. My 6 year old son was knocked off his bike by a dog which was. It in a lead. The owner was abusive, not apologetic. Also in the same area I was verbally abused as I picked up my toddler when a dog, not on a lead ran up towards us. According to the owner, this action meant that I thought that his dog was 'evil'!
- Dogs are not being kept on leads on Creaton Playing Field. We have public footpaths crossing the field so can't say dogs are not allowed. When we challenge dog owners their response is always my dog won't hurt anyone.
- There is dogs walking or let free around the rugby and open football community area in Bugbrooke, dogs should not be allowed there.
- Brackley
- Zip wire park Brackley
St James lake Brackley
- People walking their dogs off lead in public play areas where children are present, allowing them to mess without cleaning it up. This is dangerous as dogs off leads are a huge risk of attacking children, and also the mess they leave.
- Owners trusting dogs to be off lead while my children are very nervous of dogs.
- Kings Sutton play area
- Kings Sutton park.
- Welford Playing Field. Dogs frequently let off lead with resulting dog mess left in grassed play areas used by children
- The sports ground area behind the Village Hall Syresham, people allow their dogs to run under the fence from the Village Hall and defecate in the sports field.
- Dogs in children's playground southbrook Daventry
- In Northampton
- Pitsford NN6
- Green space at the Old Swimming Pool site and Poppyfields play area
- It was reported on the Welford site that some was found in the playing field. Also I have seen it on the pavement outside the primary school
- Blisworth playing field
Eastfield Play park Blisworth
- Parents bringing family dogs to school. Dogs then foul outside the gates. Also there is obviously a safeguarding issue having dogs around children
- By the zip wire park in Brackley dogs go on that area not on a lead kids playing
- Millennium green Bugbrooke uncontrolled dogs off leads seen fighting and also approaching other dogs that are On a lead controlled which is intimidating
- They should not be there in first place so more signs and bins
- Although we have a sign 'Strictly no dogs', I have seen dogs in the children's play area. My concern is enforcement within limited Police/Council budgets.
- Badby, people letting the dogs off the lead around play area and they are getting too close to the children and pooping in the grass to the point I won't take my child to the park in Badby I have to go somewhere else and that shouldn't be the case.
- Village nursery play area had a problem last year with persistent dog fouling but problem now resolved
- Multiple reports of dogs let loose and being aggressive with other dogs on playgrounds or school grounds which is very concerning. Although a caretaker

may place a 'no dogs allowed' sign, there is no process to back this up if someone decides to disregard warnings and allow their dog to run loose around vulnerable old/young people.

Q2C: Comments from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with Proposal 2

- As a parent with a dog helping young children in 'exclusion' areas is actually very difficult. Often leading to us avoiding or choosing specific areas to exercise. I agree free roaming dogs in these areas could be frightening so could lead only be a compromise.
- None, this is much ado about nothing.
- I have no issues as long as the dogs are kept on a lead
- No concerns of dogs in these areas, but concerns of children/parents ignoring common sense in public places - riding bikes, skate boards etc on public footpaths.
- As a responsible owner I would not want to be banned from the recreation ground in Towcester. Please don't tar us all with the same brush. The Rec can be used as a safe off lead facility for a dog the run off steam. We have lost the area behind Bramble Rd due to the new relief rd.
- No concerns.
Dogs should be allowed in play areas. Children should learn to deal with dogs and not be instilled with irrational fears by anxious parents.
- In Brackley very few play areas have any delineation. I would hate to see entire parks closed to dogs and dog owners, when so much of the local walkways are closed thanks to the building works going on.
- Ashway playing field, Brixworth, St David's playing field
- I think so many people are anti dog, kids are scared! Educating is better than exclusion. A walk with the dog and a stop off for kids to play is a nice idea. It would be ashamed to prevent this. Likewise dogs are part of people's families, don't exclude them!
- Need to be careful not to exclude families who also have a dog, it's likely the children don't get to a playground because the parents have dog with them.
- In Brackley there are green areas where dogs have always been exercised which the council have since put play equipment and not fenced it in. It would be unfair to not allow dogs in these areas.
- It is absolutely wrong to exclude all dogs from an area because of a perceived problem from some. It is the equivalent of banning all people from an area because some people have dropped litter.
Please focus on the actual problem rather than marginalising an entire group.
- The problem that exists is with your definitions.
Is a green space, known as a park and maintained as a park a multi-use games area?
What does it mean when you write 'multi-use games area'?
Do these games have to be organised games or can they be impromptu games that happen when kids meet up?

The green space near St. Peters Church in Brackley is such a space where cricket is played by youths in the summer, children race around, football all year round, all impromptu but games just the same.

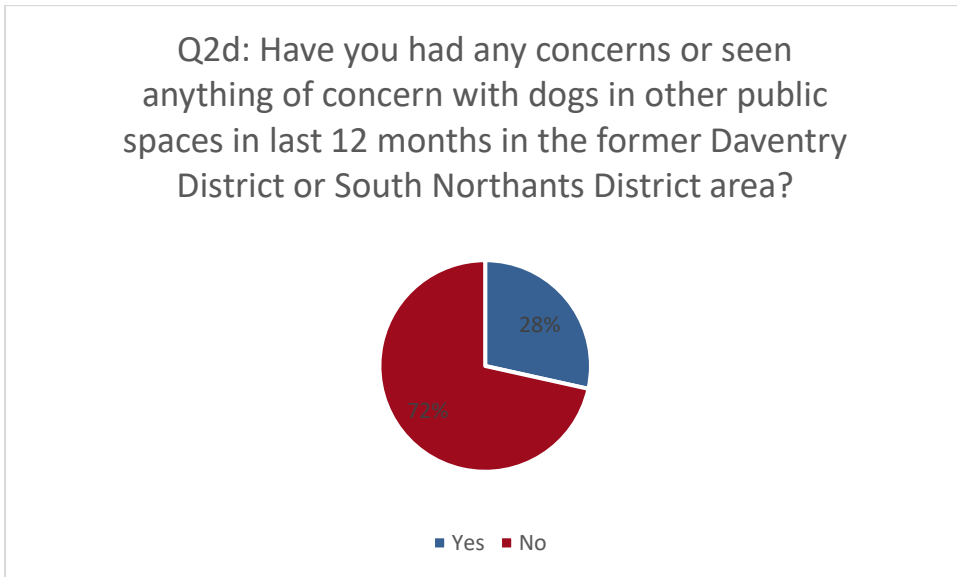
Dog fouling is a risk to these young people as not all dog owners can be bothered to catch up with their dog and clear up the mess.

- I agree with children's play areas but items such as educational establishments is too broad. My daughter's play hockey at William Parker school at the weekend. I take the dogs to watch. I clean up after them. Excluding me and my dogs as described would be unfair.
- so parents cant take their dog and their child to the same park? Stupid idea put forward by non dog owning people. get a grip
- Instead of banning them - fine people who don't pick up the dog mess and if not on a lead - interesting there is no proposal for banning them on bridleways !!!!!

Question 2C: Comments from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed with Proposal 2 or did not answer

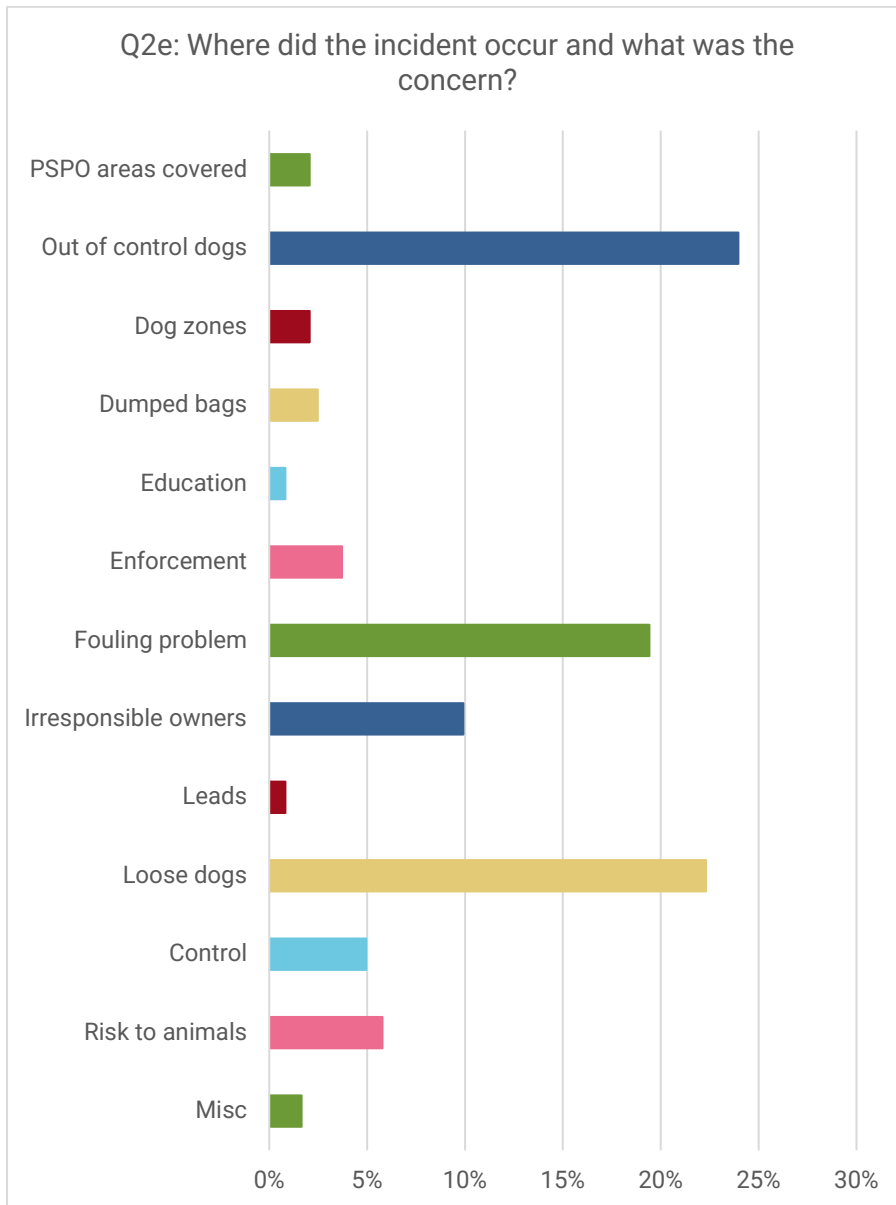
- People let their dogs in the enclosed play area at back of house so they can let them off lead as they not under control
- No such thing as a registered assistance dog, please refer to the equalities act <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf>
- I think you need to be careful. Although not relevant to me personally (I don't have children), for example you wouldn't want to have a ban in such a way that a parent couldn't take their dog with them to watch their child play on a pay area. So I would fully agree with banning dogs from the actual area where the play equipment was but not in all the surrounding area. Educational facilities is tricky as well - there may be occasions where it is appropriate for educational purposes for a dog to enter a school for example.
- Again I just don't see dogs I. These areas. It's common sense and self governing with the council being involved, putting up unnecessary ugly and threatening notices
- This is a bit more difficult as if families have dogs you would be effectively banning children from these playing in the play areas too if dogs can't go in.
- Alderton churchyard
- Alley way where they can't be seen they've it
- Church with Chapel Brampton is concerned that because people don't pick up the dog waste, dogs can not be allowed to enter the playing fields

Question 2D: Have you had any concerns or seen anything of concern with dogs in other public spaces in the last 12 months in the former Daventry District or South Northants area?



Q2d: Have you had any concerns or seen anything of concern with dogs in other public spaces in last 12 months in the former Daventry District or South Northants District area?	Total	% responses
Yes	238	28%
No	598	72%

Question 2E: If yes, where did it occur and what was the concern?



Q2e: Where did the incident occur and what was the concern?		
No. responded	230	% comments
No. comments	242	100%
Misc	4	2%
Risk to animals	14	6%
Control	12	5%
Loose dogs	54	22%

Leads	2	1%
Irresponsible owners	24	10%
Fouling problem	47	19%
Enforcement	9	4%
Education	2	1%
Dumped bags	6	2%
Dog zones	5	2%
Out of control dogs	58	24%
PSPO areas covered	5	2%

Question 2E: Comments from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with Proposal 2 who had concerns in the last 12 months with dogs in other public spaces. If yes, where did it occur and what was the concern?

- Various - do not have specific information.
- Dogs entering my drive way and soiling the area.
- Local area DAVENTRY people not in control of their dog/s letting dog off lead and no control of call back!!
- No dog wardens
- some dog owners think its okay for their untrained off lead dogs to run over to children & others dog on lead. more education is needed for dog owners to understand that this type of unruly behaviour can be distressing for other people, children and dogs. it's the type of people who shout out "it's okay he's friendly" instead of training them or keeping them on the lead.
- I am a dog owner and often come across other dogs not on a lead with owners trailing behind out of sight, particularly in the country park in Daventry.
- My dog was attacked by a dog off lead on a public footpath. Dog is dangerous and owner refuses to put it on a lead
- Uncontrollable dogs on permissive footpath around field opposite petrol station, Middleton Cheney.
- Allowing dogs to foul on grass verges outside properties and leaving it.
- Dogs off lead and attacking other dogs on leads... mainly on The Headlands Daventry open space where playground is situated.
- Borough Hill. Dogs off their leads chasing me.
- Off lead dogs not being controlled bothering on lead dogs in all the Daventry green spaces.
- At James lake
Brackley leisure centre
- High Street, Camp Hill and Sports Fields. Bugbrooke

- It is common to see it on footpaths and verges. No specific area but a general problem in Towcester.
- As above
Previous comment: I have children who are scared of dogs and the amount of dog owners who do not have control of dogs and let them run and jump up to them is increasing. One of my children had a particularly frightening experience when in the park at Brixworth with her friends when a large dog scared her and the owner just didn't care
- Welton and Farthingstone at different times: Pytchley Hunt dogs out of control in villages and on roads.
- Dogs fouling on the football pitches.
Loads of full dog poo bags littering everywhere including the path to the park in Silverstone.
Today a stray dog mauled a deer in Silverstone.
- Dogs should not be allowed in churchyards, not even on leads.
- Fouling on footpaths and loose out of control dogs rushing over to people with on lead dogs
- I've seen a Childrens play area be used for off the lead puppy training, as a secure space.
- Offlead dogs walking in the village. Usually along the Stratford road area and Hyde road.
- town centres, where dog walkers fail to control their dogs, who turn towards other pedestrians and bark loudly at them as they pass by. It makes for a very uncomfortable shopping experience
Dog owners who come to sit at outdoor tables at coffee shops, who fail to control their dogs and let them come and approach you and sniff/snarl/bark at you.
Coffee shops that allow dogs owners to bring their dogs into the store [other than service dogs] have the same problem as the outdoor seating areas.
Hence ban dogs from town shopping centres .. or if you are going to allow it ... only allow it for a set period ... eg 9am to midday, or midday to 3pm.
- People pretending to look for a poo bag when near you and then walking away.
- Daily instances of unpicked waste or discarded poo bags
- Around Lang Farm numerous times
- Various Footpaths around Brackley. Dogs off leads running at me and then jumping up at me. Dog owners just say that they are being friendly which is crazy. I should be able to go on a walk and not be jumped on even if it is by a small animal. They also do it to children which I was terrified of when I was little.
- St James Lake Brackley.
Dogs off leads chasing wildfowl.
- In various parks and open spaces and around St James Lake (Brackley) peoples dogs have attacked other dogs and bitten people.
- Dogs attacking wildlife and causing distress to people and children when not under control.
This has been made worse by the old SNC area not having a dog warden
- On playing fields where sports including children's football for example, are taking place. Dogs off leads that cannot be kept under control and run onto the pitches chasing players. In my opinion (as a dog owner) dogs should be kept on leads when sporting activities are taking place.

- On the roads where people walk to get between parks, dog fouling and aggressive dogs not being controlled when walking past. On running once a dog jumped up me and bared it's teeth. The owner apologised but didn't have control of his dog at all; I've seen the same dog lunge at kids on the path and other adults.
- Dogs off lead not responding to owner and bothering my dog who is scared of other dogs and at risk of being aggressive to them as a result.
- Large dogs off the lead walking behind the owner & fouling & the owner not taking any notice of their dog. All around Flore village this happens. There has been a large dog that has actually left poo outside a house front door on the high street this week in Flore
- See previous answer for details
Previous comment: Dog poo is often left on footpaths across the fields between Walgrave Cemetery
- Dogs running wild outside of their owners house in Welton; surrounding my dog and very out of control. I reported it to the police but was told it would not be followed up.
- Large number of dogs brought to school and tied to fences and generally parents standing about with dogs on the pavement at Bracken Leas School.
- Two large dogs roaming around The Grange without an owner present. Witnessed them attack a dog that was on a lead.
- Some owners allow their dogs to walk without a lead on Abbey fields and the country park are 2 areas this happens very often
- Off lead dogs being allowed to approach on lead dogs and arrogant owners refusing to put them on a lead.
- Dogs loose on footpaths near sheep
- Welford village, high street. Dog off a lead was very aggressive towards a walker and would not leave them despite the owner calling them back. A dog ran out of welford playing field when I ran past the entrance and followed me up the road refusing to go to the owner when called. Same dog has repeatedly done this when I am out running
- Dogs off lead savaged my dog on lead 2 seperate occasions. Owner didnt care neither did council or police. Try that with children !
- Daventry country park; dogs off the lead pestering around other dogs and people and in the way of bikes. It's not fair and there should be dog wardens patrolling
- I am concerned about the number of dogs off lead and out of control in public places, be it permitted footpaths or villages, mainly footpaths, . There seems to be able increasing number of people with little canine knowledge saying it is their right to let their dogs socialise and are v vocal and can be offensive if asked to put dog on lead out of respect of path users not having dogs or other nervous animals.
- Too many times to list.
Most recently several lots in the middle Wootton village
- Chacombe Berry Close field
- On the grass verge outside my house.
- Brackley leisure centre playing fields
- Faeces left on footpaths and verges

- Rothersthorpe has no play areas or public leisure spaces but footpaths / Rights of way and cemetery have seen an increase in Dog Fouling. Reports from livestock farmers have highlighted to the Parish Council that there has been a rise in animal scare incidents where dogs are walked off lead in livestock fields.
- In my own area the main bone of course tension is barking dogs, specifically one in an industrial unit, now a car wash, where the dog barks from 8am through to late at night or early morning.
- January 2022 dogs off a lead in Upton country park where it quite clearly says dogs should be on a lead due to the sheep.
- Brackley Parks
- Often when walking around open space in Moulton dog owners don't have dogs on leads. My wife does not like dogs due to an attack when she was younger. Lead use should be made compulsory for all open spaces.
- West Hunsbury bridal way and parks
- Dog mess, and dogs off the lead and running uncontrolled, most of the time when I visit Crowfields, to the extent that I feel very intimidated and fear being bitten. Some owners seem to think their dogs have more entitlement to the space than people, and can be very aggressive if asked to control their animals, or put them on a lead.
- Dog mess left between Blisworth Tunnel southern portal and Lock 20 Grand Union Canal.
- Grass verges and Private gardens not fenced from streets
- Grass verges and Private gardens not fenced from streets
- There is a concern with a dog walker who walks their dogs at the fields at the back of middlemore pub as these dogs on a couple of occasions have been said to of attacked other dogs and the owner can not control them they have no recall at all and they shouldn't be off lead if this is the case because of this this now makes me feel frightened when I walk my dog incase she is attacked by these dogs
- Croughton Rowler estate and near fields
Dogs are allowed to run wild in fields where sheep are grazing, dogs allowed to foul on agricultural land, even though this is exempted it does feel the footpath
- Roade, dog owners are taking their dogs into childrens play areas despite there being signs saying no dogs allowed. Evidence of unpicked up poo also in these areas
- Roade. Dogs off leash and not suitably controlled. Ther eare a couple who are aggressive and do cause distress ot better behaved dogs on leash.
- dogs should/must be on leads and must be handled by suitable person.
- A German Shepherd dog that was off lead ran upto my dog and proceeded to jump on her causing her back legs to buckle. The man with the dog didn't seem bothered at all! It was on a field area at the back of Martial Dare in Brackley.
- Open spaces and forest dogs not controlled.
- Waynelete Infants School Brackley.
See above comments.
Previous comment: There was a recent "incident" at my son's primary school with a dog and a child. The school were not specific about what happened but it was said that a child was in tears. The school emailed all parents and let them know

of the "incident" and new rules about not leaving dogs tied up unattended at the school gate. I raised strong objections to dogs even being allowed on site at all in the mornings. Schools are for children's education, they are not a dog socialising event and the number of dogs at morning drop off is significant. The small alleyway entrance means that on occasions when we pass dogs coming the other way, I have to put myself between my 5 year old and a dog twice his size. Some dogs do not seem well controlled by their owners and I have witnessed school staff checking for dog mess. A blanket ban on dogs of parents (unless working dogs that help people etc) should be implemented. I urge you to contact the school...Waynflete Infants School Brackley, to find out more about the incident. Also I should say, despite their rule about dogs not being left tied up unattended, I have witnessed the rule being flouted on many occasions and intend to let them know this. Dogs and school children mixing on site, in my opinion are a safeguarding risk that should not be taken and the school I, in allowing dogs on site, are failing in this regard, in my opinion.

- Bugbrooke village.
Dogs with owners but not on a lead.
- I was bitten by a dog in Brackley whilst jogging, the dog was off the lead. I frequently have to change direction or hide in the house with my kids and dog when one owner walks past with two aggressive dogs off the lead that always attack my dog. This is a much bigger problem than poo.
- Either in the Croft way or Jubilee playing fields and also the Whettles foot path, where some people do not have their dogs on leads or keep them under control!
- People not clearing their dogs mess in Naseby.
- I run and walk on all of the public footpaths and lanes around Croughton. In the last three years I've had three serious incidents involving big dogs. All off leads in public places. I've been bitten (more nipped) on the hand. Had three dogs encircle me barking. My wife pushed over. This creates conflict between dog owners and the public we can all share safely if they have proper control and the dog on a lead. I've come to the conclusion that this problem is getting worse since the pandemic due to inappropriate dogs and owners!
- People walking dog on public pathways with out a lead and allowing dogs to jump up at other people saying don't worry he's friendly. I don't care I don't want your dog jumping up me
- Pavements and on public footpaths. Village allotments
- Wootton community centre field, dogs off lead with no recall coming up and bothering people, or people with dogs on leads
- Out of control dogs in a Eydon sports field, attacking other dogs, being a nuisance and owners refusing to put them on leads.
- A dog pooped on the playground and pavement and the owner just ignored it and did not pick it up.
- Dogs chasing bikes and children
- Green spaces in and around Brackley, dogs not under control off lead with no recall.
Jumping up at people, running up to other dogs, people and children.
- As above.

Previous comment: I am aware that some people take their dogs into the local recreation ground also dogs are taken off lead in the green area behind the Village Hall.

- I have had several instances where dogs were out of control in public in Brackley. Since there is not a dog warden for Southnorthants there is no one to address it. That leaves me with civil action using the Dogs Act of 1871.
- Moulton - dogs off lead chasing cats.
- Reported violence to a dog by its owner. Brixworth.
- Footpaths around the village of Old Stratford
- Dogs not under their owners' control. I have a nervous dog who is always kept on a lead and wears a harness, but I regularly find we are confronted by dogs not on leads who do not respond well to owners' recall attempts (if they even bother). There needs to be an education programme around responsible dog ownership
- Along the grass areas next the footpath outside the entrance to our house and our neighbours house.
- Not on a lead whilst walking on the main village road.
- Near Towcester dogs are off the lead and not in control when on farmland. Dogs chasing game and sheep alike.
- Dog mess in streets and roads in Moulton village.
- Abington park. Dog fouling
- Dogs off leads in kids playgrounds. Dogs at the entrance of the school, where children enter the school.
- As noted

Previous comment: It is irresponsible of the owners to leave, many of whom are on their phones and take no notice of what their dog is doing.

- More dog mess in Welford village
- Dogs off leads causing distress, including bodily harm to another owner and their dog in the Play Park (known locally as the "Zip-Wire Park") located at the junction of Pavillons Way and Banbury Road.

Fouling in various alleyways around the area of Beech Drive and Chestnut Drive (known locally as the "Tree Estate").

- Places where dogs are specifically meant to be kept on leads, a majority of owners seem to disregard this. I have had dogs jumping up at my children at Pitsford and Sywell, as well as in local parks in Brixworth
- Only pocket park
- across the whole of greens norton village
- As above

Previous comment: I noted a dog in Scaldwell park this weekend, and dogs are not allowed in there.

- A dog walker had approximately eight dogs off their leads in Cogenhoe Pocket Park. When it was pointed out that it is a wildlife area and the dogs should all be on leads, as signed at both entrances, she said 'go [expletive] yourself' and carried on as before
- Dogs fouling, dogs off leads, dogs too close to school - Grange Park
- Chased by a dog cycling on Merry Tom lane Brixworth twice in last 12 months.
- Dogs running loose in the village, no owners in sight. Running over the road. Nearly ran over by heygates lorry then various other vehicles.
- Large and unruly dogs not on leads.

- As previous question. The answer is the same.
Previous comment: Bugbrooke NN7. Many dogs are allowed to run around whilst children play.
Many times at school drop off near the play park and the field have I witnessed badly behaved dogs jumping allover children, a lot of children have cried and the owners response is usually always the same "oh he/she is friendly or won't hurt you"
Children should be able to play without dogs jumping at them and frightening them.
- Despite the owners, Bugbrooke Sports and Social Committee, erecting notices that state that dogs should be kept on a lead and walk around the perimeter of the playing field more than a dozen people a day actually exercise their dogs on Bugbrooke Playing Fields despite them being privately owned and short of erecting a fence all the way round there is nothing we can do to prevent this happening as the law currently stands
- Bugbrooke Millennium Green. Large dogs allowed to run free and intimidate other dog owners and non dog owners.
- Various places around Bugbrooke village as previously explained.
- Dogs off lead and owners not having sufficient control over them.
- As previously stated people allowing (even encouraging) their dogs to use others front gardens / lawns, regardless of picking up,after them. Regularly occurs in the streets around here.
- Dogs on sports pitches at Bugbrooke
- Dogs running loose and the owner has no control over the dog. The dog jumps up at you. Dogs should be on a lead
- Various areas where dogs are off leads. This should not be allowed in public areas regardless of whether the owner thinks the dog is fine. It's usually the case that the dog they approach is on a lead for a reason.
- Dog loose from five bells pub in Bugbrooke, not friendly and on the loose
Lots of dogs walking off leads
- March 2022 - Year 3 child (age 7/8) left in control of a young dog but had very little control of the dog and all over the road! In and around the park area again at the end of [location].
- People `walking ` their dog whilst on a cycle, and the dog is off lead . In old Stratford
- The dog from the five bells pub in Bugbrooke keeps `getting out` It is quite a large dog (I'm not sure what breed) and is quite aggressive. The owner keeps saying `it's escaped` but knowing the layout of the building it'd be quite difficult for a dog to get out of the unaided. She is never seen walking the dog and I suspect she just lets it out in the pub garden, which is not secure enough to keep a dog in and just waits for someone to inform her that the dog is out.
- Aggressive dog regularly in public space in Brackley. At busiest time on field near Stuart Road/Danuard Court
Encourage dogs who are reactive to wear muzzle. Particularly larger dogs where the owner struggles to handle the dog.
- Thorpe Mandeville roadside verges.
- In open countryside on footpaths some aggressive dogs are allowed of leads and are a danger to other dogs as well as possibly children.

This is a problem of irresponsible and ignorant dog ownership and cannot be legislated against by the local council.

People need educating.

- Dog fouling on the Crick Sports Fields and on footpaths.
- Allotments
- Dogs off lead, and not under control, on the Village green in Nether Heyford. Owners not cleaning up after their dogs when they are off the lead. Same along towpath of canal and on rights of way in fields.
- On a public right of way. A dog was out of control and a local residents was pushed over and injured.
- Creaton playing-field, sadly a daily issue I see it from the upstairs windows in my house,'. Very frustrating
- See Proposal 1.

Previous comment: Woodford Halse has many irresponsible owners whose dogs foul the pavements, footpaths, bridle ways and also the sports field adjacent to the village football club. At the latter location there is a gathering of mothers after the morning school drop off time, they let their dogs off the leads and they run around unsupervised as the owners are too busy chatting with each other to notice their dog capping.

In addition there's the early morning and late evening dog walkers who don't pick up as they can't be seen in the dark, there's very little street lighting around.

I'm a responsible dog owner who picks up and I carry a torch during the hours of darkness for two reasons, the first so I can see what my dog is up to and secondly so I can avoid treading in someone else's dog mess.

- A severe problem on local footpaths and pavements
- Already mentioned above

Previous comment: People taking dogs to the village School with small children and pushchairs

- As previously noted, dog waste on the village green is a serious issue, however a dog waste bin should be provided there and emptied regularly (not at the cost of the Parish Council).
- Doggs off the leash chasing deer in Badby Woods
- Dog poo left along done public footpaths
- Loose dogs on public roads within the village and footpaths and in fields around the village. This is particularly a real danger to young children , elderly people and those who are vulnerable. Then there are the animals that inevitably get chased by dogs when they are loose
- yardley rec dog mess
- Dog poo left on pavements in village.
- canal tow paths
- Brackley park at poppyfields. Loose dog running around interrupting football and terrorising everyone
- Boddington reservoir
- Roade Rec and Churchcroft open space play area
- Roade
- Poo on path owner ignores it
- Daventry

- Hunting with dogs. These dogs are free to poo anywhere and often enter into public parks.
- Nature reserve. But dogs are not allowed there anyway and it is a rare occurrence. Probably the same owner who doesn't clear up the dog poo!
- Dog mess left in recreation grounds.
- Abington Park but mainly due to poor aggressive ownership (as in being cruel to the dog) than the dog being the issue. But a beaten dog could turn one day.
- Harlestone firs and surrounding bridleways. People have no control over their dogs. They don't keep them under control, they chase horse riders. Dogs should be on a lead if they can't be controlled. Only about 20% I meet actually control their dogs. The rest are dangerous for
- I used to walk in Upton Country Park regularly and people let their dogs off the lead there. I do realise that people need to exercise their dogs, and this is one of the spaces where they can do that, but every time I walk there I'm intimidated by dogs who rush up to me and jump up. The owners always say 'don't worry he's really friendly'. Yeah right!

Dogs also join in the Park Run and really get in the way. In the end I've largely stopped using the park because of the dogs, especially when I have my grandchildren with me as I simply don't feel safe with large uncontrolled dogs who can turn on a child so quickly - children sometimes shriek loudly for no reason and it seems to drive dogs wild.

- Brixworth Country Park
- Owners who let their dogs off the lead when other people are about. Jetty Fields in particular. I always keep my dog on the lead because I know he will harass people for titbits!
- Aynho sports field
- Black Path, Aynho
- playing field - dogs runnign free and scaring children, annoying other users but jumping/pestering when off the lead
- Footpaths in and around Wappenham village are public spaces and the public are freely allowed to walk in these areas. Dog poo on footpaths is a health hazard and we need ot do more to prevent it.
- As in 2c.

Previous comment: I live in Brackley and often walk round the excellent open spaces. On multiple occasions dogs that are off their leads have ran up to us and/or jumped up. This is very worrying as you can never tell if the dog is going to be friendly or aggressive. There should be specific areas where dogs can be off their lead that is separate from non-dog owners. I have no objection in people owning dogs and the majority behave well, however, it is not fair that owners and their pets can put the safety of others at risk and/or assume that others have no fear of dogs/want to be around dogs.

This is also applicable for those dogs on leads, non-dog owners/those who do not wish to be around dogs should not have to go out in fear because of dogs.

- Dogs uncontrolled off the lead whilst out on walks, and also in front of our property.
- Dogs out of control, usually off lead, in open spaces such as those off Poppyfields Way, Brackley. Off-lead Dogs approaching on-lead nervous dogs & owners who

are unable to get their dog back on lead & are rude when asked to get their dog to back off.

- One large dog that should have been on lead, was not on lead and came running after my daughter. In spite of the owner shouting at the dog, it did not listen to the owner and went after my daughter. She was screaming and was in tears. Luckily the dog was stopped before it did any damage. There should be rule that in parks they should be always on lead.
- Town Park, Brackley. Dog jumping all over me and owner says "he's just being friendly"! As if that makes it ok.
- Many people don't have them on a lead
- St James park specifically but also generally on footpaths around the town where many owners are not keeping their dogs on leads and the dogs are running around not under control. I don't like dogs and yet on many occasions have dogs running up to me. Maybe they just want to play - but it's not OK for this to happen as I am not that fond of dogs and I don't know if they are going to attack me or not. We have a real dog problem in Brackley.
- Dogs are left to run off lead in jubilee woods area without any concern for young children or elderly people who may be anxious.
- Long Buckby Market Square - I've seen people allowing their dogs to use the grass there and then move on without picking it up.
- Not being under control
- In fields around the village (Little Brington) dogs off the lead in fields with cattle & sheep.
- As above.

Previous comment: Dogs with owners entering the Play Area n Harlestone Manor, even though it is a fenced area and has No Dogs Allowed sign.

- Too many dogs are off lead and not in control - I believe that there should be a blanket rule that all dogs should be on leads (long or short). I live in West Haddon and regularly see dogs off lead walking around the village, this causes stress to my own dog who was recently attacked and this is distressing to my Son who now has a fear of dogs (apart from ours) after seeing our dog being attacked.
- Very aggressive dog being out of control while out with owner in little Houghton
- Nn7 cogenhoe
- A lot of dogs being walked off the lead in pavement/footpath areas
- Not related to incidents as such but as a dog owner I get annoyed by others who do not have full control over their pets when walking -eg. Always the phone
- Dogs off leads in town centre
- People let their dogs go off-leash, claiming that their dogs are nice and will do nothing to anyone without thinking that children may be afraid of a dog. The older couple insisted that my children should pet their dog because he is nice and the dog jumped on my 5-year-old son, almost smashing him in the mouth.
- Just discarded poo bags and mess about anywhere when I go for a walk which are regular.
- A recent complaint from a resident: We have recently extended our children's play area on the playing field at Cogenhoe Village hall. the area is adjacent to the car park. We have erected signage asking for dog's to be kept on leads until they are through the play area but are struggling to get this message through and

have had some encounters with rather unpleasant people when we point out the sign (especially from professional dog walkers who arrive with 6 dogs not on leads, open the boot of their vehicle and just let them jump out to run wherever they like, even asking parents to pick up their children whilst they do so!). Please could you offer some advice about how we can enforce this, maybe with a public space protection order prohibiting dogs being off leads in this area so that it becomes an offence not to keep them on a lead?

- Boddington Charles Cowper Playing field site
- Dog fouling in green space area (playing field) in Crick village
- I have witness a number of incidents of 'dog on dog' attacks on the canal towpath, invariably a dog not on a lead attacks a a dog that is on a lead and under control by a responsible owner. An incident occurred when a dog was being walked on a lead and was killed by an out of control dog. I would strongly advocate that the canal towpath be an area where all dogs MUST be on a lead. Some boat owners moor their boats overnight or for longer and allow their to run free, defecating freely and intimidating pedestrians.
- Brackley public walking areas
- Crow Fields Common, a designated nature reserve. See earlier comment. Previous comment: Whereas most dog owners behave responsibly, there are a minority who ignore the impact dog fouling has on our community, especially in and around ~Moulton village centre. In addition, Moulton PC owns Crow Fields Common which is a designated nature reserve. Dog fouling is much more difficult to monitor in this open space. The area is often used by professional dog walkers for exercise. There are also threats to ground-nesting birds in the Spring.
- King's Sutton - see previous answer Previous comment: People walking their dogs off lead in public play areas where children are present, allowing them to mess without cleaning it up. This is dangerous as dogs off leads are a huge risk of attacking children, and also the mess they leave.
- Poo on Hampton drive and Banbury Lane. Also all field paths where dog owners feel they don't need to clean up
- WE have had issues of a dog being left off its lead and going for other dogs in our village paddock area recently. There are also regularly dogs off their lead in the SSI area around the washlands.
- Jumped by 2 dogs on a public right of way by kings Sutton.
- Dogs being allowed to run at a distance from owners who initially were on a footpath but dogs running freely on farmland.
- Welford playing field
- Dog excrement left on the grass verges in Abbey Road, Main Road and High Street Syresham, also bags filled with excrement thrown in to the hedges.
- Dogs off lead owners oblivious to actions
- Lang Farm by the ponds and Daventry country park, dogs off lead with owners who have no control
- Purely dog mess in the village
- Public spaces in general
- Livestock worrying
- In and around school. In a school playground on pick uptime.
- As above

Previous comment: By the zip wire park in Brackley dogs go on that area not on a lead kids playing

- Rothersthorpe road on school run where kids have to dodge excrement
- Dogs attacking dogs near millennium green Bugbrooke,
- Pattishall parish hall
- A recent complaint from a resident: We have recently extended our children's play area on the playing field at [name] Village hall. the area is adjacent to the car park. We have erected signage asking for dog's to be kept on leads until they are through the play area but are struggling to get this message through and have had some encounters with rather unpleasant people when we point out the sign (especially from professional dog walkers who arrive with 6 dogs not on leads, open the boot of their vehicle and just let them jump out to run wherever they like, even asking parents to pick up their children whilst they do so!). Please could you offer some advice about how we can enforce this, maybe with a public space protection order prohibiting dogs being off leads in this area so that it becomes an offence not to keep them on a lead?
- Just discarded poo bags and mess about anywhere when I go for a walk which are regular.

Question 2E: Comments from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with Proposal 2 who had concerns in the last 12 months with dogs in other public spaces. If yes, where did it occur and what was the concern?

- Dogs off the lead without recall
- Where dogs are let off a lead when they should have been kept on it or dogs are not allowed in certain areas
- A major concern is the number of people using extendable leads (these are often very thin and hard to see) and being totally unable to get their dogs under control. Once the lead is extended the owner cannot get the dog back unless they walk towards the dog and allow the lead mechanism to rewind. The Dogs Must Be Kept On A Lead rule is being totally abused by the use of extenderable dog leads, some of which allow the dog to be on a lead but 8 or more metres from the person with it. It is not possible to control a dog from this distance, leading to dog attacks on other animals and people. Many people are allowing dogs to fully extend the lead across paths and even roads which is very dangerous for vehicles and cyclists. I have seen this multiple times on Pitsford reservoir cycle track.

It is also intimidating for children and some adults when these dogs just run up to them and its particularly annoying when I call my dog to heel and ask him to sit quietly only to find he is pounced on by a dog on an extendable lead that the owner cannot control. This has happened multiple times on local footpaths. Dog leads should be no longer than 1.5 metres and if someone needs a longer lead to allow their dog to exercise then they should be required to use a lunge lead that is easily seen.

- People not picking up after their dogs. The last time I witnessed it on Northampton Road on Saturday 5th March.

- People with no control over their dogs
- Pitsford Reservoir, pavements
- Maybe create dog friendly zones too. Families with children currently have to choose the child or the dog.
Also. Please think about the humans that stop in the laybys and shit in the field. They are just as much of a problem
- Dogs allowed off lead on grass recreation ground that leads to a number of field footpaths - they then approach my leashed anxious dog causing a regression in his training (sets us back weeks at a time).
Dogs should be allowed in unfenced recreation areas but only if under control on a lead. Shouldn't be allowed in the smaller fenced playparks, skate parks etc.
- There are several fields in Brackley where dogs are running free off their leads. This is fine when the owner has trained the dog recall, however often this isn't the case.
- My dog was attacked by another dog on a footpath
- Dogs that were in areas and not on a lead
- Dog owner walking with dog off the lead in the street and dog messing on the pavement, dog owner not aware.
Dog owner walking with dog on and extending lead in the street and dog messing on the pavement, dog owner not aware or chose not to be aware.
- General observation...too many off lead dogs with no recall. I have 5 dogs of my own and all walked on leads. Loose dogs approaching are a menace.
- people having aggressive dogs which are seemed less of a problem than friendly ones in play areas!
- Uncontrolled dogs in country park when young children are around
- See answer above re being aggressive to horses
Previous comment: Instead of banning them - fine people who don't pick up the dog mess and if not on a lead - interesting there is no proposal for banning them on bridleways !!!!!

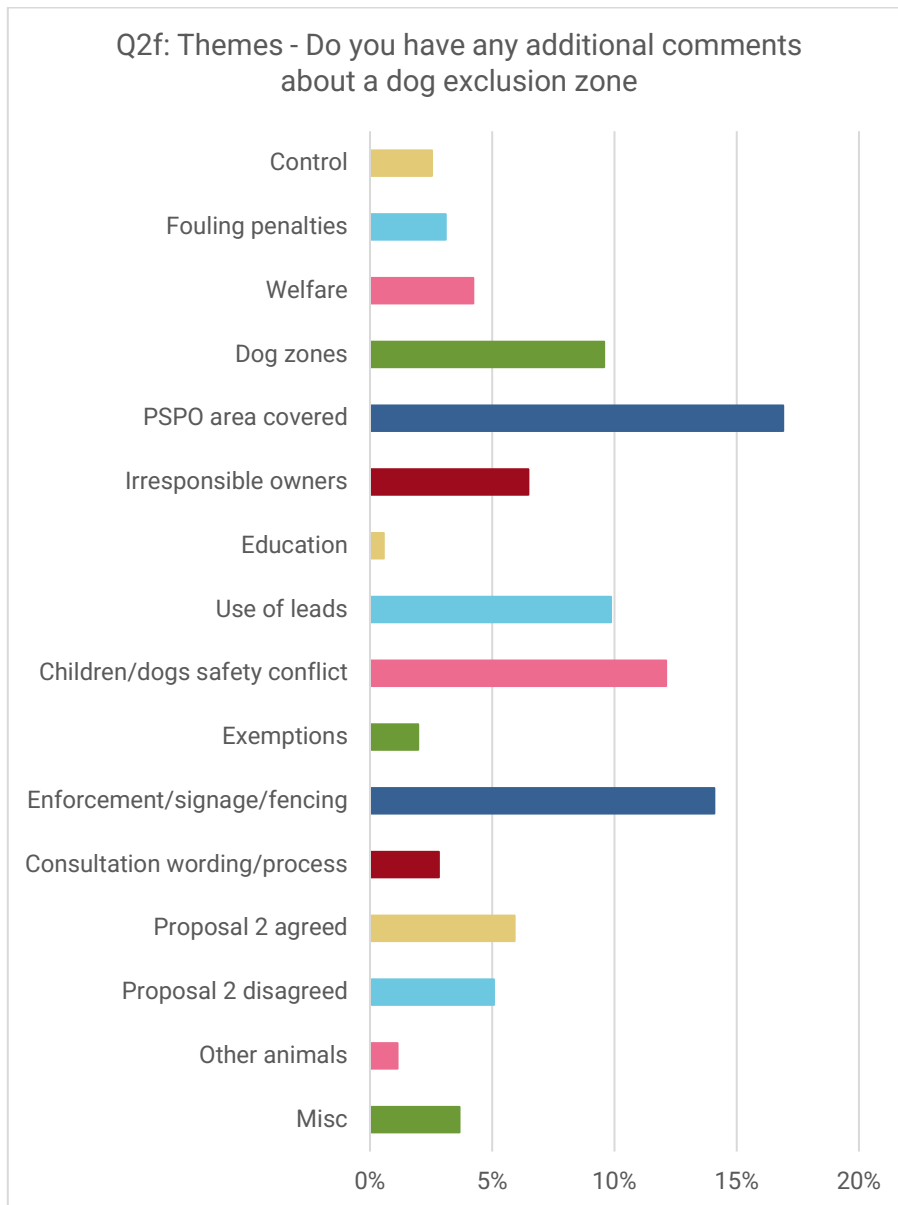
Question 2E: Comments from respondents who neither agreed or disagreed with Proposal 2 but had concerns with dogs in other public spaces in the last 12 months. If yes, where did it occur and what was the concern?

- Dogs not on leads - not nice when your dog is on a lead and others let their dogs come running up to them - everyone needs to be in control of their dogs
- I have seen dogs being exercised in cemeteries. I do not think this is appropriate.
- Off lead dogs in public areas, that owners make no attempt to recall
- I feel that due to the increase in dog ownership a better understanding of the term "in control" needs to be raised. Unless on an open area such as a field or park (where dogs are permitted) then dogs should be kept on a lead at all times. One's dog may be friendly or good at walking to heel, however there are always those times where a dog can be startled and bolt, other members of the public can be fearful of dogs, other dogs may be nervous and react when approached by a dog off the lead. Too many times have I heard when walking my dog on the lead and approaching another owner "it's ok my dog is friendly". I don't care if

there dog can juggle, I don't want to have to deal with their dogs behaviour as they don't have proper control.

- Only numerous counts of dog fouling around the village and surrounding paths.
- Braunston
Dog mess everywhere
- As previously mentioned
Previous comment: As a responsible dog owner, I do not like the idea of being persecuted because of others. There are a lot of responsible owners who enjoy the country walks and I wouldn't like to see us prohibited from using any areas, just because we have our pets with us.
Let's get more dog poo bins, more signs more education. More lighting, for winter nights which would not only help the dog owners clear up. But also act as deterrent, in fear of being seen. And more powers to take action from those who ignore the law.
- Around the fields of Blakesley, Weston and other villages. People just walking where they want with their dogs. Dogs working or killing livestock
- The control of some dogs off lead
- Borough Hil 2021. Two women with aggressive off leash spaniels refused (were unable) to call back their dogs when asked. I have a nervous rescue who was on a leash, their dogs ran at him barking and growling. They carried on walking and ignored me.
Daneholm Park and surrounding parks seem to have an increase in people with out of control dogs. They have no recall and just let them off the lead to harass other walkers and dogs. My dog is nervous of other dogs and I get fed up defending him. They just shout their dog is friendly! Mine isn't always because he's scared of other dogs. Half the time these people are no where close, too busy looking at their phones to either intervene or pick up their dog poo.
- Spencer gardens Brackley. Communal grass directly in front of ground floor flats
- People who allow their dogs to roam
- Told person to pick it up ! I am fed up after picking my own dogs poo up to have to pick up after other people
- Upton country park is bad
Lack of enclosed dog specific areas
Irresponsible dog owners who own dogs with behaviour issues without and warning on lead such I need space to warn
Dog owners need more responsibility
Perhaps by dog bins having recycling dog litter tools or paper bags to pick it up which stops excuses from irresponsible dog owners
I must say they should be more dog friendly enclosed areas
- Irresponsible dog ownership with aggressive dogs off lead around holcot and Pitsford.
- there are too many dogs off lead and out of control in daventry parks and walking areas

Question 2F: Do you have any additional comments about a dog exclusion zone?



Q2f: Themes - Do you have any additional comments about a dog exclusion zone		
No. responded	286	% comments
No. comments	355	100%
Misc.	13	4%
Other animals	4	1%
Proposal 2 disagreed	18	5%
Proposal 2 agreed	21	6%
Consultation wording/process	10	3%
Enforcement/signage/fencing	50	14%
Exemptions	7	2%
Children/dogs safety conflict	43	12%
Use of leads	35	10%
Education	2	1%
Irresponsible owners	23	6%
PSPO area covered	60	17%
Dog zones	34	10%
Welfare	15	4%
Fouling penalties	11	3%
Control	9	3%

Question 2F: Additional comments received about a dog exclusion zone from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with Proposal 2.

- Would be very welcome, there is plenty of space around weedon for people to walk their dogs
- Good idea and I say this as the owner of 3 dogs which I walk in Harlestone Firs - I am one of the few who pick up after their dog(s).
Why is agricultural land exempt. Sheep worrying is a big problem.
- An exclusion zone covering marked sports pitches should be considered
- Unfortunately unenforceable
- No. Leads should be used rather than exclusions
- I do not agree with making the whole of a public area a dog exclusion zone. If play areas are going to be made a dog exclusion zone it would be beneficial for parents with young children for perimeter fences for play areas not to be too far away from the play equipment if possible, so if they are taking their children & their dogs out they can safely secure their dogs close to where their children are playing. This is very important in the times we live in with the amount of dog thefts. Not sure how, but believe it would very appreciated if you can provide a safe way for people to secure their dogs very close to hand where their young children are playing. Thank you
- School waiting areas. We have people that walk their dogs to the school and allow it to foul on the way without clearing it up. Some parents even clear it then hang the bag on hedgerows and trees on the way back home.

- I think dogs should only be permitted on Borough Hill if they are on a lead.
- There should Be areas that are purposely for dogs
- I think having some exclusions, such as a boundary around play equipment where dogs are not allowed, is very sensible. However, I wouldn't want to see too many restrictions as I feel that you risk punishing the many responsible owners and their families because of the fewer irresponsible owners.
- A common sense approach is required rather than a strict blanket ban. For example children can ask to pet or say hallo to a dog when walking past an open play area. Taking a friendly dog to the edge of an area to let a child pet a dog in such a circumstance should be acceptable.
- A more positive approach would be fenced dog inclusion zones
- Many decent dog owners walk to school with their dogs, some capacity needs to be in place to allow this to continue.
Land owners should be asked if they wish to exclude dogs from their land, maybe just seasonally re lambing etc.
- Yes. You need to add the caveat: except for lawful excuse or authority. For example if a police dog is chasing an offender through a prohibited area, or if a farmer has to use a sheep dog to retrieve sheep that have escaped from a nearby field and entered a school field, as could easily happen in Barby.
- I think there should be areas where dogs should be on lead only so all can enjoy these spaces equally.
- How will this be enforced?
- As a dog owner, dogs should be excluded from the areas mentioned where children play.
- How would an exclusion zone be enforced?
- I would be interested to know if this covers the Brackley leisure centre field as this is used for football. I do walk my dogs on this field, as do many local dog owners. However, I do notice a lot of dog faeces on these spaces so I understand the need to do something, I just worry about where all those dogs would be walked instead if this area were to be included.
- How about a dog only zone
- How will it be enforced?
Absolutely no point in passing law's if there is no one to enforce them.
- The more the better!
- I think it's a brilliant idea. There are too many people who don't have control of their dogs and no-one should be hurt or have to run away from a dog, especially children.
- Previous comment: Play park Little Brington and sportsfield Great Brington, especially latter when pub is open (shut for 2 years but expected to re-open eventually), especially with non-residents walking dogs there at night.
- I just want to make it clear that it's not the dogs fault that the owners are bad. Enforcing lead walking and certain areas, in my opinion make it hard for owners to allow their pets to get the best out of a walk. So whilst I think there needs to be more restriction on some owners, I think it's unfair to penalise the good owners and the pets.
- Responsible dog owners would not do this anyway
- It is a shame that due to irresponsible owners that either live or bring their dogs to Brodie lodge playing field, that the responsible dog owners who keep their

dogs on leads can not take their dog onto Brodie lodge playing field, due to fouling left or the dogs off leads not being controlled. This is a big problem in Flore & the main reason I do not take my dog to Brodie Lodge playing field, that dog owners do not control their dogs, some being nasty & that they do not pick up after their dogs

- If have dog exclusion zones then have secure enclosed areas for dogs
- Maybe also have some open areas which do allow dogs so that parents walking dogs with their children can also use
- Preventing dogs from going into play areas with swings and slides can cause a problem for families when out for a walk. Children may want to play, parents need to supervise but can't leave the dog tied up outside the play area for risk of being stolen or in the car which can be dangerous when hot.
- It should be OK for people to quickly shortcut through these areas
- There should be more of them so children have safe spaces to play in
- It needs to be carefully managed to avoid scope creep. There have been creeping restrictions on where dogs can be walked and further rules and controls should not be imposed on the majority of responsible dog owners as a result of the actions of a few.
- How are you going to "police" it because you cant
- Make it clear where dogs are not welcome and put suitable hooks for dogs to be tied to if visiting a playground and want to leave the dog tied up outside whilst attending with a child.
- If it's restricted to the above areas, that's fine but if it starts creeping into other open spaces that is not
- I think fenced children's play areas, dogs should not be allowed. However dogs should be allowed to be walked through green spaces. For example, Welford playing field. Dogs should not be able to go into the fenced off area with the play equipment but they should be allowed to be walked through the green space surrounding it.
- Dogs dont have to be excluded from areas just kept on a lead and under control
- Good idea as long as interpreted in correct manner and rules enforced.
- [name] accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.

[name] would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs.

Excluding dogs from areas that are not enclosed could pose enforcement problems - we would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.

We feel that exclusion zones should be kept to a minimum, and that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is unnecessary. In some cases sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog walking space for owners.

We would urge the Council to consider focusing its efforts on reducing dog fouling in these areas, rather than excluding dogs entirely, with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags

- Just make a local law that dogs must be on lead in public area places. Problem with fouling will half overnight
- Sooner the better
- More should be done to cover and enforce livestock land
- I have no idea how 'policing' it will be possible. Bad dog owners will move from one policed area to an area where no one is checking up.
- How will this be policed?
CCTV?

Who pays to have it policed?

Hopefully NOT non dog owners

- Should be more restrictions for dogs to be kept on leads in certain areas
- It should be extended to include some areas of open land and woodland etc. So that it is possible for people to enjoy the countryside without dogs if they wish to.
- Dogs are fine if they are on a lead, with a responsible owner.
- An excellent idea. It's a very clear and straightforward way of controlling dog fouling .
- I wouldn't exclude dogs just make the fines for leaving dog mess behind prohibitive for the owners.
- It is ok to have dog exclusion zones but don't forget we also need places to walk and exercise our pets
- Daventry is not short of green space for dogs so excluding them from the amenities listed above would be no hardship but I would like to see a "No dogs" notice where appropriate, in order to clarify the boundaries to the general public.
- There is no register of assistance dogs.

Assistance dogs can be supplied by Aduk organisations, other charities, private trainers, or trained by their disabled handlers, equally are valid in law and there is no central register. Be very careful in your wording here or risk potential discrimination suits. Assistance dogs are auxiliary aids for their disabled handlers and there are thousands of owner trained animals out there.

- What will happen where a public footpath runs along the side of eg a playing field? Will dogs be allowed as it is a footpath?
- Responses to this survey will largely be by people who don't have or dislike dogs. Its results are therefore going to be misleading and invalid.
- I assumed dogs were already not allowed in these areas
- I don't think dogs should be allowed in cages, shops and hairdressers
- It makes sense to ban dogs from areas where they may be a threat to people, particularly young children if they are off the lead, and where dog fouling would create a more severe problem due to children and equipment having more contact with the ground.
- Where dogs are excluded from an area there should be a requirement for clear signage in place explaining where they are excluded from
- Parents often walk their children to the park with a family dog. The exclusion zone would need to allow the mother to watch her children from a safe distance and access to the child if an incident occurred.
- Good idea

- Dogs should be banned from entering school sites on safeguarding grounds
- Not averse to it but it does make it hard for families with young children and dogs. As long as there is still plenty of space in the same park to walk your dog and let it run.
- I believe if you are making dog exclusion zones. You should also make provision for dog walking zones.
- In the areas easily defined no problem - I would like to see dogs on a lead when sharing footpaths and lanes. Currently there is no requirement as I understand it.
- I think it's a good idea
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. Wootton Rec.
- Be careful that Dog Exclusion Zones do not make it impossible for local people to be able to take their dog for a walk locally. This will cause mistreatment of animals under the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs, Section 15 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, as well as causing more dogs to be abandoned at rescue centres.
- Once again how can anyone police this?
- Again without officers available to enforce, this proposal is either window dressing or will be used to selectively enforce in preferred areas.
- Hurry up and do it
- It's a top notch, cracking idea
- The term 'Dog Exclusion Zone' seems very excessive. There is already the Dangerous Dogs Act and again this targets the responsible owners not those who do not care and allow their dogs to roam freely and walk them without a lead.
- I would welcome a dog exclusion zone in all children's play areas
- I think it makes sense to exclude dogs from fenced off areas but other areas shouldn't be blocked. For example, if I go to the (open) playground with my daughter and my dog I don't want to have to leave one alone to go to the other.
- Just make it very obvious with correct markings and notices
- Good idea
- It's extremely difficult to keep dogs off pavements and pathways so, no, unfortunately, I have no comments or solutions for this and I do realise that it is important that dogs are permitted in parks and similar areas which have more than one use. However, where an area is used by children and Clubs, I think it would be a good idea to fence off an area specifically for dogs and their owners to use, ensuring that additional bins are provided in these areas.
- Great idea but additional or better signs for the idiots amongst us who think they can do whatever they want. A minority of dog owners in Greens Norton let all the responsible ones down. It is very sad and annoying
- Enforcement is the key.
- Isn't this just common sense?
I generally avoid these places to make a more pleasant walk for me and my dogs.
- Good idea and long overdue
- I don't have a problem with dog exclusion zones where the safety of children is paramount.
- [name] welcomes the exemption "Registered assistance dogs will be exempted from this form of exclusion."

- They seem to be excluded from a lot of village greens, which doesn't seem fair. If owners are responsible then dogs should surely be welcome?
- Make it as wide as possible.
- I didn't think you could take dogs into these areas anyway
- All sports pitches need to be included
- Wider coverage please
- A good idea, as dog owners seem to think all public spaces are just dog exercise areas.
- I find the practice of dog exclusion zones sadly prohibitive. They don't really stop the bad dog owners they are aimed at, and further marginalise good dog owners that obey the rules.
- What happens when a mother takes children and dog out, they go to the park. It could be single parent, who cannot leave children alone to go walk the dog, or partner works away. How would that work.
- As well as exclusion zones - what about dog exercise areas , fenced in and permitted?
- I think it's right to exclude dogs from children plyinggrounds and sports playing fiends etc
Although think it is ok for dogs to be allowed on leads in the surrounding grounds to watch sports taking place.
- Much needed.
- needs enforcement, people ignore polite signs
- Public footpaths across fields etc. Dogs should be kept on leads as owners have no idea where their dogs are or what they are doing.
- Could you please extend the areas to cover allotments?
- It would be great to see some controls over livestock being free roaming on public spaces. They kill and injure many walkers with little concern. Could exclusion zones be implemented on any public open space before someone is killed in northants.
- People will just ignore.
- Fully support them
- I think the fact there are notices with warnings in place should mean something can be done to try and stop this, otherwise it's a very empty threat. As this is not only awful dog waste carts health risks and the situation I feel is dismissed. A great failing in my view
- Don't reduce access to responsible dog owners, but restricting on playgrounds, sports grounds etc is reasonable, but not public parks or footpaths
- Owners of dogs should pick up the mess wherever the dog fouls
- There are minimal areas where dogs can be left off the lead to freely exercise.
- Lack of local safe exercise areas are increasingly limited or non-existent.
Disassociating dogs from these inclusive areas increasingly segregates hugely beneficial relationships that can be developed, ostracising dog owners from a wholly beneficial activity
- Public foot paths that cross crop growing farm land
- Enforce robustly what ever is decided by
- In an area such as an open recreational space which also includes a playground, with the best will in the world owners may find their dog strays into the vicinity of the playground - especially as children tend to drop food whilst they are playing,

and this makes the play area very attractive for a dog. Normally the owner will then make every effort to catch up with the dog and put it on the lead - the dog's intention will be to sniff out food, rather than relieve itself, and I think measures need to reflect this and should not be overly heavy-handed.

- Dog owners will complain but they have to accept that not all dog owners stick to rules
- Exclusion of playgrounds is understandable and places like tennis courts etc. but Greens and Fields should be allowed dogs.
- As well as the playground I wish there were areas of the park that were dog-free for people like me who want a simple unmolested walk, either alone or with small children, without feeling frightened.
- Enforcement or lack of it will probably bring WNC into further disrepute. You need an imaginative method of getting members of the public to report offenders safely.
- See comment above re fencing around exclusion zones to assist both children and dog owners

Previous comment: Some children's play areas are in parks. The parks are used for a variety of purposes including dog walking. Children's play areas need to be fenced to allow children to play without stepping in dog mess/ being wary of dogs, but also dog owners to be able to walk dogs off the lead (provided of course that they still pick up the pooh)

- As lots of parents take the children and dogs, you need areas near the parks etc. where the parents can also take their dogs. This again would encourage better management of dogs.
- The Parish Council in Grange Park have had requests in the past from local residents for a designated dog park area for a dog to exercise off the lead and socialise with other dogs in a safe environment.
- There are no signs to inform dog owners of this.
- Dogs should be on leads in all public places, when you have your dog on a lead and other dogs come bounding over, it is not acceptable when the owners say to you , they only want to play, more so when walking my Under 6 grandchildren.
- This is long over due and there should be specific spaces for dogs and all other areas should be excluded.
- Important to keep areas for children free from dog poo
- St James Lake should exclude dogs. They worry the wildlife around the lake.
- Concerns for the elderly who have dogs for companionship. Getting very close to living in a nanny state.
- Keep dogs on leads in all public spaces. It is not up to us without dogs to make allowances for dogs. I have had numerous occasions when dogs have jumped up onto my child in the pram and all the owner says is " he/she won't hurt you"
- The area just outside an exclusion zone should be a "dogs to be kept on leads" area, or people will simply use the excuse that their dog was off the lead and went into the area by mistake. Actually, I do believe that dogs should be kept on leads whenever they are in a public space, unless it is in a secure field or dog park.
- There could also be areas which are for dogs to be allowed off lead
- Dogs should be fully excluded from children's play areas

- I agree that dogs should not be allowed where children play - not all children like dogs and many are afraid of them - children should be allowed to play in play areas and not worry about dogs being in the area so they can concentrate on having fun!
- I agree that some areas should be dog free but dogs and their owners should not be demonised.
- I think all areas included in your list should be kept, I do however worry about the amount of open fields that are being ripped up for roads and houses that dog owners have always used to keep their dogs exercised and safe away from children's areas , so they are having less areas to have freedom of the beautiful country side with their dogs.
- Please don't make it so you can only exercise dogs on the pavements or in small areas they love to run and need to run. Most owners are considerate and control dogs and clean up properly.
- Dogs in villages should have their own runs. Certainly not behind the back of the playground or recreational areas. In Badby, the whole area at the school is shabby with dogs, and the sidewalks are also mentioned here, and it is not cleaned.
- Signs in the area with information on how we would proceed if someone was caught in the act would be great.
- I think it is a good idea to have dog exclusion areas in play areas
- We should have places where dogs are not permitted. Not everyone likes dogs and they do present a health hazard that many owners are in denial about.
- It would be great to have separate areas for dogs to be allowed off their leads away from where people want to bike/walk/run
- Dog owners should be hardly penalised for not picking up on public and streets.
- Great idea and it should be extended to cover all public walking areas
- Create dog run areas such as Buckingham Council have in Bourton meadow
- Include Crow Fields Common. See earlier comments.

Previous comment: Whereas most dog owners behave responsibly, there are a minority who ignore the impact dog fouling has on our community, especially in and around ~Moulton village centre. In addition, Moulton PC owns Crow Fields Common which is a designated nature reserve. Dog fouling is much more difficult to monitor in this open space. The area is often used by professional dog walkers for exercise. There are also threats to ground-nesting birds in the Spring.

- King's Sutton has a Rec which has a large area including play equipment and a fenced off toddler area. Currently dogs are allowed on the unfenced but on leads. Any description of where dogs cannot go needs to be very clear for example there are benches next to the equipment.. can a dog owner sit there with the dog?
- Make it happen in King's Sutton.
- Would only go for exclusion from enclosed areas I.e. fenced off areas. I think that's what you're saying.
- Clear signage is required as it is not always indicated what area makes the exclusion zone.

In Kings Sutton the play equipment for older children is not fenced off and is within a large grassed area used by many people including dog owners.

- Our village has a Recreation Ground, which includes a Junior Play Area, incorporating play equipment designed for children under the age of 11. This area is not fenced.
- Dogs should not be permitted off lead & preferably banned from unfenced playing areas. Some children are scared of dogs & letting of dogs off lead in children's play areas results in loss of amenity to them.
- Any areas that allow visitors to study nature, nature reserves, pocket parks, waterfowl reserves etc. should also be included in exclusion zones. Dogs that chase wild birds of any type are a complete menace.
- Dogs should be on a lead unless in a designated area
- Do not exclude dogs from all open spaces in urban areas. They have to be exercised somewhere on and off the lead. If you exclude the dogs they will be exercised less which will cause behavioural issues.
- Perhaps the Council could run some free dog training (ie the owners probably need it more than most dogs)
- I am a dog owner but my daughter has been bite by a dog that was tied up just inside a children's play area in Welton about 4 years ago. I think notices should be put up that dogs should not be tied and left unattended in these areas as well.
- Again, with no dog warden, I do not see how it can be policed
- I agree dogs shouldn't be allowed in these areas of enjoyment. People running about you can't mix this with dogs being present let alone fouling the said area.
- Its an excellent idea.
- It should be noted there are signs in all the children's play areas within the village already, stating "no dogs allowed". These seem well observed.
- I am a dog owner and always clean up the mess they leave behind, so when I take my dog for a walk with my 3 year old daughter we often stop at the local enclosed park area. I take them into the fenced area and hook them onto a bench to keep them contained and in one area and would always clean up if required but I appreciate also as a patent this isn't ideal. However maybe need to consider a section where dogs can be tired up correctly whilst I visit with my child but also where I know the dogs are safe and i can dispose of their mess easily. We like to walk and go as a family, so we would always include the dogs on these type of outings.
- Signs in the area with information on how we would proceed if someone was caught in the act would be great.

Question 2F: Additional comments received about a dog exclusion zone from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with Proposal 2.

- It can be difficult if there is a dog exclusion zone at a play area if you've taken the dog for a walk and then want to sit and watch your child play, as you can't if the dog isn't allowed in to the play area to sit next to you. Would be better for it to be dog excluded from running around play area, but allowed on short lead only to be sat next to owner or next to owner at all times if owner helping child on play equipment
- Do not restrict my family member

- By creating a dog free areas where children play, parents will have to make the difficult choice of leaving children or dogs. This will be dangerous.
- I am concerned that this will inhibit families taking dogs for walks, with children who wish to use the play equipment. Perhaps asking people to put dogs on leads within 50m of unfenced play equipment would be clearer? In Byfield there is an unfenced recreation field used for football and cricket with a play area - all unfenced, regularly also used by dog walkers. I am not sure how you would define the area dogs are excluded from.
- Your survey appears to be bias. It only asks for negative comments, what about people who are in favor of dog having access to all open spaces?
- as a child I always took my dog everywhere with me as a child now I wouldn't be able to go play there. by the way assistance dogs are just the same as normal dogs, they should not be exempt.
- Increasing numbers of families have dogs, and exclusion areas make me feel second class or as though we are excluded. I'd prefer managed areas or if there are to be designated dog free areas, there should also be dog priority/accepted/paddocked areas.
- Dogs should be allowed in parks, they just shouldn't be allowed to foul. There are no enclosed spaces to train a dog off lead in the area for free. Parks can be helpful and if there is no one using the park this should be fine. Most responsible dog owners pick up after a dog
- Absolute petty pathetic nonsense
- It is unfair to exclude people with dogs from these areas. If there is only one adult looking after children and a dog, they wouldn't be able to go to the play area. If a person is unfamiliar with an area, they may not know that their dog is running into/around somewhere that is prohibited, such as a sports field. If they poop scoop then they should be allowed to use the fields. There aren't many areas left to run dogs around due to all of the housing and industrial developments.
- I am all for excluding dogs from these areas but how about we have some dedicated areas for just dogs. Secure dog walking fields. we are losing so much countryside to development and this leaves us less places to walk our dogs
- I don't personally think dogs should be excluded from anywhere, providing they are kept on a lead and are sociable to people and other dogs. Dogs themselves are not dirty animals, it is the lazy and irresponsible owners who make it a cause for concern.
- This seems like a waste of the council's resources we don't even have any of those facilities in our village or surrounding area and where I do visit them they aren't suitable places for a dog to be left unattended anyway.
- No need to exclude dogs at all, agree that in such areas dogs should always be kept on a lead and that such a requirement should be a legal requirement.
- Dog exclusion zones are not necessary & by having exclusion zones you will create a divide between dog owners and non-dog owners, which will amplify friction and tensions. Instead, something needs to be done to enforce dog fouling being left. Additionally it is not in these areas where the problem is - it is on the streets and pavements where something needs to be done!
- excluding dogs from play areas may cause problems for families with a dog who want to take it with them for a picnic or ball games for example. It is probably

preferable in enclosed play areas but areas such as the play area at Pitsford are regularly used by 7 local families with their dog

- Don't penalise dog owners when this is part of a wider culture problem in all aspects of social behaviour.
- Dog walking places are becoming few and far between, the amount of house building taking place in Brackley and surrounding areas is disgusting and is taking away open areas to exercise dogs.
- Putting dog exclusion zones into all play areas would make it very difficult indeed for families with young children and well behaved dogs (of which the vast majority are) to access play areas and parks. This will unnecessarily penalise many responsible families and disadvantage children. Parents cannot leave young children unsupervised in play areas, and it is unrealistic to expect them to leave dogs tied up outside a play area or at home every time they take their children to the park, so this rule would put them in an impossible situation.
- Need designated area if areas that are currently used are the n out of bounds.
- When you have children and dogs there should be areas where you can go for them to play as a whole family.
- If you enforce this, all of these areas must be fenced off.
- It's not going to stop bad owners at all it'll just demonise dogs and marginalise owners
- I think this exclusion zone will make life difficult for families with small children and a dog. As long as the first proposal is adhered to, where is the problem?
- In our village, the "playing fields" are used by many dog walkers, and also by children in the play area or just the general field. It would not be fair to impose a blanket ban on all dog walkers - I do not own a dog.
- This will only work if you provide dog exercise areas which exclude children!
- If a dog isn't fit to be around other dogs or people, the dog should live in an urbanised area.

Don't impose rules on well behaved and friendly dogs because a few people can't train a dog, or choose the wrong dog.

- There is no registration for assistance dogs. Please update your proposal to reflect this
- Dog's are a family pet, so excluding them from kids play areas /school playground would create complexity for parent's who need to look after both the child & the dog at the same time. A well behaved dog on a lead, with a good owner will not cause any problems.
- Responsible owners are probably using these areas responsibly already and educating the less responsible owners that they observe. Banning responsible owners will mean that irresponsible owners will continue to use these spaces unpoliced - I have never seen a council appointed dog warden in any public space - who will actually enforce these restrictions and how much extra will it cost for such a small benefit?

Please remember that cats can cause similar illnesses to dogs - they are not excluded from these areas.

- I think enforcing dog waste cleanliness is important but any further limitations risks alienating sections of the community and creating social division.
- People from outside the area wouldn't know about your imaginary boundaries

- If you are going to make recreational areas like playgrounds a dog exclusion zone, then it would be nice to have a dog park. A fully enclosed secure area where dogs can run and play. This is also good for those of us who do not have regular access to other dogs in order to socialise them correctly which in the long run creates better behaviours.
- I Strongly disagree.
 1. Irresponsible dog ownership is in the minority, and it is utterly disproportionate that the law abiding majority are imposed upon in the manner proposed.
 2. You don't have the staff to properly enforce the existing laws, so why waste time and resources on new ones that will go largely unenforced?
 3. This is nanny state stuff. Any new order should only be imposed in localities with a clear and EVIDENCED problem above and beyond the norm. Any order should have milestones built in for review, and the order should only progress to the next tjm d milestone if there is evidence of success.
 4. You do not state what the exit strategy will be, and how any problem will be tackled once an order expires. You may as well not bother if there is not long term strategic plan
 5. Do you have any evidence that such orders bring about ling terms improvements? If so, where is the evidence and why has it not been presented in this consultation? If not, then why have you not stated so im this consultation? I am retired from a long career in the public services in the field of problem solving, and this looms amateurish at best, doomed to expensive to failure at worst.
- If dogs are not allowed in play areas these should be sectioned off with fencing. There are fields around a lot play areas where I walk my dog but this is far enough away from the play equipment but I am still targeted by some ignorant people. Land is not just for children and responsible dog owners should be allowed to walk their dogs (on a lead) around certain areas. Not ALL parks should be allocated to children! As a dog owner and parent by excluding dogs from play areas means I cannot take them out with me as a family. I frequent parks that are not sectioned off by gates but should be able to sit on the outskirts with my dogs on a lead. Not all dogs misbehave and not all owners are irresponsible!
- Rather than excluding the dogs, I believe, it should be a stricter punishment for the dog owners for not cleaning after their dogs.
- Why penalise well behaved dogs under control and with their own families using the facilities?
- For me it is not about dogs being excluded, but fouling being monitored and cracked down on. Bigger fines and monitoring and enforcing. Banning dogs from certain areas penalises responsible dog owners and just moves the problem somewhere else
- If i want to take a child and a dog to a playground at the same time, and noone else is there then why is that not OK? I agree that dogs should not run free in spaces with children, but I don't agree that they should be banned
- These questions are leading and present a deliberate bias.
- If the council wish to exclude dogs from all these areas then it would need to provide an area that dogs can go for exercise. Many residents of all ages and

ability's need to visit these areas because they can not drive and access playing field because of the flat terrain that is in walking distance.

- How is this to be policed? What happens to those irresponsible owners who don't abide by the rules and give good dog owners a bad name...
- Dogs on a lead in these areas should be sufficient.
- We and many others currently walk our dog at East haddon playing fields, a large space in which there is an unfenced corner with children's play equipment. Would a fence need to be put up by the parish council to keep the status quo? With a poo bin at the entrance to the field I'm not aware that fouling is a big problem in the playing field itself, but dog owners could be pushed onto neighbouring agricultural land for exercise and this might then actually be more of a problem in terms of fouling and damage to crops.

- See above

Previous comment: I think so many people are anti dog, kids are scared!

Educating is better than exclusion. A walk with the dog and a stop off for kids to play us nice idea. It would be ashame to prevent this. Likewise dogs are part of peoples families, don't exclude them!

- Families with dogs will find it difficult to supervise children on play equipment if dogs excluded. Dogs should be on leads in those areas.
- It must be fair to all including the dogs. Dogs need time off-lead and as long as the dog is under-control this should not be an issue.
- It is sometimes nice to take our well behaved cavalier with us for a walk and may take a grandchild to a play area at the same time. We never let the dog foul the playground and she is always kept in tight control. Our granddaughter is 3 and cannot play in the play area alone.
- Dogs should be allowed everywhere
- Dogs on a lead and controlled pose no danger in there areas.
- This should be left to common sense, and I feel is generally self policed in community's. How is the extra financial burden on council tax payers going to be managed as if you create legislation then you need to find the money to enforce it.
- I understand that dogs off leads should not be in any of these places and that dogs should be kept under close control on a lead, however, as I regularly walk our dog with my family, what am I meant to do with him if my children want to go a play area during that walk if I can't then take many thanks dog into it? Should I not watch my children, or abandon my dog outside? Neither are practical. I also don't understand what a multi use games area is. If this is effectively what could be referred to as a playing field in a village, with football / cricket pitch etc, I'd query whether this restriction would limit my dog going on the grass at all? I understand not running across the pitch itself, it being barred from the whole area seems excessive.
- As it this council has not allowed for enough usable green space. This can be seen by the ridiculous lack of space in the Overstone developments. Note I use the term usable space because the planning committee has allowed the retention dams to be included in the "space" calculation. This is not usable.

While accepting that there needs to be exclusion from playparks the exclusion from multi-game areas I feel would go too far. Most people who walk their dogs

on football or rugby pitches etc are responsible people. Rather implement the laws that are on the books rather than penalise everyone.

My impression this questionnaire is designed in a way to get a foregone conclusion and therefore is not a democratic process.

This questionnaire is designed to get the answers that you want. It is poorly designed. It does not allow a contra view to the proposals or allows us to comment against the proposal.

- Walking with dogs is an enormously beneficial thing for the vast majority of dog owners and brings great benefit to physical and mental health to many people, some of whom are otherwise isolated and lonely. The tone of this proposal marginalises all reasonable dog owners and creates an environment where that are made to feel unwelcome.
- This is awful. We have dogs, and when we take children to the playground or skatepark, the dogs come too. Dogs need exercise and combining adventures means no one misses out. We always keep them on a lead. Maybe just change the law to dogs on a lead instead of banned- you can see if they have a poo, and can keep them away from children who might be nervous.
The majority of dog owners are considerate and pick up after their dog. You are punishing the masses due to the faults of a few.
- I think it is lovely to see a family with a dog sgsring play together. I didagree that yhis should be prevented by a few selfish people.
- 1) single parents go out and take a dog, exclusion zones restrict them going out and is a form of persecution. Doesn't allow families to exercise.
2) Dogs in play areas - if they are on lead and dog fouling is cleaned up up and what is the problem.
3) Only issue is the dogs that are allowed to free run.
4) Too dictatorial.
5) Some dogs should be muzzled if required.
- Only if you then have a child exclusion zone
- Dogs do not cause any problems within any public space if they are well controlled and owners clear up any mess.
- This is unfair on families with children and dogs as they then can't take their child to a play area whilst walking their dog
- I do not agree with this as a dog owner and someone with a 4 year old child I would have to make 2 trips to exercise my dog and let my child visit a play area. My dog is always on a lead around a childrens play area, because I don't want any child to feel uneasy whilst playing. I think it would be a more acceptable compromise to demand that all dogs are on a lead around the areas specified above.
- I don't mind dogs being in those areas as long as they are well behaved and cleaned up after
- Making exclusions zones where parks are multiple purpose ie park space and playground and skate park will mean large areas, if not clearly marked will be out of bounds for a dog owner. As a dog owner the areas out of bounds will need to be fenced and marked. On lead could be a compromise where fencing is not in place.
- Please see previous comments.

Revious comment: Dog fouling is a divisive issue that I believe is significantly exaggerated. In my area, excrement on pavements and on grass verges is often caused by the many other animals that inhabit the countryside, including foxes, badgers and deer, but is almost always blamed on dogs by those who can't distinguish between the excrement of different species. The only dog owner I have ever seen not clean up his dog's mess is an extremely elderly man with an old Labrador, who fouled in an area beyond his owner's vision, given his owner's poor eyesight. I immediately cleaned up the mess myself. This is not to say that fouling does not happen, but it is not nearly as common as many often believe. Moreover, there are adequate laws already in place to deal with dog fouling.

- What about a young Mum taking a small child to a play area but also having the family dog with her? This does happen, I have seen it.
- Children's play area restriction would limit families with dogs visiting which would be a real shame.

Enforcement should be only that they remain on a lead and any dog fouling picked up and disposed of.

- I do think dog exclusion zones could be good, especially in children's playgrounds and in educational & sports facilities, but I think it would be a shame for all unfenced play areas to be included. My nieces & nephew love walking my dog with me & it would be a shame if we were prohibited from going to the playing fields all together. I think a 'keep your dog on a lead' rule would be better than banning dogs from all these areas.
- As a recent dog owner, and firstly a parent, I'm aware of the issues of dogs in play areas.

Dogs should not be allowed in fenced off playgrounds, but should be allowed in areas of green spaces where an open playground is.

Bowling greens should be off limits.

The rule should be that all pets remain on a lead at all times unless in own private enclosed garden.

- The sports field by the leisure centre is used by so many dog owners to socialise their dogs. Most pick up dog faeces and are responsible in relation to their dog and who their dog socialises with. I use that area. I do not feel it fair to loose this space which is the only place for dog socialisation to occur, otherwise this could have a longer term detrimental effect on dogs behaviour, leading to more aggressive dogs.
- I think that this would be a brilliant idea, if it takes into account my comments about a segregated area within our park leaving an area exclusively for the use and enjoyment of children and young people.
- Dog exclusion zones will mean that families with children and dogs are also excluded from accessing these areas. Generally those of us with dogs and no children will avoid those areas anyway.
- I think this is an over reaction and too Draconian. Have the complaints been verified and researched or is th8s just a gut feeling reaction?
- Yes, I think people NOT in control of their dogs should be sanctioned but dogs with responsible owners should be allowed into all the above. Dogs bring joy to many and these proposals would affect family outings
- Many parents combine their dog walks with play activities. Not being able to walk dogs & enjoy play facilities at same time would be punitive. In Badby there is a

bench near the open play park & this enables people to mix. Not being able to take dogs would preclude others from using that bench.

Additionally people like to use the recreation space as a walk through to the woods & to exercise dogs.

- If the multi sports areas could have a dog kept on lead policy rather than banning them, I believe this is a better approach
- Can't discriminate against all dogs as some dog owners take pride and take responsibility where others don't care
- Again, dog exclusion zones are only as good as they are policed. I do agree with children's play area being off limits, but don't be too prescriptive. Enclosed hard courts, for example, are excellent for teaching recall in a safe environment.
- The definition of a dog exclusion zone should not be so broad as to exclude dogs from open green spaces if these spaces are also used by those without dogs. The phrase 'multi use games areas could be taken to include open green parks and spaces.
- Just put up a sign. Why do you have to have draconian laws and bylaws.
- This would affect use of Hollowell Pocket Park by effectively banning people attending the Park if accompanied by dogs. Under the previous PSPO there was a discretionary factor in that play equipment areas had to be fenced and this was not undertaken at Hollowell as residents (including children) regularly attend with dogs to exercise within the Park. Residents have voiced opposition to 'banning dogs' from the Pocket Park.
- Dogs are an integral part of society and should be treated as such. Interestingly you want to ban dogs from play areas and such like but suggest you take a trip to the play area in Kings Sutton where you might be lucky enough to see mums taking their children to defecate in the margins that dog walkers later step in. Really lovely
- I think providing the dogs are under control and on a lead there's no issue here. Owning 2 dogs myself I would be pretty annoyed if I was prevented from going to certain areas due to other people's lack of control over their dogs. By my house I have a children's play ground and park which I frequently walk my dog on as it's convenient for me to do so but I do this after 8pm when there are no children about and I always keep my dog on a lead and behind the tree line away from the play equipment. If other owners do the same then there's no issue here. It's those who have dogs who are not controlled or not on a lead that there's a concern about.
- In many instances use of a lead will adequately address the problem.
- The imposition of dog exclusion zones is very often over zealous. It does more to punish the vast majority of responsible dog owners than it does the irresponsible owners [who more often than not continue to ignore the formal exclusions even after they are applied].
People often live in rural areas partly because they want to treat their dogs well and responsibly and when dog exclusion zones are applied they find themselves unable to exercise their dogs responsibly as before.
Dog exclusion zones in other areas in the past, have often been sledgehammers to crack a nut.
- Seems unnecessary if the dog is on a lead and clearing up faeces is mandated.

- Families love walking their dogs together along side taking their children to local parks etc.
Could you not instead of banning dogs from these areas have a rule that dogs must stay on leads and all dog mess must be placed in the provided bins.
It would also be nice a have dog parks available to use which children below a certain age are not allowed to enter.
- Dont be so bloody stupid. Dont blanket punish everyone because of the behaviour of the few.
- Silly idea , well trained under control dogs should be able to go to parks where children play as most family's walk there dogs all together
- Yes. How far does the exclusion go. It's all very well saying things but not being specific leaves red areas....
- Create some dedicated dog exercise areas BUT not before some proper investment in establishing some new bridleways
- USELESS unless implemented with prosecution, which will never happen.
- Irresponsible dog owners, will not stop by being excluded from areas. They do not care and will continue not to care. Until specific people are penalised properly the situation will not change. People in their local area generally know which owners do not pick up their poo.

Question 2F: Additional comments received about a dog exclusion zone from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed with Proposal 2, didn't know or didn't answer

- I am a dog owner, please do not make blanket exclusion zones by designating green spaces as "multi use game areas"
There are many green spaces, estate parks that could be classed as multi use that are also invaluable to responsible dog owners as safe places to exercise their pets.
- How about creating some wonderful public dog parks? They are really popular in the US and means people have somewhere they can take their dogs, let them off the lead and socialise. Owners then tend to stay away from the places listed above because they have an enclosed, dedicated, place to play
- It would be great to maintain dogs on Brackley leisure centre field and Brackley cricket club. Dog-owners are in the vast majority responsible with picking up after their dogs there.
- It is quite difficult for people with children to watch their children on apparatus if they are not allowed to take their dogs into the area - dogs are ok if on leads and stay with the owners
- This seems very heavy handed and broad brush. It could easily have unintended consequences.
- I would include public cemeteries and gardens of remembrance, except any public right of way through such - in which case the dog should be on a lead, be kept to the footpath and not allowed to foul.
- Restricting access for dogs from fenced children's' play areas is commonplace and a good idea . However, when thinking of excluding dogs from playing fields there needs to be a balance between allowing families to access (with their Dogs and

children together) the viewing area at the edges of sports pitches in those playing fields and or being able to make use of wide open spaces when they are not being used as sports pitches. Blanket exclusions will have unintended consequences.

- Yes it's unnecessary, what is required is pet guardians to keep their dogs on non-retractable leads
- Lots of dog owners have children and lots of children /families have dogs so difficult to exclude a family friendly dog from going into park area on day out for example, maybe allow dogs if kept on leads.
- Dogs should be allowed freedom to run off lead in certain areas and therefore I would be against dogs being permanently leashed in fields (without livestock) etc as they enjoy and need vigorous exercise and to enjoy other dogs. Safe spaces for dogs to be off leash should be provided.
- Again - there is no such thing as a central register for Assistance Dogs in the UK. Whilst the 8 charities that make up AD(UK) each hold a register of their own dogs, so do a number of other, independent organisations and other charities - this is alongside a large number of individually trained dogs. To require an AD to be registered with AD(UK) is illegal under the terms of the Equality Act of 2010.
- There is no "register" for assistance dogs, and therefore no such thing as a "Registered Assistance Dog". The exemption must be applied to all assistance dogs.
- People already know not to allow dog fouling on playgrounds
- Oxford City trialled dog exclusion zones in their PSPO and have since dropped them because it was not necessary. In relation to the '6 ' dog rule though, 6 is too much. You cannot effectively control 6 dogs or ensure that they do not foul as it is impossible to monitor them.
- With more and more park and recreational areas being lost, it does not offer many places for dog owners to go these days.
- If families are going out together and have their dog with them but the children decide they want to go on a slide or swing, what are the parents to do with the dog? Surely it would make more sense for a dog to be on a short (less than 2 meters) leash in these areas.
- I feel a dog exclusion zone may be too strict in most cases and would instead recommend that dogs must be kept on a lead in these areas instead of being banned from the areas. Such as the rules regarding fields with public footpaths which contain livestock
- In my view most dog owners act responsibly in South Northants. I'm not sure that any of this is needed to address the very few people who fail to pick up their dogs mess. I think there are far too many rules and regulations limiting peoples freedom. Perhaps more reinforcement of the message about clearing up dog mess is needed rather than more rules.
- Again you are only seeking or inviting comments relating to dog problems, it's not balanced. Do you frequently see responsible owners and well behaved dogs just might solicit different responses!
- Not sure this is viable in our village, as a lot of these areas are multi-use, e.g. the playing fields include children's play equipment (not fenced off) within a wide, open space that's suitable for (responsible) dog walkers.

- I agree that dogs should be excluded from certain areas but I also feel there aren't enough areas that are exclusively for dogs. Most dogs are absolutely wonderful companions with very kind natures. Certainly in my village there is nowhere to let the dog off and play with a ball. This is a great shame and significantly limits us for walks. We are able to go across fields but frequently end up carrying bags of dog mess for miles and miles because of the Lack of bins. Mainly due to the lack of areas to take your dog off the lead.
 - Would be reasonable to provide a dog area in these public areas to accommodate those who were unaware and/or unable to use the facilities due to having a dog with them.
 - We should have as little as possible, I understand the need around childrens play parks and such but we shouldn't expand this much further.
 - I don't think we should be dis-encouraging people walking the children to school not to take the dog with them. It's good exercise for the dog and also good socialising.
 - Who is going to monitor this. Some people complain about dogs in these areas but actually it's foxes at night as food waste can be left lying about
 - Could the legislation allow for parents to have dogs on a lead in play areas, etc?
 - No need for more rules telling people what to do all the time and where they can and cannot do stuff
 - Blanket restrictions which could penalise responsible dog owners with well behaved dogs.
 - I don't know why dogs would be allowed in these places anyway?! As long as a playground means the (often gated) soft area with swings, slides etc. If you're talking about banning dogs from the entirety of a park that has a play area in though that's a bit of a madness.
 - Precise definition needed
 - Of course some children do have a need for a dog or an assistance to help them get over certain issues and on occasions will visit the park or playing field to play and relax, this needs to be understood,
 - I think areas for dogs and their human families should also be provided. Having a pet and interaction with animals is an important part of a child's development. But I am talking about properly socialised and trained dogs ...and not uncontrollable badly behaved dogs.
 - I don't care, but this list has truly reminded me how little the council does for me as a dog owner and not a child breeder. Reopen the libraries you absolutely incompetent lawn turds.
 - Maybe children exclusion Zone in dog zones?
 - It is reasonable that certain areas would be free from dogs
 - Certainly in my town we already have exclusion controls in all the areas you mention.
- No matter how hard you try there will always be someone who will not pick up or control their dog/s.
- How do you police it? How much of a burden will this put on an already stretched council budget?

Comments from Organisations received for Proposal 2 – Dog Exclusion zone.

Northamptonshire Police

There is an increasing level of concern with dogs off leads because of media reports of dog attacks. Many minority groups also have concerns so may feel excluded from using certain areas if dogs are routinely allowed off leads.

Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs welcomes the exemption "Registered assistance dogs will be exempted from this form of exclusion."

Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.

- Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs.
- Excluding dogs from areas that are not enclosed could pose enforcement problems - we would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries.
- We feel that exclusion zones should be kept to a minimum, and that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is unnecessary. In some cases sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog walking space for owners.
- We would urge the Council to consider focusing its efforts on reducing dog fouling in these areas, rather than excluding dogs entirely, with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags.

The Kennel Club

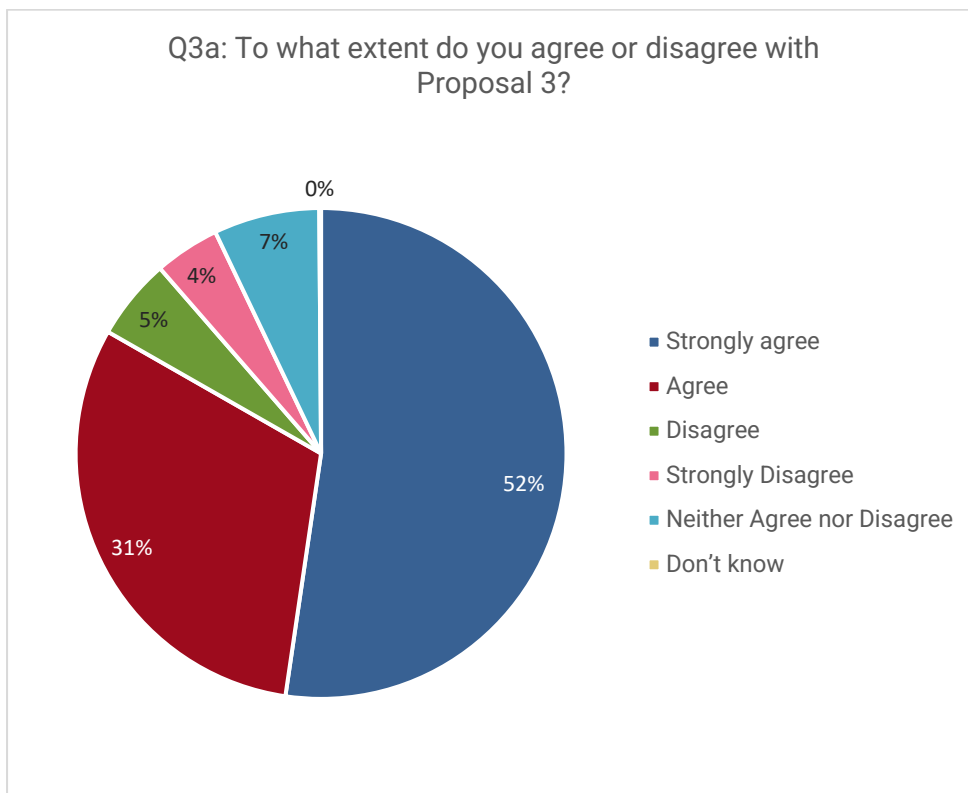
The Kennel Club does not typically oppose Orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds or enclosed recreational grounds, such as skate parks, tennis courts, or beaches and promenades, as long as alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity. Children and dogs should be able to socialise together quite safely under adult supervision, with having a child in the home the biggest predictor for a family owning a dog.

Proposal 3. Dogs on leads. Persons in control of a dog must ensure the dog is on a lead in cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens, allotments, car parks to which the public have access and sports grounds, sports fields and pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity.

67% of people responded to this question with 83% of responses strongly agreeing or agreeing that persons in control of a dog must ensure the dog is on a lead in cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens, allotments, car parks to which the public have access and sports grounds, sports fields and pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity. 62% of respondents stated that in their area, dogs not being under adequate control was a very big, fairly big or a small concern to them, although 33% stated this was not a concern in their area. Sports grounds (34%) car parks (18%) and all forms of burial sites (16%) accounted for 68% of responses where an issue with dogs off lead had been identified within the last 12 months with loose dogs accounting for 41% of problems faced and out of control dogs accounting for 33%.

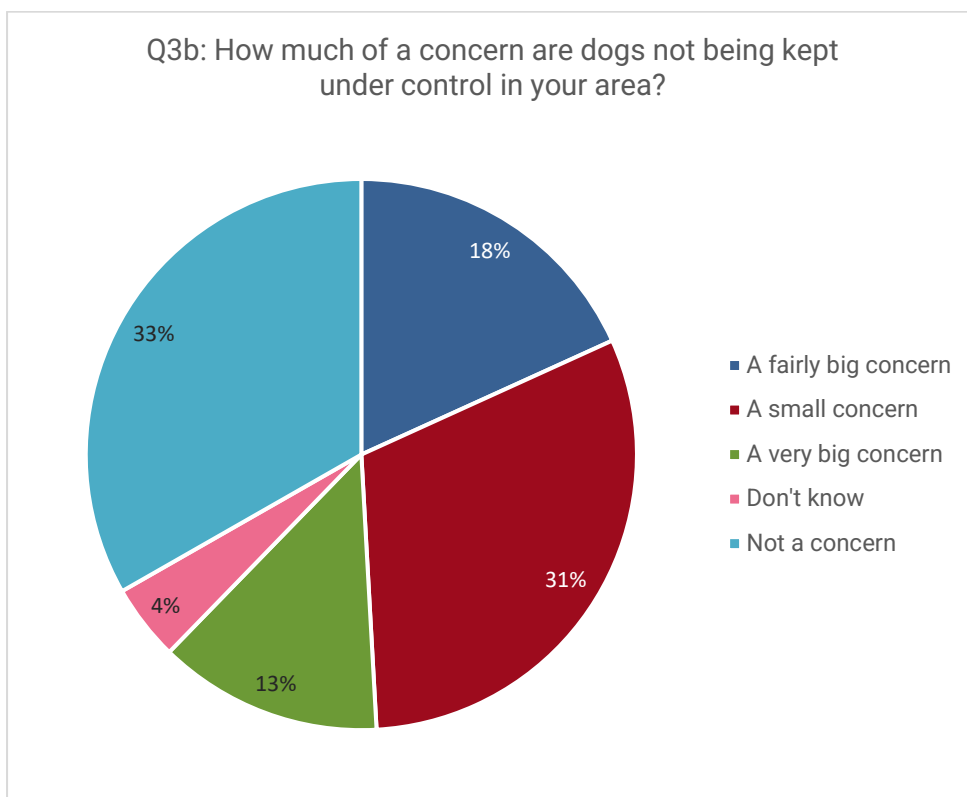
860 responded.

Question 3A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 3?



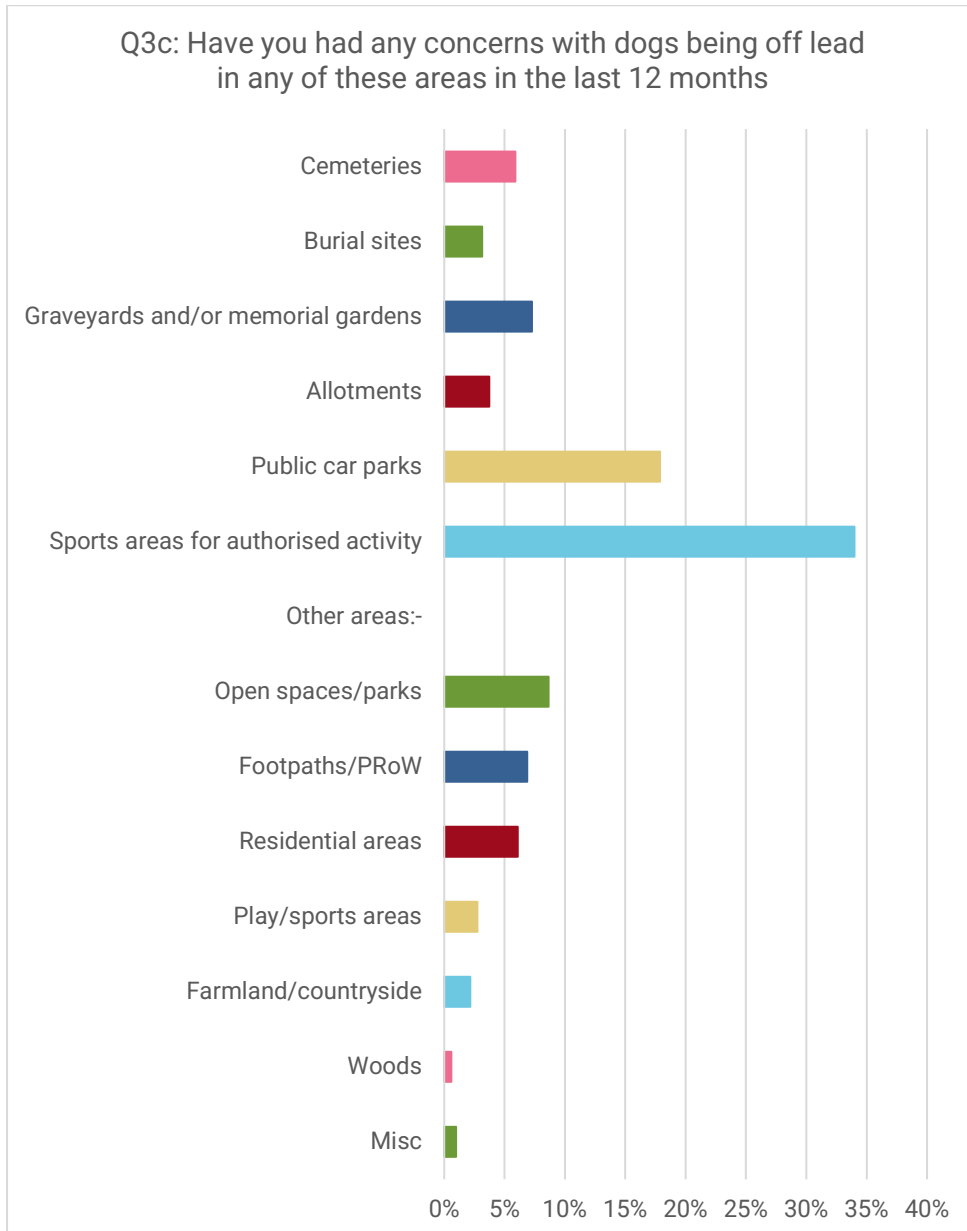
Q3a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 3?	Total	% responses
Strongly agree	450	52%
Agree	266	31%
Disagree	46	5%
Strongly Disagree	37	4%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	60	7%
Don't know	1	0%
Grand Total	860	100%

Question 3B: How much of a concern are dogs not being kept under control in your area?



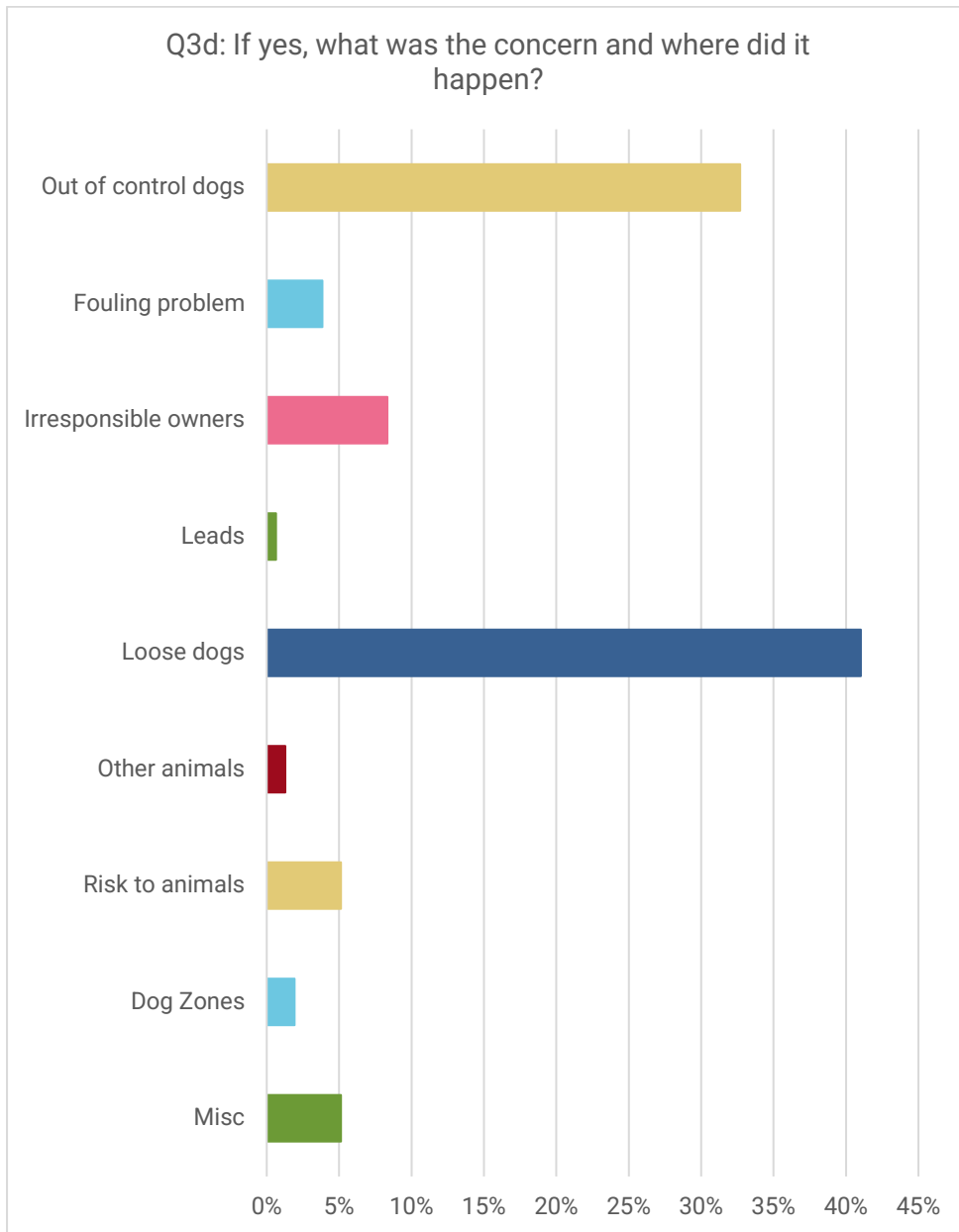
Q3b: How much of a concern are dogs not being kept under control in your area?	Total	% responses
A fairly big concern	155	18%
A small concern	263	31%
A very big concern	112	13%
Don't know	38	4%
Not a concern	283	33%
Grand Total	851	100%

Question 3C: Have you had any concerns with dogs being off lead in any of these areas in the last 12 months, please tick all that apply: Cemeteries; burial sites; graveyards and/or memorial gardens; Allotments; Car parks to which the public have access; Sports grounds, sports fields and/or pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity; Other (please specify).



Q3c: Have you had any concerns with dogs being off lead in any of these areas in the last 12 months	Total	% responses
Misc.	5	1%
Woods	3	1%
Farmland/countryside	11	2%
Play/sports areas	14	3%
Residential areas	31	6%
Footpaths/PRoW	35	7%
Open spaces/parks	44	9%
Other areas:-		
Sports areas for authorised activity	173	34%
Public car parks	91	18%
Allotments	19	4%
Graveyards and/or memorial gardens	37	7%
Burial sites	16	3%
Cemeteries	30	6%
Grand Total	509	100%

Question 3D: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?



Q3d: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen, by type of problem		
No. responded	203	
No. comments	156	% comments
Misc.	8	5%
Dog Zones	3	2%
Risk to animals	8	5%
Other animals	2	1%
Loose dogs	64	41%
Leads	1	1%
Irresponsible owners	13	8%
Fouling problem	6	4%
Out of control dogs	51	33%

Q3d: Named town/village where the dog off lead has caused concern	Total comments	% names
Ashton	1	0.5%
Badby	3	1.4%
Blisworth	1	0.5%
Boddington	1	0.5%
Borough Hill	2	0.9%
Brackley	17	7.7%
Braunston	1	0.5%
Braybrooke	1	0.5%
Brington	1	0.5%
Brixworth	4	1.8%
Bugbrooke	8	3.6%
Byfield	2	0.9%
Chipping Warden	1	0.5%
Cogenhoe	4	1.8%
Creaton	1	0.5%
Crick	6	2.7%
Croughton	2	0.9%
Croughton.	1	0.5%
Crowfields	1	0.5%
Daventry	6	2.7%
Daventry	2	0.9%
Daventry Country Park	1	0.5%
Deanshanger	1	0.5%
East Farndon	1	0.5%
Flore	2	0.9%
Grange Park	1	0.5%

Great Billing	1	0.5%
Great Brington	3	1.4%
Greens Norton	1	0.5%
Kings Sutton	1	0.5%
Little Houghton	1	0.5%
Long Buckby	1	0.5%
Moulton	2	0.9%
Naseby	1	0.5%
Nether Heyford	4	1.8%
Northampton	2	0.9%
Pattishall	2	0.9%
Pitsford	1	0.5%
Road	4	1.8%
Rothersthorpe	2	0.9%
Rugby	1	0.5%
Silverstone	3	1.4%
Thorpe Mandeville	1	0.5%
Towcester	3	1.4%
Towcester	1	0.5%
unnamed	106	47.7%
Weedon Bec	1	0.5%
Welford	2	0.9%
Welford Village	1	0.5%
Welton	1	0.5%
West Hunsbury	1	0.5%
Woodford Halse	2	0.9%
Wootton community centre field	1	0.5%
Grand Total	222	100%

Q3d: Specific location within town/village where the dog off lead has caused concern	Total comments
Ashton	
Fields	1
Badby	
Badby woods	1
unnamed	1
Village Green	1
Blisworth	
Sports areas	1
Boddington	
reservoir	1
Borough Hill	
Car park	1

Spider Park	1
Brackley	
Footpaths	1
Leisure Centre	4
Pavillons Way zip wire park	1
Poppyfields	1
Sports areas	1
St James Park	2
St Peters Churchyard	4
unnamed	3
Braunston	
unnamed	1
Braybrooke	
unnamed	1
Brington	
Great Brington Churchyard	1
Brixworth	
Ashway Playing Field	2
Sports areas	1
unnamed	1
Bugbrooke	
Community centre	2
Five Bells pub	1
Millennium Green	1
Playing fields	1
Sports areas	1
unnamed	2
Byfield	
Cemetery	1
Park	1
Chipping Warden	
Sports areas	1
Cogenhoe	
Playing fields	1
Pocket Park	1
Recreation ground	1
unnamed	1
Creaton	
Playing fields	1
Crick	
Churchyard	1
Footpaths	1
Playing fields	1
School	1

Sports areas	1
St Margaret's Churchyard	1
Croughton	
Play areas	1
unnamed	1
Croughton	
unnamed	1
Crowfields	
unnamed	1
Daventry	
Abbey Fields	1
Country Park	2
Country Park car park	1
Lang Farm	1
Spider Park	1
Daventry	
Browns Road Playing Fields	1
Welton Road	1
Daventry Country Park	
Car park	1
Deanshanger	
Football Club	1
East Farndon	
Churchyard	1
Flore	
Brodie Lodge	1
The Avenue	1
Grange Park	
Country Park	1
Great Billing	
Pocket Park	1
Great Brington	
Churchyard	1
Playing fields	1
St Marys Church	1
Greens Norton	
Playing fields	1
Kings Sutton	
Recreation ground	1
Little Houghton	
unnamed	1
Long Buckby	
Wharf	1
Moulton	

Crow Fields Common	1
Secondary school	1
Naseby	
Village Hall car park.	1
Nether Heyford	
Playing fields	2
Village Green	1
Village Hall car park.	1
Northampton	
Foxfields Country Park	1
Ling Woods nature reserve	1
Pattishall	
Playing fields	2
Pitsford	
unnamed	1
Roads	
Commonwealth Memorial Site	1
Community centre	1
Football Club	1
Pianoforte road	1
Rothersthorpe	
unnamed	2
Rugby	
Onley Park	1
Silverstone	
Playing fields	1
Recreation ground	1
unnamed	1
Thorpe Mandeville	
unnamed	1
Towcester	
Leisure Centre Footpath	1
Racecourse estate play area	1
Watermeadows	1
Towcester	
Watermeadows	1
unnamed	
Allotments	2
Burial Sites	1
Car parks	1
Cemetery	4
Churchyard	3
Fields	3
Footpaths	1

Graveyard	2
High Street	1
Main road	1
Playing fields	5
School	1
Sports areas	12
unnamed	69
Weedon Bec	
Jubilee Fields	1
Welford	
The Wharf	1
unnamed	1
Welford Village	
unnamed	1
Welton	
Middlemore Estate	1
West Hunsbury	
unnamed	1
Woodford Halse	
Paddocks Views	1
SARA fields	1
Wootton community centre field	
unnamed	1
Grand Total	222

Question 3D: Comments received from respondents who agreed or agreed strongly to Proposal 3.

- Jubilee Field. Please exclude dogs for the sake of the young children trying to play sports there
- Do not have specific information - just comments in Parish Plan Review.
- Many times dogs not on leads when doorbell is played and they run on the pitch
- No control
- Welton Road allotment, Daventry. Several owners let their dogs off the lead and, whilst most are well behaved and tend to stay with their owners, not all do. I have seen one chase across someone's plot, presumably having seen a cat, and I have found dog poo on mine. Action should be taken by the Town Council to address this
- My dog was attacked by a dog off lead. Owner still refuses to put her dog on a lead
- Browns road playing fields in daventry.
- Bugbrooke Playing fields, sports fields areas.
- Dogs are routinely walked off leash around village paths. This does not go far enough. Dogs are out of control if they are on extended leashes too. My child ran out into the path of a coach to escape a yapping snarling dog on an extended lead on a main pavement through the village despite me having a firm grasp of

his hand. Two residents that I know of have been bitten and scratched by a small dog on an extended lead that was allowed to walk fully extended on the school route. No dog should be on an extended lead when passing other people. Full stop.

- Dogs running around in Country Park and Borough hill car parks.
- had dog run up to the back of my car and at my dog in the back of my car
- Running free and jumping ing up, scratching and getting us muddy, one owner screamed at me to stop running or it would be my fault if her dog bit my ankles, this was in Hazeborough South woods, Silverstone.
- Deanshanger football club
- Dogs off lead rushing about and jumping up on people, chasing children balls and being a nuisance to on lead dogs
- Roade football club are usually the victims of dog fouling and offlead dogs.. the community centre field in Roade also has a particular problem with dog mess. Offlead dogs in the common wealth memorial site has been noted before along with fouling too
- Not a major concern but I have seen dogs off leads in burial sites
- SRA playing fields
- sports ground .. dogs have no business being on, near, or walked on a sports pitch, or ground. eg village cricket/football pitches, town centre sports/recreation grounds. such area ought to be a complete no go [unless dog is a service dog]
- See previous
Previous comment: Roade recreation ground. A family playing in the park with a dog.
- An "alsatian type" dog came running up to my wife and jumped up several times. The owner was nowhere to be seen and then came running and said the dog was only playing! This was a frightening experience for my wife and I. This was on the footpath by Towcester Leisure Centre and the Grafton Way.
- Owners refusing to put dogs on leads and their dogs running close to my family an jumping up at them. Dogs running Into the road as not on leads.
- Dogs off lead in the church yard. I am not sure people realise their dog should be on a lead in these areas.
- Around Lang Farm - also in the country park. i no longer use the country park due to the irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to run ahead of them, they are then unaware of the dog messing.
- Great Billing pocket park
Dogs off lead running and snapping at me
- Rugby pitches- owners seem to think its okay to let dogs poo on rugby pitches
- See previous one Brackley cricket ground.
Previous comment: I think it's a brilliant idea. There are too many people who don't have control of their dogs and no-one should be hurt or have to run away from a dog, especially children.
- In Great Brington churchyard there was a man with a dog off the lead and the dog was pooing but the man appeared reluctant to be clearing it up.
I have also attended a funeral at the church and there was dog mess in the grass close to where I was standing after the service.
- Dogs causing distress to children and adults when not under control.

Leads should mean a short lead as some of the long retractable leads cause as much trouble as dogs not being on a lead at all

- As per previous comment, the football fields on St David's playing fields, Brixworth, we have seen dogs running onto the pitches when children are playing. Even as a dog owner I believe dogs should be kept on leads during such times.
- Dogs loose and not under control on 'spider park', headlands estate, Daventry.
- Dog not in lead being boisterous and no recall. Taking nips out of my dog and frightening it.
- Only last week The Avenue Flore I had my dog on a lead & a man suddenly appeared with his dog off a lead who then ran up to my dog barking. We have had several incidents with a very large nasty dog that the owner continues to let walk off the lead around Flore. On Brodie lodge playinf fields quite a few big dogs are let off the lead & are not nice dogs to other dogs
- Only last week The Avenue Flore I had my dog on a lead & a man suddenly appeared with his dog off a lead who then ran up to my dog barking. We have had several incidents with a very large nasty dog that the owner continues to let walk off the lead around Flore. On Brodie lodge playinf fields quite a few big dogs are let off the lead & are not nice dogs to other dogs
- Loose dogs running behind cars/around moving cars at Daventry country park car park.
- St Margaret's church graveyard in crick. Loose dogs and fouling on graves
- I walk in Welton every day and most days I see a dog not on a lead. I stopped walking around the Middlemore estate as there are so many dogs not on leads. They are pretty uncontrollable and I worry for my dogs safety. I think all dogs should be on leads in all outdoor areas.
- Large aggressive dogs often off lead Abbey fields and Country park
- Welford village
- Crick sports field
- Nearly everywhere you go in any county
- I always have my dog on a lead
- Sick of other owners have their dog run at us barking and out of control
- This is a combination of good manners (cemeteries) and general safety (car parks and sports fields)
- No control of dogs, running and jumping at third parties
- Brackley Recreation Leisure Centre playing fields
- Continuously harassed by poorly controlled dogs.
- West hunsbury
- Off lead dogs running up to on lead dogs
- I only ticked one box in 3c above address we don't have unfenced areas like these in Rothersthorpe.
- Dogs off leads scaring my kids. See previous section
- I am particularly concerned about extending leads which I think are most dangerous.
- Rothersthorpe
- Croughton, as outlined in previous comments regarding children's play areas
- As previous question - dogs allowed to roam freely, or who are not controlled by their owners for recall
- Dogs bounding up to one on Hillmorton Lane.

- st. peters cemetery in Brackley, there are dogs off the lead regularly.
- On Poppyfields road
- Dogs running on the pitch and jumping up at players and the ball at Brackley leisure centre pitch
- Brackley leisure centre pitches, dog off lead running and jumping up children whilst trying to football train. Created lots of scared children
- Bugbrooke village
- Often on playing fields there are many dog walkers where children are also playing.

Obviously there is the problem that even if most of the dog poo is picked up, some gets left where children play.

Also I feel there is always a concern that there is always the risk of a dangerous or frightened dog, going for members of the public.

As previously said. I believe there should be separate dog walking areas, to keep both safe.

- Naseby Village Hall car park.
- can't remember specifics
- I refer to my above response. A better understanding is need of what "under control" means.

- Church cemetery and village allotments - dogs loose
- Wootton community centre field.

An off lead dog ran up to my on lead dog. The owner couldnt call it away and the dogs ended up fighting

- Dogs running wild on the village sports grounds and grave yard areas
- I refer back to my answer in the previous section.

I strongly believe all dogs should be on lead unless they are in a secure, enclosed purpose built area.

I do not take my dog out for walks as every time I have we have had unleashed dogs run up to us. My dog loves meeting new people and animals but it MUST be done in a controlled area with appropriate

Not all dogs are friendly and by not socialising leads to more serious behavioral problems

- Grange park country park
- Dogs often off lead in the sports ground behind the village hall.
- I have continuing concerns about all of those locations. Some, I don;t use, but my concerns remainIt
- Near schools while children walk home. Moulton secondary school pound Lane
- Welford
- Ashway Playing Field, Brixworth - during children's football matches.
- Sporting activities Chipping Warden Sports field.
- Young Children present
- Lings Wood Nature Reserve and football pitch opposite
- The racecourse estate play area.
- Large dogs running up and scaring small children
- Brackley Leisure Centre car park - owners tend to let their dogs off the lead on their approach to the fields at the rear.

Zip Wire Park (referred to earlier in my answers to this survey) where an aggressive dog off its lead caused distress and injury to another party.

- Hackleton recreation grounds
- Difficult to police but dogs jumping up and not under control. Being on leads would minimise this
- Dog running up to my dog and my children scaring them
- A dog off lead on the playing fields in Greens Norton last month
- I do not like the fact then dog owners do not control their dogs when off the lead. I have had many occasions when dogs come running towards you and the owners command to return to them is ignored by the dog.
- There is an increasing level of concern with dogs off leads because of media reports of dog attacks. Many minority groups also have concerns so may feel excluded from using certain areas if dogs are routinely allowed off leads.
- dog running around loose in public areas
- I'll be walking along with toddlers and people dogs start running around the children, or they see you from the other side of the park and run across to you.
- Dogs jumping up at children, Brixworth and Pitsford
- indiscriminate leaving of dog waste across the village
- A dog walker had approximately eight dogs off their leads in Cogenhoe Pocket Park. When it was pointed out that it is a wildlife area and the dogs should all be on leads, as signed at both entrances, she said 'go [expletive] yourself' and carried on as before
- Foxfields Country Park
- A gentleman walking his dogs across Silverstone Recreation Association had them off the lead and was unable to call them off the pitches where the children were warming up. The dogs did not bother the children but were on the pitch and did not come when he called them
- Byfield , park and cemetery
- St Peters Church graveyard brackley, loose dog running up to people in violation of signs stating dogs should be kept on a lead in the area this included the dog relieving itself amongst the graves
- Disturbing ground nesting birds. This is a frequent occurrence in the Braybrooke /Arthingworth area.
- On the high street there are a couple of shop/bar owners who regularly have their dogs outside on the pavement with no leads attached. It's a big problem for dog owners walking past with their dogs on leads.
There are quite a few people who never seem to use leads - some dogs are extremely well trained and do stay with their owners but other dogs will approach if they are able. I have an extremely nervous dog who gets very stressed if an unrestrained dog approaches him.
- Saw an off lead dog in Croughton on Monday 6th March
- Owners not being responsible for their dog off lead allowing it to approach other dogs or adults
- I am scared of dogs, i can't walk on any footpaths in the fields around the village, on the footpaths by the canal. Also have to have someone with me when out walking as many owners do not use leads around the village
- They ignore signs asking them to keep them on leads around our playing fields. Would just be best if they were not allowed.
- Bugbrooke, NN7.
Dogs running wild jumping at people and cars.

Around the community centre is a big concern.

- The Wharf stretch. Having to climb into the hedgerow to avoid large dog and scoop out small visitor's dog out of harm's way.
- Most responsible owners keep their dogs on leads within the village boundaries. The Millennium Green in Bugbrooke has signs requesting that dogs be kept on leads within the park. This is largely ignored.
This is ok for many placid dogs but some dogs are unpredictable not all are friendly. In my experience aggressive dogs have aggressive owners.
- Dogs are supposed to be on leads in churchyard and shouldn't be allowed on or off a lead where sporting activities take place
- Sports pitches at Bugbrooke
- Parks and paths in Brackley
- Exercising dogs by throwing a ball or using a ball in a sling means the dog is so focussing chasing the ball at speed small children or elderly people can be knocked down by accident
- Local fields where people do not put their dogs on leads when another dog is present
- On the walk to school, my daughter specially gets upset at dogs off their leads and running free when walking along the path that crosses the playing fields off The Ashway, Brixworth.
- My own dog does not like to be approached by other dogs. I have had to stop walking in the public fields as too often there are dogs running free who will bound up to us, which makes it a very unenjoyable experience for us both
- Pattishall playing fields .
Some locals ignore the no dogs / dogs on lead sign and let there's off to run around!
- Cogenhoe Village Hall playing fields
- As mentioned before the dog escaping from the five bells pub
- I was walking through Bugbrooke in a field with a min on several occasions and a dog as come running up to us and the owner didn't even attempt to put the dog on the lead
- It has happened on the main public footpath between Crick and Yelvertoft. I have been approached and jumped on by dogs who were off the lead and not under the control of their owners.
- Routinely finding dog mess in those areas but if they were on a lead, possibly the owners would see, more easily, when they needed to clear up their dog's mess.
- Nether Heyford playing fields and Village Hall car park
- Dogs not under control.
My own dogs attacked.
Myself assaulted by owner.
- see previous answer
Previous comment: On a public right of way. A dog was out of control and a local residents was pushed over and injured.
- I've had countless dogs coming onto my front garden because the owners aren't controlling their dogs on the lead, I've had plant pots knocked over and dogs urinating in my garden too. This isn't nice especially when I have 2 young children who like to go out and tidy up and sort the flowers out, I've had to stop them doing it as dogs keep urinating there.

- As previously mentioned, dogs in Nether Heyford Playing Fields (mostly) brought by supporters of visiting teams
- Sheep have been killed
- There is a public Right of way over our village playing field with notices asking people to keep the lead on their dogs- we must have either a lot of illiterate dog owners or blind residents that thinks is excludes them, I have challenged many . Not every child/ adult like dogs and this is just not understood sadly by the vast majority of dog owners. It's not a big ask !!
- Dogs not under control of owner on SARA fields, Woodford Halse
- Dogs roaming freely and growling at passers by or allotment holders. Some what off putting
- Dogs off the lead chasing deer in Badby Woods
- Croughton.
- They rush at you and knock you over and sometimes bite. Young children wouldn't stand a chance and the owners clearly demonstrate their lack of control over their animal.
- Dogs off boats can be aggressive towards dogs walking by boat. Neighbours dog was attacked while out walking and needed treatment.
- Nether Heyford village green
- Boddington reservoir people with 4 or 5 dogs letting them off there leads to run amok with no control.
- blisworth, football field
- Public footpath runs adjacent to cemetery was in cemetery and viewed dog walker with two dogs loose running from Public footpath into cemetery and around the graves both stopped to have a wee , the owner never made any attempt to stop them coming in the cemetery or call them back just carried on walking and didn't give a dam 😞
- It must be taken into consideration that it's not always dogs but can be wildlife and domestic cats
- One person would take their dog(s) out daily and allow it to roam freely and even prop open the church gates to allow the dog to return home through the graveyard if they lose sight of it.
Another person will stand at the entrance of a PRow and usher their dogs into the field, allowing them to chase/catch any wildlife, poo anywhere and then whistle of dogs back.
Many dog owners believe it is ok to let their dogs off the lead as soon as they reach a PRow, this has resulted in sheep worrying.
- See last Q. Areas used by horses and cyclists should be incl. dogs should be kept under control. Put your dog on a lead if you meet a horse or cyclist
- Fields in Ashton where owners don't think it's an issue if there dog is off the lead and interfere with other dogs on leads.
- Resident with 6-7 dogs (greyhounds, mastiff etc) in Onley Park. Lets them run around loose and has no control of them. She is elderly and the dogs run a long distance so no way she can tell if they have fouled.
They have already attacked an alsation severely. They kill squirrels and the owner has confirmed they will kill cats.
Such dogs should be muzzled and kept on leads at all times.
- Cogenhoe recreation ground

- When another dog or person is heading towards you please put your dog on a lead. It's respectful and responsible.
My dog was attacked by another dog. No matter how good you think your dog is NO dog can be trusted. What if I had my grandson with me the dog could go for the child.
- Dogs running after balls on football pitches.
- Off lead dogs bombarding my on lead dog, off lead dogs hassling my young nieces & nephew when having a picnic, both at St James Lake, Brackley.
Off lead dogs in St Peters Church Yard bombarding my on lead dog.
- We have a dog ourselves and we are training. We would never let our dog off its lead. People with other dogs do not know how they will react with other animals or people they have not met, therefore should be kept at a safe distance and on a lead
- My daughter was chased by a very big dog which was not on lead. Clearly the dog was not in control of the owner as it would not listen to their commands to come back. Luckily I managed to somehow keep the dog away from my daughter but that has now made her too scared of any dogs.
- Many times
- Dog running up to me in aggressive manner and barking.
- Open fields and bridleways
- It's constant in crick. In the church yard passing the nursery and junior school. On public pathways and playing fields.
- Occasionally in our cemetery
- I frequently see dogs in sports fields; some irresponsible people seem to think that any area of grass is a suitable place for a dog toilet. As the dog is off the lead, the owner is definitely not interested in cleaning up behind them.
- Churchyard Great Brington
- Anecdotal evidence on village Facebook page of dogs being left off leads attacking other dogs. Fairly regular occurrence.
- I regularly see dogs being walked off lead around the village, and in the surrounding fields when livestock are in them - signs are up in the village to keep dogs on leads whilst there are livestock in the fields but unfortunately not many people take any notice and ruin it for those of us that are responsible and keep our dogs on leads
- Nn7 cogenhoe
- Running up to my dog. He doesn't always want to interact with them. He has been attacked in the past.
- Within Badby village
- Dog being walked on pavement off lead
Uncontrolled dog on sports field annoying a more timid dog being walked on a lead
- Unprovoked dog attack - White Alsatian off lead in public area. Attacked a Labrador for no reason. Owner had every poor command. When finally got onto leash the dog went for the other dog again and the owner let go of lead leaving the owner between two dogs. The aggressive dogs owner said she was trying to train the dog but the person who's dog was attacked said the other person should not attempt to train an aggressive and disobedient dog off the lead in public.
Brackley.

- Everywhere we take our dogs for a walk even though they're on leads at all times our dogs are very nervous when other dogs comes and approaches us
- We have had issues with dog fouling in our cemetery
- Please see response to question 2.
Dogs off leash and out of control/no recall is almost a daily occurrence.
- Dog fouling
- Creaton playing field
- Long Buckby Wharf, large dogs aggressively approaching, not on leads. Leads
- It happens almost every day
- Bugbrooke community centre sports fields.
- Dogs jumping at children and adults who are walking/ exercising around st James lake Brackley due to being off the leads and not under control
- Crow Fields Common (see earlier comments)
- Livestock are vunerable to chasing/worrying by dogs causing serious injury and deaths or miscarriages. This happens along the public R of Ws in the parish
- Dogs off the lead near a main road
- Dog attacking my dog who was on a lead and there's wasnt
- Dog attacking my dog
- People allow their dogs off lead on King's Sutton village Rec and also green.
- Owners who can't control their dogs but still insist on letting them off the lead
- Allotments
- Several don't have their dogs on a leash which could lead to a car accident if they run out When you speak to people about this they say oh they would run in the road but I've seen them run over to another dog.
Dogs should be on a lead in all areas even in fields. We keeps ours on a lead because he would run off but the amount of loose dogs come up friendly then aggressive ones who want to fight.
This is only my opinion but dogs should be on a lead all times everywhere not just re recreational areas.
- Towcester watermeadows. There is one [person] with an evil [breed] who never has it under control and doesnt care what it does
- Everywhere
- Family dogs being brought up to the school at school pickup time
- Dogs attacking and intimidating others without proper control
- Running around the pitch and its edges during play.
- dogs should be on a lead at all times in a public place. if you want them to be off lead, make sure it is a secure field, somewhere which cannot result in the dog lunging at me or my dog.
- Unprovoked dog attack - White Alsatian off lead in public area. Attacked a Labrador for no reason. Owner had every poor command. When finally got onto leash the dog went for the other dog again and the owner let go of lead leaving the owner between two dogs. The aggressive dogs owner said she was trying to train the dog but the person who's dog was attacked said the other person should not attempt to train an aggressive and disobedient dog off the lead in public.
Brackley.

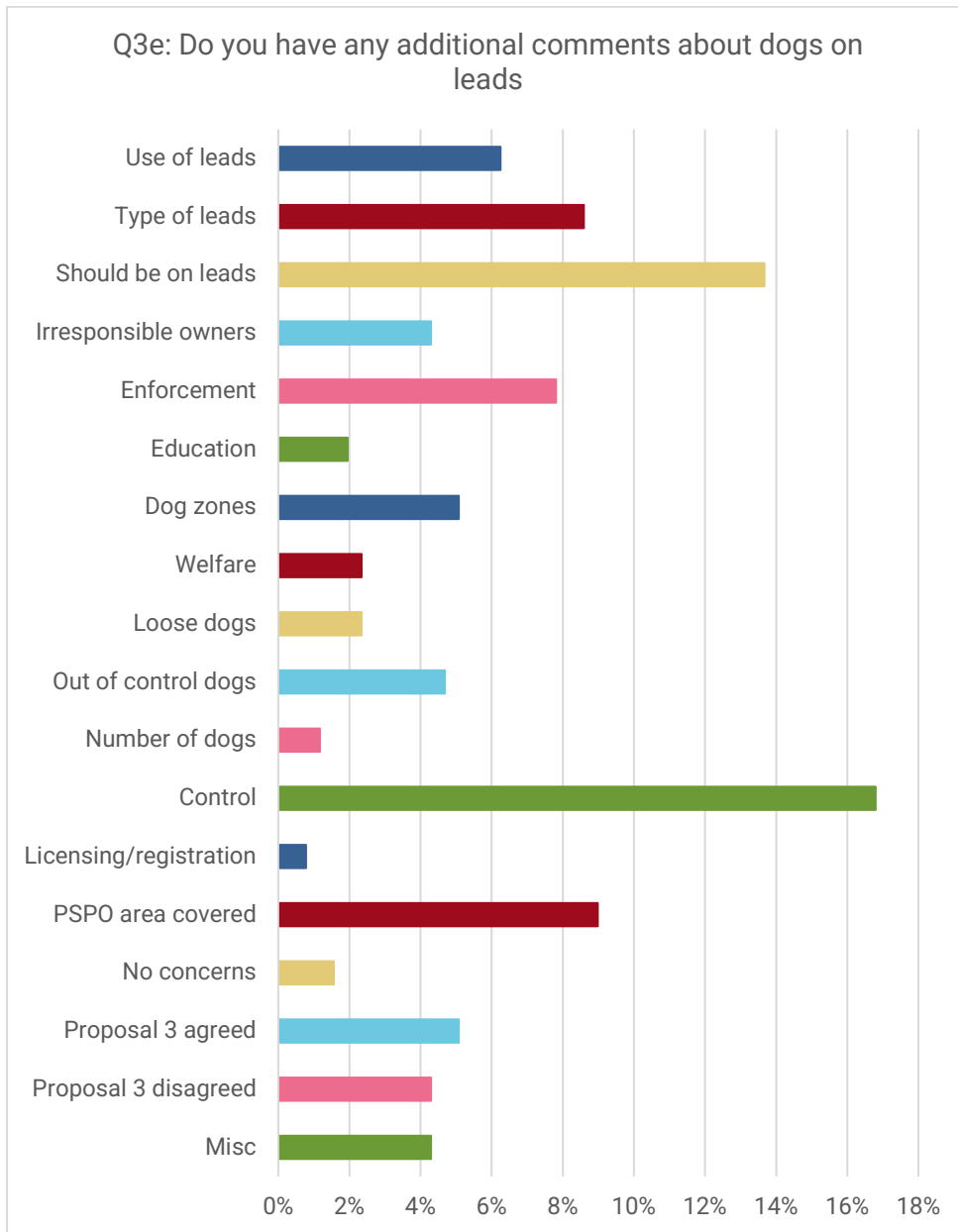
Question 3D: Comments received from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with Proposal 3.

- Borough Hill, spider park
- Many owners exercise their dogs off the lead on the sports field in Silverstone. This should be allowed provided
 - 1 the owners pick up any dog fouling
 - 2 the dogs are kept on leads if the sports field pitches are in use, organised trading or matches.
 - 3 the dog is under control and is not a problem to other dogs or park users.
- Dogs attacking my dog causing her to need medical treatment
- While football matches are on, dogs running onto the pitch
- All the above in Braunston
Previous comment: Dogs being taken into school grounds
- Park near St. Peters Church Brackley

Question 3D: Comments received from respondents who neither agree nor disagree to Proposal 3 or who did not answer.

- great brington playing field
car park at east side of st marys church great brington
- Paddocks View in Woodford Halse
- Watermeadows towcester reported to council and police dogs savaged mine. Theirs off lead mine on lead. Oh we'll put it on an anti social report. Bit late if it was a rottweiler savaging a child. Irrespective of your measures you cant police these people letting unmanageable dogs off lead we just stay out the way
- Crowfields Moulton. Uncontrolled dogs can be very intimidating.
- Having uncontrolled loose dogs approaching both people and other dogs that are on leads (for a variety of reasons such as a young, nervous or reactive dog, a working Assistance Dog or if recovering from an operation/injury) can be dangerous for both dogs and humans involved.
- All over Brackley there are several poorly controlled dogs. Valley Road and Octavian Way through to Old Town are particularly bad.
- Pianoforte rd
- East Farndon church yard
- sheep killed
Chasing of other livestock
Killing deer.
Attacking sheep
- Little Houghton
- Badby village green

Question 3E: Do you have any additional comments about dogs on leads.



Q3e: Do you have any additional comments about dogs on leads		
No. responded	214	
No. comments	256	% Comments
Misc.	11	4%
Proposal 3 disagreed	11	4%
Proposal 3 agreed	13	5%
No concerns	4	2%
PSPO area covered	23	9%
Licensing/registration	2	1%
Control	43	17%
Number of dogs	3	1%
Out of control dogs	12	5%
Loose dogs	6	2%
Welfare	6	2%
Dog zones	13	5%
Education	5	2%
Enforcement	20	8%
Irresponsible owners	11	4%
Should be on leads	35	14%
Type of leads	22	9%
Use of leads	16	6%

Question 3E: Additional comments from respondents who agree or strongly agree to Proposal 3.

- Dogs should be on leads in places where children play and on roads.
- All dogs should be under control in public areas!!
- Owners should keep their dogs under control at all times, not all dogs are friendly to other dogs and nothing worse if you have your dog on a lead and another comes running over uncontrolled, when you know your dog will snap because it's scared of other dogs
- The length of those extendable leads needs to be restricted?
- see my previous comments on unruly dogs.
Previous comment: some dog owners think its okay for their untrained off lead dogs to run over to children & others dog on lead. more education is needed for dog owners to understand that this type of unruly behaviour can be distressing for other people, children and dogs. it's the type of people who shout out "it's okay he's friendly" instead of training them or keeping them on the lead.
- Walking around the Country Park in Daventry... Dog owners just don't appreciate how scared some people can be if they encounter an animal off a lead, no matter how 'friendly' it's meant to be. They should be kept on leads in the Park to allow everyone to enjoy their walk.

- Extended leads should not be used when walking on pavements, in busy areas or where there are other people within the range of the leashed dog.
- Daventry Country Park has dogs regularly walked off lead.
- Dogs should be on lead everywhere unless they do not pester other people and dog walkers and only let off lead in enclosed field.
- Off lead dogs in sporting areas cause stress and worry to on lead dogs and smaller children. A consistent rule all dog owners can follow to keep on lead would solve this
- I thought that dogs already had to be on leads in public spaces. This is something I would support.
- Whilst I accept that dogs need to have freedom to be off the lead, owners need to be aware that not everyone likes dogs and should take control of them if they see nearby people are scared.
- I would not want to see these regulations expanded. Some dogs, especially very old ones, walk better and behave better when not on a lead. Dogs are often more likely to be awkward with other dogs when they are on their leads.
- There are many enclosed dog walking fields now. They disturb wildlife in the woods.
- Having a dog doesn't give you a right to have your dog off the lead. So many dogs are left to run around in parks with no apparent control over them and no recall
- Working dogs at work or I training are allowed to be on or near a road off the lead.
- Flexi leads should not be permitted in common areas and near roads
- If a dog isn't adequately trained they shouldn't be offlead. Many reactive dogs in the area and owners have no control over calling their dogs back.
- all dogs MUST be on leads whenever the owner takes them out, away from their home.
Only to be let off the lead in registered dog friendly areas,
Country parks are horrendous to walk round when you have dog owners who let their animals off the lead, and then fail to have any control over them as it approaches another walker, often snarling or barking at them.
There's nothing worse than hearing the owner shouting the dogs name like a shrieking harridan, [which the dog ignores] .. and then being told ... " he/she doesn;t bite" ... [if thats the case then why's the dog got teeth! lol]
- I think all dogs should be kept on leads in public places both for the safety of the public and other dogs. You can always purchase extending leads so they can have a run around. I am a firm supporter of fenced in dog exercise areas which you could hire for half hour and one hour periods.
- How would this be enforced?
- Again it isn't enforced.
- This is responsible dog ownership. It doesn't cause concern.
- Education by signage regarding dogs on leads may help in certain areas.
- People do not take any notice of the signs when told to keep dogs on leads - especially at Pitsford Reservoir or where there could be sheep/livestock
- As far as I was aware dogs should be under control at all times. Given how often they aren't when not on a lead then I think it's entirely reasonable that they have to be as then it makes it much easier to avoid them, at least in large open spaces.

- The issue is that the dog should be under control. Dogs on extendable leads cannot be controlled. A dog on an extendable lead may be up to 8 metres away from its owner. The requirement to use fixed leads of no more than 1.5 metres would be much more effective.
- Dogs should be on leads in public places. But you need dog wardens to police it. Don't reduce access, control the law breakers. Don't penalise the conforming majority
- It should be made law that if you have a dog it should be kept on the lead in all public areas, in fact I thought it was the law? The dog should not be allowed on a public playing field to be off the lead, it is not only dangerous to children but to other dogs that are on leads
- I have seen issues with dog owners being aggressive to other owners when asked politely to have the dog under control because their dog was wary of the dog off the lead. Possibly assuming the other owner was accusing but was actually trying to keep their dog safe and away from their worried and potentially aggressive dog.
- It is important that playing fields can be used for dog exercise off leash when not being used for sport.
- Dogs should always be in a lead in any public space. I have two dogs myself and they are always on a lead outside of the garden.
- Dogs should always be on a lead in public areas
- It would be more useful to request that dogs are 'under control' than 'on a lead'. The vast majority of dogs will freely mooch off lead whilst staying close to (and under the control of) their owners, and would never stray into a sports pitch during a match or training session. This is the behaviour of a normal dog. Also, playing fields can be very large areas with only a small percentage of the grass taken up with a sports pitch. To limit dogs to walking on leads in this situation is an unnecessarily heavy handed approach. Lastly, many dogs need exercise which is more vigorous than a walk on a lead at the pace of their owner. Many owners provide this by playing games such as 'fetch'. It is impossible for a dog to chase a thrown toy whilst on a lead. For many dog owners, their local recreation ground is where this activity needs to happen because there is no other publicly accessible outdoor space. A dog chasing and fetching toys will be 100% under the control of their owner at the same time as off lead.
- These do not go far enough, dogs should also be on leads outside schools
- Yes it should be made mandatory that all dogs should be kept on leads in areas where all people walk regardless whether they have a dog or not
- The general rule of thumb is that if you are walking towards someone and one of you has a dog on a lead then common sense should prevail that there might be a reason for this ie a reactive dog and the other person should put theirs on a lead. Too often if you have a reactive dog people don't understand.
- Should not only be on leads but with responsible handler, not children under a certain age-- not sure of suggested age, I would think over 10 years old
- Make a by law that ALL DOGS should be on their lead in public spaces.
- I believe dogs should be on leads when on a path / pavement, again from a safety perspective. Regardless of how much under control the dog is.

- A loose dog coming bouncing towards me is worrying as I have brittle bones and am nervous of being knocked over. And I don't like getting mud from their paws on my clothes.
- It's normally dog owners who need the training...
- Even dogs on leads can be a nuisance especially if the dog is large and strong and the owner is not up hanging onto the lead.
- If dogs are not on leads and are not well controlled this can be distressing some people. Unfortunately it cannot be relied upon for all owners to have control over their dogs. So the safest option is for all dogs to be on a lead.
- All dogs should be kept on a lead, there are secure purpose built fields where they can run off leash. I have a nervous rescue dog and find walking her frustrating as people will not leash their dogs that have zero recall, a number of times I've had small dogs squaring up to mine, sbapping, barking getting in her face. Fortunately she has not reacted but it spoils our walks and her training when we encounter these people.
- Should be implemented to a wider area
- Leads should be non-retractable, long lines should be encouraged when dogs are being exercised
- Extending leads should only be used for training not generally walking a dog in public
- Being an owner of small dogs I only walk them on the lead for their and my safety as there are so many large not very well trained dogs around these days that people let run around the park unsupervised whilst they have their eyes down looking at their mobile phone not paying attention to the dog so they don't know where it is or where it fouls. I do get concerned when any of these dogs run at my small dogs
- People who take a dog, should be well educated about walking dogs on/off the lead.
Off lead walking (where it is safe) encourages natural behaviour. People should properly train on recall. Rather than expect well trained/behaved dogs to walk on lead, preventing natural behaviour. And instilling fear aggressive behaviour.
- All dogs should be on leads in these areas including assistance dogs.
- Just that in our village during the winter months some dog owners allow their dog to go out unaccompanied which increases the incidents of dog fouling. This also puts children at risk if they approach the dog. Also these dogs could be stolen or cause a road accident.
- Most dogs off a lead in Roade are very well behaved and trained so aren't a problem.
- Dogs should be on leads near roads, residential areas or private land
- Dogs in public places should be on leads.
- Dog owners don't seem to understand that for a small child a dog running at it is scary, even if the owner says "it won't hurt". Dogs must be kept on a lead around schools and area where children play.
- Should be kept on leads at all times
- I have a very anxious dog and those who let their dogs come up to mine off lead are not helping to keep him calm. Also, people don't keep.sogs kn leads in farm areas where animals can be upset

- I think dogs should be on leads on public pathways as people seem incapable of controlling dogs and stopping them from jumping up
- The leads should be short. Dogs on long leads can be threatening and tangle with pedestrians and cyclists.
- Dogs should be on leads at all times except when in designated areas
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. wootton rec. This will push those who don't want to cleanup ro wootton Ban extending leads on cycle paths; mandate short leads
- Restrict the number of dogs a person can exercise certainly. Restrict to being on a lead in burial grounds and cemeteries and definitely car parks but not sports fields. The majority of walkers are responsible in these areas. Enforce the current legislation effectively.
- This is a nice idea in theory but again you will fall flat for enforcement as there is no dog warden.
- no best keep them on leads but it's sad sometimes when you see owners not allowing the dog freedom when the lead is kept to short
- This is how it should be, other than recognised "off-lead" areas.
- No concerns as haven't seen this. The only time I see dogs of leads are in woodland, countryside, nature reserves etc.
- They should be fixed leads, no more than a metre long. Extendable leads are a great hazard, and afford very little degree of control.
- It would be nice if our village cemetery allowed dogs on leads. It doesn't. We have a friend buried there and likely to have more in the future. It's on one of our dog walking routes and it would be nice to be able to pop it and remember him and not have to go at a separate time without our dog.
- All responsible dog owners already follow this. As usual its the few that spoil if for others. Obviously there will be some mistakes i.e. the dog slipping it's lead but there needs to be an understanding that mistakes can happen.
- Again any responsible dog owner would do this anyway. maybe a better idea would be a national register of those people who own a dog and breed etc to help identify dogs out of control. it could then be an offence to not have a dog registered to better keep track of those flouting the rules - someone could then report them online and once they have more than, say 3 entries a visit is made to the owner.
- Dogs that are not in control should always be kept on leads in public spaces/ footpaths.
- Whilst on pavements around the town, dogs should always be kept on a lead. Again, my thoughts would be to create a completely separate zone for dogs and their owners to allow their pets off-lead. This way, another owner can observe if there is a dog already on-site who they would rather not be with at the same time which is much better than having another dog chase up to you, barking, as you turn a corner or enter a public open space.
- again a number of complaints are received about this matter and it is important to have adequate legal controls in place to deal with these issues
- Even when dogs are expected on leads, it isn't enforced so people ignore it.
- These areas seem to be places where dogs are expected to be on lead anyway.

- Does WNC own all areas where sporting activities are played? This should be extended to any area where organised sport is taking place whether WNC owned or not.
- All dogs, no matter how well trained, should be kept on a lead in any public place is my opinion.
- Dogs should always be on leads if they are on a pavement next to open roads.
- Dogs should be kept on a lead in the named areas regardless of how well an owner believes their dog to be. I am a dog owner and I always have adequate control over my dog in such areas with the town
- Dogs are already supposed to be kept on leads in the various country parks but this is not enforced. There is no point putting these things in place unless you are going to enforce them.
- People often walk large and unruly dogs , in our streets off their leads.
- This should apply to all playing fields not just those owned by WNC as otherwise there is no recourse in law against irresponsible dog owners
- We need a balanced approach. If a order to keep all dogs on lead is given to any public space there will be many dogs developing severe issues. Most people these days do not have large enough gardens to exercise dogs adequately.
- There is no reason a dog should be off a lead in a public space. It will be too late when a dog injures a child, action must be taken with irresponsible dog owners.
- Dogs should be on leads in all these spaces abc it should be put in law with associate fines and punishments for breaking the law
- Dog owners think that because they love their dogs we all love them and therefore do not consider they may make some children/people nervous and feel threatened.
- I believe if you are walking a dog off the lead as soon as you see someone walking towards you you should recall your dog and put it on the lead even if they think their dog is friendly
- Areas where dogs can be exercised off the lead should be designated so that people who are frightened by dogs can avoid these areas.
- Whilst I agree dogs should be on leads in open 'playing' spaces, can we please make sure that common sense is used. Many times dog walkers are the only ones using mylti purpose play areas. Dogs enjoy chasing balls and running. If no one else is using the multi purpose play areas then let people and dogs enjoy life.
- Seems like good manners anyway, so wouldn't expect resistance to this measure.
- Please make it mandatory
- Whether fixed or extending leads, if extending leads whether the "stop" is on or off. Max length of fixed leads.
- Dogs shouldn't be allowed to be on retractable leads, owners say that it is harsh to pull them away from someone's garden, but if their dog was walking towards a car or the road then you can bet they pull them away from that but can't seem to pull them away from private property.
- I think no one likes think their dog, pet part of the family will ever doing any thing wrong, but it's not the point.
I think the only way to get this across is a very fast response should reports be made. No second chances just swift action
- Responsible dog owners will keep their dogs on leads where appropriate.
However, the general public need to be educated as to how to approach a dog.

Too frequently, small dogs attract the attention of children and they are unaware that a dog is not a toy but a living animal. The [name] will offer support to councils re dogs and handling and the general public.

- The current legal requirement to keep dogs on leads on footpaths adjacent to roads seems to be ignored by quite a few owners.
- Don't know why you have to implement this when the law states dogs need to be kept on a lead.
- People with aggressive dogs should keep them on a lead at all times but not expect people with well behaved, well trained dogs to do so
- One of my dogs is not good with other dogs. Whilst I support people having their dogs off the lead, they must be able to exert control and recall them. Too often a dog owner will fail to do so with a comment of "oh it's alright he/she likes other dogs" - well my dog does not. In one incident an owner got very upset when their dogs nose got nipped.
- i think dogs should always be on leads
- Protects everyone. Dogs safe, children safe,
- Clearly, dog mess in a cemetery or burial ground can be particularly upsetting and I have no issue at all with the need for dog owners to prevent it happening. It should be remembered however that cats also enter cemeteries and burial grounds, as do badgers and foxes, and their faeces are equally - arguably, more - unpleasant. There is no suggestion, as I understand it, of preventing access by cats, badgers or foxes - nor would it be practicable. We should try and maintain a sense of perspective here.
- numerous dogs being walked on linked up leads needs to have a maximum set - how do you pick up mess with 5 dogs all joined together! Professional dog walkers are the worst offenders
- One [person] walks up my street daily With two dogs on very extended long leads when one dog Stops to go to the toilet She always pays attention to the other dog So she pretends she doesn't see what the one going to the toilet is doing , how do you educate idiots like that ?
- Unfortunately to build-up recall training with a dog, you eventually have to start letting the dog off-lead. This would be safer if there were enclosed dog field open to the public.
This would reduce the number of dog owners taking their dogs to other locations, ie, sporting grounds similar to the one behind the village hall in Roade.
- Dogs should always be on a lead when walking on footpaths or crossing someone else's land.
Exercising dogs should be permitted in public parks, away from the designated play areas, if the owner has full control of the dog.
- No. Agree with all of those.
- Leads, including extending leads longer than 1.5 metres are not helpful in keeping dogs properly under control.
- There are a lot of public spaces that are multi use. Clearly marked areas need to be established where dogs must be in a lead. A dog that is not well exercised can become an unhappy dog. Where I agree control is required making sure there are spaces for dogs and their humans to interact as families is important.
- All dogs should be kept on leads at all times if their owner cannot recall them. I have a disability and get knocked over by dogs coming up to me, or my dog.

I've already had 2 dogs attacked and attacks are constantly on Facebook. More needs to be done.

Lady recently had her hand bitten by an alsation whilst walking down the street. Man attacked badly by an Akita - hospital for 4 days and nearly lost his hand. Such breed s should be muzzled and on leads at all times.

Many other such incidents too.

- Promote the yellow lead scheme
- It is our view that dogs should only be kept on leads in cars parks associated to the above public areas. Some public areas are car parks designed for dog walkers so to include all car parks would be over zealous in our opinion.
- It should be mandatory for dogs to be kept on leads at all times and only be let of in very specific designated areas. People should not have to go out in fear of dogs, however harmless they may be. They should also not have to watch their step due to dog fouling.
- Many people just don't care and let them off the lead
- Some dogs are on extendable leads and if owner allows the lead to extend to far it becomes a hazard on the pavement as owner and dog take up the whole pavement and the lead becomes a trip hazard.
- So much depends on the dog. A well trained spaniel is not the same as a big aggressive breed.
- If the council wants all these dogs on leads then they need to have classes to teach people how to walk dogs on leads . Also the coloured coding for nervous , dogs aggressive dogs , etc
- Long leads are not control leads! Dogs need to be kept close at heel.
- Dogs should always be on leads in a sports field, or it means that before the field can be used for sport, someone needs to examine the entire space and clean up.
- I believe dogs should always be on a lead whilst in public areas. I've experienced a dog jumping up at me whilst out walking and the owner having no control to get it off of me.
- I do not see why allotments are included in this and I would've thought the allotments committee could make that own rules if they needed to
- After experiencing my own dog being attacked by a dog that was off lead (my dog was on a lead) and the huge negative effect that it has had on my Son (he is now scared of dogs, apart from ours), I believe that it should be a blanket rule that all dogs should be on leads. Whenever I have asked other dog owners if they can put their dog on a lead as my dog is very nervous, I have been verbally abused! There are far too many incidents happening now with dogs attacking, mainly due to owners not being responsible. Maybe have a general rule of 'on lead but have some designated park areas as 'off lead'.
- No but this is sounding very anti-dog!
- Responsible ownership, other dogs may be anxious or children anxious so on leads is best.
- If you can't control them stick them on leads. Also on behalf of fellow livestock farmers we are frustrated when people deliberately let dogs off the leads to hunt animals
- A responsible owner would not have any problems with keeping their dog on a lead, I have dogs that do not need to be on a lead, but am happy to use a lead in areas that require it

- Dogs do need to be exercised so if there are limits on where they can go, then there should be provision for safe places where they can be exercised. You cannot totally restrict their freedom to exhibit normal behaviour.
- Should be made enforceable
- Why can't people have dogs I leads in sports fields? As long as they clean up.
- Dogs do not always behave as well as their owners believe. Dog bites are a problem.
- The use of extending leads means that the owners often have no control over their pets and the tangle around your feet , causing a trip hazard. There should be a limit in how many dogs an individual can walk at any time, I have witnessed as many as six dogs being walked by one person.
- Just in general, keep your dog on a lead! We're not talking about beaches and wide open expanses of land here.
- get rid of extending leads!
- I think dogs on roadways/ pavements should always be on a lead as the risk of an incident which could involve traffic is greater posing greater risk of serious injury to dogs and humans.
- Dogs should be kept on leads in any areas that are not designated for dogs without leads including fields.
- All dogs should be on leads when around the public
- Locally the issue has been dogs escaping from their home gardens and found in the street. These are isolated incidents and quickly resolved.
- Don't assume just because your dog is friendly, others are some are very nervous of other dogs be responsible and respectful
- Don't think we need legislation just common sense. These things are law anyway aren't they?
Money would be better spent on drug issues in village and asb
- Make it a law.
- No problem with this at all. My biggest concerns if not being able to let my dogs off a lead in a public field as our garden is t sufficient for them to exercise so they need the space to run. I always fo so when there are no others in the field and when i see someone i always call my dogs back and out them on a lead as i appreciate not everyone is confident around dogs. My dogs are also never allowed to be out of site. I apply the same rules to my dogs as i do with my drone, must always remain within distance and in sight. My dogs know this and wait at gateways and hedge rows too
- I think dogs should always be on lead when near roads
- Most owners need training in how to control a dog on a lead (eg use of harness rather than collar), to which the overwhelming majority of dogs respond well.
- No dog warden?
- All dogs should be on a lead at all times
- Dogs should be kept on leads in all public places, whether a playground or a footpath through a field
- Dog ownership should be through a licence which demands owners pass a test proving they are capable of owning a dog and also classes should be compulsory to prove they have appropriate dog handling skills.
- Dogs should be on leads and muzzled at all times in public spaces, unless in designated dog walking areas

- In the past we have had one of our dogs attacked ours have always been on a lead the other wasn't this caused our dog to react in anxiety and her behaviour changed as a result of it.
- More signs to keep dog on lead.
- There are two types of leads: fixed length and extending leads. I believe that the extending leads rely on owners to keep control because its easier for them to move away from their dogs. This means it can appear the dog is elsewhere when doing their mess in the corners and not being pulled off places they shouldn't mess that more difficult to remove (eg a grass verge rather than a pavement)
- Again it is important as a dog owner to allow your dog the correct off lead exercise and the local burcote country park and Watermeadows is the perfect place to do this. However if other dog owners know their dogs are no so friendly them they need to take full ownership and keep/put them back on the lead when approaching others.

Question 3E: Additional comments from respondents who disagree or strongly disagree to Proposal 3.

- Sometimes keeping a dog on a lead is not feasible, we should trust owners to do the right thing on this particular issue.
- All dogs should be on leads unless trained or in training
- I agree other than in relation to allotments where the dogs off lead rule should not be implemented.
- Dogs can be fine off lead if they are trained, public enclosed spaces should be provided for this purpose
- Dogs need to be under control that does not mean always on a lead. We should not go down the route of limiting the length of leads except on the public highway.
- what a load of rubbish this clause is: Allowing dogs to enter cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens and allotments whilst on a lead, means owners could keep their dogs with them to ensure their dog is not stressed by separation and it may also reduce risk of theft of the dog if it would otherwise be left unattended.
It is quite clear that these new regulations are not for the benefit of responsible dog owners. Ban children from cemeteries, they are often worse behaved than dogs!
- If there is no organised sport being played at the time - which is 90% of the time - then why are dogs not allowed to run?
- Public areas should be for all,
- If a dog is trained then there is no reason to have them on a lead at all times
- As before - I dont know how this would be effectively policed.
- Again do not be unreasonable. Sometimes the dog leaps down from the car before you can get the lead on. Training essential I know but they can be so keen for their walk that it takes a few moments to get things under control and the car locked.
- Dogs not on leads that I see are well controlled and trained

- The concerns I've had are about out of control dogs. They can be out of control whilst on a lead and still jump up chase cyclists frighten toddlers and approach other dogs both on and off lead. This should be about the behaviour of dog owners not that of dogs.
A well trained dog is not a threat on our allotments for example or on the footpath crossing the graveyard.
A brief period of raised supervision with CCTV and heavy fines might work wonders.
What I do think though is we need zero tolerance of dogs off lead anywhere near stock. I.e sheep cows horses. Even if the dog itself is well behaved the creatures are stupid and may stampede injuring themselves. Dog owners don't always understand this
- It's not necessarily appropriate to have dogs adjacent to football pitches which should be designated as militia sports areas
- I walk my dogs on lead and let them off in surrounding field areas, my husband walks with them off lead as they are well trained and have good recall so I do not agree with the above as a general rule, obviously if a game is being played then dogs should be on lead but if theres no game then ultimately it is a grassed area so surely a dog could be walked off lead if accompanied with a responsible owner ? I would think this would go with the other areas you have mentioned.
- Dogs should be banned from public places.
- Dogs can be trained to be responsible off lead and where dogs are able to be off lead owners should have discretion
- Again, these are very biased and leading questions. Would the council also like to impose how we think for ourselves in the future too!
- Yet again. Irresponsible owners cause issues as they will not pick up after a dog whether it's on a lead or not. irresponsible owners ignore rules now and any new knee coming in. As per usual the majority of people suffer due to the actions of a minority
- The situation is more nuanced than the proposal states. Would the whole playing field be affected if a football match was going on in one area? It wouldn't be possible to hold a dog on lead while working on an allotment but is that an issue if it's under control?
- All dogs should be on a lead unless in a sign posted dogs lead free area.
With the rule dogs must have had extensive recall training.
Even in a dog park
- People need to be educated. Not stopped! My parents love taking their little dog up the allotment, she potters around and is loved by all!
- Dogs should be under control of their owner. Not all dogs require leads.
- Dog owners should be in control of their dog. I regularly walk a dog around a football pitch when in use. The dog is off the lead but has never walked onto the pitch.
- In brackley I feel as though most people have their dogs under control if they have them off a lead?
- No, most dog owners are sensible and respectful of other people. This is in my view unnecessary.

- This should be self policed as dog owners generally keep their dogs under control in these areas and as per my previous answer, we cannot bear the financial burden of creating more unnecessary legislation
- Please focus on a dog being under control rather than insisting on it being on a lead. Many dogs can be perfectly well controlled without a lead.
- There are a lot of inexperienced dog owners since Covid. Leading to more issues of poor control of dogs in public places. This will settle in time.
I believe that now is the wrong time for this questionnaire.
- Dogs should always be on leads when out with their owners
- I do not believe this should be a rule, this should be the owners responsibility. If the owners dog is trained and under control then there is no reason for it to be on a lead, if it is out of control and a concern to other users then it should be on a lead.
- To say that dogs must be on the leads massively restricts the exercise dog owners can provide for their dog. This is an unnecessary restriction. As long as the dog has good recall there is no issue.
- Who wrote the questions, deliberately misleading and closed?
This appears to be an opportunity to drive division along a particular agendas line
- I wouldn't like to keep my dog on a lead on my allotment. That's just ridiculous.
- Dogs should not be allowed into sports grounds even on a lead irrespective of whether a game is taking place. A fouled playing space is not acceptable
- Would argue that just because a dog is on the lead does not mean it is under control (i.e. extending leads) and vice versa (some dogs are better behaved off the lead).
- Using your own figures the vast majority of dog owners are responsible the danger is you inhibit the good owners and let the minority, I would suggest this whole exercise is pointless because a bad dog owner is going to take no notice!

Question 3E: Additional comments received from respondents who neither agree nor disagree to Proposal 3 or did not answer.

- Question 3c should have had the option of I have had no concerns, to avoid bias.
- Dogs need safe spaces for exercise.
This could be an area that the council explores.
There are examples of such things in Rutland, next to the reservoir.
It's a forested space that is secure and dedicated for owners and their dogs.
To restrict every area from allowing dogs to free run would be a mistake.
- Dogs need to be free whenever reasonable
- Get responsible and train your dog. Councils stop managing us like children and looking for a revenue generating opportunity it's boring
- [name] accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.
[name] would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.

The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.

[name] enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).

We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

- I don't think requiring dogs on leads on sports grounds and playing fields which pitches are located which are used occasionally will work as it will create tension between dog owners and sports teams by exclusion. The better way would be simply to expect dogs to be on leads when adjacent to the playing pitches and excluded from pitches when in use. This requires owners to have dogs under control and on the lead without need for exclusion from the wider spaces.
- I don't think requiring dogs on leads on sports grounds and playing fields which pitches are located which are used occasionally will work as it will create tension between dog owners and sports teams by exclusion. The better way would be simply to expect dogs to be on leads when adjacent to the playing pitches and excluded from pitches when in use. This requires owners to have dogs under control and on the lead without need for exclusion from the wider spaces.
- Dogs walked on very long leads are not controlled and when their owners are also on their phones the dog will wander in to the road, onto private property, and often foul with out the owners noticing
- More micro-management. Let people sort this stuff out themselves.
- Not everyone can adequately exercise a dog on a lead - individuals with mobility impairments often have to exercise their dogs (which are often, but not exclusively, also trained Assistance Dogs) off-lead to ensure they get enough exercise. One reason this often takes place at large parks containing sports pitches is they these are generally very accessible, with disabled parking and firm pathways for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.
However, these dogs are generally well trained with good recall and as such, unlikely to be randomly charging on to a pitch and disrupting a game or its spectators.
- Some dogs are well behaved and can be close controlled without a lead. Who is going to make sure that the irresponsible owners are adhering to this requirement? It would be better to advise rather than mandate in my opinion.
- People who allow their dogs to cause a nuisance are unlikely to change their behaviour and follow your new rules.
- Most dog owners already observe good behaviour and have wide circles of dog owning acquaintances
- Beginning to shake my head at what o believe is a becoming a nanny state
- I have had no concerns regarding this, it all seems like common sense of where to have your dog/s controlled or not. Only single dog households letting their

dogs run into my multi-dog house hold. Where I have 8 dogs under control they do not have their 1 dog controlled.

Again don't punish the sensible by the minority of idiots which generally only have one dogs.

- Well trained dogs do not need to be on leads. Untrained dogs and puppies do
- Most people adhere to this as a matter of courtesy, there are few that have dogs off lead at such times and if they do it is because they have good control over their dog
- It's not an issue locally.
- This questionnaire is designed to get the answers that you want. It is poorly designed. It does not allow a contra view to the proposals or allows us to comment against the proposal.

Of course, one would agree that dog on a lead in some circumstances, however by linking these all in one you do not allow the participants the ability to agree with some issues and disagree with others.

My impression this questionnaire is designed in a way to get a foregone conclusion and therefore is not a democratic process.

- Dogs should also be on leads on sports pitches when they aren't being used. There is frequently dog poo which has to be picked up before a match. It's not always possible to pick up every trace of poo
- Don't see this proposal as necessary- find it intrusive and unnecessary. Less rules and restrictions telling everyone what to do all the time.
- This question covers too many areas some I agree with other not so much
- Subjective - depends on the dog and owner. Some dogs behave perfectly off a lead, others are a menace regardless of on/off lead.

Comments from Organisations received for Proposal 3 – Dogs on leads.

Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.

- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.
- Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).
- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As

none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

The Kennel Club

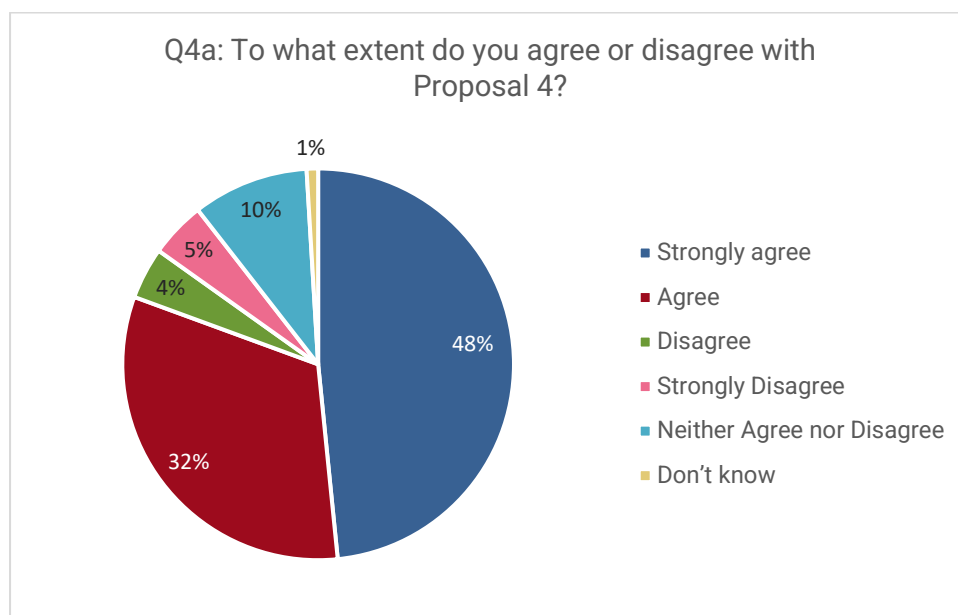
We can support reasonable 'dogs on lead' Orders which can, when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way, include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic. However, we will oppose PSPOs which introduce blanket restrictions on dog walkers accessing public open spaces without specific and reasonable justification. Dog owners are required to provide their dogs with appropriate daily exercise, including "regular opportunities to walk and run", which in most cases will be off lead while still under control. Their ability to meet this requirement is greatly affected by the amount of publicly accessible parks and other public places such as beaches and promenades in their area where dogs can exercise without restrictions. This section of the Animal Welfare Act was included in the statutory guidance produced for local authorities by the Home Office on the use of PSPOs. Accordingly, the underlying principle we seek to see applied is that dog controls should be the least restrictive to achieve a given defined and measurable outcome; this is the approach used by Natural England. In many cases, a seasonal or time of day restriction will be effective and the least restrictive approach, rather than a blanket year-round restriction. For instance, a "dogs on lead" order for a picnic area is unlikely to be necessary in mid-winter. The Government provided clear instructions to local authorities that they must provide restriction free sites for dog walkers to exercise their dogs. This message was contained in the guidance document for DCOs, and has been retained in both the Defra/Welsh Government and Home Office PSPO guidance documents, with the Defra guidance for PSPOs stating 'local authorities should ensure there are suitable alternatives for dogs to be exercised without restrictions.

Proposal 4. Dogs on lead by direction. Persons in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer.

66% of people responded to this question with 80% strongly agreeing or agreeing that persons in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer. Although 65% of respondents have not had concerns about owners not putting dogs on leads in the past 12 months. Of the remaining 35%, those that did have concerns were relating to poor dog control issues 39%, loose dogs 21% and irresponsible owners 21%. There were an additional 181 comments about the proposal to put dogs on leads when asked, 50% of these were relating to enforcement.

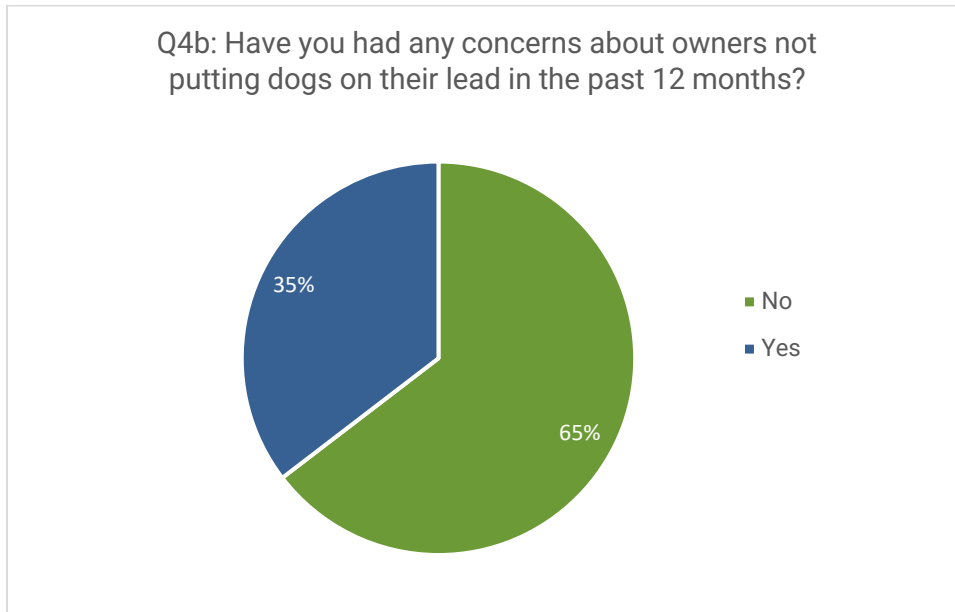
845 responded.

Question 4A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 4?



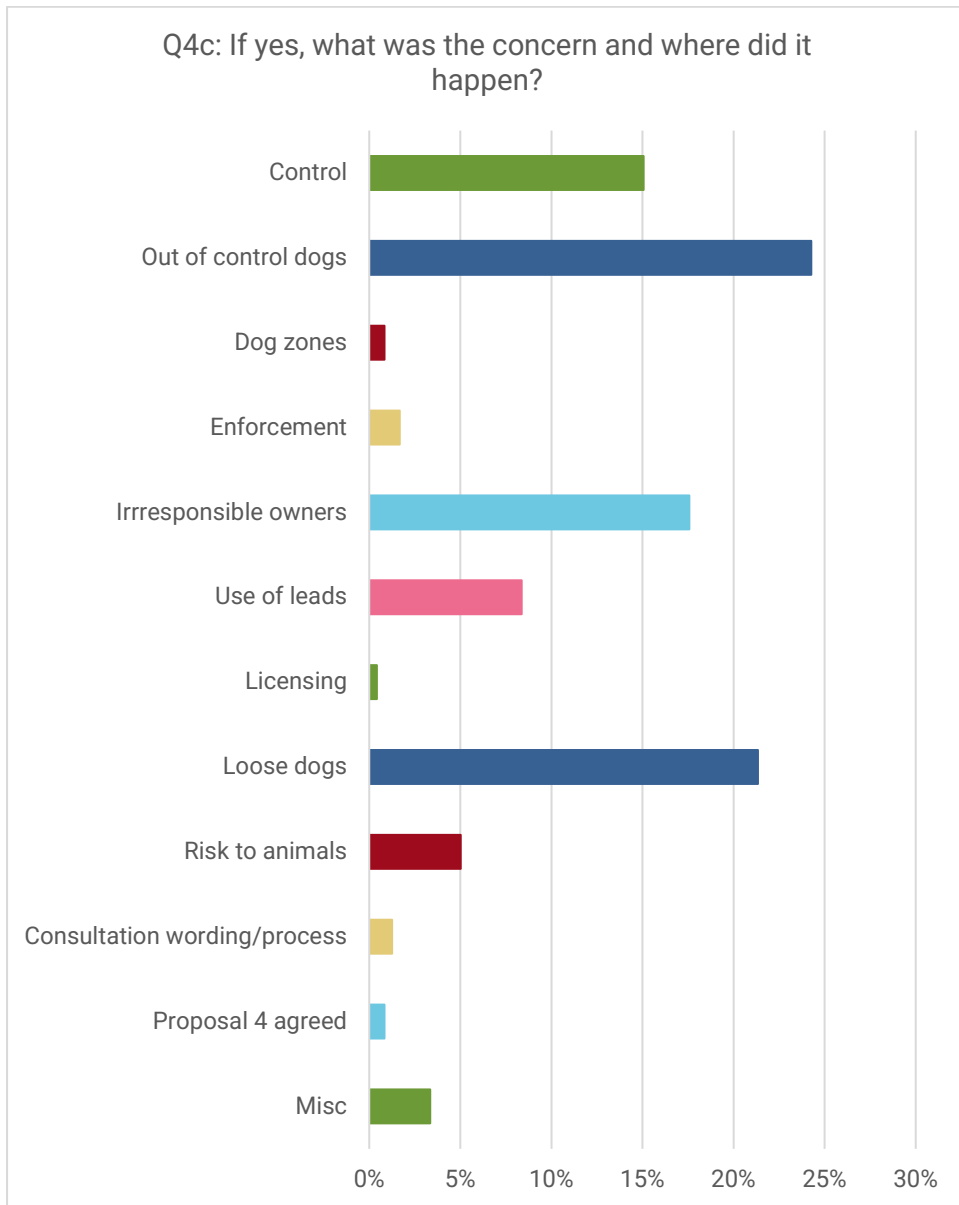
Q4a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 4?	Total	% Responses
Strongly agree	409	48%
Agree	272	32%
Disagree	36	4%
Strongly Disagree	39	5%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	81	10%
Don't know	8	1%
Grand Total	845	100%

Question 4B: Have you had any concerns about owners not putting dogs on their lead in the past 12 months?



Q4b: Have you had any concerns about owners not putting dogs on their lead in the past 12 months?	Total	% Responses
No	511	65%
Yes	280	35%
Grand Total	791	100%

Question 4C: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?



Q4c: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?		
No. Responders	246	
No. Comments	239	% Comments
Misc.	8	3%
Proposal 4 agreed	2	1%
Consultation wording/process	3	1%
Risk to animals	12	5%
Loose dogs	51	21%
Licensing	1	0%
Use of leads	20	8%
Irrresponsible owners	42	18%

Enforcement	4	2%
Dog zones	2	1%
Out of control dogs	58	24%
Control	36	15%

Q4c: Town/village where a concern has been identified about owners not putting dogs on leads	Total comments	% Names
Alderton	1	0.4%
Ashton	1	0.4%
Badby	1	0.4%
Billing	1	0.4%
Blisworth	1	0.4%
Brackley	22	7.8%
Brampton	1	0.4%
Brampton Valley	1	0.4%
Braunston	2	0.7%
Brington	1	0.4%
Brixworth	13	4.6%
Bugbrooke	4	1.4%
Chacombe	1	0.4%
Chipping Warden	1	0.4%
Cogenhoe	1	0.4%
Creaton	1	0.4%
Crick	4	1.4%
Croughton	1	0.4%
Daventry	16	5.7%
Duston	1	0.4%
Earls Barton	1	0.4%
East Hunsbury	2	0.7%
Evenley	1	0.4%
Eydon	2	0.7%
Flore	1	0.4%
Grange Park	2	0.7%
Harlestone	2	0.7%
Kings Sutton	1	0.4%
Little Houghton	1	0.4%
Middleton Cheney	1	0.4%
Moulton	2	0.7%
Nether Heyford	1	0.4%
Northampton	7	2.5%
Piddington	2	0.7%
Pitsford	5	1.8%

Roade	2	0.7%
South Northants	1	0.4%
Sywell	1	0.4%
Thorpe Mandeville	1	0.4%
Tiffield	1	0.4%
Towcester	6	2.1%
Unnamed	157	55.7%
Weedon	1	0.4%
Welford	2	0.7%
West Hunsbury	2	0.7%
Woodford Halse	1	0.4%
Wootton	1	0.4%
Grand Total	282	100%

Q4c: Specific location within village/town where a concern has been identified about owners not putting dogs on leads	Total comments
Alderton	
Spring Lane	1
Ashton	
fields	1
Badby	
Woods	1
Billing	
Lings nature reserve	1
Blisworth	
Unnamed	1
Brackley	
Footpaths	1
Martial Daire Boulevard	2
Old Town	1
Open areas	1
Pavillons Way zip wire park	1
Playing fields	1
Poppyfields Way	1
Scout field	1
St James Park	9
St peters	1
St Peters Churchyard	1
Turweston underpass	1
Unnamed	1
Brampton	
Valley Way	1

Brampton Valley	
Country park	1
Braunston	
Scouts building	1
Unnamed	1
Brington	
Great Brington footpath	1
Brixworth	
Country park	5
Merry Tom Lane	2
Spratton Road	1
St David's playing fields	3
The Ashway	2
Bugbrooke	
Footpaths	1
Playing fields	1
Unnamed	2
Chacombe	
Unnamed	1
Chipping Warden	
Banbury Road	1
Cogenhoe	
Pocket park	1
Creaton	
Playing fields	1
Crick	
Millennium Woods	1
Private property	1
Sports area	1
Unnamed	1
Croughton	
Unnamed	1
Daventry	
Borough Hill	2
Country park	8
Daneholme Park	1
Lang Farm	1
Mayfield	1
Middlemore	1
Old rail line	1
Unnamed	1
Duston	
Timken	1
Earls Barton	

Recreation ground	1
East Hunsbury	
Park	2
Evenley	
Footpaths	1
Eydon	
Cemetery	1
Unnamed	1
Flore	
Unnamed	1
Grange Park	
Foxfields	2
Harlestone	
Firs	2
Kings Sutton	
Unnamed	1
Little Houghton	
Village green	1
Middleton Cheney	
Banbury Lane	1
Moulton	
Crowfields	1
Private property	1
Nether Heyford	
Village green	1
Northampton	
Abington park	2
Bradlaugh Fields	2
Upton park	1
Washlands	2
Piddington	
fields	2
Pitsford	
Reservoir	4
Unnamed	1
Road	
Knock Lane	1
Unnamed	1
South Northants	
Unnamed	1
Sywell	
Country park	1
Thorpe Mandeville	
Private property	1

Tiffield	
Pocket park	1
Towcester	
Footpath Leisure centre	1
Leisure centre	1
Meadow Lane	1
Racecourse estate playground	1
Unnamed	1
Watermeadows	1
Unnamed	
Allotments	1
Church	1
Country park	4
Farmland	2
fields	1
Footpaths	14
Jetty Fields	1
Open areas	1
Parks	2
Play area	1
Playing fields	2
Private property	1
Recreation ground	2
Sports area	1
Streets	2
Towpath	3
Unnamed	118
Weedon	
Croft Way	1
Welford	
School	1
Unnamed	1
West Hunsbury	
Bridleway	1
Park	1
Woodford Halse	
Play area	1
Wootton	
Recreation ground	1
Grand Total	282

Question 4C: Comments from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 4 and had concerns about owners not putting dogs on their leads in the past 12 months.

- Report from farmer - dogs on his land - sheep worrying - dog owner abusive.
- As above
Previous comments: All dogs should be under control in public areas!!
- Uncontrolled dog off lead at country park running over to my dog, on lead, who is scared of other dogs, and the owner of uncontrolled dog not having recall to get their dogs away
- All dog owners assume that everyone likes dogs
- My dog is anxious and untrained dogs come over and cause distress. Having powers to force leads under circumstances is good
- Daventry Country Park. Exuberant dogs not on a lead can be very intimidating and have deterred me from walking around the Park. A shame because I thought it was an amenity that everyone should be able to enjoy.
- As mentioned previously I have encountered many dogs off leads in Daventry Country Park. They run up to my dog who is on his lead and make a nuisance of themselves. When the owner finally catches up with their dog they say its alright he/she is friendly, but my dog was bitten by another dog off lead when he was a puppy and gets very distressed when approached by other particularly larger dogs.
- Great brington footpath to althorp back gates. Dangerous dog is frequently uncontrolled and off lead (daily occurrence)
- As mentioned earlier
Previous comment: Uncontrollable dogs on permissive footpath around field opposite petrol station, Middleton Cheney.
- Al around daventry. Danholm park, old rail line. Country park. Lots of dogs not under control running around.
- As detailed before
Previous comment: Extended leads should not be used when walking on pavements, in busy areas or where there are other people within the range of the leashed dog.
- As above
Previous comment: Daventry Country Park has dogs regularly walked off lead.
- If you see a dog and owner coming towards you on lead it's polite to do the same with your dog
- Borough Hill.
- Numerous times have had off lead dogs run at my dog with no control from the owners. Have been abused and attacked when have requested for a dog to be leashed.
- Many places where it is either not permitted or the the dog is not properly trained or under sufficient control.
- A dog jumped on my son and bite food out of his hand. Another dog in same area jumped on my son from behind. He is 4!
- Dogs not under any control and them saying their friendly which my dogs which are always on lead do not like as one of mine reacts when a dog runs at them.

- Bradlaugh Fields regularly has dogs not on leads and owners not able to control them properly
- Occasionally I have had dogs run across a field at full speed to attack my dog. This is rare. I think it is appropriate for dogs to ask for a dog to put on a lead at times, but this must not become a right to demand this by the public. There are a few people who hate dogs and who would abuse this.
- I was shouted at to stop running to prevent someones dog biting me, they could not call it back.
- My dog has poor eyesight and gets frightened by unwanted attention. Dogs, off leads have been know to approach and when asked to recall their dog, the response is usually 'don't worry, they're friendly'
- Towcester watermeadow and the pocket park area
- Previous comment: An "alsatian type" dog came running up to my wife and jumped up several times. The owner was nowhere to be seen and then came running and said the dog was only playing! This was a frightening experience for my wife and I. This was on the footpath by Towcester Leisure Centre and the Grafton Way.
- Owners refusing as their dog is good despite jumping up onto strangers.
- On a public footpath in the area of the Church, dogs not on a lead came bounding up to us when we were walking.
- Dog owners are allowing their dogs to be loose and running around
- Dogs chasing after me when running. Owners have no control.
- see previous
Previous comments: Rugby pitches- owners seem to think its okay to let dogs poo on rugby pitches
- See previous ones.
Previous comment: As far as I was aware dogs should be under control at all times. Given how often they aren't when not on a lead then I think it's entirely reasonable that they have to be as then it makes it much easier to avoid them, at least in large open spaces.
- St James Lake Brackley.
Small children playing with excitable dogs running free.
- As previously mentioned
Previous comment: In various parks and open spaces and around St James Lake (Brackley) peoples dogs have attacked other dogs and bitten people.
- Dogs not under control in public places
- St David's playing fields Brixworth.
Merry Tom lane Brixworth
Brixworth country park.
Dogs being allowed to be off leads despite their owners either not having control or not taking any notice. I have been jumped up at on several occasions and my dog (while on lead) has been attacked.
- As mentioned previously there are dog owners that do not have dogs on leads and the dog is aggressive or out of control.
- Dogs running about without recall and running around my dog frightening it. They just say it's ok my dog is friendly. That's great for them but my dog is on a lead, can't escape them and gets frightened. When frightened it might bite.
- on pavements and public footpaths across fields

- Flore Village
- So many incidents over the past year to mention! They rush up to my dog and the owner is unaware! I have had 2 Rottweiler dogs surround me, which is frightening.
- There are some owners, and I have seen a number of incidents, who do not have their dog under control. This can lead to dogs putting themselves and others at risk.
- The large dog is always off the lead when out with it's owner. I am always wary that it could come after my dogs or more to the point children.
- Large sometimes aggressive dogs approach my 2 dogs causing distress even if they're friendly
- Owner with a young, friendly large standard poodle cross was quite boisterous wanted to greet my dog. My dog gets quite intimidated by large dogs sometimes and didn't appreciate it. There was no drama as such because my dog is tolerant and friendly. The large poodle cross was wearing a collar that said 'friendly' - this was true but the owner did not have control of the dog and it's recall was poor.
- A young Alsatian was off lead and frightened our dog. The Alsatian was not aggressive simply over boisterous. However the owner was not in control. This happened on a footpath in Braunston near the Scout's building.
- My dog on lead dog off lead running up to my dog
- I have a nervous dog kept on his lead all the time. I have encountered many dogs off lead who don't have control of their dogs
- My dog is anxious and has high prey drive so kept on a lead. Some owners do not have good recall of their dog and will not put their dog on a lead when they see another dog on a lead. This means I cannot walk along canal towpaths. Also some boaters allow their dogs to be loose on the towpath.
- Footpath near sheep
- Outside welford school
- See previous comment
Previous comment: Get responsible and train your dog. Councils stop managing us like children and looking for a revenue generating opportunity its boring
- In the fields / public footpaths around the countryside.
Not putting dogs back on a lead to walk past. We always put our dog back on her lead as we don't know how other dogs may react and we know other humans might not want a dog saying hello. It's respectful.
Other dog owners say "it's fine they're friendly" but actually ours doesn't like other dogs in her face, friendly or not!
- A good few times. On the land behind the Towcester Leisure Center and the Meadow land in Towcester.
- Daventry country park, Brampton Valley, Stwell Country Park (Northampton) ,
- It's just common courtesy in case on if you has a reactive dog if you see someone with a dog on a leadX you put it on!
- I have a very gentle but nervous German Shepherd Dog, a rescue. When dogs off lead run at her she is not aggressive but wants to use fear and flight. However polite I try to be I mainly get verbal abuse and ridicule if I ask, please put your dog on a lead, that I am overreacting and should allow my dog to socialise. I have had dogs for 60 years, all breeds and all gender, worked to high level agility and obedience. This is a new phenomenon and most distressing.

- Foxfields Grange Park again
Wootton rec/football pitch
Pitsford reservoir, even when I'm fishing!
- Chacombe around the village in general
- A few times at Brixworth Country Park where dogs are not really under their owners control.
- Owners not being able to control dogs in livestock fields & public footpaths/bridleways
- Many times at dog on leads sites eg Northampton Washlands and backlash from people saying their dog doesn't need to be on a lead
- My dog was on his,lead a woman with 3 dogs all running around allowed her dogs to come running up to me and my dog, this spooked my dog and he pulled the lead from my hand and ran off. The woman to cheek to say those extending leads made it difficult for you to control your dog. No apology for her unruly dogs spooking my dog
- Various country parks- dogs running off way ahead of owners and jumping excitedly at my daughter again she screams and it distresses them dogs. Owners no where to be seen
- Frequent occurrence when walking.
- Daventry Country Park.. Unleashed dog went for my granddaughter's football and sank its teeth into the ball, and, luckily, not her hand.
- West Hunsbury parks and bridleway
- Crowfields Moulton Northamptonshire uncontrolled dogs not leads, intimidating other dogs and people and not put on lead when requested.
- Public park areas, Mayfield and near Lang Farm, owners not putting dogs on lead / keeping dogs away when asked.
- See previous. Pitsford recreational paths around lake
Previous comment: Dogs are fine if they are on a lead, with a responsible owner.
- Dogs, which are clearly out of control should be on well controlled leads.
- See previous comment.
Previous comment: I am particularly concerned about extending leads which I think are most dangerous.
- As a disabled person who uses crutches, I have often had to deal with large and energetic dogs bounding around me trying to interact with my own dog (whether mine has been on or off his lead) and have been nearly knocked over a number of times in a number of places all around the Northamptonshire area.
- Dogs running loose n streets. Likelihood of accidents with vehicles
- Field to the back of middlemore pub loose dogs attacking other dogs which were on leads owner refused to recall a place them on leads
- As previously answered, Croughton
Previous comment: Croughton park
There are signs on entry to the park that no dogs are allowed yet people still allowed are dogs in and allow them to foul without cleaning up
- Large dog pinned my small dog to the groundowner was apologetic and put dog on lead.
- As previous question.
Previous comment: Dogs should be on leads near roads, residential areas or private land

- Scout field in Brackley. Their dog was not "friendly" and ran up to my dog went for him. Our dog was on a lead.
- In the fields dogs are often allowed to run up to rescue dogs who become frightened and then react causing them further stress. My dogs have yellow leads indicating they are nervous dogs. Most dog owners are unaware of the significance of yellow leads
- I believe when approaching a dog who is on a lead the dog off the lead should be put on the lead and this is not always the case and results in a dog approaching my dog and causing a problem.
- Please see my previous comment.
Previous comment: A German Shepherd dog that was off lead ran up to my dog and proceeded to jump on her causing her back legs to buckle. The man with the dog didn't seem bothered at all! It was on a field area at the back of Martial Dare in Brackley.
- Dog jumping up. Have a friend who was bitten and needed antibiotics
- I was approaching the croft way playing fields in Weedon along the foot path with my dog on a lead. A dog came running out of the park without its owner. Which then stood in a stand-off position, where I was not sure what its actions would be. Luckily the owner then came and put it on a lead.
Obviously on occasions some dogs do run off, if they are frightened.
- Public footpath. Dogs completely out of control with the "oh he/she is just excited" excuse. Really annoying when you are walking a nervous dog.
- See earlier answer
Previous comment: In the areas easily defined no problem - I would like to see dogs on a lead when sharing footpaths and lanes. Currently there is no requirement as I understand it.
- Walking around Brackley Lake. I had my dog on a lead as the signs ask and other owners had their dogs off. One animal came charging at my dog and nearly knocked me over.
- On the estate I live on a woman walks past my house every day and her dog wanders right across my property she has no control over it. I worry it could run out in the road and cause an accident
- I refer to above
Previous comment: I feel that due to the increase in dog ownership a better understanding of the term "in control" needs to be raised. Unless on an open area such as a field or park (where dogs are permitted) then dogs should be kept on a lead at all times. One's dog may be friendly or good at walking to heel, however there are always those times where a dog can be startled and bolt, other members of the public can be fearful of dogs, other dogs may be nervous and react when approached by a dog off the lead. Too many times have I heard when walking my dog on the lead and approaching another owner "it's ok my dog is friendly". I don't care if their dog can juggle, I don't want to have to deal with their dogs' behaviour as they don't have proper control.
- Loose dogs on the Pitsford reservoir path
- Often see dogs off leads and when owner tries to call dog back it doesn't listen.
- Dog owners walking in bridleway leaving Eydon by Cemetery not in control of their dogs and refusing to put them on leads.

- Owner did not put dog on lead when another dog owner and dog walked the opposite way. A dog fight erupted.
- See previous questions answer
Previous comment: I strongly believe all dogs should be on lead unless they are in a secure, enclosed purpose built area.
I do not take my dog out for walks as every time I have we have had unleashed dogs run up to us. My dog loves meeting new people and animals but it MUST be done in a controlled area with appropriate
Not all dogs are friendly and by not socialising leads to more serious behavioral problems
- Happens in most open areas, footpaths etc.
- I actually find this funny! So who is going to do this in our village?
- Several occasions where dogs have run over and the owners allow them to and state they are friendly. If a dog is a nuisance it needs to be under control.
Unfortunately the only way to ensure this is by changing the owners mindset
- I always have concerns.
The author of these questions should be asking if "you have experience...."
- they are dirty and they are allowed to just jump up at you as the owner does not care about exercising any control over the dog
- Dogs off lead frequently chase my cats and run into garden. Moulton
- Welford. Owner not putting their dog on the lead and their dog then approached my nervous dog despite me asking them to call their dog away. My dog was very fearful so I picked her up but the other dog continued to jump at us.
- Dogs jumping up whilst out for walks in the village.
- As before
Previous comment: Playing fields in Brixworth - The Ashway, St Davids Recreation Ground and Spratton Road Park.
- Chipping Warden dog persistently off lead on the Banbury Road.
- I have been told by a reliable person about a man who allowed his Springers to walk among sheep and chase them. This was reported to DDC
- In village and the dog attacked our dog who was on a lead biting him on the neck.
- Abington park and Lings Nature Reserve
- The playground on the racecourse estate.
- As before
Previous comment: Good idea
- Previously detailed earlier in this survey.
Previous comment: Whilst on pavements around the town, dogs should always be kept on a lead. Again, my thoughts would be to create a completely separate zone for dogs and their owners to allow their pets off-lead. This way, another owner can observe if there is a dog already on-site who they would rather not be with at the same time which is much better than having another dog chase up to you, barking, as you turn a corner or enter a public open space.
- complaints received about a number of situation where this is or is perceived to be a problem.
- I have had dogs run and jump up on me, which can be distressing.
- when out walking

- Many people now do not put dogs on leads. They treat them like humans and take them into shops and pubs!
- Many times, in many locations. Pitsford reservoir is a clear example.
- At brixworth country Park on Monday 7th march I asked for owner to put on lead as was around no children and wasn't overly keen and Wass told to f**k off its a park for dogs too!
Very uresonable
- Running up to my dog who is nervous. Causing us both distress. And potentially injuring me as my dog nearly pulled me over trying to get away from the dog that approached him. Harlestone Firs.
- Only that a person with ONE dog has let it run into my pack of EIGHT dogs.....
Do not punish the responsible multi-dog households by the idiots.
- Daventry country park
- Not willing to provide details, but within the towcester area
- A dog walker had approximately eight dogs off their leads in Cogenhoe Pocket Park. When it was pointed out that it is a wildlife area and the dogs should all be on leads, as signed at both entrances, she said 'go [expletive] yourself' and carried on as before
- Foxfields Country Park and around Grange Park
- This happens frequently wherever you walk. Our dog can be reactive to other dogs so he is always on a lead when other dogs are around. The majority of other owners do not respect this and allow their dogs to run up to our dog when he's on the lead. I have seen this with children also - where a dog off the lead has been allowed to approach young children without the owner knowing if the children and/or parents are ok with this
- multiple incidents of dogs running up to myself and my wife with our dogs (one on a lead as is nervous around strangers and new dogs the other under strict off lead control or lead depending on the situation) and continuing to stress the nervous dog out and either not recalling to their owners or the owners not caring to call them back even when it has been made clear to them their dog is not welcome in our space this has included in one case near the turweston a43 overpass of one women threatening us that if her dogs were injured it would be completely our fault even though her dogs were uncontrolled and both of ours were on leads
- As answered above
Previous comment: Dogs should always be on leads if they are on a pavement next to open roads.
- Certain unknown dogs jump on me and my under control dog repeatedly while I am exercising my dog. It would be helpful if they could be asked to control their dog, though I thought this was already the case. I think this should be the case for the previous question regarding allotments, playing fields etc, thought maybe that dog owners should put their dogs on leads if requested by users of those spaces.
- Just not controlling dog quick enough
- Too many to mention
- On the playing fields and on the streets.
- Bugbrooke NN7

- I've witnessed a few people ask dog owners to put a lead on their dog but the owners refuse on the grounds of "they don't have too"
Said dogs are usually jumping up at people, barking at cars etc..
- Offlead dog with no recall bouncing all over my dog that was on a lead, causing an increase in anxiety
 - Bugbrooke Playing Fields every single day
 - Large dog in Tiffield Pocket Park. Not on lead. Aggressive to others and knocked somebody over.
 - Not personally but I have heard of instances where some owners have become aggressive when asked to do so.
 - Owners walking dogs off lead without having sufficient control. Most open spaces around Brackley.
 - As detailed before
Previous comment: All dogs should be on a lead unless in a sign posted dogs lead free area.
With the rule dogs must have had extensive recall training.
Even in a dog park
 - See other comments
Previous comment: Various areas where dogs are off leads. This should not be allowed in public areas regardless of whether the owner thinks the dog is fine. It's usually the case that the dog they approach is on a lead for a reason.
 - Always dog off leads around Bugbrooke, left to run up to children
 - Dogs off leads constantly on the Brixworth Village playing fields off The Ashway. My children are often concerned about dogs coming up to them, and dog owners are dismissive and sometimes aggressive if requested that they put their dog on a leash
 - As stated before, in playing fields in Brackley. I have asked people to call back their dog, or put them on a lead. The most common response from others is that their dog is friendly, however my dog is extremely nervous around other dogs and cannot tolerate being approached.
 - Dog running around the children's playing area on Abington Park
 - Asked someone to put their dog on a lead as they walked through the play area, completely ignored me
 - I have 2 ex racing greyhounds , and a man with 2 very small dogs didn't put them on a lead when asked
 - At public parks when the dogs do not have good recall.
 - I was on a morning walk when a dog off the lead came sprinting up to me within a field on a public footpath in Bugbrooke
 - People out walking dogs in public, on paths etc. sometimes just call dog to them and don't put on lead which can be frightening as you don't know how the dog will behave.
 - See answer to previous question.
Previous comment: Dog fouling on the Crick Sports Fields and on footpaths.
 - My dog was attacked by a dog off leash on a footpath
 - My own dogs attacked by a dog off lead, and out of control of owner.
Myself attacked by owner.
Swans and ducks attacked by same dog from canal towpath, dog swimming in canal.

Dogs off lead on village green attacking and injuring other dogs.

- See previous answer
Previous comment: Fully support them
- We're abusive and just ignored the request. One girl in the village was walking 4/5 dogs all pets that apparently are well controlled. The father was very aggressive when he was confronted about this and the fact it's a village playing field for young children.
It was reported to the dog warden and the Parish Council
- When coming from a public footpath to the Highway some owners do not keep their dogs under control on a lead. I've seen it happen in many locations where there are footpaths between roads.
- In allotment area bouncing dogs growling at allotment holders and scaring children.
- I have had a number of circumstances fairly recently with aggressive dogs not being on a lead.
During and since Covid lockdowns, the footpaths in and around Evenley appear to be much more heavily used, with many more dog owners from outside the village. Without being a NIMBY, none of these incidents have been with a known village residents dog.
- Dogs off the lead chasing deer in Badby Woods
- As stated in previous question
Previous comment: One of my dogs is not good with other dogs. Whilst I support people having their dogs off the lead, they must be able to exert control and recall them. Too often a dog owner will fail to do so with a comment of "oh it's alright he/she likes other dogs" - well my dog does not. In one incident an owner got very upset when their dogs nose got nipped.
- A dog came round the corner of a hedge on a public footpath, ran straight at my wife and jumped up to bite her while the owner stood screaming at the dog which ignored her.
- Man watching his dog poo on Nether Heyford village green and walk away without picking up the mess
- See comment before
Previous comment: I cannot believe that a minority of people let there dogs poo in the playing areas around my village of Woodford halse they will go out after dark to do this so as not to get caught.
- Roade
- Loose dogs in the Rec which is a dog free zone
- Earls Barton recreational ground, dogs run up to children and jump up
- Dog in Knock Lane Roade persistently being allowed out into the road without any supervision
- As stated earlier, this is of huge concern along the pavements in Eydon village. A distinction needs to be made between a traditional, short, fixed-length lead and a so-called "wander lead". The problem rests with the very widespread use of the latter which allows the owner to walk ahead (by a great distance) and so pretend not to notice what their dog is doing. Honestly - this IS a problem in Eydon! I believe that "wander leads" should be banned from prescribed areas including pavements.

- Too many dog owners let their dogs run freely around private land crossed by PRoWs.
Sheep are worried and wildlife is killed.
- Harlestone Firs. It should be more widely communicated that yellow leads are for nervous dogs. If I see a dog on a yellow lead, I put mine on a lead even though I know she be fine and ignore the dog. However my other dog is nervous and has a yellow lead with nervous written on it, but people still allow their off lead dogs to run up to her - even when I say "she might bite your dog". It's irresponsible and not my problem if my dog bites in defence. I've done my part!
- They don't call them back to put leads on when they see. Horse rider. Dog then chases horse
- I belong to a walking group which does organised walks across lots of South Northants and Daventry. We frequently meet dog owners walking their dogs. Some of our walkers have dogs with them, but they always put them on leads if going through houses or fields with stock etc. The dog owners we encounter always have their dogs off the lead, and when they encounter the 'visiting' dogs they go mad, barking and chasing round. Most of the time it's good-natured, but sometimes it gets out of hand and on a couple of occasions I've almost been knocked to the ground by dogs 'play-fighting with each other'. Not sure what the solution is, I guess it's unrealistic to ask owners to put their dogs on the lead if/when they encounter other dogs?
- I've witnessed several instances of out of control dogs off lead. I always place mine on a lead around other dogs as I haven't trained complete recall yet
- Jetty Fields. My dog is friendly but anxious when two or more dogs rush up to him. This is a result of being "humped" by 2 standard poodles when he was young.
- Another dog off a lead attacked my dog. The owner couldn't control the dog. Luckily, there was no physical harm but it was very scary
- There should be more awareness of doggy etiquette. If you see someone put thier dog on a lead you should also. My dog was attacked and is nervous now so i dont want other dogs off leads coming to her
- One incident in a field in Ashton where a dog followed my dog (who was on a lead) and me for some distance before there owner caught up with them and blamed the dog not themselves!
- Dogs off leads often run up to me and jump up.
- As previously stated.
Previous comment: All dogs should be kept on leads at all times if their owner cannot recall them. I have a disability and get knocked over by dogs coming up to me, or my dog.
I've already had 2 dogs attacked and attacks are constantly on Facebook.
More needs to be done.
Lady recently had her hand bitten by an alsation whilst walking down the street.
Man attacked badly by an Akita - hospital for 4 days and nearly lost his hand.
Such breed s should be muzzled and on leads at all times.
- running around when not in control and pestering other users
- As previous questions
Previous comment: It should be mandatory for dogs to be kept on leads at all times and only be let of in very specific designated areas. People should not have

to go out in fear of dogs, however harmless they may be. They should also not have to watch their step due to dog fouling.

- My dog was attacked by another dog.
I always put my dog on a lead whenever people approach. My dog is a softie and is very well trained. It's just respectful.
- My dog was grabbed by a German Shepherd dog off lead with the owner busy rolling her cigarette! If it was soft muzzled it couldn't have done that. There's a Greyhound allowed to chase and kill squirrels in Park in East Hunsbury. If it was soft muzzled it couldn't do that. Soft muzzles would prevent all serious bites and attacks.
- Some people don't use leads at all and have no control of their dogs. Run up to my daughter who is scared stiff of dogs and makes walking round town very stressful
- Have had dogs jump up at me and approach barking aggressively whilst out walking in a number of areas around Brackley.
- Open areas on Poppyfields Way. Off lead dog approaching a nervous/timid dog & being aggressive
- St James Lake, Brackley
St Peters Church, Brackley
The field by St Peters Church, Church Road, Brackley
It is rare as most dogs we come across are friendly and well behaved, but we have had cases of a couple of off lead dogs just being too boisterous for our dog (mostly when our dog is on lead but occasionally when our dog is offlead as well).
- I have been snapped at by a small dog off lead whilst walking around St James Reservoir; owner apologised.
- Our dog was almost attacked by a dog not on a lead
- Everywhere I go
- On many occasions I have been approached by dogs not on a lead whilst walking around Brackley on the many footpaths and also in St James Park. Dogs running up to me barking startle and worry me. The owners don't seem to care. There is a real dog problem in Brackley.
- Open fields in millennium woods
- Walking on public pathways throughout Crick. When dogs are allowed to climb onto my flowerbeds and dig whilst the owners are blithely wandering off carrying the lead in their hand, or worse, when the dog is on the end of a long lead.
- Timken area
- In fields but not putting the dog back on a lead when there are cattle or sheep present. Also when causing a nuisance to other walkers with or without dogs.
- Out of control dog jumping at me & the owner unable to control it, this was on a canal path walk, it made me very nervous.
- I agree with it, however, realistically, when is an authorised officer around when it is needed.
I have asked members of the public before if they could get their dogs and put them on the lead when they have been a nuisance to my dog, causing him distress and my experience is that they take offence and have been quite verbally abusive towards me. So in the real world, this isn't going to work as how do you get an authorised officer to an incident and by the time they arrive, the likelihood is that it will be too late.

- Little Houghton village green
- Only in areas where dogs are exercised off lead
- The odd owner who knows their dog has issues around other dogs but still insists on leaving their dog loose causing unprovoked attacks on other dogs .
- intimidating dogs on leads and jumping up at people
- Washlands as said
- Grass field in Piddington- A resident who got permission to metal detect in the field getting knocked over by an off the lead dog attacking her dog, knocking her over the process causing a leg fracture.
- loose dogs have caused road accidents to cyclists
- Dogs not on leads jumping up at me or scaring our nervous dogs
- Please see answer to question 2. Borough Hill. Owners refused to call back and leash dogs, their dogs were aggressive towards mine.
- Only a few dog owners in Crick village walk their dogs with no lead, and have minimal control over them.
- Creaton playing field
- Please see earlier question - Upton Park has a big problem with dogs not on leads.
- Numerous incidents on the canal towpath, being approached by dogs without knowing if they are friendly or aggressive, a canal towpath is narrow and it is difficult to avoid unrestrained dogs.
- My dog was on a lead, an approaching dog with its owner was not on the lead and the dog came over to me (I stood still to allow the other person to get their dog) but it didn't recall on command and it attacked my stationary dog. My dog was very frightened by the incident although not physically harmed. Alderton village Spring Lane.
- Brackley public walking areas including bridleways
- St James lake Brackley
Zip wire park Brackley
- As before, dogs not on lead over farmland in the parish of Thorpe Mandeville
- Several occasions with people who have untrained dogs with poor recall. Not necessarily an issue for me but could be for others especially the screamers who go into melt down when they see an animal
- Attacking my dog
- Daventry country park, constantly dogs off leads and out of control
- It's dogs on leads that do not warn need space
- So-called dog walkers exercising multiple dogs simultaneously
- Pitsford
- At St James Lake - dog chased the geese and goslings.
- I've had my dog attacked by other dogs not on a lead. They might enjoy and run about but that's what their gardens are for.
Dogs should be kept under control. I've seen guard dogs off the lead, oh they are ok but come across another and they aren't ok.
You can't predict when a dog will "turn"
- Everywhere
- Not sure who would be an 'authorised officer '?
- country park and fields

- Grass field in Piddington- A resident who got permission to metal detect in the field getting knocked over by an off the lead dog attacking her dog, knocking her over the process causing a leg fracture.

Question 4C: Comments from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed with Proposal 4 but had concerns about owners not putting dogs on leads in the past 12 months.

- All dogs should be on a lead and not just because someone in authority says do
- Numerous times when walking my rescue dog in Blisworth. A young lads small dog charged at mine, he had no control over it, fortunately my (big) dog did not react. One our out neighbours let's her dog just run about and has again zero recall, her dog ran up to mine aggressively and we side stepped into a garden to avoid the dog. Fortunately mine ignored the other dog.
A dog jumped my fence into my garden, it was chasing something when it was off leash in the fields behind us. Owners had no recall.
- Such a broad definition to include "causing annoyance" can and will be applied with the most broad interpretation and abused. The council will still have to enforce which to date they have no one to do so.
- In parks, numerous encounters with aggressive, untrained & unsocialised dogs
- There are many open spaces around the village of Braunston. There have been times when the dog attacks livestock because of it not being on a lead. Dogs should always be on a leash. There are areas where dogs can be let off the lead to exercise and these should be totally fenced in such that the dog cannot escape
- I've seen dogs off leads in numerous places, and also when another dog is on a yellow lead meaning they are nervous. I've also seen dogs off lead run into the road, luckily not causing accidents but there was definitely an issue with the dog not being under control near a road.
- As per my previous response, King's Sutton has a huge problem with dogs not on leads in spaces where children play, it is unsafe.
- On on occasion only on a recreation ground.

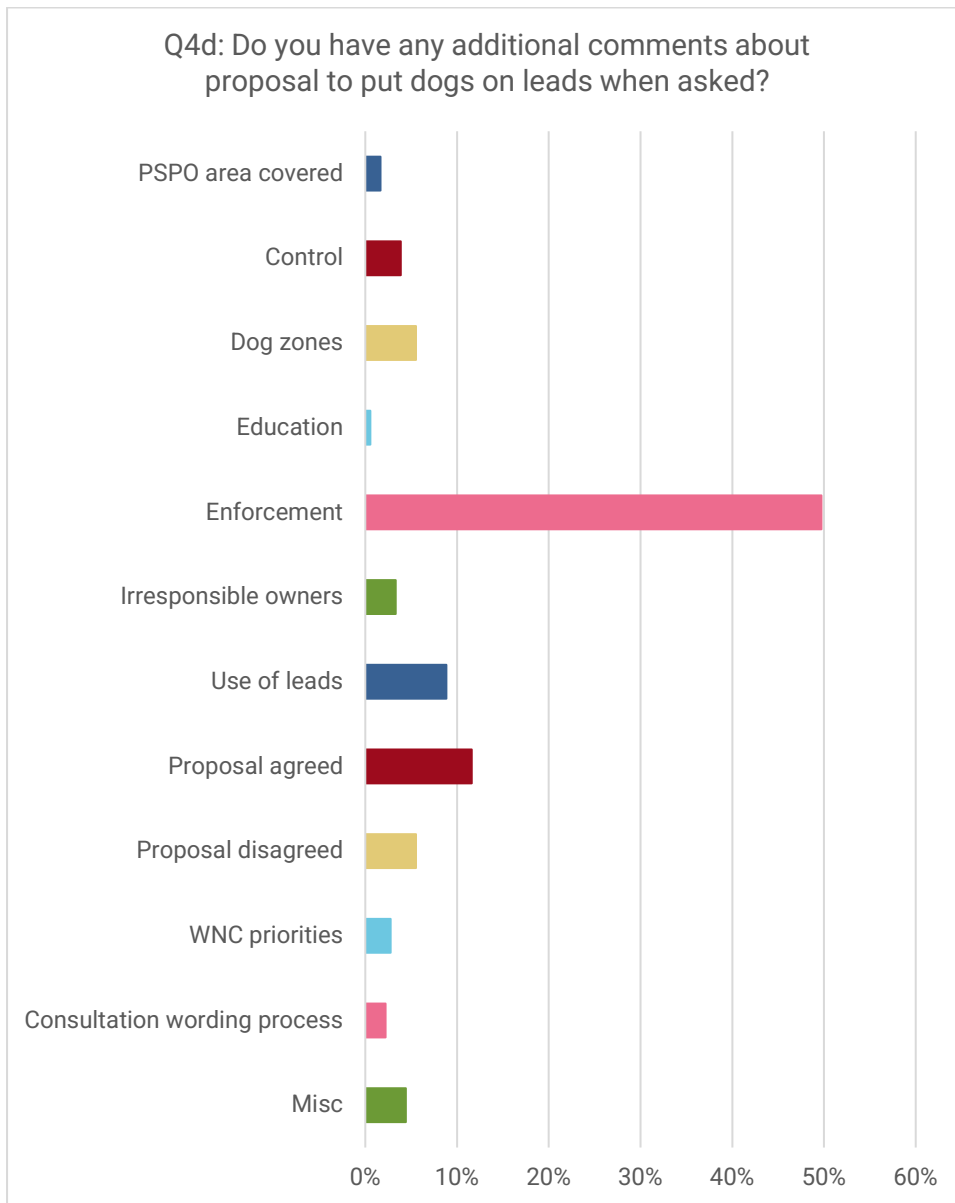
Question 4C: Comments from respondents who neither agreed or disagreed to Proposal 4, did not know or did not answer.

- Only if the public dogs may be off their leads. Creation of dog friendly spaces where dogs can run freely is a far better way forward.
space is acknowledged as being dog friendly and that users are alerted to the fact that Bring back dog licencing as well
- I sometimes see dogs off lead of pavements. This seems dangerous as they may head towards traffic. I have no concerns elsewhere as I find off lead dogs often better behaved / less aggressive and calmer than when on lead
- I often see dogs off leads around Brackley Lake and they have run up to my 5 year-old and frightened him
- Brackley Old Town on a daily basis...its a popular walking route and there are several owners with out of control dog... by that I mean dogs that either attack

other dogs or people. I love dogs and have no issue with well behaved dogs off the lead but there are many who are off the lead and dangerous

- Brampton Valley way seems to be a free 4 all for untrained unruly animals
- As previous. Chased by dogs off leads whilst cycling.
- Not every dog likes other dogs, therefore if dogs are off leads on pavements this can lead to issues.
- Brixworth country park 4 dogs off lead in an area where it's allowed, but bothering my dog which was on lead
- They think it's their god given right to have a uncontrollable animal running around the countryside to exercise it. This is a working environment with either arable or livestock being produced and these people. You would not allow this on a football pitch, country park etc!!!!
- Did off lead in field of sheep
- Local country parks where there are signs everywhere saying keep dogs on leads. Some dog walkers assume that means everybody else and not them

Question 4D: Do you have any additional comments about the proposal to put dogs on leads when asked?



Q4d: Do you have any additional comments about proposal to put dogs on leads when asked?		
No. Responders	174	
No. Comments	181	% Comments
Misc.	8	4%
Consultation wording process	4	2%
WNC priorities	5	3%
Proposal disagreed	10	6%
Proposal agreed	21	12%
Use of leads	16	9%

Irresponsible owners	6	3%
Enforcement	90	50%
Education	1	1%
Dog zones	10	6%
Control	7	4%
PSPO area covered	3	2%

Question 4D: Additional comment from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 4 regarding the requirement to put dogs on leads when asked.

- How do you enforce it
- Fine upon reasonable request if they refuse
- A good idea but surely very difficult to do in practice. How often will an authorised officer be in a position to see and challenge owners who have their dog off a lead?
- More patrols to ensure it's being followed
- no brainer
- I totally agree however I do think it would be advantageous to have a designated dog park in the town where dogs could be let of their leads to run around that is central to the town and within reasonable access for most of teh residents.
- This happens in many places where it is either not permitted or the the dog is not properly trained or under sufficient control. When dog-owners are challenged they are quite often extremely rude or blame it on everyone else for the problem.
- On leads at all
Times around others unless in dog parks or away from others
- How will it be managed? The police do not have capacity.
- It will be very difficult to enforce.
- Off lead dogs can tease on lead ones. Many run in and arc round on lead dogs. My dog is kept on lead and could chase causing a dangerous trip hazard for other pedestrians
- People never see the potential danger of their own dog. Always say 'he's very friendly, won't hurt the children' okay until it's not.
- What to do when they refuse!
- This doesn't seem like an issue. Dogs getting off lead excercise if they are able to is great for their wellbeing but equally if there's a reason for the dog to be on lead for example if causing a disturbance or for a one off event this seems useful
- Who is going to enforce this?
There is no police presence on the streets
- This only works if an officer is around... I suspect that some people would say that their dog is under control even if it jumps up at strangers. I really don't think they are.
- The same issue arises with extendable leads as highlighted in previous responses.
- As long as requests are reasonable. Some areas are safe for dogs to run and play regularly together naturally but owners can misinterpret this. It's more about maintaining courtesy than being ordered or instructed - especially when there is no risk.

- How do you police it?
The amendment to the Highway Code includes a rule on cyclists using their bell. For years this existing rule had never been enforced. How will you control dogs on leads?
- Unless it is someone with authority telling the pwner I feel that it will be ignored as it is at the moment
- It should extend to the public.
- Dogs should be free unless it is necessary to restrict them
- I worry about the response from some dog owners who can be extremely unpleasant and aggressive
- Are you seriously going to employ people to do this ? Come on there a bigger priorities for council tax use than this !
- People should always accept instructions from officers of the law whether or not they consider them appropriate. Disputes can always be pursued at a later date with the appropriate authorities
- Yes it should be enforced and a Dog Wardens presence
- I would rather common sense prevailed than being dictated to thank you.
- Good Luck !!!
- [name] enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).

We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

- Make it law
- Provided officer is trained and understands dog behaviour
- It is important to require owners to have regard for public safety or anxiety about dogs off lead and be courteous to put them on s lead if asked by a concerned officer who is protecting the amenity or safety of others.
- Have never seen a person in charge in an area, could we have some areas where dogs have to be on lead so it's safe for those who need to keep their dogs on a lead can go.
- Another sensible proposal . Pre pandemic I used to encounter people with their dogs off leads on the foot path / cycle path around the Pitsford Reservoir a danger to cyclists as well as children and adults.
- Person asking needs proper authority to do so or they will just be ignored.
- I believe for this to be a viable proposition, hundreds of Authorised Officers would need to be policing all areas at all times. Is this possible??
- Must have a reasonable justification for putting the dog on a lead, eg the dog is already behaving badly, or there is a clear risk. Not just an opinion that the dog 'might' misbehave.
- How much extra will it cost to police this?
- This seems quite onerous for whoever is enforcing the rules.

- Some people should be encouraged to use dog harnesses to aid the control over their dogs.
- What about enforcement?
- If I'm walking my dog on a lead I would expect the owner of a dog off lead to recall it and put a lead on. My dog is nervous when a dog off lead races up to him
- Most owners who refuse to put dogs on leads need strong deterrents such as fines, they will not respond to polite requests.
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. wootton rec.
- Good luck enforcing it. You will get the odd one or two but will miss the majority because your PSPO is putting too much work on whoever will enforce.....who does enforce? You don't have a Dog Warden. The Police will be enthusiastic for about a week but are too busy. They don't enforce the PSPO's in Banbury or Oxford because of time constraints.
- Dogs should be confiscated if owners do not comply.
- I think most owners already do. One of our dogs doesn't come off the lead as he is trying to escape back to Romania. The other is as good as gold and goes back on when we need her to.
- I think this is a sensible thing. If a dog is behaving badly or dangerously, someone should be able to enforce it to be put on a lead if the owner doesn't have the common sense or manners to do it themselves. However, it comes back to enforcement. I doubt you'd ever see an "authorised officer" let alone one there when you needed them.
- It's a common sense way of avoiding more draconian measures - if being on a lead allows a dog to be controlled and prevent it from biting someone, it reduces the need to then have to potentially destroy a dog later on.
- Nice idea, but we'll never see an authorised officer!
- Previously detailed earlier in this survey.
Previous comment: Whilst on pavements around the town, dogs should always be kept on a lead. Again, my thoughts would be to create a completely separate zone for dogs and their owners to allow their pets off-lead. This way, another owner can observe if there is a dog already on-site who they would rather not be with at the same time which is much better than having another dog chase up to you, barking, as you turn a corner or enter a public open space.
- If the owner of the dog cannot control the animal when off the lead then the lead should be attached when in a public place.
- I would suggest that most dog owners don't control their dogs, and treat them like children. It seems the rare exception that a dog owner has good recall over their dog.
- Dogs should be on leads as this will hopefully prevent other dogs being attacked which I have heard can happen.
- Dog owners should put their dog on a lead if requested by any member of the public, not only an official.
- I feel if an authorised office requests this, then it should be done..... 99% of the time it is the one person with one dog that is not in control.....
We only have multiple dogs because they are trained to a high standard.....

- I have no issue with this, but more open spaces where dogs can exercise off lead should be provided. This could be by putting signs up in open spaces saying dogs allowed off lead, or providing dog parks.
It is unfair to have laws enforcing dogs to be on-lead if no spaces are provided where they can be off lead
- I would like to see in case of this option been put into place a detailed list of reasons for a person to be asked to put their dog on a lead and a dedicated process to be able to report officers to help prevent any possible abuse of power
- I thought this was already the law in this country?
- As detailed before
During the attack they were asked to restrain the dogs
- Only if the dog is not under control and causing a direct nuisance to a person(s), wildlife, farm animals etc. If it is purely because somebody has a fear of dogs then no.
- The general public should have authorisation to request that a dog should be put back on a lead. Non dog owners should be able to use facilities feeling safe. Dog owners choose to use public areas so have other options available to them to exercise their dogs off the lead rather than in more heavily populated public areas such as green parks.
- People should always be respectful of people employed to care for other members of the public.
- See previous comments
Previous comment: It's not an issue locally.
- The term "authorised officer" is vague and needs to be specified so that it is not abused by anyone on a power trip. I suggest the legislation, in whatever form it takes, explains who the authorised officers will be and what ID they will carry.
- My only concern would be that this measure could be abused by the authorised officers with dogs being required to be on a lead for reasons beyond those stated above once the measure is passed
- Common sense needed again. If the dog is under control of owner and walking on public footpath, bridleway or green lane then a justified reason should be needed, not just a blind following of a rule not meant for this.
- Difficult to apply this in village locations as WNC officers cannot be everywhere!
- As long as the officer is asking for a dog to be put on a lead for a reason, and not just a blanket rule.
- Unlikely to be enforceable. Dogs ought to be on leads wherever there is public access. Off lead on private land only
- Fully support
- To support the request of farmers with live stock
- The owners often dont want to do that
- I have no idea how it is remotely feasible for this to be policed, other than in the very common areas, such as a village green. The bigger issue tends to be further afield where dogs are more likely to be off the lead, eg on footpaths.
- It should be done with good grace and not bad tempered muttering or refusal.
- Ban retractable leads
- I can't see any dog owner having an issue with putting their dog on a lead when asked by an authorised officer. I do have some concern that some members of the public may get over-officious and take issue with a dog being off-lead even if

it's not causing a nuisance in any way, and use the PSPO as a justification for doing so.

- Dogs should be on leads on public highway as they may cause accident if unexpectedly run into roads.
- No unless the request is unreasonable. A lot of people who don't have a dog can be overly cautious and put up barriers immediately.
- Land owners must have the same rights as officers to require dog owners to put their dogs on a lead, when those dogs are crossing their land.

The council provided signage advising owners to keep their dogs on a lead is ignored.

Why is Agricultural land excluded from these provisions?

- If the dog is a risk to public safety or in an area where they should be on the lead, then it is a sensible idea. The problem is if enforcement officers are too restrictive
- Always
- I never see anyone who looks like an authorised officer. I suspect that people who don't control their dogs off a lead could be aggressive when challenged even if someone does have ID. Is this every likely to be implemented in practice as won't the officers be too wary of being hurt by the dog or the owner?
- Just dont go too mad. Dogs need to have fun off the lead
- I think dogs walking along side roads should always be on a lead.
- As previously stated.

Previous comment: All dogs should be kept on leads at all times if their owner cannot recall them. I have a disability and get knocked over by dogs coming up to me, or my dog.

I've already had 2 dogs attacked and attacks are constantly on Facebook.

More needs to be done.

Lady recently had her hand bitten by an alsation whilst walking down the street.

Man attacked badly by an Akita - hospital for 4 days and nearly lost his hand.

Such breed s should be muzzled and on leads at all times.

- This is not just for people but also for other dogs safety
- lack of resources to do this presumed to be an issue!
- Who is an 'appropriate officer' and how do we know they are appropriate. A council ID does not just ensure that, in the execution of this Order, they are appropriate? Significantly more clarification needs to be given here.
- Dogs should be on leads at all times except for specific limited areas.
- Dog owners should respect other people and their dogs. If asked by another dog owner to put your fog on a lead due to nervousness of person or their dog when our walking in a public place.
- All responsible owners should if anyone asks them to.
- I would expect an officer to give me a valid reason why they were telling me to put my dog on the lead, not to just be able to tell me to lead my dog 'because I say so'.
- Most dog owners are very responsible; however, there has been a significant increase in dog ownership during the pandemic and not everybody seems to be aware of the laws around keeping their dog under control. The PSPO will help with this and it may give confidence to people to challenge irresponsible dog owners if there are signs up etc.

- Dogs should be on a lead in ALL public places to protect non dog owners. It's absolutely ridiculous that the right of a dog to run around trumps the right of non dog owners to enjoy open spaces. Walking around Brackley and at St James lake is not the pleasure it used to be as dog ownership as increased over the last few years.
- Who will be authorised to do this?
- Good luck with that. Whenever I ask I am met with abuse!!
- Who is an authorised officer and how do they identify themselves
- It's a necessary step
- I would welcome it at all times not just when asked.
- As I mentioned in 4c - what is the chance of an authorised officer being around when an incident is taking place!
- I would not expect to be asked to put my dog on a lead in an area away from traffic and where exercising a dog is routine
- How many authorised officers do you have in the West Northants area??
- Will officers be there to observe this and require people to put their dogs on a lead at the time? If not enforced then not worth introducing
- People can be very rude when asked to put their dog on a lead
- I think it is a reasonable request
- Makes complete sense..but again, will there be sufficient resource to make sure there are officers in very popular areas?
- Dogs should be on a lead in all public spaces
- There should be safeguards to prevent officers from going beyond the circumstances proposed.
- This is common sense
- As soon as possible please.
- Non considerate dog owners
- Refer the owner to the RSPCA if they refuse
- Support retention of legal requirement in case incidents occur that need action
- I think providing there is good reason and that the person in charge enforced that without prejudice then i strongly agree
- Create more areas and advertise dog free areas
More enclosed fields for dogs
- The person doing the asking must be properly authorised AND carry photo-ID that clearly include the name of the person AND the Authorising Officer at the Council.
- I cannot stress enough that without a proper officer (dog warden) this cannot be policed.
- I agree they should if not they should be fined.
- Keep dogs on leads
- There should be more secure fully fenced of lead areas where dogs are allowed to run safely. Secure dog fields are becoming more popular however not everyone can afford to pay to hire these private fields.

Question 4D: Additional comments from respondents who disagreed or disagreed strongly to Proposal 4 regarding the requirement to put dogs on leads when asked.

- I wasn't able to safely train my dog in the area therefore she does not have good recall. Many dogs do and don't cause an issue. If an officer wanted to request a dog being put on a lead they would need to have a good reason and dogs like people vary
- This rule could be misused by people who just do not like dogs.
- Who are these "authorised officers"? Once given powers, they have a nasty habit of being extended/abused. No, NO NO!!
- I agree that if an authorised person asked an owner to put their dog on a lead then the person should. I do not agree that all dogs should be walked on a lead at all times. Dogs need exercise and should be allowed to run around. If you plan dogs to be on a lead at all times would you provide areas for dogs to run and play? If a dog is deprived of stimulation potentially they will become frustrated and may become aggressive.
I feel for such a small number of complaints you are penalising the community. Dogs play a huge part of family life and so important for people's mental health
- Another example of creeping authority control - to add to the plethora of warning / enforcement notes that seem to now litter our public spaces. Is this really an effective use of public funds - surely providing facilities and support for youth activities would be a better use.
- How will a member of the public know who is an authorised officer?
- Dogs should be on leads period. Especially out in the country, having cleared up the aftermath of a sheep attack I feel strongly about it. Unless your dog is highly trained and bomb proof with perfect recall it shouldn't be off leash.
- Ridiculous proposal. Assuming power over dog walking and hiring people to enforce it should be ultra vires.
- People who don't bother to train their dog properly are the ones who frantically pick up their pooch. I still fear. And induce aggressive behaviour.
And by giving them the power to force other dogs on a lead, we give these people too much influence.
I will not put my dog on a lead because their dog is a little shit. Because I am a very responsible dog owner who spent a lot of time on training.
- Yes. I don't believe there is adequate training in place. Police already have authority to intercede as appropriate. Anyone without that level of training risks being subjective rather objective. Laws are already in place to protect the community. Dog owners can be held responsible for the actions of their dogs.
- The chances of an 'authorised officer' being around is so slim this proposal is completely pointless
- It's the 'officers' i object to it feels like a police state
- It is nice in principal but should be more narrowly defined to curtail either abuse of or over use of the requirement.
- Utter nonsense
- If, as you say, most dog owners act responsibly then where is the problem?

Don't impose rules upon the sensible majority. Proactively target those who behave in an antisocial manner.

- Put my dog on a lead then you come close and provide id? That is more likely to make a protective dog think something is wrong
- What knowledge will this person in control have.... What happens if their requests are ignored. What powers are they going to have ?
- How would you know the individual is an authorised dog control officer? If someone was worried about my dog being off the lead for any reason I would comply anyway. Why is this regulation needed? Surely WNC has other issues more pressing to deal with like the state of the roads, no gritting in rural areas, properly investigating traffic congestion in planning applications.
- Again, unnecessary as this affects such a tiny minority and is not proportionate to the dog owning community as a whole. The dangerous dogs act etc are already in place to keep the public safe and thus seems like a sledge hammer to crack a walnut.
- This questionnaire is designed to get the answers that you want. It is poorly designed. It does not allow a contra view to the proposals or allows us to comment against the proposal.

Of course, one would agree that dog on a lead in some circumstances, however by linking these all in one you do not allow the participants the ability to agree with some issues and disagree with others

- Don't agree we (the council) have the power to demand dogs are put on leads. Council are an insignificant body, paid for by the tax payer and goes against common law. Too many councils have taken it upon themselves to get involved and it always fails.

Taking away our human rights. I don't need a secondary police force to tell me what I can and can't do with my animal.

You are trying to get fines out of people.

- There should be no reason to ask that a dog be put on a lead. They should always be on a lead and under control
- Abuse of power is likely, we don't need to live in an authoritarian state. If a person sees a dog off the lead and they don't like it they are of their own volition to remove themselves from the area.
- An officer will not know the dog and therefore not know what is best for it. This could be easily exploited by officers.
- Not all people who own dogs have understanding of all the topics you say. Hope these officers will be prepared for the verbal and possible physical abuse from these ignorant people
- In theory, it might be nice, but I don't know how it could be enforced; there would rarely be an authorised officer around when the situation occurred. That's why I believe dogs should always be on a lead in public.
- Pointless
- Who will pay for the 'authorised officers'?
- I'm not having some power hungry idiot with no dog experience, tell me when my dog is and isn't under control.
- Empowering council jobsworth's doesn't seem wise.

- This whole questionnaire is loaded however my concern is how many dog officers are there going to be. This money would be best spent on our police force to help fight real crime. Leave it to the good dog owners to police and save some money.

Question 4D: Additional comments from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed to Proposal 4 or did not know.

- There needs to be well published reasons that this maybe asked
- I would be slightly concerned about this unless the officers were highly trained in dog behaviour and body language as this can be easy to misconstrue.
- Police and dog wardens already have these powers. I would not like to see resources being used to fund additional "officers".
- consider coming at the problem from the other angle ..all dogs MUST be on leads, unless in a dog friendly allocated area, which allows for free running.
- Not sure how this would work - does the district council have sufficient funds to pay for 'authorised officers'? Wouldn't the money be better be spent on filling in pot holes or supporting local bus services - these would seem to have much more practical benefit to local people.
- need to be under control rather than on lead,some dogs more anxious on leads
- Dislike the word 'control' that is a very loose definition and open to mis interpretation
- Seriously...PCSOs were an utter waste of our money...this new scheme will be the same. Don't waste money just inform people.and give the public the power to report out of control dogs easier
- Introduce dog walking areas where owners can book and exercise their dog off the lead safe in the knowledge it is a secure location and the dog cannot get out.
- I feel like it wouldn't get put into action or make any differences? Especially in smaller towns or villages.
- More education required for people to put dogs on a lead if they see your dog is on a lead, or at least to offer to them on a lead
- People allow their dogs to wander over to other people & dogs (which are on leads) sometimes without even trying to recall their dog, because it is "friendly". This issue with the owners attitude is the reason why incidents happens where people/dogs/animals, etc. get hurt.
Therefore, in order to reduce the number of instances where dogs off-lead cause incidents, the owners must first change their approach/attitude.
- I'm sure there is legislation that covers this without creating more legislation
- Define authorised officers to make sure this is not added to at a whim.
- Provided it is done reasonably and with respect I'd support it but I worry it will be enforced without due respect or regard for the situation at the time.
- I have not had an issue in past 12 months but my two rescue dogs can be very easily spooked and sometimes other people do not put their dogs on the lead when they see this.
I am not sure I like the idea of 'authorised' people in parks but I can see that others might disagree
- More rules and regulations just a waste of time.

- Who is an authorised officer? This is not clear and until there is a definition no answer can be given to this question
- How likely is it that an Officer will be there to ask someone to do this!
- Officers will need training in particular not to harbour anti-dogism
- It must be clear who the authorised officer is and what the reasoning behind this is

Comments from Organisations received for Proposal 4 – Dogs on leads by direction.

Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official).

- We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

The Kennel Club

We can support reasonable 'dogs on lead' Orders which can, when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way, include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic. However, we will oppose PSPOs which introduce blanket restrictions on dog walkers accessing public open spaces without specific and reasonable justification. Dog owners are required to provide their dogs with appropriate daily exercise, including "regular opportunities to walk and run", which in most cases will be off lead while still under control. Their ability to meet this requirement is greatly affected by the amount of publicly accessible parks and other public places such as beaches and promenades in their area where dogs can exercise without restrictions. This section of the Animal Welfare Act was included in the statutory guidance produced for local authorities by the Home Office on the use of PSPOs. Accordingly, the underlying principle we seek to see applied is that dog controls should be the least restrictive to achieve a given defined and measurable outcome; this is the approach used by Natural England. In many cases, a seasonal or time of day restriction will be effective and the least restrictive approach, rather than a blanket year-round restriction. For instance, a "dogs on lead" order for a picnic area is unlikely to be necessary in mid-winter. The Government provided clear instructions to local authorities that they must provide restriction free sites for dog walkers to exercise their dogs. This message was contained in the guidance document for DCOs, and has been retained in both the Defra/Welsh Government and Home Office PSPO guidance documents, with the

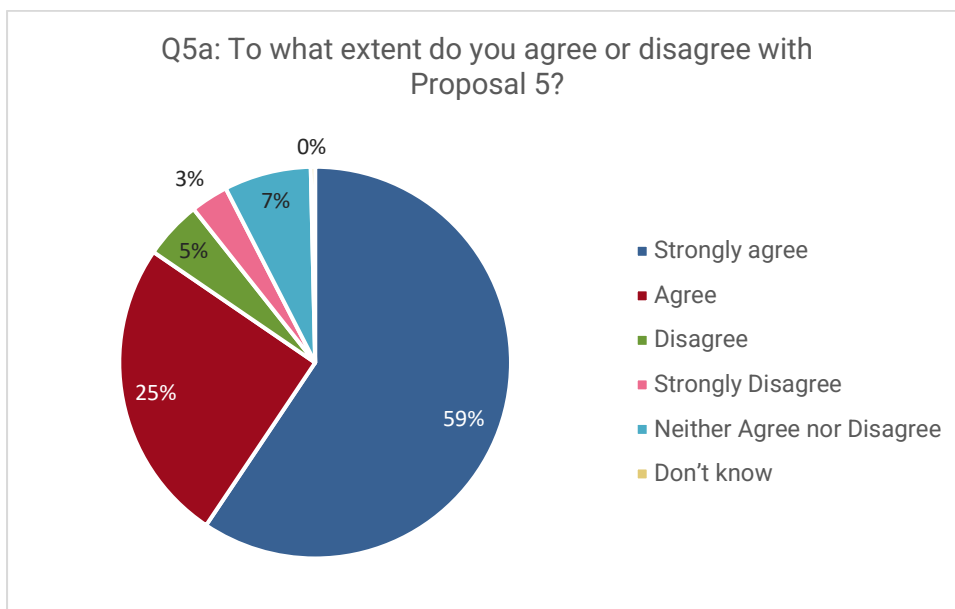
Defra guidance for PSPOs stating 'local authorities should ensure there are suitable alternatives for dogs to be exercised without restrictions'

Proposal 5. Dogs on leads near schools. Persons in control of a dog must put their dogs on leads near school entrances/exits during school days.

65% of people responded to this question with 84% agreeing strongly or agreeing that persons in control of a dog must put their dogs on a lead near school entrances or exits during school days. Dogs not being kept under control near a school was considered a very big concern or fairly big concern for 20% of those that commented on this question. Of those residents that had concerns, loose dogs accounted for 30%, out of control dogs 18% and irresponsible owners accounting for 21%.

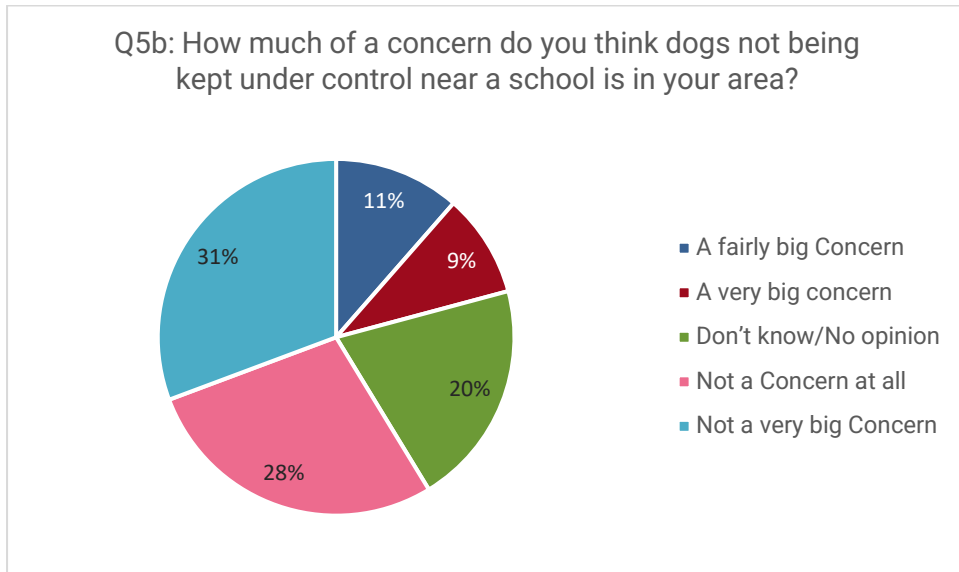
835 responded.

Question 5A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 5?



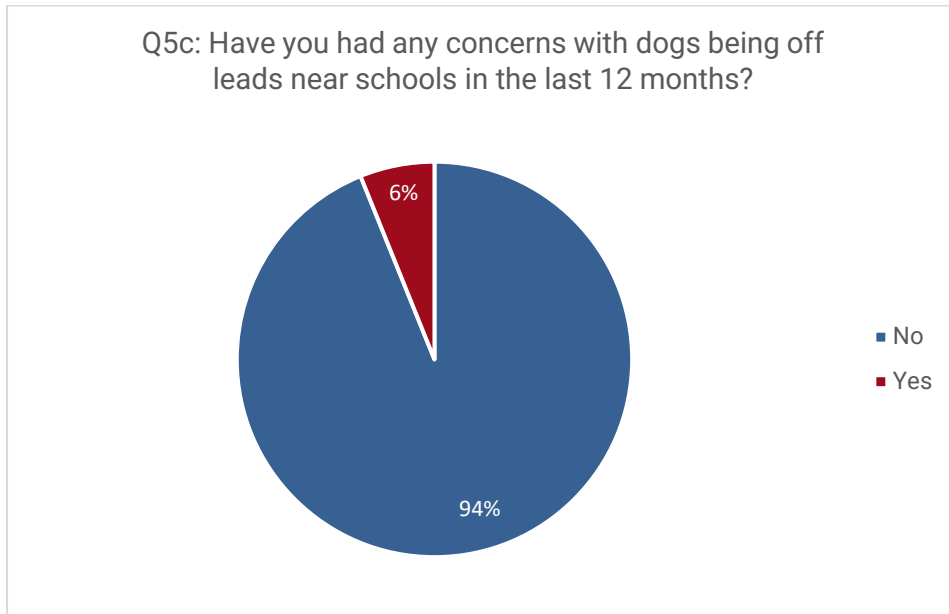
Q5a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 5?	Total	% Responses
Strongly agree	496	59%
Agree	210	25%
Disagree	40	5%
Strongly Disagree	26	3%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	60	7%
Don't know	3	0%
Grand Total	835	100%

Question 5B: How much of a concern do you think dogs not being kept under control near a school is in your area?



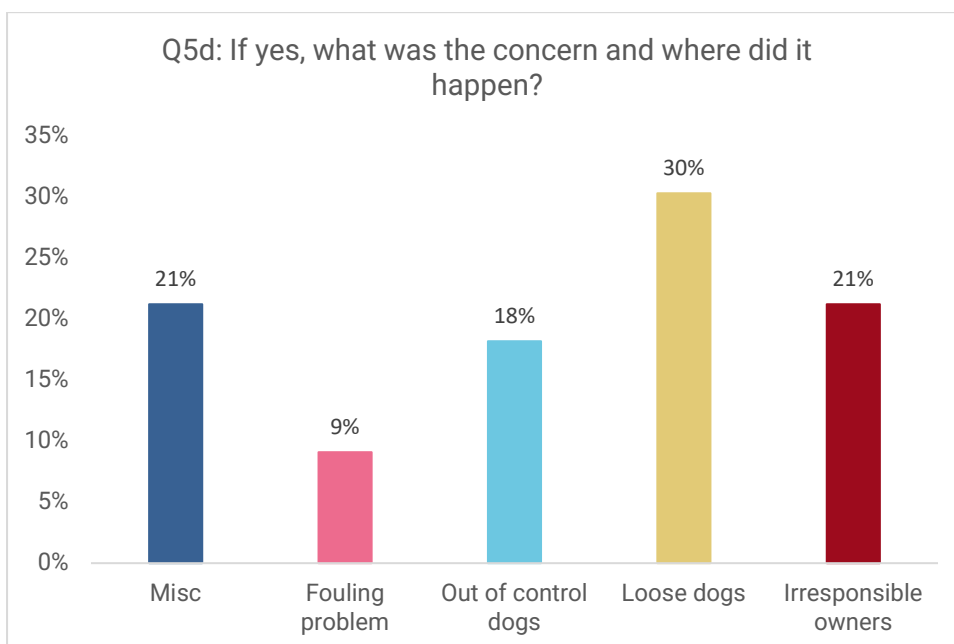
Q5b: How much of a concern do you think dogs not being kept under control near a school is in your area?	Total	% Responses
A fairly big Concern	94	11%
A very big concern	77	9%
Don't know/No opinion	168	20%
Not a Concern at all	230	28%
Not a very big Concern	252	31%
Grand Total	821	100%

Question 5C: Have you had any concerns with dogs being off leads near schools in the last 12 months?



Q5c: Have you had any concerns with dogs being off leads near schools in the last 12 months?	Total	% Responses
No	708	94%
Yes	46	6%
Grand Total	754	100%

Question 5D: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?



Q5d: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?		
No. Respondents	37	
No. Comments	33	% Comments
Misc.	7	21%
Fouling problem	3	9%
Out of control dogs	6	18%
Loose dogs	10	30%
Irresponsible owners	7	21%

Question 5D: Comments from respondents who strongly agreed to Proposal 5 which required dogs to be put on leads near school entrances/exits during school days.

No comments were received from respondents who "agreed" with Proposal 5.

- People not doing this as their dog is little to them!
- too many dogs are now allowed to be taken to schools, still alot of children who are nervous with dogs with good reason, they are unpredictable creatures. i am not a dog hater -
- Don't have school age children but it was always an issue when mine were in primary school
- As I said before it is a big problem in Flore
- I see this daily, in Welton.
- Welford school
- Not everyone likes dogs and is very dangerous.
- Outside my kids school Moulton
Often at CCS Wootton Fields also
- Old Stratford school
- Children will want to go and stroke a dog and sometimes the dog is frightened and can bite.
- Yelvertoft school occasionally has a dog in their playground.
- Please see previous comment
Previous comment: I often see dogs off leads around Brackley Lake and they have run up to my 5 year-old and frightened him
- Caroline chisholm school. PFI operative for the site encourage dogs to be brought to school by parents.
- Any dog of any size can be a danger. They should certainly be on leads
- Moulton secondary school- dogs off lead and fouling right outside school grounds.
- Moulton School & Science College
- Dogs have been tied to the post at the school entrance where children have to walk past to get in the school. Just don't think they should be near the school.
- Dogs frighten children near roads
- High field Brixworth school. Dog fouling near path. Grandson trod in it
- not directly known
- Primary school in Grange Park
- Already covered this in previous answers.

Previous comment: Bugbrooke NN7. I've witnessed a few people ask dog owners to put a lead on their dog but the owners refuse on the grounds of "they don't have too" Said dogs are usually jumping up at people, barking at cars etc..

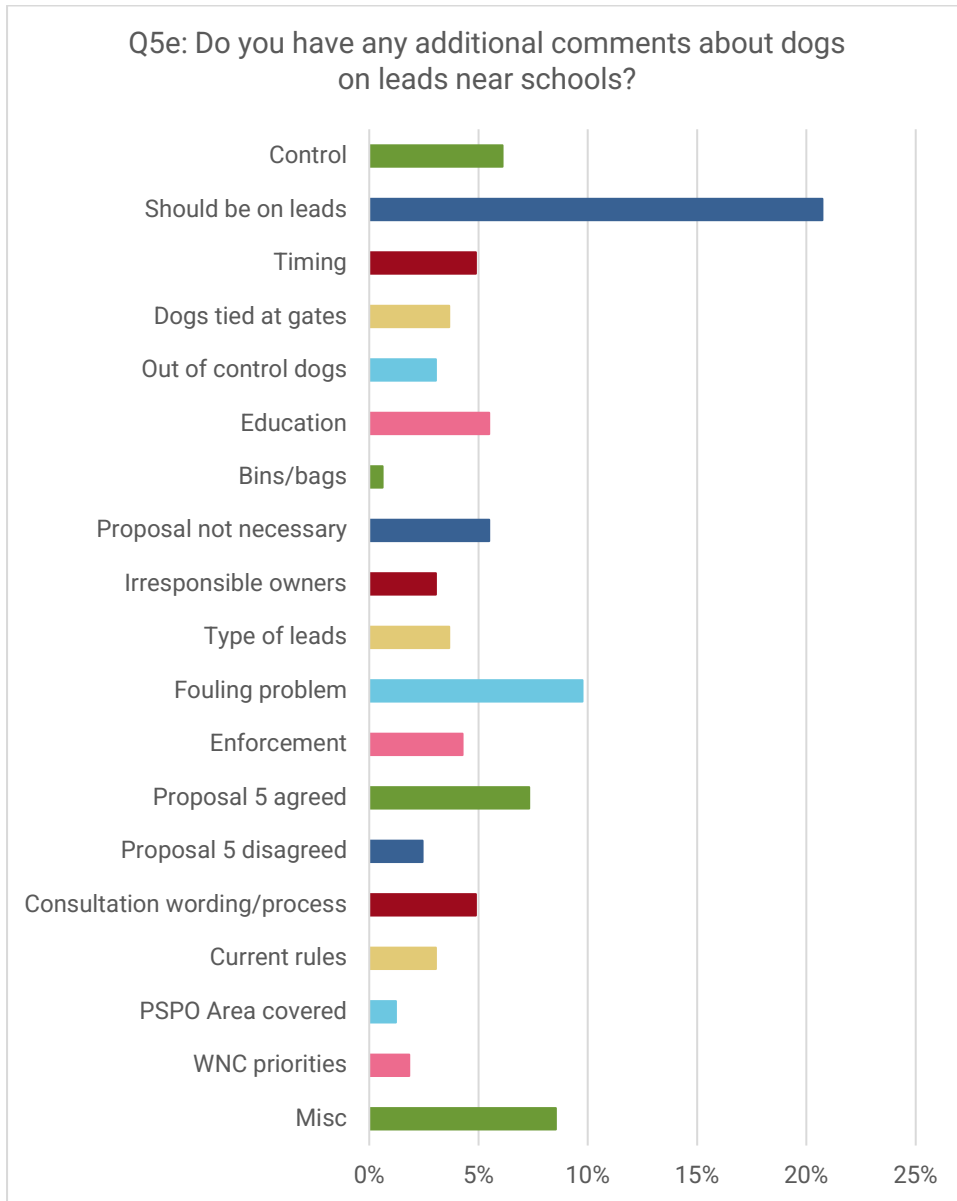
- Dogs running free in field by primary school
- Yardley Hastings Primary
- Yes dog jumping up the child causing them to cry and be afraid
- Badby school
- When the primary school comes out in Milton Malsor there are small children racing around everywhere. It's enough of a problem to worry about cars, adding loose dogs into the mix makes it much worse.
I'm amazed that a responsible dog owner would consider it to be OK to walk past a school at leaving time with an unleashed dog, but it happens.
- Children who have a fear of dogs having to undergo unnecessary stress at the school gates as owners take the opportunity to exercise their dog and pick up their kids at the same time. No problem with that, but encountering a dog not on a lead is too much. Some dogs are inherently inquisitive and run up to strangers to investigate, the owners seem to deem this acceptable, but to a child who is terrified it is not.
- I've seen dogs off leads near schools at "home time" that have both become nervous because of the amount of people and noise, and also that the amount of traffic is increased at that time which is more dangerous.
- Little Brington Primary School
- People bring their dogs to school without paying attention to the fact that their dog is upset by the large number of children and the noise, the dog becomes aggressive
- Multiple concerns from parents about dogs off the lead in the vicinity of schools.
- Brackley
- The exact same concerns as stated in my other responses.
Previous comment: People walking their dogs off lead in public play areas where children are present, allowing them to mess without cleaning it up.
- Hearsay of an accident near a school.
- Multiple concerns from parents about dogs off the lead in the vicinity of schools.

Question 5D: Comments from respondents who disagreed to Proposal 5.

No comments were received from those who "strongly disagreed" with Proposal 5.

- Is it not already a law that dogs be kept on a lead on a public highway? Aren't schools on public highways???

Question 5E: Do you have any additional comments about dogs on leads near schools?



Q5e: Do you have any additional comments about dogs on leads near schools?		
No. Respondents	143	
No. Comments	164	% Comments
Misc.	14	9%
WNC priorities	3	2%
PSPO Area covered	2	1%
Current rules	5	3%
Consultation wording/process	8	5%
Proposal 5 disagreed	4	2%
Proposal 5 agreed	12	7%

Enforcement	7	4%
Fouling problem	16	10%
Type of leads	6	4%
Irresponsible owners	5	3%
Proposal not necessary	9	5%
Bins/bags	1	1%
Education	9	5%
Out of control dogs	5	3%
Dogs tied at gates	6	4%
Timing	8	5%
Should be on leads	34	21%
Control	10	6%

Question 5E: Additional comments received regarding dogs on leads near schools from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 5.

- Seems common sense to enforce this. Not everyone likes dogs
- Just common sense - schools entrances on roads and dogs should always be on leads on public highways.
- We have parents who bring dogs to school gates, on leads, however the dogs snap at children and ought to be muzzled
- All dogs should be tight/short leashed when in proximity with other people.
- Dogs should always be on leads near schools.
- I don't think dogs should be left tied to school fences while parents go into school to collect children. The parent should wait with the dog outside and slightly away from the gate that the children are coming out from
- This is common sense for an owner to do this.
- These should be short leads, not extending.
- How would this be enforced?
- Makes perfect sense. Not all children are comfortable with dogs. Also, some children think it's acceptable to be overly friendly with unknown dogs which can cause issues too.
- It should be enforced again not everyone wants a dog jumping on them.
- Who will enforce this?
- Dogs are fine on leads - the trouble is these days parents are afraid of dogs and they are passing this on to their children - I was brought up with dogs as were my children/grandchildren
- All schools in Brackley are very busy at drop off or pick up with people and cars. Anyone who doesn't have their dog on a lead then is very inconsiderate to everyone around them and to the dog who could well end up in the road and run over.
- Having a dog on a lead does not stop it fouling the pavement . The same issue of extendable leads as previously stated is equally relevant here. What does "near a school area " mean?? Why would you need to implement this all day?
- Not just dog mess, but also intimidation of young children.

- Not all children (and not all adults) are keen on dogs. I think all dogs should be out on leads whenever other people are around.
- This should be common sense. Does it need a law? Parents tie their dogs up outside the schools and go into the school grounds. What if that dog bites.
- Why pin-point dogs and owners again? Do you intend to police this, because you don't police illegal parking at school times. Dogs in our village have to be on leads near schools as they have to walk in the roads due to congestion and illegal parking by parents collecting school children.
- Responsible dog owners should have dogs on a lead near roads for the dogs safety
- Assuming a dog on a lead near entrances and exits during school hours is short sighted.

Agreed dogs should be on a lead near entrances and exits when children are arriving/ leaving as not to cause a nuisance or danger.

It will minimise the chance of someone not spotting a dog fouling but it is the owner responsibility to pick it up. An ignorant owner (minority) won't care either way.

What happens if a dog off a lead on a weekend, could and an owner fails to pick it up? This seems the more likely scenario.

- Should attract high fines
- Dogs should be on leads near schools
- Seems eminently sensible given neither dogs nor smalls are predictable
- All dogs should be under complete control in any built up area especially where children are
- Surely it's common sense!
- Keeps children and dogs out of harm's way.
- Again common sense. Regardless of how well a dog is controlled an excitable child can cause just about any dog to become excited which can have varied consequences.
- What distance is "near schools"?
- Why wouldn't a considerate dog owner have their dog on a lead near a school anyway??
- Dogs should always be on leads where they might meet children
- Again, common sense however it is also down to parents to educate their children not to approach dogs.
- Children need to be taught to be respectful of dogs and act in a manner which won't lead to either upset or unwarranted excitement by the dog which potentially can lead to jumping or injury. Teaching children to ask owners if it is ok to stroke or pet a dog before doing so is basic first order to avoid unnecessary conflict. Whilst not dangerous, some dogs even on leads can react to excited children by being over boisterous and excited leading to potential minor injuries.
- Remind parents to teach children not to approach a dog or touch a dog without first asking the owner's permission
- Any responsible owner would have no issue with this .
- Children need to be taught how to behave around dogs - screaming and running will stress the most docile of dogs!

- I was asked not to be on the footpath in front of the school to pick up my kid, with my very well behaved dog on a lead. Because some shitty kid may!!! get scared.
This is the world upside down and not what we should encourage.
- Please see previous comment
Previous comment: Dog owners don't seem to understand that for a small child a dog running at it is scary, even if the owner says "it won't hurt". Dogs must be kept on a lead around schools and area where children play.
- Keeping a dog on a lead is not a way to stop them fouling in a particular place. But asking owners to pick up the faeces would resolve the issue if it occurs
- I can't believe you are doing this survey about dogs outside schools...there are far more serious issues ...like double parking, parking on no parking zones and dangerous driving outside schools....check out Manor Road in Brackley around 3pm....letting a dog loose might just give you a reason to put some road safety restrictions and traffic wardens in place when a dog gets killed in front of a group of kids.
- Dogs should not be left tied up just outside the school, as inevitably a child will try and sroke it.
- The general public do not need policing
- Leads must be short
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. wootton
- common sense really
- 100% they should be on leads. To limit danger to others and reduce the likelihood of arguments over uncontrolled dogs
- My dogs regularly joined me with collecting my children from school and were always on a lead and well behaved - this is a must! Children should be taught how to behave around dogs as well, this is not one sided! I've had children scream at my dogs when they are on the other side of the road. The survey is very one sided towards the children and not thinking of how a scared animal must feel when a random children screams at them or attempts to kick them!
I have been shouted at by parents for walking my dog near a school (when not on pickup) just because THEIR child is scared! This is a common issue that should be addressed in this survey. As an owner I have a duty of care to protect my dogs and parents have a duty of care to address these issues with their children!
- Again responsible dog owners would have their dog on the lead near a school or large group of people.
- There is always dog foul outside Moulton primary school entrance
- I would hope it's the duty of any dog owner and common sense to not allow a dog off its lead near or close to a School!
- I think that where children are concerned all measures to control dogs should be used. Small children do not have the same caution as older children and adults when approached by a dog off a lead.
- Dogs shouldn't be allowed in the school playground
- Dogs should be kept on leads and ideally not brought to the school area at drop off and pick up at all. Some children are frightened of dogs and shouldnt feel this way when going to school.

- Again.. common sense.
People with one or two dogs causing issues with this...
I avoid schools as inexperienced children and dogs do not mix.... Therefore avoid easy.
- This is already covered under Rule 56 of the Highway Code Do not let a dog out on the road on its own. Keep it on a short lead when walking on the pavement, road or path shared with cyclists or horse riders.'
- This is common sense and should be available for it to enforced on the few owners who do not observe it.
- not sure on the exact proposals but this should primarily be introduced during the morning and late afternoon when children are arriving or leaving school. From a dog fouling perspective not enforcing on weekends seems likely to not address the problem fully
- Sensible to have them on leads around entrances/exits, though what constitutes 'near'?
- They should not be on extending leads or barking
- Do just makes sense. Kids are excitable and so are dogs and both can get injured by no fault of their own I am sure.
I thi k kids should be taught to good dog etiquette, for example always ask an owner to pet a dog.
- Many children are frightened of dogs
- AT busy times schools present hiegher risks for dogs feeling threatened by volume of people therefore to reduce the risk of threatening behaviour of dogs or road traffic accidents, dogs should be kept on a lead.
- I don't think people should be bringing dogs to the school gates when the pupils are leaving school. Some children are scared or even terrified of dogs and no child should have to face that going in and out of school each day.
My friend is terrified of dogs due to an attack when she was little, the primary school we went to asked parents not to bring their dogs to school as it was such a problem with her refusing to come to school because she didn't want to have to face that terror everyday to get through the gates.
- Only sensible for dog owners to do it. However I don't think you need regulations for it. Local requests, and signage should be sufficient. Has this caused and injury or significant risks to children in South northants area?
- Again common sense and perfectly managed by society with the Councils wasteful rules signs and 'enforelcement'
- I believe most sensible dog owners would be happy to keep their dog on a lead at these areas due to the concern for children, other dog owners and due to the increased traffic at these locations.
- Schools and roads leading to schools.
- Fully support
- Some children are very frightened of dogs or even allergic so they should be kept on short leads around schools or not be there at all. With children running around school playgrounds, it doesn't take much for a dog to react in a bad way and bite a child.
- Dog fouling should be picked up anyway.
You live near a school and have not identified this as a problem. I have trodden in more horse poo than dog poo.

- No dogs should be allowed during the times of children arriving or leaving school
- Today, people are much more conscious and conscientious when it comes to dog fouling, compared to how things were in years past. I believe dog fouling in the vicinity of school entrances has become a complete no-no.
- It is good for dogs to be subject to this environment as it is part of socialising a dog, however, there should also be a drive to educate children how to act around dogs. For example, no one should assume it is okay to touch a strangers dog. This would help prevent any dogs from getting stressed or out of control.
- Should always be the case. Even if the dog is well behaved.
- Dogs should be on leads around multiple children. And children should be taught in schools not to stroke a dog unless they ask first.
- As per previous questions, dogs should be kept on leads at all times except for dedicated specific areas.
- A lot of parents walk their dogs to drop off/collect their child to/from school. Several dogs are often tied to Bracken Leas school fence whilst the owners wait within the school grounds. If there is nobody stood with the dog, even if it is on a lead and tied up, they are not in control of it and could nip someone approaching or standing too close.
- Owners shouldn't presume that other people or their kids want a strange dog to play with them.
- Children need to be educated in schools about how to approach dogs on leads. As well as dogs signals bout a good or bad approach
- Dogs must be on a short lead and under full control. Not all children like dogs. Some are very much afraid and risk running into the road to get away from a loose dog.
- We don't have any schools
- I thought it was a legal requirement to have a dog on a lead in a street anyway and if not it should be. It's dangerous for the dog
- Children shouldn't be intimidated or put at risk by dogs outside schools.
- Should be made to be on leads by law.
- Dogs should not be tied up outside the school as it can be very intimidating for a child who is scared of dogs
- A recent query is: Who is responsible for reporting dog owners who are not complying to keep dogs on leads? We have signs and the parish council have reiterated this including posts on social media. We have a children's play area and there are groups of people exercising their dogs off leads even though we have plenty of fields everywhere. - Astrop Road, Kings Sutton
- Dogs could be good for a second then flick of a switch they aim for a child and hurt them
- It is common sense to have a dog on a lead near and areas where children might be
- This should be common sense
- Just like, keep them on a lead at all times??
- It's sensible.
- Common sense
- No school within the parish but support the proposal
- Common sense

- Some children are scared of dogs so they should always be on a lead and controlled near schools
- This is a must and shouldn't be any need to discuss it.
- More signs but thought this was law anyway
- It depends on the dog - is it aggressive? can it be trusted off the lead to behave? - and on the owner - are they a responsible person who takes public safety seriously? This is not a big deal in Ashton where I live. Speaking personally, when I had a dog I'd always keep it on a lead where there was traffic and where there were people. It's both for the dog's safety and so as not to annoy other people or disrupt traffic.
- I feel it is important for children to learn how to behave around dogs. On and off the lead.
- A recent query is: Who is responsible for reporting dog owners who are not complying to keep dogs on leads? We have signs and the parish council have reiterated this including posts on social media. We have a children's play area and there are groups of people exercising their dogs off leads even though we have plenty of fields everywhere. - Astrop Road, Kings Sutton

Question 5E: Additional comments received regarding dogs on leads near schools from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed to Proposal 5.

- try legislating that children and mothers need to watch where they are going, and there by spotting trip hazards rather than looking at their phone.
- I think this is a very biased survey. A small trained dog off lead is unlikely to cause an issue, blanket rules are a big pointless. It's like trying to have the same rules for all your children and wondering why some of them aren't doing as well as the others. You have to be flexible
- Is it not already a law that dogs be kept on a lead on a public highway? Aren't schools on public highwahighways???
- Dogs should be under control a lead is not always necessary
- You fail to define "near".
Like some of the rest of this - a solution looking for a problem
- Dogs on leads still foul the pavement. Provide a bin near every school and encourage people to use them. Almost everyone will and that has to be enough:
- Again, why is this an issue. There are way more important issues in our neighbourhoods. Road quality is sadly lacking. the schools themselves are underfunded. Law already protects the public in all these situations. This just adds more cost to the council (a council that has run out of funding on multiple occasions)
- I've never seen any dogs off the lead near a school
- This is foolish. A dog walker will be on their best behaviour around so many other people as there are too many witnesses.
- I don't believe putting a dog on a lead stops it from pooing where it shouldn't
- How does having a dog on a lead stop poop being trodden into school? It may surprise you to know that dogs poop just as merrily when on a lead.

Talking anti social, dangerous and largely unnecessary car use near schools would have a far bigger impact on safety and the environment.

- Dogs should be under control at all times - this does not necessarily mean on a lead, as some dogs are very well trained. If the owner can't demonstrate control then the dog should be on a lead.
- Schools cover large areas in the community and residents adjacent school premises should not be restricted by these rules
- Again, there are far bigger, greater problems, than dogs being on a lead near a school.
- All these questions have the same response.... Untrained dogs with irresponsible owners will mean trained dogs will get penalised
- Just use a poo bag!
- Unnecessary as most schools are on public roads and would be on leads / controlled anyway. This is no different to dogs on a pavement anywhere in this country.
- This questionnaire is designed to get the answers that you want. It is poorly designed. It does not allow a contra view to the proposals or allows us to comment against the proposal.

This proposal is about dogs on a lead but the emotive issue used is fouling! My impression this questionnaire is designed in a way to get a foregone conclusion and therefore is not a democratic process.

Of course, one would agree that dog on a lead in some circumstances, however by linking these all in one you do not allow the participants the ability to agree with some issues and disagree with others

- Why are we not asking questions about cats and their owners? Many schools have sanded areas where cats often go and foul.
- Further closed questions driving for a particular direction on the answers. How does being on a lead prevent fouling, and further if there is a social responsibility to pick it up, how is there a problem. Is it a known fact that children hover once beyond the immediate vicinity of a school ?
- A well trained dog will not be an issue wherever it is with it's owner.
- Dog pooh should be picked up everywhere, not just schools. I don't think specific areas like this should be singled out as it weakens the overall message
- As long as their recall is good then I don't mind
- It should be up to the owner to decide what is best.
- How is putting your dog on a lead going to prevent it from fouling this is nonsensical.

There is already legislation to clear up after your dog which would cover this

- Keeping a dog on a lead near a school will not stop it fouling. It's owners not clearing up.
- This is more to do with stupid people taking dangerous dogs near children.

Question 5E: Additional comments received regarding dogs on leads near schools from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed to Proposal 5.

- Maybe on a lead during times when children start or finish school; this shouldn't need to be a requirement at other times of the day.

- Some dogs are far more relaxed around people and other dogs without a lead. I regularly pass Welton School with dogs and the children seem to enjoy them being there!
- This makes sense during school start and end times
- Why schools, by same logic why not Care Homes and the like as well. Proposal is too Orwellian by far.
- As a trainer and behaviourist, this is tricky as many times the children do not engage appropriately with the dogs, if you force an owner to put a dog on lead, and the children are smothering the dog and the owner cannot get away as the children won't leave the dog alone it will cause more issues and potentially make the dog more reactive.

My suggestion would be more of an exclusion zone around entrances to protect both children and dogs rather than force either into unmanageable situations.

- Shouldn't they be on lead on pavements anyway? Isn't this an unnecessary bit of legislation?
- Dogs off lead is ok if totally under control. If not on a lead.
- [name] accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.
[name] would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.
- I think it is true dogs should be on leads near schools. Especially with young children. However hopefully it's noticed a dog being on a lead won't stop it fouling.
- Why? This is one of the few places where irresponsible dog owners are monitored closely and scrutinised by all the other parents.
- I think the principle should be that a dog should be under control. If that means a lead around children then that's what it means. You've covered the dog fouling but previously so I don't see how that is relevant regards on or off lead. Either way people should pick up.
- This needs to be clarified
- What is classified as 'near'?
- The dog needs to be under the control of the owner, either on or off the lead
- As most school entrances are on roads and pavements then the dog should be on a lead anyway.
Fouling the pavement should be taken seriously whether its in proximity to a school or not.
- This seems unnecessary, and brings problems of definition. How near to a school do you have to be for putting a dog on a lead to become mandatory? Do you mean this to apply wherever there are schoolchildren even if not 'near' a school? How many schoolchildren do there have to be for this to be mandated?

Comments from Organisations received for Proposal 5 – Dogs on leads near schools.

Dogs Trust

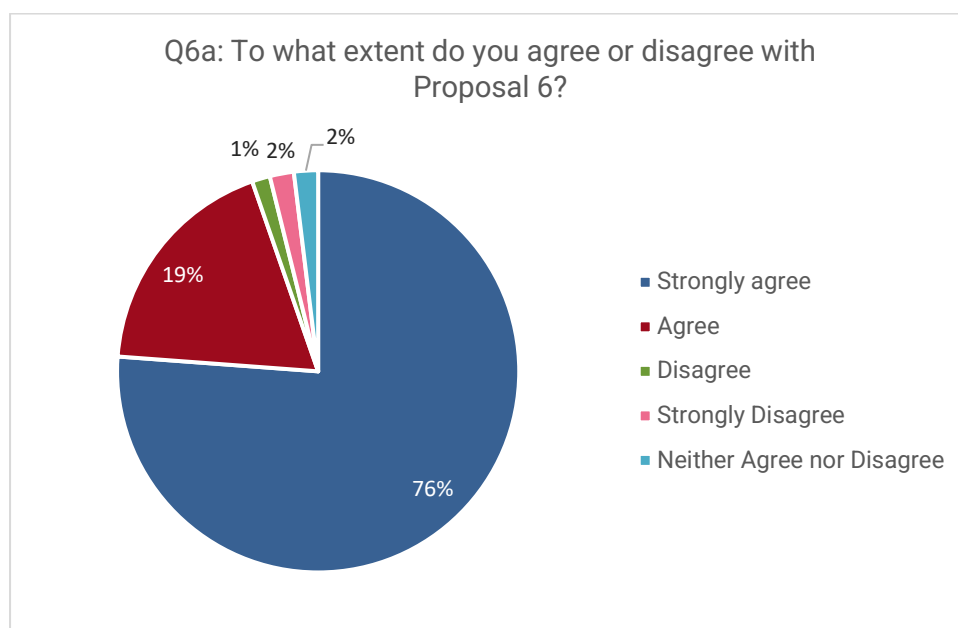
- Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead.
- Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act.
- The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.

Proposal 6. Appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess. Persons in charge of a dog must carry a poop bag or other appropriate means for clearing up after their dog.

65% of people responded to this proposal, of those that did respond, 95% strongly agreed or agreed that persons in charge of a dog must carry a poop bag or other appropriate means for clearing up after their dog. 67% of responses suggested that it was a very big concern or a fairly big concern. In excess of 40 different villages and towns across the former administrative areas of Daventry District and South Northants were identified as places where residents had a concern about dog owners not having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces in the last 12 months.

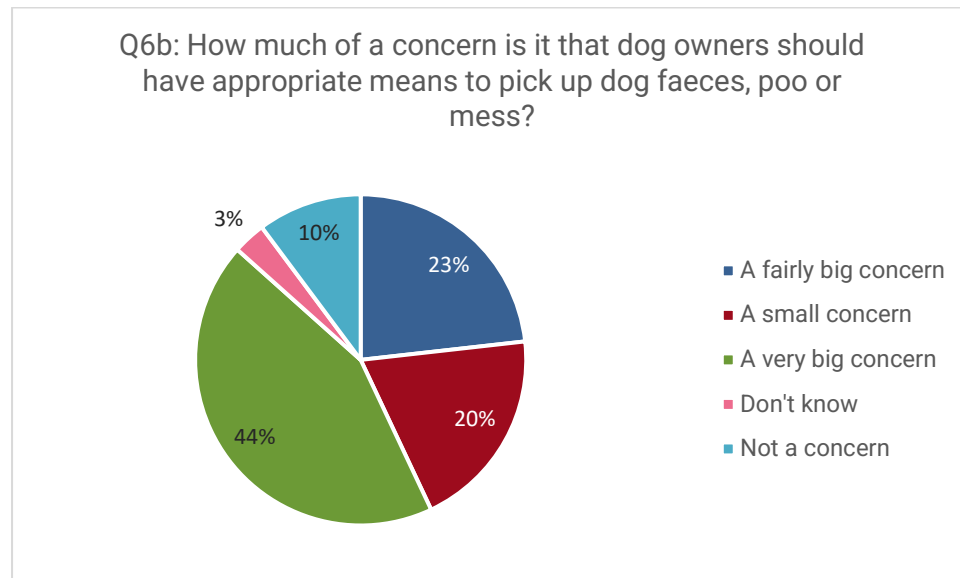
827 responded.

Question 6A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 6?



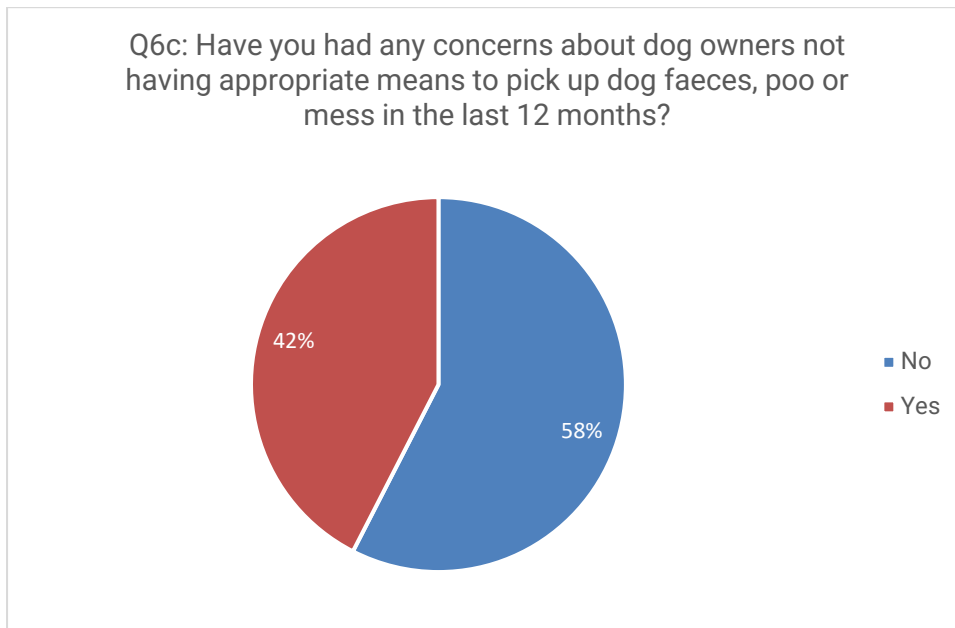
Q6a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 6?	Total	% Responses
Strongly agree	630	76%
Agree	153	19%
Disagree	12	1%
Strongly Disagree	16	2%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	16	2%
Grand Total	827	100%

Question 6B: How much of a concern is it that dog owners should have appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess?



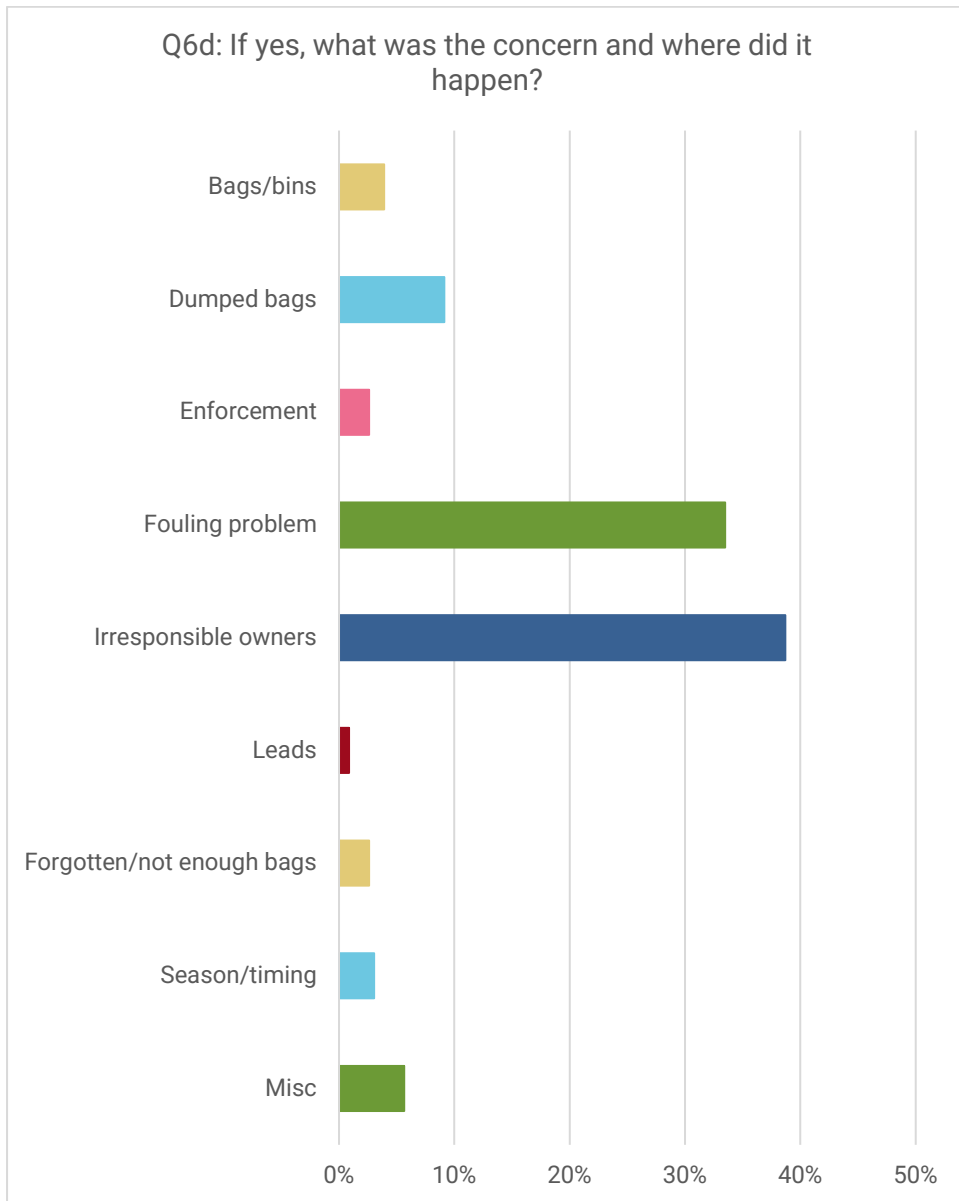
Q6b: How much of a concern is it that dog owners should have appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess?	Total	% Responses
A fairly big concern	189	23%
A small concern	161	20%
A very big concern	355	44%
Don't know	26	3%
Not a concern	83	10%
Grand Total	814	100%

Question 6C: Have you had any concerns about dog owners not having appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess in the last 12 months?



Q6c: Have you had any concerns about dog owners not having appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess in the last 12 months?	Total	% Responses
No	450	58%
Yes	332	42%
Grand Total	782	100%

Question 6D: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?



Q6d: If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?		
No. Respondents	276	
No. Comments	230	% Comments
Misc.	13	6%
Season/timing	7	3%
Forgotten/not enough bags	6	3%
Leads	2	1%
Irresponsible owners	89	39%
Fouling problem	77	33%
Enforcement	6	3%
Dumped bags	21	9%
Bags/bins	9	4%

Question 6D: Comments from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 6 which requires persons in charge of a dog to carry a poop bag or other appropriate means for clearing up after their dog.

- As per previous
Previous comment: Seems common sense to enforce this. Not everyone likes dogs
- General reports of dog mess not being picked up.
- They don't bother. Particularly when it gets dark
- dog poo is everywhere in the county. so many people don't pick it up. people let their dogs off lead to run off so they poop miles from the owner and they can pretend that they haven't seen them poop so they don't have to pick it up.
- Dog mess left all over our village. Either they don't have bags or they have no intention of picking up.
- Dog poo everywhere.
- I have seen dog mess around our footpaths, which suggests to me the owners were not carrying bags to pick it up.
- Outside my house and on my drive. I placed a roll of carrier bags in an old slotted coke bottle and strung it to the lamppost to stop this happening.
- Poo bags left hanging on trees on Borough Hill.
- Child with dog said he didn't have bag so I gave him one
He probably never has one as it's not cool
- It happens everywhere every day!
- Never caught anyone in the act unfortunately
- Alot do not even have bags with them or send kids out to walk dogs and they do not carry bags. Several times people have bagged the poo and then left the filled bag next to my fence as no bin our end of green
- This is a constant issue on Bessie's Lane, Towcester. Dog mess is regularly left and not cleaned up.
- As already said there is a big problem in my local area with dog mess not being picked up

- On rare occasions I have forgot poo bags or run out on a walk and have gone back to pick up my dog mess. Owners should have bags but don't fine someone if they forget once.
- I have called people out for not picking up and they have made excuses including having used their last bag.
I now carry bags for this very reason, no excuses.
- All around Deanshanger
- Owners allowing dogs to foul in public areas around the town and making no effort to clear up
- Lots of evidence people simply don't do it
- As Brackley has such good dog infrastructure there are only a handful of obvious fouling a week. These can be anywhere, most often off the lead, or where the owners take little interest in their dogs, talking on their phones, listening to music etc.
- Around the village in Harpole and other local areas
- Outside houses on my street on Blisworth road.
- Particularly dark evenings
- when you see dog walkers, who walk in front of their dogs, [who are often off the lead] and owners have no idea of what is going on behind them, or what mess they make.
- As previously mentioned on pavements and grass verges in Ellesmere Avenue, Malcolm Drive, Lyncrest Road and Lovat Drive.
- I see it everyday where owners pretend to look for a bag if close to others then walk away.
- Brampton Valley Way
- Everywhere there are documented instances
- Not a major concern as majority of dog owners are responsible and so this, but a few don't. Seems sensible and proportionate.
- the people who do not do it now - will not take any notice of a law, or anyone trying to impose it.
- Little Billing, Great Billing
- poo on footpaths
- As a dog owner myself, I find this extremely annoying.
- In our vilage on footpaths
- My driveway.
- Brackley has many free dog poo bag stations there is no excuse
- Some while walking my dog
- Heli park in daventry - there are a few pet owners that do not pick up after their dog. Comments made and had aggressive behaviour from them. They seem to think it's acceptable and there is no punishment for this behaviour
- People don't bother to do it if they think they can't be seen or they can get away with it. They leave it to rot on the ground.
- within brington parish - witness deposits of dog poo
- On Duston paths where there is a grass verge, people often smear the dog mess across the grass because it's not solid. They should make more of an effort to remove it, especially if its a common thing with their dog. Dog mess shouldn't be like that if they are being fed correctly. I get it could be a one off, but there's too many instances to be accidental

- Dog poo is a very big problem all around Flore, where people think it is OK to walk off & leave their dog poo
- I have handed out poo bags to dog owners who have just left poo. They were unaware of poo bins. Impossible that they should think this as they walk past them to go on the walk!, just ignorance. Say they will flick it.....horrible
- Walking along any street in West Brackley you can find examples of dog fouling.
- On Lang Farm, I offered a bag but the owner ignored me.
- Have encountered dog owners on Abbey fields claiming to have "forgotten " to take poo bags I offer them one of mine.A lot of the dog fouling happens at night often in same place
- We have offered a bag's to owners who have not been equipped to pick up. They either say they hadn't noticed their dog had messed or "forgot" to bring a bag.
- Silverstone
- I gave someone some poo bags as they had no intention of picking poo up as they had no bags this happened a few months ago
- Furlongs/Farrier estate - regular dog poo left on paths, pavements, roads, grass areas
- I have seen people not pick up their dogs poo
- Fields and footpaths
- A dog poop outside my house I the grass and the owner did not pop it up. Although I am told he is elderly and absent minded and usually does?? Always poop on field footpaths but right on the path.
- Welford village
- Crick sports field
- On pavement outside my home
- If there is dog mess being left on the pavements I would question if people carry poo bags or not and if they do, why aren't they picking up?
- Dog pool on pavements in the village
- Poo bags hanging in trees and left on the floor. Although there should be more bins. Area - anyway no matter what county
- I have given people bags to pickup their dog excrement.... When they clearly were not going to pick up!
- See before
Previous comment: I would rather common sense prevailed than being dictated to thank you.
- Many times I have seen owners walking more than one dog not picking up their mess. There are people that walk others dogs as well, we are located in Welford
- Too many times to list.....
Wootton village mainly
Plus Moulton village
- If an owner does not carry at least 2 bags then they have no intention to pick up after themselves. Being forced to carry a means of disposal will encourage better compliance.
- Dog poo left on grass verge outside my house.
- All along halse Road brackley, brackley leisure centre playing fields
- dogs poo on front gardens, on public rights of way and on pavements, especially autumn/winter when lots of leaves are arround
- Faeces left on the streets. Woodford Halse

- In the little park opposite my house. The lady was walking with her friend and chatting, dog off the lead and stayed behind. He made a poo and none of them even noticed, I had to call them and tell.
- As per previous comments and action points highlighted by Rothersthorpe Parish Council
- Have seen people without bags and even if offered a bag they refuse
- Dog owners claiming they couldn't pick up foul as they didn't have the bag...
- All over Brackley
- It happens regularly on the paths all around our village and immediately in front of our driveway
- See earlier
Previous comment: Frequent occurrence when walking.
- Well I'm assuming they didn't have the means or otherwise they'd have picked up - but I may be being generous! See earlier comments re dog poo around Croughton.
- The Willows, Daventry
Welton Road, Daventry
- The numerous messes around daventry may be caused by owners not having poo bags
- West Hunsbury bridleway and parks
- See my earlier concerns on dog owners not picking up.
Excuses of not having means to scoop or "no bin to put it in" are resolved by mandating the carrying of poo bags and insistence of disposing in designated bins or at home will remove this excuse.
- Judging by the amount of dog mess on pavements and open spaces in Moulton it is obvious that some people don't carry bags, and those that do often leave the full bag by the edge of the path.
- We have a problem with dog poo in Rothersthorpe because a small minority don't carry dog poo bags. If they had to carry the bags some of the problems would be reduced but there will always be dog owners who don't want to bother.
- Everywhere where poo is.
- Dog poo can be seen in lots of areas, lazy dog owners
- No bags - the mess is not collected or flicked, with a stick, into the undergrowth.
- Just the amount of waste left behind gives us responsible dog owners a bad name
- Everywhere I go there is uncollected poo. People sometimes actually pick up the poo in the correct receptacle and then, because they can't find a bin they dump it or throw it in a bush, as they don't want to carry it for any length of time.
- A dog owner not picking up their massive dog poo in my street.
- Dog (large) faeces left on my drive. Dog would have been on lead (busy road adjacent) so owner must have known.
- Curtain, people return the walking without having any poo bags to pick up after the dog that should be criminalised
- Roade, evidenced by the amount of poo left on paths, play areas, green spaces etc
- Spoke to owner got laughed at and ignored....Ashwood Lane Hartwell. Offered bags ..refused ..walked away from me leaving piles of poo from 5 dogs.
Also others bag the poo and throw it in the hedges or ditches as no bin at the top of the lane.

- See first answer - Roade has a few irresponsible dog owners who allow 'free range' pooing with no clearing up
- Naseby footpaths within the village
- I have come across a number of people with their dogs in streets in Brackley who don't have poop bags. I have given them our poop bags to pick their dogs mess up and a couple still refused
- A neighbour crossed the road to allow his dog to foul on the verge outside our house. When challenged, refuse to clear up the mess.
- All over the parks and pavements in Brackley
- The amount of dog poo about on paths must mean the owners are not carry bags to clear up or they don't care
- While walking along the canal and at the end of the bridge by the Wharf pub in Welford. With leaves obscuring the ground it is difficult to see and I had to stop my son walking through it.
- Widespread dog mess in Brackley
- In my neighbours front garden a few people.elt their dog use it as a toilet and leave it
- Roade the leys and high st
- People do not clean up dog mess on footpaths in the countryside. Or they bag it and hang it on a tree or hedge. The Grand Union canal attracts many visitors and dog mess on the towpath is an issue
- Presumably the people who don't pick up wouldn't take a poo bag. Most people do but can sometimes forget. We once forgot but knocked on a friends house for one. Just yesterday a couple waited by a poo for another dog walked to come and asked for a bag.
- Bugbrooke village
- It does realy annoy me that some dog owners don't have a ready supply of poo bags.
- Naseby Village.
- Hartwell. Public footpaths seem to be the dog owners toilet of choice
- See earlier answer
Previous comment: I run and walk on all of the public footpaths and lanes around Croughton. In the last three years I've had three serious incidents involving big dogs. All off leads in public places. I've been bitten (more nipped) on the hand. Had three dogs encircle me barking. My wife pushed over. This creates conflict between dog owners and the public we can all share safely if they have proper control and the dog on a lead. I've come to the conclusion that this problem is getting worse since the pandemic due to inappropriate dogs and owners!
- We help each other and I know owners who return later to pick up if they ran out of bags.
I pick up bonus poos not belonging to my dog especially on footpaths.
- Perhaps the dog mess left on pavements and paths is in part because dog owners are not carrying sufficient poo bags.
- Dog mess on High st which is a busy route to & from school.
- Multiple dog owners not collecting dog faeces on bridleway leaving Eydon by Cemetery.
- Owner did not pick up poo, I asked him to but simply said no because the rain will wash it away.

- Dog mess regularly on path outside our home
- Pavements in grange park
- Often happens around the village despite a few bag dispensers being available. Perhaps if there were more dispensers around the village it would encourage compliance.
- I don't like to confront a dog owner when I C it I just let it go
- My concern is everywhere. You're phrasing the question incorrectly.
- Canal towpath
- as per my previous comments
Previous comment: they are dirty and they are allowed to just jump up at you as the owner does not care about exercising any control over the dog
- Moulton - not picking up due to no means to pick it up with
- Piles of dog poo that are not picked up. Often larger piles suggesting larger dogs.
- Take a dog out then take a bag simple
- Dog owners putting the dog poo in a bag and then just throwing the bag into the hedgerow when there are bins provided, in and around Old Stratford
- As previously mentioned I have made specific complaints in the past and nothing happens. I am certain the individual doesn't carry a means to pick up so you wouldn't need to catch him in the act if merely not having the means to pick up was an offence.
- Brixworth is terrible like most areas for people not picking up their dog mess.
- People just not doing it! Several places
- Seeing other dog owners not clearing up and then having to provide them with the means to do so
- Sywell Village
- Dog poo bags left hung on hedges!
- It must be a problem because you see so much dog mess everywhere so can only assume people do not go equipped to deal with it.
- See answers to proposal 1
Previous comment: It's a common sense way of avoiding more draconian measures - if being on a lead allows a dog to be controlled and prevent it from biting someone, it reduces the need to then have to potentially destroy a dog later on.
- As per my previous answers, namely the Playing Field Welford and public footpaths used by livestock
Previous comment:I have been told by a reliable person about a man who allowed his Springers to walk among sheep and chase them. This was reported to DDC
- Unfortunately it happens all the time and everywhere in Moulton
- faeces in bags left alongside footpaths and side of the road.
- Regularly when out walking.
- Lings Wood Nature Reserve
- Always just left on footpaths.
- As before
- increase in dog mess in village of welford
- Dog owners become aggressive if challenged when they walk away from their dog's faeces. Owners MUST be made aware that they have a duty of care to carry these items at all times and be able to show proof if requested, without being aggressive. Any responsible dog owner would appreciate this and conform.

- Welford - It is very common to notice dog faeces etc close to playing fields or school
- There is too much poo around the village of Greens Norton. My kids walk in it and it is an effort to remove
- As stated in past section, 3 main areas that i am aware of in Brixworth. Where I can I will remove poo without leaving myself short of a supply of bags, I removed some from a public footpath today, going out towards Northampton on the footpath to the left of the road near the new houses.
- Lots of local dog walkers not picking up poo and not even carrying any poo bags
- Various incidents. Notably a dog walker caught on CCTV by a homeowner on Calvert Close, failing to pick up their dogs mess on a driveway. Was posted on Facebook (possibly in breach of personal data protection) it's a view to identifying the person.
- I have major concerns on this matter. In the village of Chipping Warden I often see dog poo on the paths, and grassed areas. On a number occasions I have had to clear up dog poo from the grassed area outside my house.
- Brixworth.
- Brixworth village paths and alleyways and parks.
- NOT DIRECTLY KNOWN
- Poo around my children's school which they would have trodden in were it not for me being vigilant
- The problem is not so much whether the dog owner has appropriate means. Many bags containing dogs mess are found discarded on pavements, grassy areas and in hedges. Everywhere.
- Dog mess witnessed on residential paths on Monksmoor Farm Estate and on the country park pathway
- Public areas... Canals....
Bins are in place but people... again normally with 1 or 2 dogs, do not pick up or dispose appropriately..... People with more dogs are more responsible!
- Outside my house. I challenged a dog owner about the mess. They claimed they had nothing on them to clean it up with. They ended up returning home to fetch more bags. If I hadn't challenged them or been as assertive, the mess would have been left.
- Dog poo on footpaths/recreation grounds.
Found dog poo bags (used) dumped in my front garden
- Whenever out you ALWAYS see irresponsible dog owners not picking up after dogs.
- A dog defecated on at the entrance to the public footpath at Mill Lane in Cogenhoe. The owner said he didn't have anything to pick it up with. He had walked half a mile on the public pavement to arrive at that spot and the dog could have defecated at any time during that section.
- Around Grange Park lots of poo left
- Come across the occasional Pooh that has not been picked up
- I have witnessed this on pathways, people taking no notice of what their dog is doing.... Normally too busy on their phone
- Local green in our housing estate, which is used by children playing football
- Open recreational areas
- All over the village

- The whole village is covered in dog poo, I've even had one poo in my front garden, I asked the owner to pick it up, she said no she had no bags left. I offered her a bag and she walked off.
- I have no idea if they have the appropriate means or not. But there are plenty who don't bother to pick it up.
- In Bugbrooke. Coming across dog mess after the event.
- In BUGBROOKE
I have given one of my bags!
- Obvious
- Often, dog mess is left on paths around Brixworth. Holcot Road and I even stood in some outside my driveway in The Ridings. Lots off mess on the playing fields off The Ashway.
- On most of the housing estates, and playing parks in Brackley, there is evidence of dog fouling
- Around our village, owners go out without a poo bag then just leave the dog poo!
- Billing Road. Dog pooped on the pavement. Owner said they had forgotten a bag so left it. They wouldn't even kick the poop into the road by the kerb.
- Village wide issue. Stepping over and around poo every day!!
- Cogenhoe Playing fields
- Cant recall date, but as I said before there is always one irresponsible dog owner who will allow its dog to foul and not pick it up. A PSPO can help but only if the person who can issue the fine is in the right place at the right time.
- The pocket park in Old Stratford, Falcon Drive has a bin at each end and some people still can't pick up dog faeces
- People just don't pick up after their dogs. I must pick up other dog's poo at least 5 times a week
- There is always poo down the alleyways. I can only assume that the owner didn't have the means to pick up the poo, it happens all the time.
- See dog poo on pavements and grass verges in pedestrian areas frequently and as a dog owner, annoys me as we are tarnished with the same brush.
- Not enough bins or poo bags provide nearby
- Only that by the amount of dog mess that isn't cleared up, one can only assume that the owner didn't have any means by which to do so, or chose deliberately not to do so.
- People use bags but then hang them on bushes and leave them on paths.
- Allotments and along the canal tow path in Blisworth
- Cottesbrooke, see previous comment
- Cottesbrooke
- almost all dog ownets do this at all times
- Dog fouling left behind or dog poo bags being left behind
- Paulerspury. It is apparent some owners do not carry poo bags, or not sufficient poo bags, in order to pick up after their dogs.
- Woodford Halse new estate. My partner had to challenge someone as their dog defecated outside our house, he said he had to go home and get a bag. If you have a dog, you should carry the means to clean up after it.
- We shouted him back and told him either you get that moved or it's coming through your letter box! Guess what it was picked up and moved . But could have ended up with a disaster....

- All over Woodford Halse.
- There is constant mention on the Braunston Bugle about dogs fouling footpaths and verges
- Around Primary School area lots of dog mess - School road spratton
- Cantafford dog bags or didnt have any... when walking on concrete road Banbury Lane
- All over nether Heyford nn7 3nn
- Footpaths around Badby Woods
- Dog poo left next to footpaths around the village - Badby
- You cannot pick up dog faeces if you don't carry something like a plastic bag
- A boat owner waking his dog on the tow path kicked poo into a hedge, I asked him to put it into a poo bag he said he didn't have one, I went to his boat later with a hand full of poo bags, was verbally abused by him and his wife who threw the bags at me
- It's common sense
- Every where in Woodford halse
- residents walk dogs without dog poo bags, residents have also put up dog poo bags by dog bins in the village, and these are still not always used.
- Roade
Dogs walked at night
- On the assumption that, when dog faeces are not picked up, it's because the owner found themselves without the means to do so. Whether that is indeed the reason is up for question.
- Too numerous to list , on going regular issue in Roade village
- I myself have run out of poo bags during a walk, however I have borrowed from other dog owners, or retrieved extras from home.
- Dog owners with "flick" faeces into the bush or to an area they think people wont walk on because they forgot the bag - happens everywhere and I tell them!
- In the Meadows in Towcester but I gave them a couple of bags and they cleared up.
- Nothing specific, but some dog owners do not pick up. Whether they have a poo bag is a moot point
- As already stated, the problem in Eydon rests with owners using "wander leads" and so being able to distance themselves from what their dog is doing.
- Brixworth. Judging by the amount of dog mess in the streets, presumably some dog owners don't carry poo bags.
- Milton Malsor - dog mess often left around. I've forgotten a bag before so I've knocked on a house door and asked for a sandwich bag... it's not that difficult!
- Daventry, Iron Duke Close, resident from The Headlands allowed their two dogs to fowl and stated that he did not carry poo bags.
- on the village Facebook page we are repeatedly being warned about dog mess, especially in Green Street and High Street. I encounter it regularly in the alleyway between Rectory Lane and Green Street.
- on the village Facebook page we are repeatedly being warned about dog mess, especially in Green Street and High Street. I encounter it regularly in the alleyway between Rectory Lane and Green Street.

- on the village Facebook page we are repeatedly being warned about dog mess, especially in Green Street and High Street. I encounter it regularly in the alleyway between Rectory Lane and Green Street.
- Charwelton, down church street.
- They are not doing it so i suspect they havent
- Fields, footpaths and bridle paths in Ashton.
- Poo on my front lawn, in the street and on paths. Usually happens when it's dark.
- BRAUNSTON
There is a lot of dog mess everywhere
- Cognehoe playing field
others leave a bag full of it but leave the bag!
- People use 'no appropriate means of picking up poo' as an excuse for not doing it.
- village green nn7 1na
- As per previous questions. Brackley open spaces and unpaved walks.
- In and around the village I live in
- Chase Park Road
- Rothersthorpe, Hunsbury Park,
- Everywhere in the bringtons area
- I see dog mess all over the public footpath routes through our village and local community of the Bringtons.
People do not pick it up as it is rural or they do pick up but leave the bag randomly on the path or in field. I am constantly picking up other dogs mess or bags on walks.
Lack of bins in Little Brington is an issue.
- Parks - owners either don't bother or pick up and throw the bags into the hedges.
- See first answer to q1
Previous comment: As a responsible dog owner, I do not like the idea of being persecuted because of others.
- Outside of our property
- I have been asked several times whilst walking around Leisure centre/recreational area paths for dog poo bag and have always offered one when required.
- Dodging Poo every day in Waynflete Avenue Brackley,
- Regularly when walking my dog I see dog faeces left on the ground and not picked up.
- Dog poo seen on many footpaths. Also dog poo in bags left discarded.
Overflowing dog poo bins. Poorly sited dog poo bins that stink.
- Whether or not they had appropriate means would have required a strip search, but they didn't pick it up.
- Local problem mainly on public footpaths on agricultural land but your proposals exclude this. Whilst PCOs not on this land raising awareness that its still antisocial and disgusting might help.
- It happened on the path outside my front door. A very large dog poo just left there
- Some people try to use the excuse that their dog has already been to the toilet, so they've used the bag they took with them and couldn't clear up a second time.
- Little Brington footpaths strewn with uncollected pop bags & also uncollected dog faeces

- Some dog owners quite often walk in front with the dog following, that's not on a lead, easy to ignore them when they foul, just keep walking, don't look back and make out they didn't realise. If the dogs were on leads they couldn't ignore the fact as they would have to stop & clear up the the mess.
- I regularly see uncleared dog faeces on the footpaths round the village
- As a committee member of Crick Playing Field Association and a dog owner I regularly walk in the playing field and am quite disgusted to see dog mess that has not been cleared up
- Little Houghton
- Cogenhoe
- Leaving poo on footpaths
- Silverstone, see previous comments.
Previous comment: Poo bins need to be emptied more regularly on Whittlebury Road, please can they contain some sort of de-odouriser?
- A recent report in Jenkinson Road, Towcester where the resident is aware of the person responsible for the fouling and is unable to action further.
- The concerns seem to be dog owners not clearing up after their dogs when it is dark, that seems to be when the problems happen
- Just the general amount of poo left lying and not picked up.
- As previously mentioned, fouling in public spaces: owners should pick up after them.
- Finding dog poo in inappropriate places in Creaton
- Canal towpath, Long Buckby Wharf, I spoke to an owner who ignored my polite reminder that he should pick up his dog's poo, he clearly had no bags with him, kicked the poo to one side, made an aggressive comment than walked a short distance to his boat.
- There's quite a lot of it around the streets. I'm not talking hazardous levels, but most streets there is some.
- Dig Faeces is always left around our village, - we know who doesn't pick up but we can't say anything.
- Brackley public walking areas
- Manor road Brackley
- Abuse from dog owner when challenged
- Often left on street
No concerns over fields
- People don't seem to bother in our village and leave their dogs to mess everywhere.
- Everywhere in the village. Ive found dog poo within 5 meters of a poo bin on at least 6 occasions in the past year which suggests to me that people are either not concerned or dont have the means to pick it up.
- Huge amount off dog poo on my school journey. I have a toddler learning to walk and a son who likes to run and play. Dog poo is disgusting and potentially could make them ill. it's an owners responsibility to clean up.
- On my front lawn
- we have had numerous issues around the village of people not picking up after their dogs. on main streets and also footpaths around the village
- dog foul bags being left in gateways adjacent to farmland and paths that have to be picked up and disposed of by others

- Have seen some dog owners not picking up dog waste in welford village

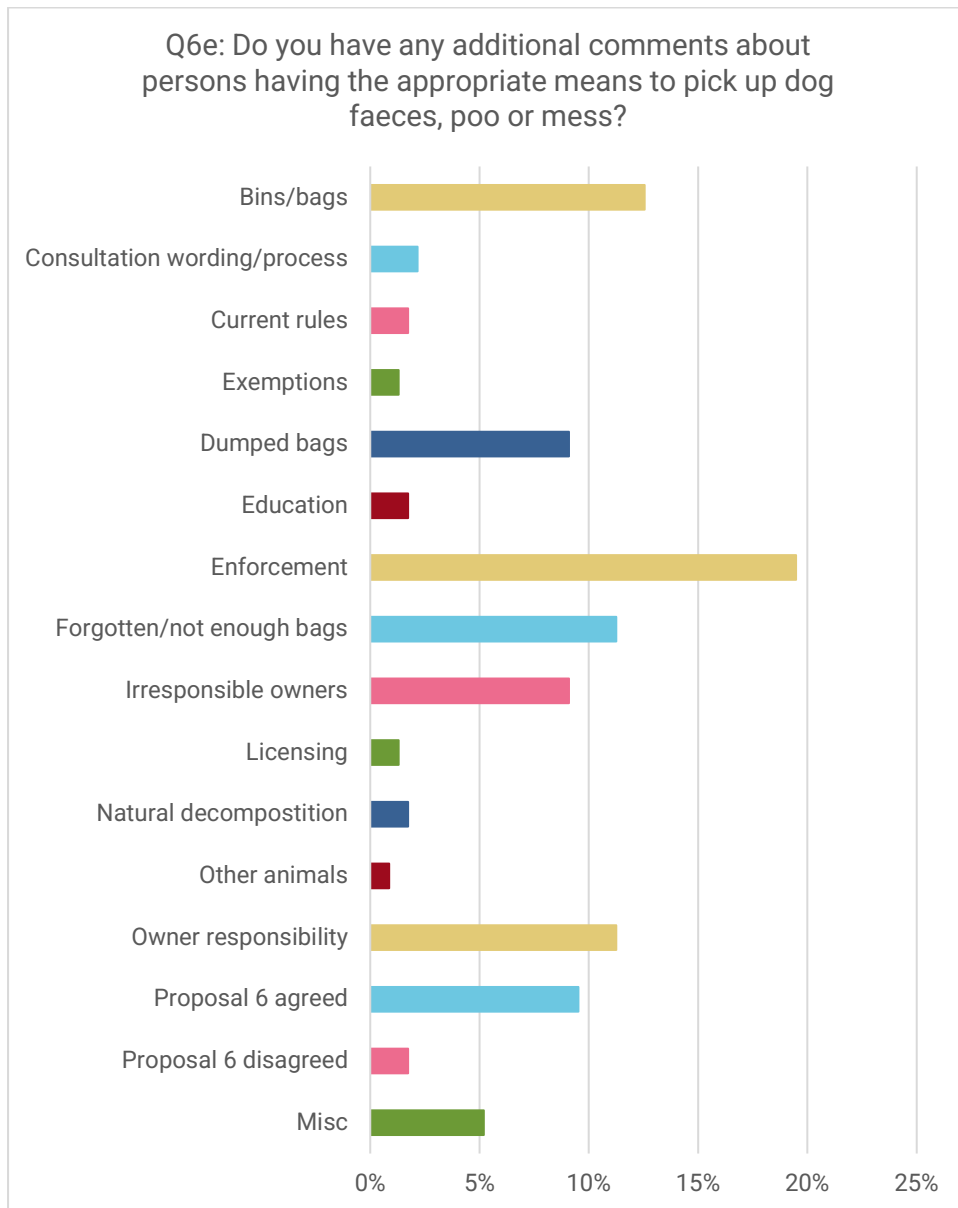
Question 6D: Comments from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed to Proposal 6 regarding having appropriate means to pick up dog faeces.

- I would refuse to show anyone who asked to see my dog poo bag. That is going to far. If I'm on the woods I will flick it into the bushes rather than use plastic to pick up. On the streets I use a bag... sometimes people forget though, you can't criminalise them for that
- Asking this question is silly. Do you want every time and date I am concerned?
- Some people are idiots and still don't pick it up

Question 6D: Comments from respondents who neither agreed or disagreed to Proposal 6 regarding having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces.

- There are not enough poo bins and so dog owners don't pick up the poo at popular dog walking places like welford reservoir and this makes the area less accessible for non dog owners. If dog owners have a poo bin it's much easier to dispose of the poo rather than taking their litter home in the car.
- Some just toss it to hang off the trees anyway!

Question 6E: Do you have any additional comments about persons having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess?



Q6e: Do you have any additional comments about persons having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess?		
No. Respondents	214	
No. Comments	231	% Comments
Misc.	12	5%
Proposal 6 disagreed	4	2%
Proposal 6 agreed	22	10%
Owner responsibility	26	11%
Other animals	2	1%
Natural decomposition	4	2%
Licensing	3	1%
Irresponsible owners	21	9%
Forgotten/not enough bags	26	11%
Enforcement	45	19%
Education	4	2%
Dumped bags	21	9%
Exemptions	3	1%
Current rules	4	2%
Consultation wording/process	5	2%
Bins/bags	29	13%

Question 6E: Additional comments received regarding having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces by respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 6.

- I thought this was already a requirement
- Should be legal requirement. Dog licences should also be reintroduced.
- Dog owners having appropriate means to clear up after their dog should be a minimum expectation.
- Should always have bags to collect mess, not appropriate to leave it on footpaths
- Everyone will just carry a bag, but won't use it
- Having a few bags on someone isn't difficult
- Dog poo bags discarded in the countryside rather than being put into a bin or taken home for disposal. They are everywhere! It's disgusting and I just don't get it. They take out bags on their dog walk, collect the poo, tie the bag and then chuck it into a bush or tree. Mindless!
- How about trialing some free bag collection points at key locations in parks and increasing the amount of bins
- Again this is already law
- enforcement, enforcement, enforcement

- I suspect that young people are less likely. I've come a couple of cases. Parents should ensure that when they send children out with dog the mess will be picked up
- It is possible to forget or run out of poo bags - I've even dropped them previously. Perhaps in areas like country parks etc a vending machine with dog walking necessities or at cafes in the area etc would increase compliance
- Most dog owners carry them. Once in a while an owner will forget and the dog will still need the loo
- A dog walker may have used up their bags on the walk so should not be fined for not having any left if they are at the end of their trip out.
- Most dog owners carry poo bags when walking their dogs although we're all human so it stands to reason that people will forget now and again. In some areas of Brackley there are disposable bags near poo bins, which is really helpful, although only if you happen to be near a bin when your dog poos.
- People think they won't be caught if they don't pick up after their dog particularly if it is dark
- Most people have poo bags these days, although a few more litter bins would not go amiss.
Again, the Pytchley Hunt seems to be immune from these rules as they never carry leads or poo bags.
- They must dispose of them properly, not doing so must attract serious penalty. Bags should be biodegradable.
- They may have the means to pick up but they don't always take it away from where they pick it up!
- I try to start a dog walk with two poo bags and finish the walk with two, replenishing via free bags as I go.
Starting with only one bag isn't always enough
- Fine them a large amount!
- There is no excuse for not cleaning up after your dogs.
- There are free bags available, supplied by volunteers.
- How would this be enforced?
- I do think that most dog owners are responsible and have poo bags with them but I'm sure there are some who don't out there.
- They need to be fined
- Responsible dog owners should pick up after their dogs anywhere and everywhere outside of their home.
- Again who will enforce it!!
- Generally dog owners will carry poo bags - there is the odd occasion where an owner may not have a bag (bag splits/rips) or roll of bags runs out unexpectedly, and I don't see that people should be punished for this. If purposely not taking bags that is another matter, but people should not be punished for something accidental such as this.
- Parish councils could also look at education schemes and the provision of the means to clear dog poo in certain areas.
It clearly is the owners responsibility to do so but signing and or the opportunity to pick up a bag in some places may help.
These bags must be compostable.

- Ok dogs do have occasional accidents and sometimes owners have used up their bags that they had with them but always carry more as dogs often "go" more than once - carry wet wipes/tissues in case it cannot be picked up!
- Given you can't guarantee when a dog will create a mess and that you should be cleaning it then why wouldn't you have something with you.
- I have no idea if there is an issue with people having appropriate means to pick up dog faeces - how would I know?
Picking it up is only one part of the solution to dog fouling - they need to put it in a bin not leave the bag on the path.
- Could you please stop using the infantile 'p' word.
And one word will do, you don't have to behave like lawyers.
- As a dog owner it is second nature to check that I leave the house with a lead and poo bags, this is responsible dog ownership, this shouldn't be a challenging request.
- This is nothing new but you haven't controlled it in the past. What's new?
- As above
Previous comment: I have handed out poo bags to dog owners who have just left poo. They were unaware of poo bins. Impossible that they should think this as they walk past them to go on the walk!, just ignorance. Say they will flick it.....horrible
- Most responsible dog owners have the means to do this
- Dog owners should be responsible for clearing up any mess on pavements caused by their dog. I don't agree with providing bags for dog owners, they choose to have a dog and should buy all necessary equipment.
- And how is this going to be policed. Powers of search? And then what.
Gross intrusion.
Another busy body solution looking for a problem.
- It should be mandatory for owners to carry poo bags.
- Should and believe it is an offence not to carry poo bags in Daventry?
- I see too many poop bags hanging on trees so it is the disposal that is as much a problem as the picking up.
- Sometimes I accidentally leave the house without a poo bag
- The issue is not whether people carry poo bags for their dogs - its whether they can be bothered to pick it up. Are you really suggesting that council officials should be stopping dog walkers to ask them to empty their pockets - a ridiculous suggestion - and realistically unenforceable
- Responsible dog ownership be a good citizen. Doesnt need the council police !
- Dame should apply to cats. Cat poo can cause far more serious illness and is a big problem in my area.
- They clearly must be stupid not to and I don't know how people dare not pick it up it beggars belief
- If they had poop bag then I assume faeces would be picked up , then there would be any left on streets and footpaths, preferably then put in bins, not left on the pathway!
- They don't!!
- People can't be bothered to walk a little bit to the nearest poo bin and they're dropping the bags on the ground.
- There is no excuse for owners not cleaning up after their pet

- Yes. Bags are provided and bins. As a non dog owner, why should I pay for this through my council tax?
- There don't appear to be any bags available in the village. Maybe there should be poo bags available at locations around the village for people to use, as well as around the public footpaths. This would also be a visible reminder and could be combined with appropriate signage?
- Having picked it up, don't leave hanging on bushes or in other people's gardens!
- This is a good idea.
- Always keep a roll of dog poo bags attached to the lead
- Don't get a dog if you can't get poo bags
- As well as having the appropriate means , It's important to provide sufficient dog bins so that people do not throw their bags into the hedges.
- It's not hard!
- I always carry extra poo bags and have offered bags to anyone i see who has not picked up their dog mess usually they are embarrassed and then clean it up.
- Whilst it would be nice for there to be some method to have 'emergency bags' available at car parks/entrances (maybe on the poo-bins themselves) - because, lets face it, there's always the chance that you get to the last bag, put it in the bin, then 20 minutes later your dog decides that he needs to go again... I can see that such emergency provision probably isn't practical.
- More bins are needed, so that more people are encouraged to collect and correctly dispose of the waste.
- It always comes back to 'responsible' dog owners who will always carry poo bags and will always pick up pops. They are et the problem. The problem is people who take no notice of any laws and just leave mess. No amount of extra laws will make a difference unless you have people to enforce it and under current circumstances money wise the council has better things to spend it's money on eg children centres etc. which are having to close due to lack of council cash.
- People who are not carrying the appropriate means to pick up poo should be fined. Whilst I appreciate you can occasionally forget, I have myself or ran out whilst on a walk, I have asked other dogs walkers whilst out and they have happily obliged.
- It should also be a requirement that the poo, when bagged is disposed of carefully, not simply left on the ground or hung like Christmas decorations from trees and bushes. That is unsightly and poluting.
- Who will actually police this? I have never seen any official when exercising my dog.
- Sometimes I forget bags....
- Having bags available in public areas (like the ones provided in parts of Brackley) are a good idea because I'm sure even the most responsible of dog owners get caught out now and again. I know I have and I have had to ask another dog owner or get one out of the bag holders.
- The answer if the bags on public paths that have been there a while...
- I think some people just don't bother to do it regardless of whether they have the appropriate means or not
- Again, heavy fines need to be the deterrent, those guilty do not think it is an issue to leave their dog faeces anywhere.

- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. wootton rec.
- More bins need to be accessible across the county and provided to private woodlands, as well as a collection service provided without charge to privately owned open spaces, to help discourage people from throwing bags into trees which are then an extreme danger to wildlife and horses.
- Isn't this the law?
- As above
Previous comment: Often happens around the village despite a few bag dispensers being available. Perhaps if there were more dispensers around the village it would encourage compliance.
- It's even worse when full bags are left behind - that's not carelessness or forgetfulness, it's clearly premeditated and should be prosecuted
- Yes, if you can catch anyone, rub their noses in it.
- Back to the loose stools comment, this is unpredictable and a poo bag won't clean up the residue, unreasonable to expect someone to carry litres of water around on the off chance of needing it. Common sense applies.
- Of course dog owners should have poo bags, but what are you going to do? Only a constable has the powers of search and account.
- Please do it and enforce it!
- Who is going to enforce this? Police don't have a power or the time to stop and search someone for poo bags! It's common sense to carry them, but is it appropriate to be intruding into people's lives to this extent? Arguably the intent is well-meaning, but where does it end?
- Increase fines or similar to owners who are not carrying the required means to pick up mess.
- this proposal is a helpful measure to assist in tackling dog fouling
- You can always ask a fellow dog person owner for a bag.
- Witnessed on a few occasions, dogs off lead leaving a mess whilst their owner is apparently not paying attention. Not sure if this is an issue of the owner not having a bag, plain carelessness or the owner simply pretending they haven't spotted it.
- I think it should be mandatory for dog owners to carry poo bags in order to pick up any dog poo that is deposited by their dog.
- Think teenagers might be embarrassed to pick up dog poo when they come home from school and pop dog out
- A lot of people don't... It is pretty gross.... but again target the people with one or two dogs that are constantly on their phone... not people with 5+ dogs, that concentrate and enjoy exercising, walking and training their dogs.
- what if the dog has already pooped and the person in control has used their poop bag and therefore don't have any other means should the dog poop again? What would be a reasonable number of bags for the person to carry?
Also are there enough bins to dispose of poop? There are a lot of people who will just hang the bags on trees and bushes.
What about "stick and flick"? in rural areas where the person in charge flicks poop off the path and into undergrowth? will this be allowed?
- How will this be enforced? My dog only poos once on a walk so am I meant to leave the house always with 2 bags?

- Sometimes people forget to put a bag in their pockets etc good to have dispenser bags in popular dog walking areas.
- Council do provide Pooh bags but could look to put more bag points nearer school routes
- Brackley town councils provision of free dog bags should be noted and encouraged (definitely not stopped) as such rules should be laxer in areas with a very close location for these bags
- If you own a dog, you have a duty to always have poo bags with you
- I think some people are just lazy
- Obviously agree but can't see how on earth you are going to enforce this? Stop and search for dog owners for poo bags?
- Previously mentioned
Plus don't have a dog if you can't afford the stuff required to look after it
- Dog owners frequently pass poo bags should another has run out
- More poo bins available
- I have seen people in motorised wheelchairs with a small dog attached to enable a walk - my concern is if/when the dog fouls the footpath can the disabled owner collect the excrement safely
- The problem with this is that the people who don't pick up their dog poo, usually have poo bags with them - probably in case someone sees them. They just can't be bothered. Also on a couple of occasions I have been caught without one as the rolls give no warning about running out but I have always gone home, collected some bags and returned to pick up the poo.
The dog fouler wouldn't be fined, and yet I could have been fined even though I always pick it up.
- Occasionally there are poo bags available at poo bins in Brackley. Ensuring this is topped up could be an effective means of minimising the likelihood that people do not get caught out on the off chance that they accidentally forget to check for poo bags before they begin their walk.
- All responsible dog owners carry poo bags. On occasion owner might run out or lose bags so they might take steps to clear the poo but not having the ability to do it immediately .
- Needs enforcement, people ignore signs
- A PSPO can help but only if the person who can issue the fine is in the right place at the right time.
- There should be monitoring and prosecutions
- Whilst I agree that it should be picked up there are dogs that genuinely will not go for a poo on a walk and therefore that owner wouldn't necessarily need a bag?
- If owners are going to let their kids walk the dog they need to make sure the kids are going to actually do it.
- How to report them if seen?
- Picking up is not a concern, however have seen bags hanging on a tree or on the ground by a fence.
- Most sensible dog owners never leave the house without them
- Most responsible dog owners would ask others for a poo bag if they found they had run out and most dog owners would happily share their poo bags with others in need. For responsible dog owners, checking you've got poo bags when you leave home with your dog becomes automatic. However I'm talking as someone

who has lived in a city with a dog, not in a rural location where the norms may be different.

- I always take enough bags with me when I take my dog for a walk however, there will be times that I know that the last bag in my pocket will be all that I need and that my dog won't be going for another poo after I've used it. If I'm then found towards the end of my walk to be without a poo bag should I be penalised for it? As a responsible owner I know that one won't be required but how do I argue this with an inspector? Do I take an endless supply?
- Not sure how this could be enforced.
Surely better to focus on requiring poo to actually be picked up rather than a hypothetical need to 'have appropriate means'.
- Seems like common sense, and avoids excuses from less responsible owners
- More dog poo bins would encourage people to pick up dog poo. It's not nice or easy to carry dog poo bags, and sometimes the nearest one is a long distance away.
You can occasionally be caught out and not have a poo bag in your pocket. So free bags in parks is a good idea.
- They must also be legally required to dispose of the fouling appropriately - not throw it in a hedge or ditch.
- That they should take the filled bag away with them and dispose of it properly. Not leave it hanging in hedges, gates, trees, or on the paths.
- They should just have the bags with them, I think there should be some sort of dog tax, so there could be a robust service to deal with this. Not sure how it could be implemented
- More dog bins provided. Should also provide free dog poo bags to be used. Council should be more proactive to dispose of the resulting waste.
My experience is that people generally carry means to pick up anyway.
- In Evenley, the issue appears to be more the disposal of the poo bags, not the absence of poo bags.
- People not taking their dog waste home with them and leaving loaded poo bags in trees and hedges
- I thought it was already lawful to have poo bags if you were walking a dog in a public space. I was told this over 10 years ago whilst I was at a puppy training class
- It's an interesting concept to consider that bodies such as the Forestry commission purposely don't have dog poo bins, proffering the flick off the footpath method.
- Yes, every dog owner/walker must carry suitable bags
- Again, with the best will in the world, a dog owner may completely unintentionally find themselves without the means to pick up - for example, if they put on a different coat and found they had no bags in their pockets, or they used up more than the usual number of bags because the dog had a digestive problem. I fully appreciate that the solution is for dog owners to make a conscious effort to ensure they have the means to pick up, and sufficient bags - but occasionally mistakes happen and, again, I would hope that the PSPO would not be used in an overly heavy-handed way in these isolated instances. The purpose should be to penalise anti-social dog owners or repeat offenders.
- some will carry a bag to comply, but never use it
- People need to be made aware that their dog's poo is their responsibility

- Picking up the poo is only half the solution. Discarding the bags in the countryside is a big issue. Bags are thrown into hedgerows, even hung on branches, fences or gates.

The poo is bagged up if the owner thinks they can be seen, but discarded rather than binned, even if a dedicated dog poo bin is within sight.

I often volunteer to litter pick in my village and have to clear up many discarded poo bags along a popular bridleway.

- I am a dog owner and I did forget once as I put the wrong jacket on. My fault for not checking but it was too late when I realised. However, this was in an area where I could move the mess to a hedge and bury it
- Disability in terms of blindness or reduced mobility would be the ONLY excuse.
- The bags don't cost much and a big pack lasts ages. No excuse for this and if someone is too frail to pick up they shouldn't be walking a dog.
- As a suggestion why not include a bag dispenser on each poo bin? I'm sure there are occasions with all dog owners where they assume they have enough bags and then run out whilst walking. It may cut out some issues if they are available for use
- There should be a dog poo bin in the village.
- Owners should always have a bag.
- Most owners in a public area would ask another dog owner if they are caught short
- There needs to be more dog bins. A lot of the villages do not have any or only a few. More would encourage people to pick it up. Also it will stop people tying their bags to things like branches etc.
- It would be helpful if bins could be provided.
- A local group provide dog poo bag dispensers around Grange Park.
- As a dog owner far more poo bins are needed. To allow safe and clean disposal and for the dog owner to not be trying to carry poo long distances and allow them to concentrate on control a dog on a leash!
- As previously stated.
Previous comment: More needs to be done e.g. undercover patrollers. Target areas.
- I am not at all sure that any of these proposals will change the behaviour of some owners.
- I resent seeing used poo bags full of poo, being hung on hedges.
- If they can't pick it up don't take their dog out of their property
- needs to be enforced with fines etc.
- You may have to give guidance on 'appropriate'. For instance someone without poo bags but wearing a bobble hat might say they have a means to pick up poo (extreme case I know). Most people would not class a bobble hat as appropriate.....but who makes the decision.
- Only as previously stated.
Previous comment: These are great ideas, but how do you plan to enforce it? In the town parks on one occasion only did I see community officers handing out bags and talking to people with dogs. They were frequently spoken to abusively.
- Spot checks with on the spot fines for owners who don't carry bags.
- People should be checked at car park to see if they have bags and should be checked on return to cars for bags full of poo by officers

- Dog owners using rural footpaths should know that leaving dog mess in a field is detrimental to livestock, it's not just humans affected.
Leaving poo bags can be fatal also if ingested by horses for example.
- It's a big big problem.
Is it that they are too expensive for some?
- Mistakes do happen, sometimes the dog does more than you are expecting and you can run out so consideration must be taken if evidence is there to suggest they had the means to begin with.
- Free poo bags next to all dog poo bins would be very helpful.
- Any responsible dog owner will always carry poo bags
- Every dog owner should prove they have the means to clear their dogs mess
- We cannot be sure that those who allow their dogs to mess don't have poo bags on them.
- It's part of responsible dog ownership. It's hard to catch dogs 'in the act' but much easier to check if owners have the means to collect it.
- Persons should receive a fine if they do not carry means to pick up dog mess.
- And some more rural areas you are better to stick it and flick it rather than put it in a bag and leave it hanging on the tree as some do
- Most of us are happy to help a fellow dog walker who has run out.
- Need bins!
- Don't agree with proposal
- Most dog owners carry multiple bags or if by mistake don't have one will do what they can to remove poo. I've knocked on a door before to ask for a bag. An owner should not be prosecuted for a one off mistake if they make every effort to move the poo
- No dog owners should ever leave home without poo bags. I have 2 dogs and keep bags in every coat pocket, pick up lead, poo bags then pop the lead on. Not difficult.
- Having the means to pick up dog mess does not mean it will be used!!
- Again, will this be enforced? Will people be stopped and asked? If not then not worth introducing the power
- What's the point of us picking up our dog animal waste when other people don't and that's including horse owners/riders
- It is a National problem, it needs addressing as a national problem
- Should be common sense and socially unacceptable not doing so
- It should be an offence not to have the means.
- I don't understand what 6b) means.
- I have concerns about the amount of people who leave bagged dog poo in trees & on the ground supposedly to collect later. This happens everywhere. More signage required?
- It's not rocket science to carry a poo bag or 4. Preferably compostable. If you can't afford to buy poo bags you shouldn't have a dog.
- Fine them £20 each time
- Are you intending to make this an offence resulting in a potential fine?
- No specific incidents reported in last 12 months but support PSPO legal requirement.
Question is 'how is this detected and enforced?'
- Better to leave in fields and adopt Welsh principles. Less environmental impact

- For years ive been wanting a law to come in whereby its illegal to have your sog in a public place without the means to clear up after it and i really hope this comes in. Out of all the controls and proposals on here, this is the biggest one i agree with.
- Perhaps bins near entry and exits to field paths
- The concern is not not having Pooh bags, those that have no intention of collecting Pooh don't bother with bags! See point 1
- Always possible that someone could genuinely forget. Need to allow for this in some way.
- Weird question, dog owners should carry poo bags, most do, occasionally people forget and go back later I think (not sure I have had to do this but it is a forever concern).
- People also bag the pop then leave the bag behind on a tree or throw it into a hedge
- It is easy to think you have pop bags in your pocket when you have not. As long as the dog owner either goes back to pick up after the walk or cleans up in another way /stick and flick etc I feel this is exceptable
- Did wonder whether there could be poo bag boxes around the village, but then no doubt that would be abused by someone, also to be honest, if you have a fig you should take responsibility !
- Could do with more signs fines and bins.
- need to define "appropriate means", why not be clear and say "poo bags"?
- The problem here is what happens when the bag has been properly used and disposed of?

Question 6E: Additional comments received regarding having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed to Proposal 6.

- Nobody should be harassed by petty public officials whilst walking their dog. Invariably, decent law abiding people will be persecuted for a one off oversight, by jumped up little Hitler's.
- Again I sometimes forget in the open countryside but if the mess is in an area where someone might walk I can kick it into the long grass without perpetuating plastic bags everywhere. Again it will bio degrade naturally along with that from the wild animals
- Another ludicrous proposal. Fining people for not having a poo bag even if there is no poo?
- I agree in principle with this proposal BUT it is completely unenforceable.
- This is not an issue locally. All dog owners typically have bags and there are bag dispensers all over the community.
- This is lazy policing. Daventry brought this in. I don't live in Daventry but find this a ridiculous law. The current legislation is not being enforced correctly because it is difficult to catch people so dog walkers who may have used their bags will be targeted and may be walking home through a park will be targeted.I repeat, lazy policing.

- Your officers will not have powers to search individuals claiming to have a bag and anyone can pick up the fouling with their fingers if they so choose. A bare hand can be used pick up dog fouling and your officers would have a hard time proving to a judge in court that it is not. This is what I would call Lazy Feel Good Enforcement.
- Its not the having the means that needs tackling, it's having the will to use the means.
Recently on an unusual day I picked up 5 times in an hour with my dog, if I had been stopped on the way home I would have had no bags left
- Stick it and flick it out of the way - plastic bags left lying about are the worst thing possible for the countryside
- What does other appropriate means actually mean?
And when can the push for environmentally friendly ways to dispose of the waste come in?
- How would this nonsense be enforced? Are you going to request people turn out their pockets? Ridiculous
- More rules. Common sense is required. Will you start searching people with your big brother attitude to dog owners?
- Dog owners know to have the means to pick up their dogs mess, it does not need this legislation. We are all adults.
- People walk their dogs in open countryside. They don't need ooo bags for this
- This can be pointless if, for example, the dog owner knows that their animal has already done the necessary (at home in the garden, for example). What is 'other appropriate means?'
- It is implicit that fouling should be controlled by picking up poo.
I would not be happy to give officers powers to stop dog walkers and demand to see proof of carrying appropriate measures.

Question 6E: Additional comments received regarding having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed to Proposal 6 or didn't answer.

- Whilst we support proactive efforts on behalf of local authorities to encourage responsible dog ownership, measures to require owners to pick up after their dogs must be fair and proportionate. We would not like to see responsible dog owners penalised unfairly. The [name] has concerns regarding the proposal to introduce an offence of not having the means to pick up. Responsible owners will usually have dog waste bags or other means to clear up after their pets. However, if dog owners are approached at the end of a walk they may have already used the bags that they have taken out or given a spare bag to someone who has run out, for example. Such behaviour is encouraged by Green Dog Walker schemes. It is also plausible that such proposals could, in certain circumstances, perversely incentivise dog walkers to not pick up after their dog. Dog walkers could be made to decide between using their final waste bag and risk being caught without means to pick up, or risk not picking up in order to have a means to pick up should they be stopped later on their walk. It is reasonable to assume a proportion of dog walkers would choose the second option if they

believed this was the least likely route to being caught, especially if the penalty for not picking up was the same as not being in possession of a means to pick up. Local authorities may wish to consider introducing a clause which provides an exemption for those who have run out of bags but are able to prove that they were in possession of and made use of these during their walk. It is essential that an effective communication campaign is launched in the local area to ensure that people are aware of the plans and have an excess supply of dog waste bags with them. Additionally, appropriate signage should be erected to inform that those who are not familiar with the local rules are not unfairly caught out. The most effective spot checks that the local authority could carry out are those which catch offenders in the act of not picking up, rather than guessing behaviours on the basis of what dog owners are or are not carrying with them. For example, in the absence of waste bags, owners trying to flout the measures could theoretically point to any number of items on their person that they intend to use. This gives rise to concerns about the ease with which local authorities could successfully enforce this law when trying to define whether or not dog owners have a means of picking up. Alternatively, an irresponsible owner looking to avoid a fine could simply tie one bag to their dog's lead or collar but not actually use it. Cornwall Council considered introducing a similar means to pick up measure, but subsequently decided against doing so as they deemed it to be disproportionate and concluded that the requirement would be 'toothless', as it would be highly unlikely to be enforceable in a magistrates court. If the Council proceeds to introduce such a measure, it is essential it provides greater clarity to dog walkers on how to comply with the Order.

- Sometimes you can be caught short of poo bags if your dog has done several poos. It is often possible to borrow a dog from another dog owner but it has happened to us and I always take quite a few bags out.
- More poo bins are needed
- [name] consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place. We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.
- Everybody runs out or forgets a bag once in a blue moon. I've been asked before if I have a spare.
- This doesn't caveat the situation where people might run out and ask another dog owner. It should be covered under people being required to pick up mess - the means isn't relevant as long as it is done. Not being equipped shouldn't be an excuse not to pick up.
- It's not always easy to see how many poo bags you have left. You may run out during your walk after your dog has done all of their business. You would then be penalised even though you haven't left any poo under this rule.
- As long as the authorised officers display some common sense. E.g. someone is carrying a full poo bag and it was their last one. How many bags is enough?

- Difficult one. If they are at the end of their walk, they may have run out of dog poo bags. In Brackley, we are lucky enough to have a fair amount of strategically placed free dog poo bag dispensers.

Comments from Organisation received for Proposal 6 – Appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess.

Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place.

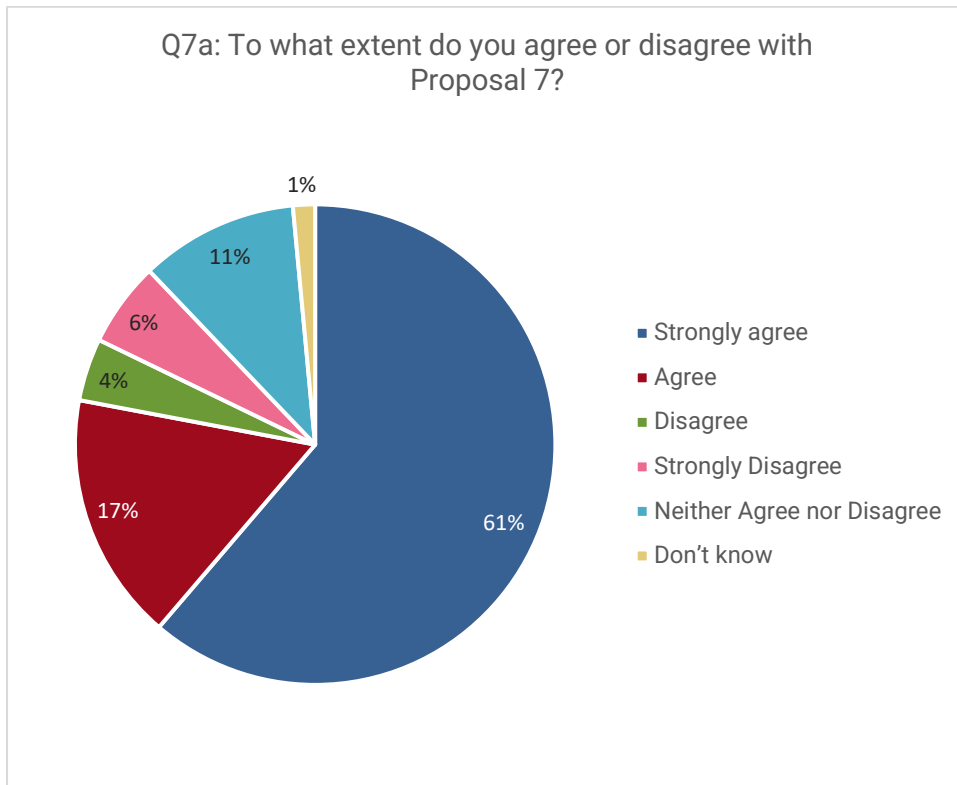
- We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce.

Proposal 7. Prohibition of smoking. All persons are prohibited from smoking tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances within the following whether fenced or otherwise: Children’s play areas; Playgrounds; Educational facilities; Skateparks; Tennis courts; Multi-use games areas; Bowling greens.

64% of people and organisations responded to this proposal, of those that did, 78% strongly agreed or agreed with the proposal to prohibit all persons from smoking tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances within the following areas, whether fenced or not: children’s play areas, playgrounds, educational facilities, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas (MUGA) and bowling greens. Smoking in these areas was considered a very big concern or fairly big concern or small concern for 57% of respondents with the remaining responders stating that they didn’t know or that it was not a concern for them. In the last 12 months, 32% of people stated that they had had concerns about smoking in a play area, 13% in an educational facility, 22% in a playground, 13% in a MUGA, 11% in a skate park, 5% in a tennis court and 4% in a bowling green. Of those respondents 15% that stated that they had concerns, 185 comments were received, of those, 26% were concerns relating to smoking around children in play areas and schools, 6% of comments were concerns relating to second-hand smoke, 7% to illegal substances, 10% to litter and 8% related to teenagers smoking.

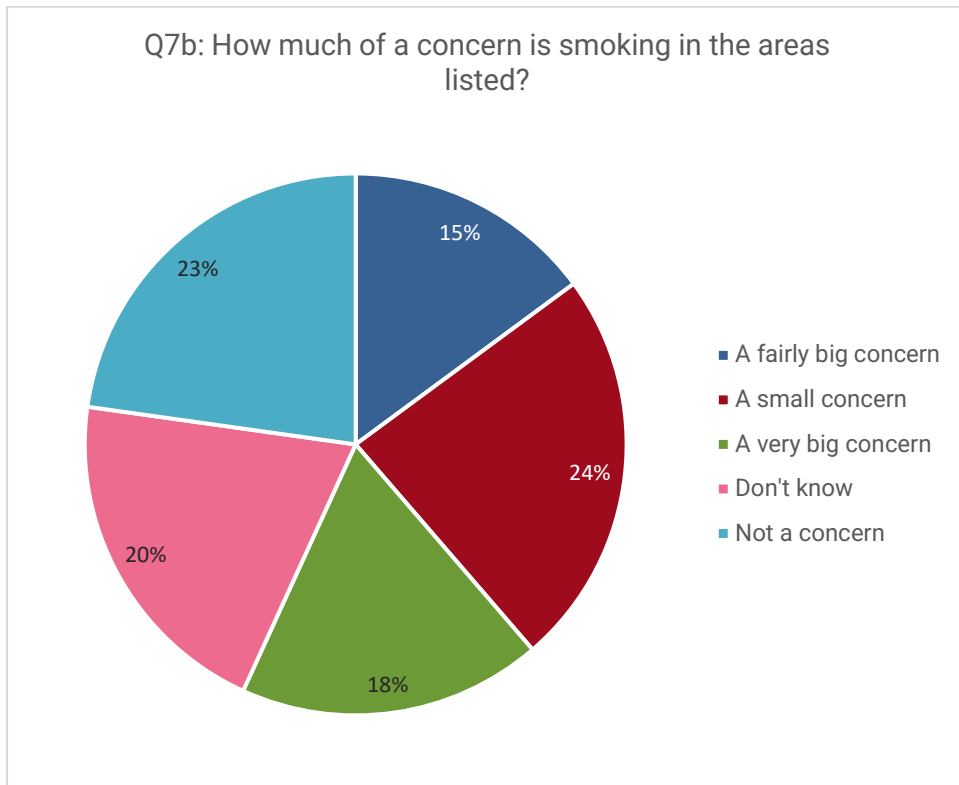
808 responded.

Question 7A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 7?



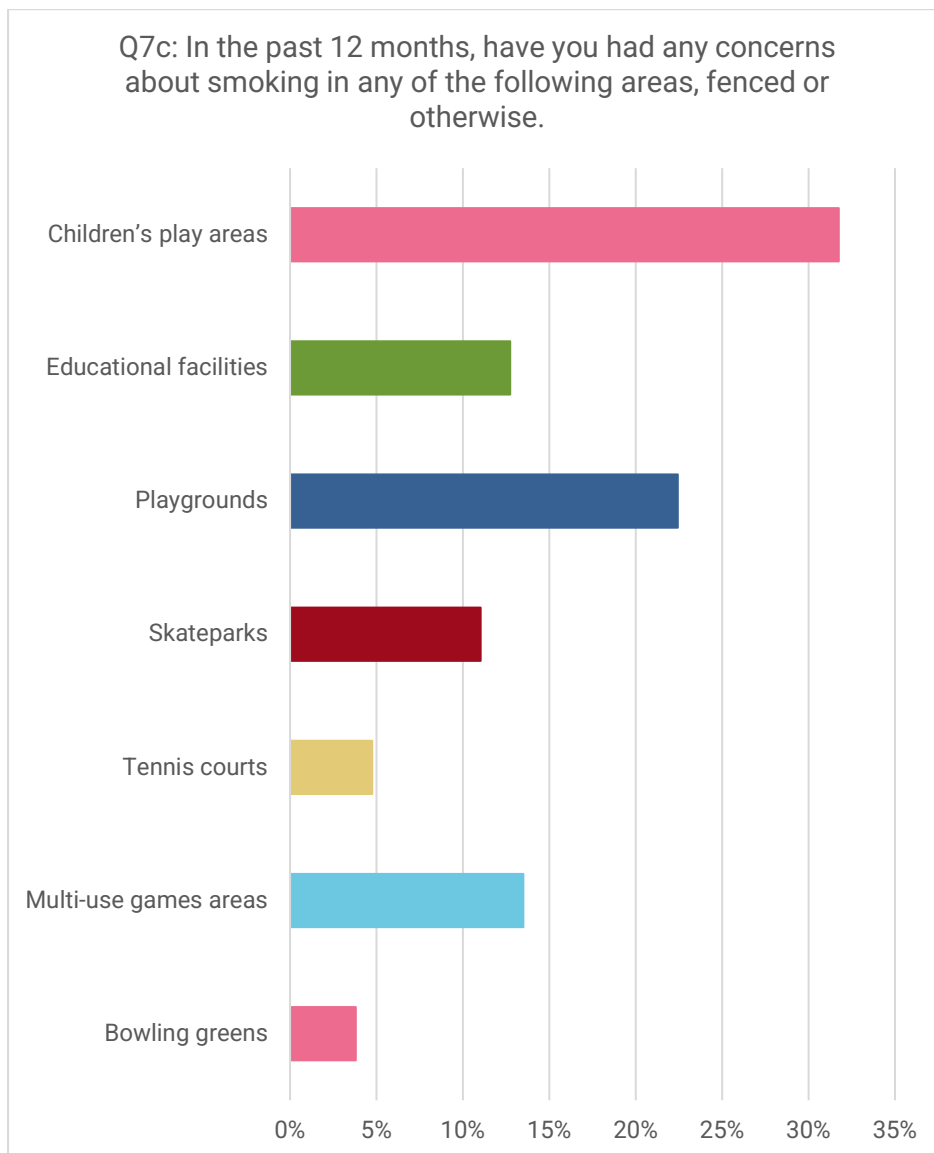
Q7a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 7?	Total	% Responses
Strongly agree	495	61%
Agree	135	17%
Disagree	34	4%
Strongly Disagree	46	6%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	86	11%
Don't know	12	1%
Grand Total	808	100%

Question 7B: How much of a concern is smoking in the areas listed?



Q7b: How much of a concern is smoking in the areas listed?	Total	% Responses
A fairly big concern	119	15%
A small concern	190	24%
A very big concern	145	18%
Don't know	163	20%
Not a concern	182	23%
Grand Total	799	100%

Question 7C: In the past 12 months, have you had any concerns about smoking in any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise. Please tick any that apply.



Q7c: In the past 12 months, have you had any concerns about smoking in any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise.	Total	% Responses
Bowling greens	20	4%
Multi-use games areas	71	13%
Tennis courts	25	5%
Skateparks	58	11%
Playgrounds	118	22%
Educational facilities	67	13%
Children's play areas	167	32%
Grand Total	526	100%

Question 7D: If yes, where was this and what happened?

Q7d: The town/village identified as having concerns about smoking in specific open spaces	Total comments	% Names
Brackley	19	9.8%
Brixworth	9	4.6%
Bugbrooke	4	2.1%
Chipping Warden	2	1.0%
Creaton	1	0.5%
Crick	1	0.5%
Croughton	2	1.0%
Dallington	1	0.5%
Daventry	25	12.9%
Deanshanger	1	0.5%
Eydon	2	1.0%
Grange Park	1	0.5%
Greens Norton	2	1.0%
Hackleton	1	0.5%
Harlestone	1	0.5%
Holcot	2	1.0%
Kings Sutton	1	0.5%
Little Brington	1	0.5%
Long Buckby	1	0.5%
Moulton	4	2.1%
Northampton	17	8.8%
Old Stratford	1	0.5%
Pattishall	3	1.5%
Pitsford	1	0.5%
Roade	5	2.6%
Towcester	3	1.5%
Unnamed	78	40.2%
Welford	3	1.5%
Wootton	1	0.5%
Yardley Hastings	1	0.5%
Grand Total	194	100%

Q7d: Specific location within town/village identified as having concerns about smoking in specific open spaces	Total comments
Brackley	
Junior school car park	1
Leisure centre	2
Magdalen College School	1

Open spaces	1
Parks	1
Pavillons Way zip wire park	4
Recreational areas	1
Town park	7
Unnamed	1
Brixworth	
Ashway playing field	4
Country park Play areas	1
School	3
St David's park	1
Bugbrooke	
Campion school	1
Play areas	2
Sports areas	1
Chipping Warden	
Play area	1
Sports areas	1
Creaton	
Playing fields	1
Crick	
Playing fields	1
Croughton	
Play areas	2
Dallington	
Dallington park	1
Daventry	
Ashby Fields school	1
Country park	1
Country park Play areas	1
Monksmoor park	1
Park near Danetre And Southbrook Learning Village	3
Play areas	6
School	3
Skate park	7
Tesco	2
Deanshanger	
Sports areas	1
Eydon	
Village green	2
Grange Park	
Unnamed	1
Greens Norton	
Playing fields	1

Unnamed	1
Hackleton	
Recreation grounds	1
Harlestone	
Manor Play area	1
Holcot	
Play areas	2
Kings Sutton	
Unnamed	1
Little Brington	
Play areas	1
Long Buckby	
Unnamed	1
Moulton	
Secondary school	4
Northampton	
Abington park	5
Abington skate park	1
Beckets park	2
Campion school	2
Caroline Chisolm school	1
Meadow View car park	1
Midsummer Meadow park	1
Skate park	1
Town centre	1
Unnamed	2
Old Stratford	
Unnamed	1
Pattishall	
Playing fields	1
Primary school	2
Pitsford	
Unnamed	1
Roade	
Play areas	2
Recreation grounds	2
Unnamed	1
Towcester	
Skate park	1
Sports areas	2
Unnamed	
Elsewhere	1
Everywhere	4
Leisure centre	1

Many	1
Medical sites	1
New street recreation ground	2
Outdoor spaces	1
Park	1
Play areas	13
Play areas	2
Pub gardens	1
Recreation grounds	3
Retail areas	2
School	9
Schools	1
Sports areas	2
Towpaths	1
Unnamed	32
Welford	
Play area	2
Play areas	1
Wootton	
Sports areas	1
Yardley Hastings	
Recreation grounds	1
Grand Total	194

Question 7D: Comments received from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 7 regarding the prohibition of smoking in specific areas, fenced or otherwise.

- Usually reports of drug related smoking in Meadow View car park. Several reports to police.
- Walk through Northampton Town centre. It often smells like a cannabis factory
- Walking to school behind someone who is smoking (a fellow parent)!! Horrible.
- Parents and teens smoking or vaping in park in near DSLV school.
- It happens EVERYWHERE EVERY DAY! It feels as though all outdoor spaces are for smokers above everyone else.
- Usually parents or teenagers
- On side of rugby and football pitches when my children have been playing.
Parents smoking on way to and from school near the gate
Parents smoking near the playground
- Sport Fields. Bugbrooke
- I've seen people smoke and vape regularly while out at the park with the children and I know teenagers are often smoking in the High Street Park and the zip wire park in Brackley - as well as other areas. I don't have specific dates and times but it's something I've see often.
- I have seen people smoking in these areas

- Various people smoking including cannabis where my kids aged 7 and 9 wished to play. We had to go elsewhere.
- Regularly parents smoking in the play areas
- Daventry town centre skate park play areas and tennis recreation ground play area.
- outside of Drs surgeries, entrances to hospitals, and even food/retail outlets. i fail to see why non smokers have to run the gauntlet of a haze of smoke to enter such premises.
- Last week at the Pavillons Way zip wire park. The person in a hi-vis jacket and what looked to be work clothes that you'd expect a builder to wear was openly smoking weed in the play area and also I've seen the same person smoking weed in the bus stop just outside the park. They are brazen about it, don't care that children are playing nearby. I have noticed them a few times as they seem to be there around 4pm while I'm walking my dogs nearby.
- Play parks in Daventry and at school, outside playcentres
- smoking around children is a no no. - also the litter it leaves.
- People smoking in these areas.
- Abington park,
St David's park Brixworth
Skatepark on Bedford road
Midsummer meadow park
- Daventry by Tesco
- There should be a total ban in all these areas. It's not necessary and I don't want to inhale their vapour or smoke.
- Smoking and smoking illegal substances which when asked as small children near the park was just laughed off and the individuals were hugely intimidating to the mums at the park.
- parents with small children smoking around all other children in a northants park
- Deanshanger sports field
- Sing a non smoker I do not want to breathe in smoke when I am walking through a park or open space or even in the streets
- Abington Park
Dallington park
- Playground in Monksmoor park Daventry
- Play area in Daventry Country park
- Local playground in holcot, fag ends everywhere. Nicotine vapour floating into me
- Recreational ground by Tesco in Daventry. People often seen smoking.
- Croughton, smoking in or near children's play areas. Smoking particularly third and second hand reading of smoking toxic gases can cause irreparable harm to children
- Roade recreational ground. Parents smoking inside the play area especially where there are small children
- Roade - parents and adolescents - not together of course!
Playgrounds and similar attract young people to them after dark.
- everywhere
- Long Buckby
Daventry country park
- School car park every day at brackley junior school, the town park.

- Often I see people smoking outside schools and inside play areas. Both places where children are present along with other adults who are breathing in the second-hand smoke.
- All over
- Welford - smoking inside the gated children's play area and also outside the school gates at pick-up/drop-off.
- People and kids smoking at the play area. Not setting a good example to kids.
- Staff at Caroline Chisholm school smoking immediately outside gate
- Regularly visit parks and open areas that have play areas as I have young children and smoking is often happening around the play area.
- Skate park in Daventry Rec. users regularly smoke substances other than tobacco and its close proximity to the children's play area means you can often smell the substances whilst using the facility. The language and general litter and abused bottles is also a concern. It would not be so bad if it wasn't in such close proximity to the children's play area.
- I'm concerned about this happening everywhere, in any public space. If someone wants to kill themselves little by little, I don't really care so long as it's in private. Or... recognised "private" clubs. I see it would be fair to register some pubs or restaurants as "Smoking" to allow the smokers to mingle with their fellow smokers, away from the rest of us.
- Moulton secondary school just outside - lots of smoking in right of way and walk through to village.
College kids smoking weed and adults smoking cigarettes and dropping the butts.
- Old Stratford. Drug dealing and smoking illegal substances
- Parents smoking at the play park in Welford regularly.
- Always seeing smokers at these venues which affects my children's health and well-being. They hate it and smokers care nothing for their views
- Skatepark, Abingdon
- Brackley LC fields and surrounding pond area
- Various sites in and around the town, including Town Park, Zip-Wire Park and near Magdalen College School.
- Ashway playing field mostly after or around weekends. Litter being left after the event.
- Teenagers hanging around in the skate park at Towcester Recreation ground and the adjacent playground.
- I have seen used bottles of nitrous oxide in the kids playing area and playing fields of Greens Norton
- Chipping Warden Play park. Village hall cricket pitch area.
- Vaping and smoking seem to be equally a concern especially at Brixworth Country Park around the play area
- Frequent reports are received of youths smoking cigarettes and using illegal substances at playgrounds and skate parks which are often used by younger children. By banning any behaviour of this nature it will prevent younger children being exposed to this behaviour so in turn make them less likely to copy the behaviour in the future.
- Parents, while waiting to pick up their children from school will smoke. This is not acceptable anywhere near children.

- Lots of smoking going on and drugs near the primary school (brixworth). The flats cause alot of trouble, smoking, drugs, Rubbish everywhere and often arguing and shouting. Not a nice entrance to take children through! Several times I've seen a few police cars there at a time!
- It's everywhere?
- NO IRECT EXPERIENCE
- Northampton
- Play grounds/parks, outside school
- It is a nuisance and a disgusting habit which effects people who choose not to smoke
- Greens norton playing fields in the evening
- Grange Park
- (elsewhere in county)
- Pub gardens, outside shops
- Brackley leisurely centre Fields
- Bugbrooke play park
The play park usually has a couple of disgarded cigarettes in it
- Just ban it
- I have seen teachers smoking nearby to Campion school exit when m passed - I'm concerned about the example thus sets - similarly outside Northampton general hospital patients in their dressing gowns hooked up to drips allowed to smoke - this is crazy 😞
- Ashway playing field, Brixworth.
- The childrens play area on the Brixworth playing fields off The Ashway has cigarette butts and empty packets littering the area.
- Brackley town park. Groups of teenagers smoking in fenced children area. Cigarette butts and litter left behind.
- Smoking and drug use on recreational areas in Brackley is at an all time high - no pun intended
- I've seen people smoking close to the entrances of Pattishall primary school and campion school'
Smoking in the play areas and playing fields at Pattishall and on village greens in villages such as Eydon and Culworth.
- On a secondary school site. In the childrens' play area Abington Park, Becketts Park
- No dates - just a general concern that responsible people shouldn't smoke in areas that are promoting healthy living.
- Lots of vaping!! It's bad enough when an adult has to walk into it let alone a child
- Parents smoking at the leisure centre
- Horrible habit. See it a lot in platgrounds
- Hackleton Recreation Ground football shelter
- People are smoking just outside the school gates in Daventry which when you're walking with small children and a baby too isn't nice. Nobody wants to inhale that and it isn't safe.
- Not a lot they are very rude!
- Adults watching children playing and throwing the end of the cigarette on the floor

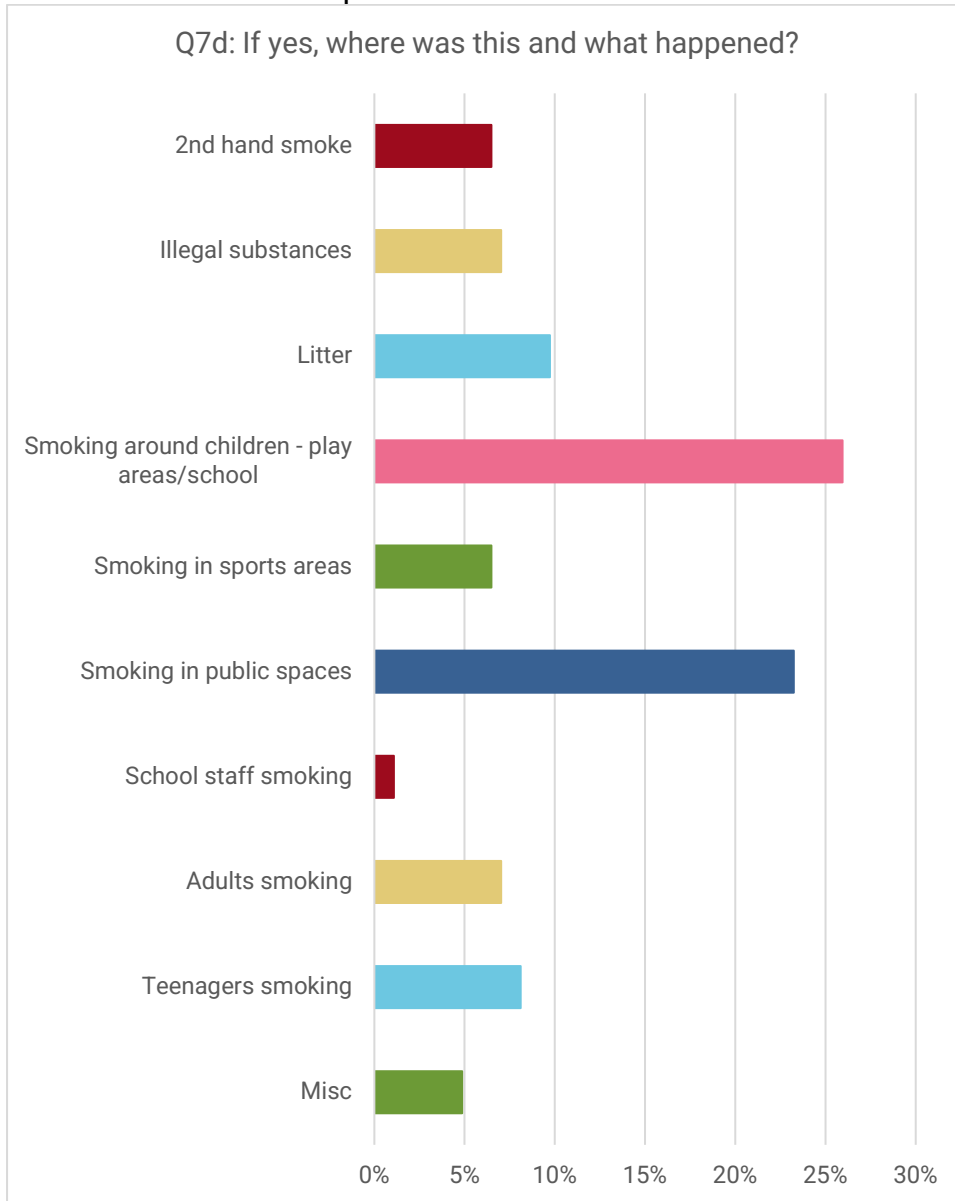
- Some of smokers are children smoking other substances.. and leave their debris about- at back of church, in animal shelter associated with play area
- parents smoking at the local rec in yardley hastings
- Fag ends litter towpaths too
- village rec, particularly have an issue of people smoking weed.
- Towcester rugby club - opposition smoking during a rugby game - children were 11 years who were playing
- The associated litter is concerning, as the play area is used for gatherings in the late evenings when children and parents are not present.
- Roade
- Discarded cigarette ends and packets
- Ashby Fields Primary School and adjacent park.
- Abington Park
- Daventry skatepark behind the Police station.
- Several in many locations
- New st rec, parents smoking while kids playing
- As per previous questions, Brackley open spaces and walking routes.
- Outside my child's school
- Groups of young adults using children's play area in Little Brington to smoke.
- People smoking/vaping in open areas while watching childrens football matches. It's horrible standing close by.
- Brackley parks
 - In the Harlestone Manor Play Area with youths ignoring signs prohibiting smoking in the play area.
- Nn7
- Everywhere
- Crick playing field
- The remains of cigarettes on Creaton playing field
- Brackley
- The whole village of King's Sutton has a huge litter problem, a majority of that litter is cigarettes.
- I see it all the time in the village school playground opposite my house as well as parents in their cars outside the playground too. Often see it on the village playground too
- parents smoking in the park by children
- Pitsford park, smokers leave their mess

Question 7D: Comments received from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed to Proposal 7 regarding prohibition of smoking in specific areas, fenced or otherwise.

- It happens all the time. We live in a free society. This is getting ridiculous and tou need to concentrate on safety, lighting and litter and not people's free choice to smoke...who the heck is going to police it?
- I've seen groups of teenagers sitting on play equipment in play areas and playgrounds, smoking around younger children as an attempt to intimidate.

Question 7D: Comments received from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed to Proposal 7 regarding prohibition of smoking in specific areas, fenced or otherwise.

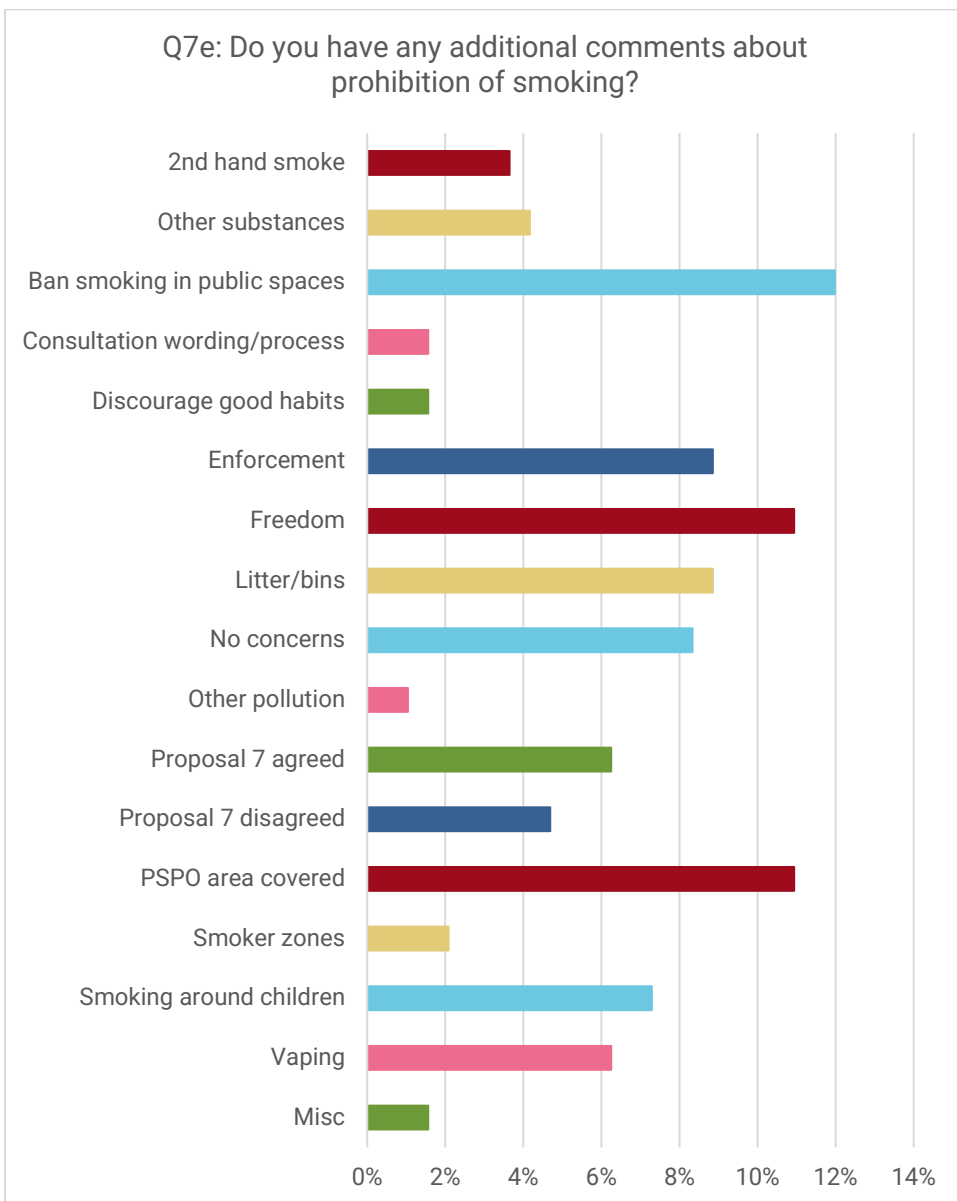
- Wootton rec football pitch area



Q7d: If yes, where was this and what happened? Issue identified by theme.		
No. Respondents	119	
No. Comments	185	% Comments
Misc.	9	5%
Teenagers smoking	15	8%
Adults smoking	13	7%
School staff smoking	2	1%

Smoking in public spaces	43	23%
Smoking in sports areas	12	6%
Smoking around children - play areas/school	48	26%
Litter	18	10%
Illegal substances	13	7%
2nd hand smoke	12	6%

Question 7E: Do you have any additional comments about prohibition of smoking?



Q7e: Do you have any additional comments about prohibition of smoking?		
No. Respondents:	160	

No. Comments	192	% Comments
Misc.	3	2%
Vaping	12	6%
Smoking around children	14	7%
Smoker zones	4	2%
PSPO area covered	21	11%
Proposal 7 disagreed	9	5%
Proposal 7 agreed	12	6%
Other pollution	2	1%
No concerns	16	8%
Litter/bins	17	9%
Freedom	21	11%
Enforcement	17	9%
Discourage good habits	3	2%
Consultation wording/process	3	2%
Ban smoking in public spaces	23	12%
Other substances	8	4%
2nd hand smoke	7	4%

Question 7E: Additional comments received regarding the prohibition of smoking in specific areas, fenced or otherwise from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 7

- I don't agree with vaping being permitted inside in any public place.
- I am a non smoker and hate cigarette smoke. Common sense should be applied in open spaces, the question is whether the smoke effects non smokers.
- There is no reason for it, lets ban it.
This should include vaping.
- It is a very good idea, especially at the cricket club or outside school gates
- Why e cogarettes? They aren't harmful.
- I've never smoked and always detested smoke around me. The indoor ban has been highly effective, this ban may help further reduce smoking to save lives
- How would this be enforced?
- Again who is to enforce this?
- As a non-smoker this is a proposal I support
- It's entirely up to an individual if they wish to damage their health but do not put others at risk - not sure about vaping either - never done either, never been interested
- The ban on smoking inside has reduced the numbers I notice outside which is very good. It's unfair to subject other people to second hand smoke given that it can kill you. And for people who have breathing difficulties then they can end up very ill. There are other places you can smoke.
- Smoking should be banned everywhere.
- Whilst you're at it you may as well include the depositing of chewing gum, which creates a cleaning and an environmental problem.

- Smoking should include all non-tobacco products including electronic cigarettes/vapes
- Just ban it completely, it is a disgusting and dangerous addiction
- Yes smoking kills and stinks
- Outside of medical facilities people should not have to walk through 'smoking' areas to access a hospital
- I hate cigarette butts littering the streets and around bins
- Outside pub and shop doorways, pedestrians having to walk through clouds of smoke and the cigarette butts being discarded
- It should be prohibited around childrens areas
- Again, respect, along with common sense long since gone!
- Yes, it is dangerous to smoke around sports facilities especially when used by children
- It's a disgusting and unhealthy habit and needs to be eradicated.
- I see it as anti social behaviour now. Wrong to smoke or vape around other people, especially young children and babies
- Pavements outside the front of pubs and shops in town should also be restricted. It should not be up to pedestrians to have to avoid smokers on narrow pavements.
- Prohibition of smoking in any public area is a good thing.
- I also think town centre and the whole of the country park should be included. Its horrible when walking around and have someone in front of you blowing smoke and then throwing their cigarette ends on the floor
- Confront smoking anywhere and everywhere it happens. Orders like this will help to create a hostile environment for it
- This will improve the quality of life for everyone
- From being brought up in a fug of smoke as a young person, I developed a real dislike of cigarettes and the new legislation has literally been like a breath of fresh air for me. I would personally ban smoking everywhere but I realise that people have certain rights. However, I am against antisocial behaviour and I feel that smoking is very antisocial to non smokers, so I welcome any measures to restrict it being allowed in the public domain.
- I think people smoking around children should be fined. No one else should be subjected to their habit, especially children.
- Adults should not smoke at bus stops where children are waiting at pick ups and set downs.
- add public parks
- No smoking near any person, old or young
- My son walks down a narrow jitty to get to school and had to walk past people loitering and smoking. It's none of the above spaces but is still very antisocial
- I believe smoking should be prohibited outside shops and in shopping areas e.g. outside markets or high streets.
- What about enforcement?
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. wootton rec.
- Educational facilities. I do not agree with this as adults have a right to decide for themselves. Clearly smoking would not be done by the underage students but

those that are of legal age have a choice and should use the provided smoking shelters so as not to inflict their smoke onto those that do not wish to.

- Thought this was encouraged anyhow. Not a big issue in the village of Roade.
- will be difficult to control is vaping going to be allowed ?Signage must be clear as to what is allowed and what's not
- Allow smoking in private or recognised and advertised smoking "dens". Segregate the smokers and non-smokers.
- Ban it totally.
- I appreciate it's a personal view, but I think smoking should be banned in all public spaces. It's unpleasant and unhealthy and sets a bad example when in view of children. Some vaping products almost seem worse as I have on occasions been swamped in the vapour coming from someone as I walked along a path.
- It's the littering that is the real issue, followed closely by the passive smoking of those that choose not to smoke. Yes, even outdoors I don't want to breathe in someone else's vape or smoke?
- All should be banned from all sports facilities and immediate surrounding area including vaping.
- Please include smoking drugs. Smell them around Brackley LC area
- Smoking in public should be permitted in designated zones only and prohibited everywhere else. We are encouraged to walk and not use our vehicles but following a person smoking while walking to School or work and breathing in their smoke is horrible.
This should include vaping.
- smoking in these areas presents a risk to the health of children and other users of these facilities and as such it is important that there are suitable legal measures to address this concern
- It should not be allowed in public spaces. Why should other people have to breathe that in. I end up using my inhaler if I'm near someone smoking
- Adults should not smoke around children, full stop. Hopefully this will then mean that children when grown up will not be encouraged to smoke by that they have seen adults do.
- Good luck enforcing that. It should also apply to the stench from vaping as that triggers asthma attacks
- Dropping cigarette butt's should be penalised more
- discarded cigarettes and smoking materials can and do cause fires outdoors, particularly in hot and dry weather. They have been known to cause damage to outside structures such as play equipment and rubbish bins.
- Would like to see banned everywhere and smokers who insist on smoking do so in their own homes!
- Should be done but haven't ever seen it locally anyway.
- Should also be excluded from all sports fields and village greens.
- Ban it from entrances / exits to all buildings and school gates
- Ban it
- Parents smoking outside school gates
- Smoking should be banned in all public places in my view with significant fines and punishments for breaking this law.
Adopt a NYC approach and just ban smoking in public areas outright.

- How is this going to be policed/enforced other than signage? Will fines be issued for first time offenders?
- Smoking should be banned in all public places, inside and out.
- Drinking of alcohol should also be considered with smoking in these areas.
- This proposal is only a small extension of the existing prohibitions which have now been in force for several years.
- It is great to have smoking shelters or designated places, but these are often right outside of the doorways, therefore people still have to walk through the smoke, totally pointless.
- Banning smoking in children's areas will stop children from seeing smokers as a role model.
- Often takes place in bus shelters.
- Get it stopped !
- Prohibit smoking of any kind in any public area... It's disgusting to have to smell other people smoke anywhere.... Even passing by someone in the street you can't always avoid it They should be restricted to doing it in their own homes if that's what they want to do.
- This should be extended to all public places including the shopping areas and outside bars, cafe's and restaurants including Braunston and Daventry. Daventry is really bad with people smoking outside the cafe's especially when people with breathing problems walk pass breathing in the fumes
- Should be banned in public spaces
- Again, times have changed - smoking in public places is now rightly regarded as anti-social and I very rarely, if ever, experience it.
- How would this be policed?
- Should be banned everywhere except private residences, not just those you list above
- Smoking in a parent a child car park should not be allowed. (Daventry Tesco)
- The main bus stops entering or exiting Grange Park are littered with cigarette butts. This is a current concern for the local residences.
- Smoking should be prohibited in all public spaces. This would also reduce the amount anti-social behaviour and illegal substances being taken.
- Lots of cigarette butts are left littering the ground
- Hopefully would deter youths from hanging round these places smoking and drinking.
- Smokers shouldn't be allowed near kids.
- It should be banned outside the front of pubs/restaurants on the pavement - it causes a nuisance to other pavement users. I have hay fever which is triggered by cigarette smoke and walking past these places causes me a real problem.
- Can you please include outside seating in pubs and restaurants.
- Smoking is injurious to a persons health.
Alcohol is injurious to other peoples health and welfare - do something about that please.
- Please can smoking be banned from doorways into public houses/restaurants.
Why do we have to walk through the smokers?
- We don't have any of the areas mentioned
- The more place's it's prohibited the easier it is for people to give up.

- Brilliant idea. I wish it could be banned everywhere. Even in an outdoor space breathing in smoke makes me feel unwell
- Good luck with that. Not a hope of enforcing it.
- I believe this should be prohibited in playgrounds and educational facilities
- It's a bad habit and the smell stays on peoples clothes and stink same with peoples teeth
- All common sense...if it is policed.
- You're making something out of nothing
- Banning smoking in these areas will greatly improve our village litter problem and also help keep people safe of second hand smoke.
- Smoking should be a thing of the past it's an awful example to children. Smoking should not be normalised
- Banning smoking in these areas will reduce the littering of cigarette butts and that is a good thing. Also, children are impressionable, if they don't see smoking they won't start themselves.
- Ban it full stop

Question 7E: Additional comments received regarding the prohibition of smoking in specific areas, fenced or otherwise from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed to Proposal 7.

- If it's outdoors and cigarette stubs are disposed of properly, I can't see a problem
- yes you already cant smoke inside, so whats the crack about smoking outside, it really is none of your business if people want to kill themselves smoking
- I despise smoking, of any kind, but I also despise petty councils, that take sledgehammers to nuts. Grow up.
- It may discourage smokers from going out to play areas or for walks and actually doing some exercise if they are banned from smoking in those places.
- I cannot recall when I last saw someone smoke in the locations listed, certainly not within the last 5 years or more.
No hard evidence presented to support the proposal.
Too Orwellian by far. It is not illegal to smoke and smokers should not be penalised in this way.
Note: I do not smoke.
- We are not a nanny state. You seriously cannot stop people being able to smoke outside and I'm not a smoker.
- Electric cigarettes should be encouraged
Smoking outside is not a problem
- Its called free choice. Smoking isnt an issue how about the general smoking of weed you can smell round Towcester abou 8 to 9pm that I have an issue with ..anyone want to deal with that ???
- I don't see a problem with smoking in open spaces
- A playing field is a wide open area. If there are no sports being played, or children close by what is the harm? Why do you need to impose a blanket ban?
- Shouldnt be an issue if outside area.

- Just to say that smoking is a matter of personal choice and not something that is relevant here. There will always be littering whether it is sweet wrappers or cigarette packets.
- Why ban "smokeless tobacco products"? If someone wants to have a cigarette wouldn't it be better to allow them to have the option of using eg an e-cigarette and stay in the area, and so help them not to smoke? Forcing them to leave the area either way doesn't help.
- It's not reasonable or practical to stop people smoking while watching their children playing football.
- Don't be so ridiculous
- I am a non smoker but think it's up to the individual if they want to smoke in public. It's outside so doesn't effect me and if someone smokes near me I just move away
- Restaurants, yes. Schools, yes however people already respect these areas. Not all smokers drop their cigarettes for goodness sake. Enforce the littering legislation you already have rather than again resorting to lazy policing. The Antisocial behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 can be a good tool....sometimes.....but it shouldn't be used as a 'band aid' to cover everything. You have legislation in place for a lot of these things. Use it effectively!
- Again who will enforce this? The same imaginary officers who are currently not enforcing dog legislation?
- Nanny state gone mad
- 40,000 people a year die in the UK from air pollution. If you're worried about air quality then do something about frivolous car use. These sports grounds are all local facilities, so why do they have big car parks to assist people in driving half a mile?
I don't smoke and agree it shouldn't be allowed in public places, but tackle the causes of air pollution in the order of the magnitude of the problem. Don't fiddle round the edges with smoking while doing nothing about far more serious car exhausts.
- Smoking of illegal substances is already a criminal offence and so should not be included in this framework.
- Let people smoke. They fund the nhs
- I'm sure the council would like to prohibit breathing if they could. If people smoke outside, in a public space- they are entitled to do so.
I don't smoke but I certainly wouldn't tell people outside whether they could or couldn't. Again, ridiculous.
- What's the issue in an outside area?
- Stop making rules for no good reason.
- Vaping us a million miles away from smoking. Do some research before bundling them together.
- Where do smokers extinguish their cigarettes now. I no longer see anywhere they can do this cleanly. Bins no longer have cigarette disposal sections.
- As long as any litter is properly disposed of I am not concerned.
- These are generally open spaces, where mass littering is a general problem not related to smoking. Are you going to ban people from consuming Mc Donald's and Costa coffee in these areas? Thought not.

Again unnecessary legislation to ban smoking by blaming it on litter. I am a non smoker BTW.

- I am not a smoker

I however believe this is overreach. These are outdoor areas and it is unacceptable that this invasion of rights is even considered as an appropriate discussion!

Again this questionnaire mixes the issue. Littering and Smoking. Very poorly formed as a questionnaire and this will cause the statistics to be skewed.

My impression this questionnaire is designed in a way to get a foregone conclusion and therefore is not a democratic process.

- 1) Obnoxious chemicals come out of vehicles and is far more damaging than what a cigarette does.
- 2) Smoking is legal and if you want to ban smoking in these areas then ban it altogether.
- 3) Cigarettes should be banned but the government should resolve this. They need to take action but they generate too much revenue from it. Govt need to ban them and stop taking revenue.
- 4) The smokers hospitalised - it's down to their own actions.
- 5) Prohibitions are unfair persecution.
- 6) Cigarettes are addictive.
- 7) Freedom is important. why should the majority be made to feel like a low life.
- Trust people to exercise appropriate judgement.
- Ridiculous.
- In a social environ such as a bowling green, how do you imagine someone asked in a match not to smoke would ignore such a request ?
- I believe that some of these areas, it should apply, but not all.
For example, near a skatepark, there could be a shelter with ashtray/bin to dispose of cigarette butts.
- As long as outdoors it should be allowed.
- I am not a smoker, but I do not see the problem with people smoking outdoors.
- You seem to have forgotten that tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes and herbal cigarettes are all legal products and can be used in public spaces as long as not more than two sides are enclosed. I believe that playgrounds, play areas and sports facilities should have fences around them, within which smoking is not permitted, but outside the fence it is, and should remain, perfectly legal to smoke.
- If in the open air it's not a problem.
- I don't approve of smoking, but this is taking restrictions too far.
- Not a smoker, but this seems tacked on and there's been very little reasons given for taking more measures against smokers. I don't see it as an issue, and would hate for people to be fined etc. in this instance. So what if you want a cigarette on a skatepark?

Also, minor point.. but the order of your questions is a little out if you were going for a sliding scale kinda thing..

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Disagree Strongly

Disagree
Don't know

- get a grip.
- General litter is more of a concern than a few cigarette butt's.

Question 7E: Additional comments received regarding the prohibition of smoking in specific areas, fenced or otherwise from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed to Proposal 7 or did not answer.

- I think it's a little silly to ban smoking in fenced children's area when they can smoke right outside
- Some of the areas listed are quite vague.
What constitutes a 'multi-use games area'?
... and are 'illegal substances' not illegal anyway?
- Please make sure that facilities are available to dispose of cigarettes so they are not all left to pile up around the area where smoking is prohibited.
- I have no opinion about smoking outside
- I don't worry about "clarity and certainty" around outdoor smoking bans. By all means let MPs legislate to ban all smoking as a toxic hazard that costs the NHS a fortune. And if the local council provides a facility for children/leisure and wants to keep it smoke free then that seems reasonable. Fines should not be part of the mix.
- This should also include vaping. there is an increase in vaping amongst young people and while you have only included tobacco products in your definition I think this should include nicotine based products. The "smoke clouds" from vaping are also very large and are equally a public nuisance...they often carry sweet and appealing smells to children.
- In open air spaces, let them smoke. The amount of tax smokers pay, my understanding is, that it outweighs the cost of treatment holistically, so let them smoke outdoors. If my knowledge is inaccurate here apologies, but I believe it is correct.
- Same as with dog fouling, responsible people do not do this and I do not see how this can be enforced
- I am a non-smoker and strongly dislike being forced to endure second hand smoke. However, I have never had an issue with this outdoors and I believe it is one of the better places for people to smoke if that's what they want to do. My biggest gripe would be with litter, and this should be enforced well before any smoking issues.
- I have never smoked but feel these proposals are starting to impinge on personal freedoms.
- Free country people's choice
- I'm not a smoker. I don't have a problem with smokers in open areas as long as they don't blow it in my face
- Their choice to inhale fumes. Instead, make it illegal to smoke in vehicles with a dog like it is with children inside!!!
- Not sure public will take any notice

- I do not think secondhand smoke is going to be a concern in these areas as you are outside. I do agree that children should not be exposed to adult smoking as much. But I don't feel it is a problem particularly in these areas. Who is going to monitor this
- More rules not required
- No evidence that this is a concern of residents within the parish
- Suspect this is related to anti social behaviour by youths
- Smoking undoubtedly bad, not sure how bad if it's outside? I do dislike fag butts, but not really sure what my opinion is on this. Seems again like something difficult to enforce but i appreciate the gesture. I wouldn;t want to put up barriers in front of some parents that would disincentivise them from taking their kids to park, but i don't know enough about this.
- Prohibit smoking may be seen as a means to define smokers as second class citizens. Smoking is not illegal. Banning smokers from low cost accessible recreation marginalises the smoker and their family... far better to be inclusive

Comments from Organisations received for Proposal 7 – Prohibition of smoking.

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service

Concerns (elsewhere in county)

discarded cigarettes and smoking materials can and do cause fires outdoors, particularly in hot and dry weather. They have been known to cause damage to outside structures such as play equipment and rubbish bins.

Northamptonshire Police

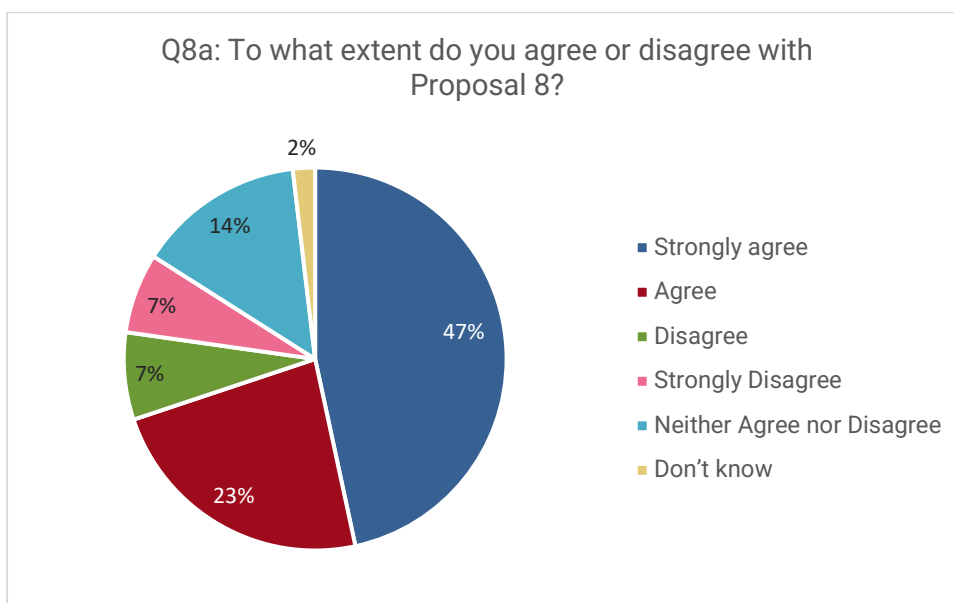
Frequent reports are received of youths smoking cigarettes and using illegal substances at playgrounds and skate parks which are often used by younger children. By banning any behaviour of this nature it will prevent younger children being exposed to this behaviour so in turn make them less likely to copy the behaviour in the future.

Proposal 8. Fixed Penalty Charge. The maximum fixed penalty charge for breaches of the PSPO permitted by the Act is £100. A potential fine of £100 may be an effective deterrent against non-compliance with the PSPO. Any enforcement including the issuing of fixed penalty notices will be undertaken in line with the Council's enforcement policy.

This proposal received a 63% response rate. The proposal states that the maximum fixed penalty charge for breaches of the PSPO permitted by The Act is £100. 70% strongly agreed or agreed with this proposal. 30% of people and organisations made 266 additional comments relating to the fixed penalty charge with 38% of comments relating to enforcement, 23% stated the fine was too low and 7% stating the fine was too high.

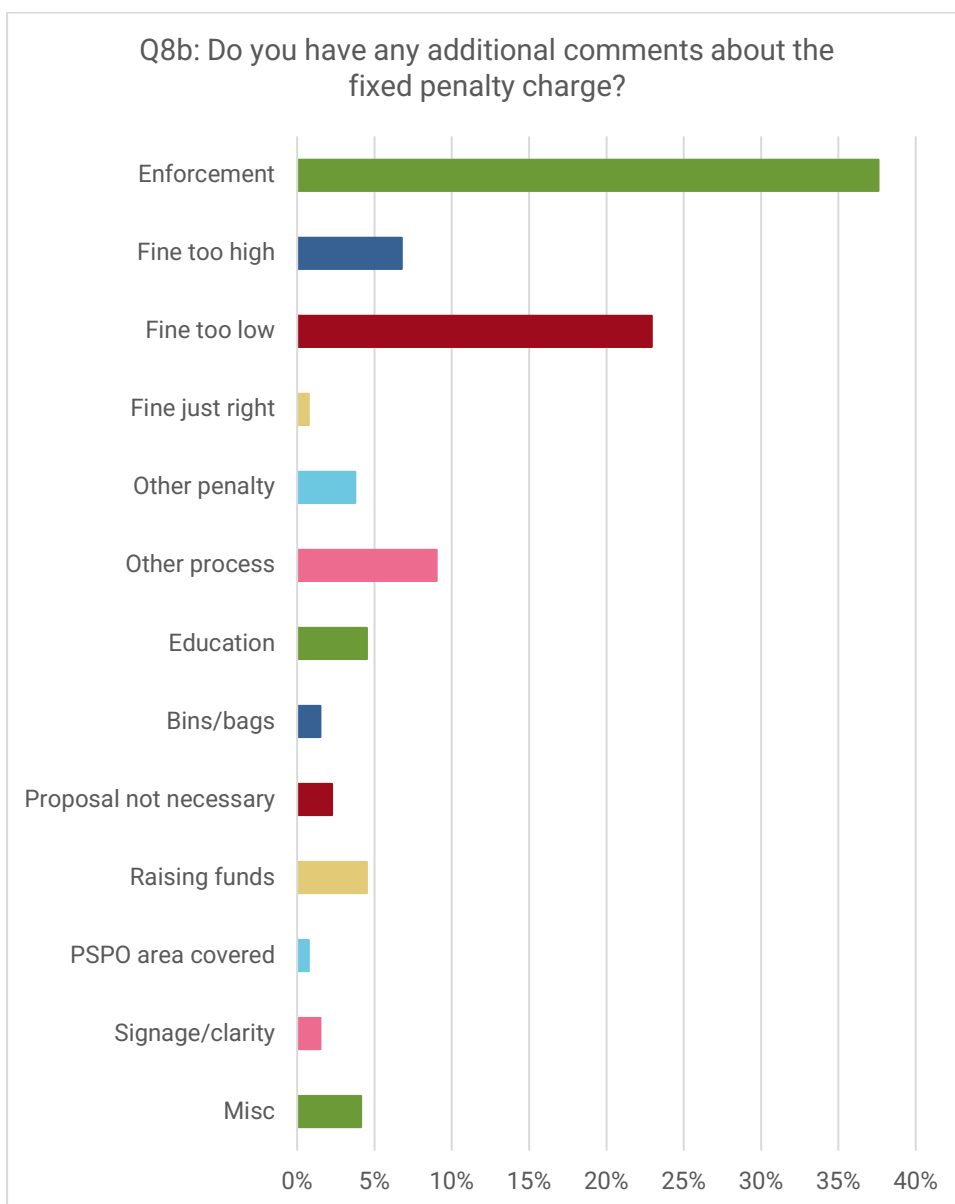
800 responded.

Question 8A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 8?



Q8a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 8?	Total	% Responses
Strongly agree	373	47%
Agree	186	23%
Disagree	59	7%
Strongly Disagree	54	7%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	113	14%
Don't know	15	2%
Grand Total	800	100%

Question 8B: Do you have any additional comments about the fixed penalty charge?



Q8b: Do you have any additional comments about the fixed penalty charge, by theme?		
No. Respondents	242	
No. Comments	266	% Comments
Misc.	11	4%
Signage/clarity	4	2%
PSPO area covered	2	1%
Raising funds	12	5%
Proposal not necessary	6	2%
Bins/bags	4	2%
Education	12	5%
Other process	24	9%
Other penalty	10	4%
Fine just right	2	1%
Fine too low	61	23%
Fine too high	18	7%
Enforcement	100	38%

Question 8B: Additional comments received about the fixed penalty charge from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 8.

- Sieze the dog?
- Would suggest a reduction for early payment, this will encourage offenders to pay and save you the time and expenses of taking them to court
- Should act as a deterrent but does the council have sufficient resources to patrol and issue the FPNs?
- Don't be scared to fine people on their first offence!
- Charge should increase for repeat offenders
- It will never happen as there is never any presence in brackley for crime as it is let alone to cover this stuff
- Much the same as dog poo, the fines are only helpful if someone is caught in the act.
- It should be higher, £100 is not enough deterrent.
- Agree although think £100 is not that much of a deterrent especially if you are unlikely to be caught. A higher penalty might be better as the higher the penalty the less likely you would be to take risks
- The charges must be very well signposted, with clear guidance as to the area covered with the fine.
- £100 in this day and age is too steep. £50 is still a good deterrent as you will more than likely be fining people who will not have ready means to pay anyway.
- It should be higher and means tested.
Fines should double for each repeat offence.
- It's not enough
- I think there should be an escalation option for persistent offenders.
Who can enforce? PCSOs, Wardens, Officers?

Will video evidence be permitted?

- ..and a community service allocation of say 10 hours of walking around designated areas picking up cigarette butts, etc
- Not high enough, should be £1000 to be a deterrent.
- Again, how would this be enforced?
- Should and could be higher for repeat offences
- wish you luck on imposing this in Daventry.
- make it £500
- Yes - as mentioned before.
Enforcement will be the key.
But I would not expect the council to pay for additional resource to do this at tax payers expense.
- But do people actually pay them?
- So who is going to enforce this and issue the fixed penalty notice?
- Not enough.
Like litter penalties it's not a sufficient deterrent.
Suggest you double it.
- WNC need to discharge their duty and have a dog warden on patrol NOW and deal with pavement fouling
A survey is great but action is needed NOW
- They need to be policed, if there is no evidence of anyone enforcing the rules they will continue to be ignored.
- Not sure how it would be administered. Will there be wardens?
- Prioritise reminders and chances and only use the financial sanctions if rules blatantly and consistently abused.
- I think it's good but I think it needs evidence behind it as some people may be fined just for having a dog and I don't want that. It has to be proven the dog in question has fouled and the owner has not picked it up. How you would do that; I'm not sure:
- Should be more. People should be named and shamed. They should be fined for each offence. Needs more patrols or cctv to catch people. Everyone known the council won't catch anyone and no fines will get issued.
- You need to police it.
- How is this going to be managed? when I moved to Flore I complained about dog fouling & was given posters to put up, nothing was done about the dog poo ongoing problem
- This shouldn't be enforced too strictly
It shouldn't become a money making scheme
Money raised should not be kept by council, give it to charities
- Not high enough and should be extremely easy to enforce
- Probably unenforceable in the real world.
- They should be higher
- Needs to have the potential to be higher for repeat offenders
- Not enough to deter anyone who is going to enforce this as I never see a dog warden
- It is all v we'll have fixed charges, who is going to exercise this rule? Good in theory, haven't seen and practical application.

- should be more, that one time out of the 20-30 times they do it for only £100 is not enough, maximum fine should be £1000 to cover the 20-30 times they dont get caught
- Difficult to enforce unless dog and owner are caught in the act by an official. Members of the public are likely to be nervous of reporting anyone and/or providing photographs for fear of reprisals.
- An impossible task for a PSPO when dealing with people with large dogs who and those who are smoking. Left wide open for abuse of the officer
- Should be more 200 pounds at least
- It should increase for subsequent breaches. As with everything the key will be effective enforcement and this will be difficult with such a large area and such a vast number of public spaces and limited resources to cover the cost.
- Enforcement needs to be consistent. So many things are never actually enforced, so people just ignore them.
"Do, or do not. There is no try!"
- Education is the answer not handing out tickets to people. It's especially dodgy when it's farmed out to third party private contractors who have KPIs to meet and will not use common sense in a situation as its about making money not improving where we live.we
- They need to be enforced.
- Regular enforcement required, maybe via cctv to prevent it being ignored
- Good idea but it would need to be enforced or it's meaningless
- Fixed penalty should be more.
- How can this behaviour be proved in rural areas?
- I think what little council money there is could be better spent on other necessities
- Make it reasonable as otherwise people will refuse to pay
- I think the fine should be higher. Some people may not be put off by £100
- Yes should be more
- Not sure how this will be checked as there won't be someone on every street across the county checking all the time to make sure there's no one smoking or a dog pooping
- A little high, £50 would be better
- Who will manage this?
- Normal judicial safeguards will apply
- Should be more
- Not sure how it will be enforced.
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. woottin
- Put it in to action! Actually fining people and making it public is a bugger deterrent than just sticking up a few signs. Follow through on the threat of prosecution!
- Should be higher
- will these are be on camera?
who will enforce it?
what actions have the community police have ?
- Sometimes, it's the only way.

Immediate confiscation of all materials carried by that person might make them start thinking, too.

- Agree strongly but who will enforce this ? You need oriole catching offenders to stop it.
- Provided there are sufficient officer to enforce these finds and once reported West Northamptonshire act in such a timely manner the perpetrators can be fined on site.
- Just a pity it can't be higher. £100 will deter some people but possibly not others. Perhaps it could be "per offence". So if in the example I have of the guy with 5 dogs, that could potentially be 5 x £100.
- As long as there are clear signs to warn people. Also, if they have taken steps to be far enough away from the area in question this should not be an issue.
- Who will enforce it? it is all well and good having the ability to issue them but who will do it?!
- Whilst I agree, I have bad memories of the over-zealous application of fixed penalty notices in Northampton town centre, by contracted out enforcement agents. This just bred contempt and hostility, when in many cases education would have solved the problem just as effectively.
- Could be higher
- Just that it should be enforced
- A strong deterrent is required and I think this a fair starting point, however, if it's not going to be enforced and is merely the Council 'blowing smoke' (excuse the pun!) then it's a waste of time!
- I agree that the proposed charge is proportionate
- Local councillors should be able to fine people for not picking up dog poo
- How will it be enforced? It's so rare to see anyone officially and actively monitoring public spaces
- If people are irresponsible. Fine them.....
- Maybe it will take a charge of more than £100 for people to take notice. This would also help to pay for the increased cost of policing/monitoring/enforcing the rules
- It's not high enough - personally I would say that £500 is more of a deterrent.
- Could always be higher fine as a greater deterrent!
- would need to see a defined procedure for the issuing of fines, Smoking is pretty clear cut with appropriate signage but for slightly out of control dogs a procedure should be in place for education and allow responses to the orders/recommendation of the authority officers which takes into account that dogs are living creatures and at times may act unusually
- But who is going to enforce this? It becomes meaningless if not enforced
- Introduce it asap.
- Does the fine increase for repeat offenders?
- The fixed penalty charge should be higher if you can catch the culprits.
- Yep fine them. As long as there is plenty of signage and information spread to advise of the new rules
- Should be set higher at £250
- needs people to enforce it otherwise just an empty threat
- A fine is only beneficial if you have the resource and the willingness of the resource to issue the fine.

- How would you enforce this? Surely you cannot afford to have people patrolling all the above areas issuing fixed penalties??
- Is the charge for dog fouling the same across the country? In Portsmouth where I have lived I thought the penalty was more than £100.
- Please ensure a rigorous process supports this so that it doesn't get abused
- As always some will pay some won't.
- To some £100 is nothing, to others a lot. Why not base the fine on earning brackets?
- Good plan
- Regarding Dogs Under Control, the penalty should only be applied where the owner has refused to put their dogs on lead. Dogs can be off lead and even responsible owners will have times where dogs lose focus, or be under puppy training, and the dog may be difficult to recall. If the owner refuses the reasonable request to put the dogs on lead or has not requested help in doing so, then penalty should be applied.
- Fines need to be enforced otherwise people won't take it seriously and keep doing it.
- I think it should be higher if your caught a second time and so on
- We have a PCSO in our village who is noticeable by his absence, or there's a fleeting glimpse of him driving through the village. Never to be seen on foot patrol so no chance of him catching a dog having an illegal crap. So who is going to police the new legislation?
- I think with inflation the fine should be £200 for the first offence and doubled if more than once in twelve months
- How can this be enforced?
- If a fixed penalty charge system is put in place, a proportion of the money should be put back in to the upkeep of the footpaths and provision and emptying of dog waste bins.
- As long as it is enforced. We have too many laws and rules that are ignored because the bureaucratic process of collection is too expensive
- Difficult enforcing a fixed penalty
- It's all very well having these fines but who will enforce them?
- wish it was doubled for repeat offenders (like covid fines were)
- I simply wonder how this would be implemented? Who would police this other than concerned residents sending in images as evidence?
- How will this be issued in small rural communities. Sounds like a dog with no teeth!
- Happy for it to be higher to be honest.
- The fine should be higher - £250
- Too low
- Education is always a better way to change people's habits rather than punishment (fines).
- If you see a violation, how do you report it? How is the person identified and fined?
- The fixed penalty should have a increasing scale where repeat offenders are subjected to much harsher penalties.
- Should be points based and lead to higher fines if repeated.
£100 could be considered insufficient and should be a minimum rather than fixed.

- I agree with the fine, but if someone walks away with no intention to pick up poo, or lights up a cigarette/e-cigarettes, they just get the fine without question.
- It needs to be implemented so that they learn their lesson and not be irresponsible and give other dog owners a bad name
- What will you do with people who aren't able to pay, does this go to a Magistrates Court?
How about an alternative being community service? Or does the magistrate have to require this?
- £100 maximum is pathetic.
Make the fine something to be concerned about.
Don't term it the "maximum", state what the minimum is. £1000 minimum might make a few change their ways and actually publicise how many fines there are?
It reality I imagine there are very few fines in my area, which makes the whole thing a bit pointless.
- I believe it should be an incremental charge with higher penalties for further breaches.
- Should be a lot higher £1000
- Cost of living going up at the moment will people be able to pay a fine. Maybe better to introduce litter picking for people who can't afford fines
- Think £100 is not a sufficient deterrent.
- It's to low make it £500
- £100 is not enough
- Scrap the fixed charge change fixed to unlimited (if someone gets fined and ignore it then double the fine charge and even then if they still ignore it then boost the fine charge higher
- Double the charge each time they commit the offence.
- The charge was previously £1,000 in Daventry District and I would like it to remain at this level. This would deter some of the better off individuals in our society.
- Double it.
- They should be increased to £250 or £500
- Must be evidence based to stop potential abuses
- Query likelihood of Enforcement staff attending parish on routine basis?
- Judgement should be applied for instance when someone has every intention of returning to pick up poo.
- It's great to have the power to do this, but it's unlikely to be enforced. There is already plenty of signage around our village to state there is a fine... I have never seen a dog warden though!
- Ensure there are wardens available for all areas of county. Ensure robust reporting system.
- How will this be monitored?
- It should apply to dogs and their owners caught allowing the dog to foul on public footpaths that cross agricultural land.
- Need to differentiate between deliberate and accidental infringements.
- It's going to falter because you're asking an 'officer' with no authority to give a subjective opinion on what out of control means.
- Should be higher to make it a true deterrent
- I don't think that's enough of a deterrent I think it should be between £200-500.

- The most important point is enforcement. Its no good having a regulation or law but with no or little enforcement because of resources or priorities, especially if these are transient issues that come and go before any response can be done.

Question 8B: Additional comments received about the fixed penalty charge from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed to Proposal 8.

- Is this not going to be a stealth tax? How are your officers going to police this?
- wake up, £100 people spend more than that out on the piss, you need to be looking at at least £1,000 preferably £5000 and it may pay for enforcement, otherwise its more waste of my council tax
- It should be a £750 penalty not £100. £100 isn't preventative it's just a minor inconvenience. People need to learn from their mistakes.
- Never even seen an officer in over a decade of dog ownership so I don't believe dog owners believe the threat is real.
- the introduction of penalty's does not stop people doing it otherwise the number of penalty's handed out would reduce and we know that hasn't happened. Maybe if money from the council wasn't embezzled you wouldn't be trying to get the public to fund local services?
- There are enough petty, pathetic, individuals that can make peoples lives a misery, we don't need anymore. Stop this pathetic nonsense - were you picked on at school?
- I think it is too much. Even £25 would be a deterrent for most people but more affordable if they did have to pay it.
- Sometimes, dog-related issues are not deliberate and care should be exercised in choosing those who have powers to issue fines.
- £100 is not a deterrent in this day and age!
- It's too low.
- Make the penalty higher.
- Education not Penalisation is key using a pro active not re active approach.
- it's too high
- Give me a break oh really another cash generator ? Didnt see that coming at all !
- Again I worry that it will be used indiscriminately and used as a weapon by some neighbours against others. Should only be issued after reasonable discussion and information giving. Giving out free poo bags and where the bins are etc.
We are not a Nazi state!
- advice and provision of bins more important
- The penalty is much too high. The onus to prove non compliance must be on the council
- Should be higher penalty
- Policing this and enforcing it is a waste of tax payers money. I am a non smoker
- Absolutely not. There is a clear and present danger of endless petty rules and restrictions that erode personal freedom. Responsibility must be entrusted to people except in extreme circumstances - dog poo and smoking are minor anti-social issues and this is not a proportionate response.

- Would only cause bad feeling if a pcso was being a jobsworth and fining constantly or just anyone with a dog,
Im sure the ones leaving dog poo probably walk very late at night and dont get seen.
- This pspo exercise is a massive and unwanted waste of resources. Stop spending limited tax revenue on unenforceable bylaws and concentrate on using it in a more efficient manner
- Get a grip...as per my com.ents re PCSOs ...this will never work and is an utter waste of money....do not do it
- I fear that due to a lapse in memory am normally responsible dog owner may receive a hefty fine for not having a bag, however they may be able to grab one from one of the many displays around the town. I think £50 would be a severe enough deterrent and also not too harsh on those innocent non habitual offenders of such a prohibition.
- £100 is a simply insufficient deterrent, it should be £500, then people might think twice.
- This should remain the sole remit of a constable in uniform.
And who is going to enforce it anyway?
And when someone refuses to comply by giving a name and address, then what?
Where is your evidence that FPNs lead to a reduction in this problem? Why have you not presented the evidence here?
This has not been thought out at all.
- I think £100 is too high for this area and would propose something in the region of £30 for compliance.
- Too high
- That's not high enough. Add a 0 then it might become a deterrent.
- Per poo? Based on size?
What if its liquid and you can't pick it up? What if whilst you are trying to pick it up you are approached by another dog who stands in it?
- There are too many opportunities for WNC to generate revenue through petty fines and this is another revenue generating idea
- Is this just an additional revenue line opportunity for the council? It would appear so, all of the previous appears as though it would be largely unenforceable. I'm glad the councils time, energy and budget is being applied to such a worthy subject- NOT
- More money making schemes.....
- Money making opportunities Shame on you.
- £100 is not enough of a deterrent. The chances of getting caught are slim therefore the consequence of breaking the rules and getting caught needs to be of a much higher value that will deter low income and high income people. £500 would be more like it or even £1000!
- We at an economic crisis with oil prices and other utilities going up too. Not the right time and £100 too much.
- Yes - £100 is not enough. It needs to be much more to have any real effect on most people.
- Surely it is going to cost far more to enforce this. As I've said previously I'm not sure that the problem is significant enough to warrant this approach. After covid

and lockdown eroded freedom and liberty I believe this approach is authoritarian. Why not try to encourage the proposed behaviour change rather than enforce it.

- Like parking wardens this will become another scam to collect money from unsuspecting members of the public who may accidentally breach the proposed laws and as they are enforced by third party contractors who keep a percentage of the fines it's in their interests to fine for even minor unintentional infractions.

We are all human, and are adults, please treat us as such.

- Madness. There are far more important things in the world and a huge fine like this isn't the way to change behaviour. Please sort out our roads
- Will be seen as a money raising scheme. Why not a £20 fine? How can it be policed? Please do not use an outside business to implement.
- Needs to be more and there needs to be a process of education
- Where is the fixed penalty charge going to go to? It doesn't go to the public. £13m given to the football club and not given back.

It's a profit making scheme.

What about those that can't afford to pay? Will you send in the bailiffs?

Could the fine go to a charity instead? i.e. smoking fine should go to a cancer charity.

If £100m is raised in fines, is the council tax going to be reduced.

Don't want the fine to go to the council.

We are administrators for the public and you are not above the public.

- Many that smoke are from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds. Unfairly targeting them to pay a fine most can ill-afford is unjust.
- Too much
- Should be lower. Say £50
- Far too low to be an effective deterrent. It's so unlikely anyone will be caught as I never see anyone patrolling the area. Having a £100 fine once in a blue moon won't change people's behaviour.

How about taking photos and putting them in the local newspaper (paper and online), so naming and shaming in some way?

- Why should everything cost money, this is just another way of making money, be creative and try penalizing another way.
- I fear this will evolve into an arbitrary charge, administered at will and with targets set by the Council (another valuable but unfair revenue stream).
- Why do authorities always go for the money in peoples pockets. Why not try to educate first then bring in measures for those who are persistent offenders.
- It's not enough.
- If there is a charge. Where will the money go. ????
- Who is going to monitor this and enforce the penalty charge. There should be a system of two warnings then a penalty as some people may be confused as to what areas they are in and what the regulations are.
- People struggle enough at the moment-just don't need this at all.
- A fine is not going to resolve anything just antagonise people.
- Plastic police - just bring back beat bobbies
- You just need to look on YouTube for the madness of some of these fixed penalty notices. People have been fined for accidentally dropping things, people have been accused of dropping things they haven't... and they're largely ran by private

companies w/ targets who have an incentive to fine people over and above public good.

You don't accidentally not pick up your dog's poo, but you can accidentally drop a cigarette.

- Revenue generation scheme
- It should be a minimum fine of £1000 as £100 is not a substantial figure to put people off breaching the PSPO.
- I feel that this is too low, especially for repeat offenders. It should increase to over £100 if issued more once to the same individual.
- If the tory bastards in government can have a party during lockdown, why should anyone pay any fixed charge notices anymore?
- Ridiculous amount

Question 8B: Additional comments received about the fixed penalty charge from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed to Proposal 8 or did not know.

- It's too high for a first offence.
- I think it should be higher, £500
- It is probably not appropriate for this to be applied to the first offence. Instead, advice and information should be given.
- It is not the charge but how and when it is applied. Again common sense needs to be applied in different circumstances rather than black and white application.
- Not sure a fine works and catching the person doing it in the first place is the issue.
- Education should be the first step, behavioural change by punishment may not be as effective
- I just can't see it being enforced really.
- £100 even if enforced is not a sufficient deterrent.
- Will there be an allowance for a warning first?
- It will depend on whether it is enforced - someone smoking by a playing field is not as harmful (in my opinion) as dog fouling in a playground or village pathway.
- How would it be implemented?
- It's a nice idea but you will never catch the culprit. So it's fairly pointless.
- There is never an official around in these un-manned areas - no one will be around to issue the fines, so it will not be a deterrent. Those that are responsible facility users will continue to be responsible, those that are not responsible will continue in their current ways.
- It seems too much if someone is genuinely caught out / had bad luck that day and not enough if the person is a regular offender - could there be a sliding scale depending on whether it's your first offence etc? The charges need to ensure that it encourages the behaviour you want rather than just be a money making exercise for the council.
- There is already a fine for dog fouling why do you need another one.
- I like the idea of fines, however I do believe they should be able to show discretion and maybe have verbal and then written warnings first. However most of the people who do not pick it up either don't care.

- The FPN is fine but the council is not enforcing current legislation so unless something changes this is window dressing.
- Repeat offenders likely to just go covert and walk dogs in the dark for less chance of being spotted.
Poo bins need to be emptied ore frequently.
Maybe spare biodegradable bags should accompany the bins so people don't have an excuse.
- Clearly not working now so don't see it changing
- Like all offences dealt with by fixed penalty notices, the problem will be enforcement. Even if the officers have the power to demand details, I foresee many refusals to supply them or false details being given. Even if proper details are obtained enforcement usually comes down to civil action by bailiffs which is not always successful.
- This should not be issued for first offences otherwise you risk alienation of law abiding citizens caught short of a poop bag etc.... on 2nd occasion.. your fair game
- I don't think all of the situations outlined are equal and some should be treated differently, e.g. dogs being on leads vs on control, dog mess being picked up vs carrying bags.
- How you going to police it 24/7
- Not enough!!
- It may a useful tool in the armoury, but I truly believe that public education - and being called out by others - is the right way forward.
- What is the appeal process if fined unfairly?
- Problem is if these fines are used as a revenue generating exercise and officers are over zealous in handing them out
- Whoever is enforcing this will need training in self defence. I have been personally abused when I have asked individuals if the need a poo bag to clear up after their dog.
- Waste of time as it would be impossible to enforce as the council don't have people out looking for these issues. Fines for dog fouling, litter fouling have always been a council issue but never enforced.
- How can you police these acts across the whole area?
- I am concerned on behalf of elderly people who have dogs and may be in breach of this
- Another stealth tax for your coffers
- The problem here is a matter of enforcement. I see dog mess everywhere when people can be fined for not picking it up
I think if fines exist for people breaching rules then the enforcement of those laws and rules needs to be better otherwise people will carry on breaking them regardless.
- I think living in a village you get to know some people who pick up an perhaps a few who don't but policing it is going to be difficult, unless you have got certain proof cctv ? that sort of thing, my word against some one else is not good enough and £100 might be a bit harsh £50 is more affordable , what would the money from the fines go towards, providing more poo bins hopefully
- Again, how are you going to enforce this, really?? I do wish there were more positive ways of encouraging good behaviour. But in principle, sure.

- What is PSPO?

Comments from Organisations received for Proposal 8 – Fixed penalty charge.

National Farmers Union East Midlands Region

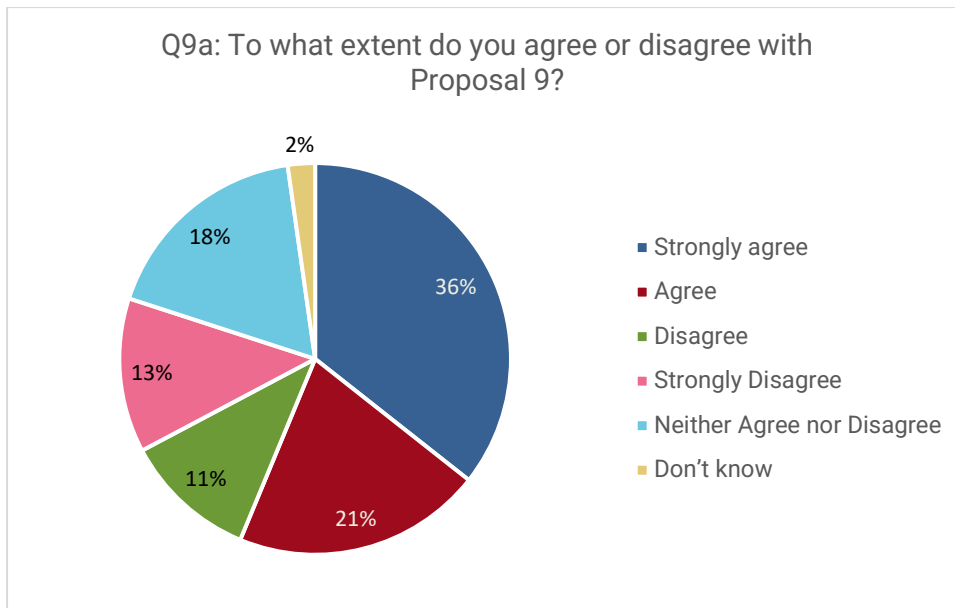
It should apply to dogs and their owners caught allowing the dog to foul on public footpaths that cross agricultural land.

Proposal 9. Maximum number of dogs. Persons in charge of multiple dogs, should not be allowed to walk any more than 4 at any one time.

63% of those that took part in this consultation responded to this question. 57% strongly agreed or agreed that persons in charge of multiple dogs should not be allowed to walk any more than 4 at any one time with 20% of responses neither agreeing or disagreeing or didn't know. 50% of those that were concerned about a person walking too many dogs said it was either a very big concern (11%), a fairly big concern (13%) or a small concern (26%), however, 86% of people stated that they had not had any concerns in the last 12 months where a person was walking too many dogs for them to control well. Of those that did states they had problems with a person walking too many dogs, 129 comments were received, 46% of those related to issues surrounding dog control.

800 responded.

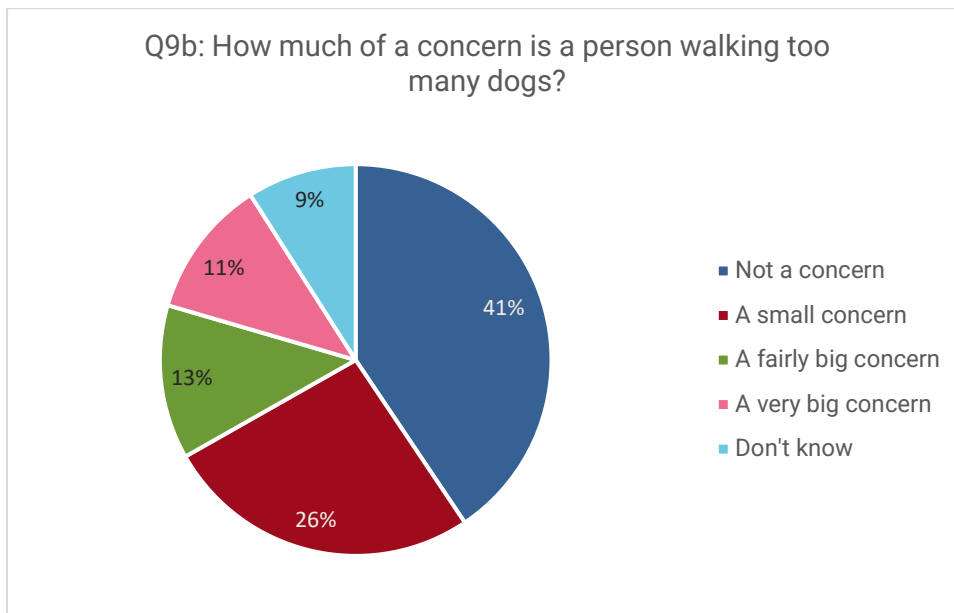
Question 9A: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 9?



Q9a: To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 9?	Total	% Responses
Strongly agree	285	36%
Agree	165	21%
Disagree	88	11%

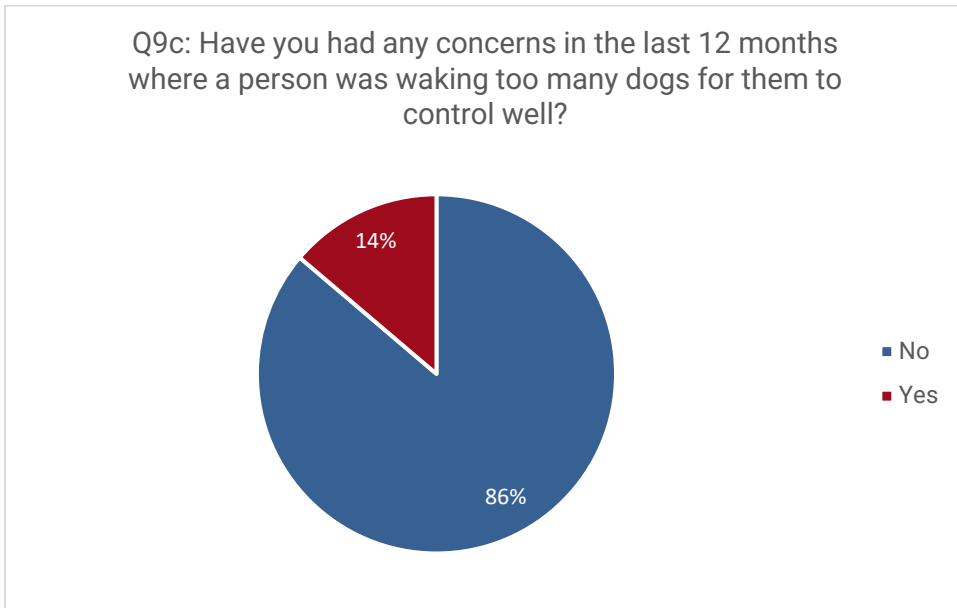
Strongly Disagree	102	13%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	142	18%
Don't know	18	2%
Grand Total	800	100%

Question 9B: How much of a concern is a person walking too many dogs?



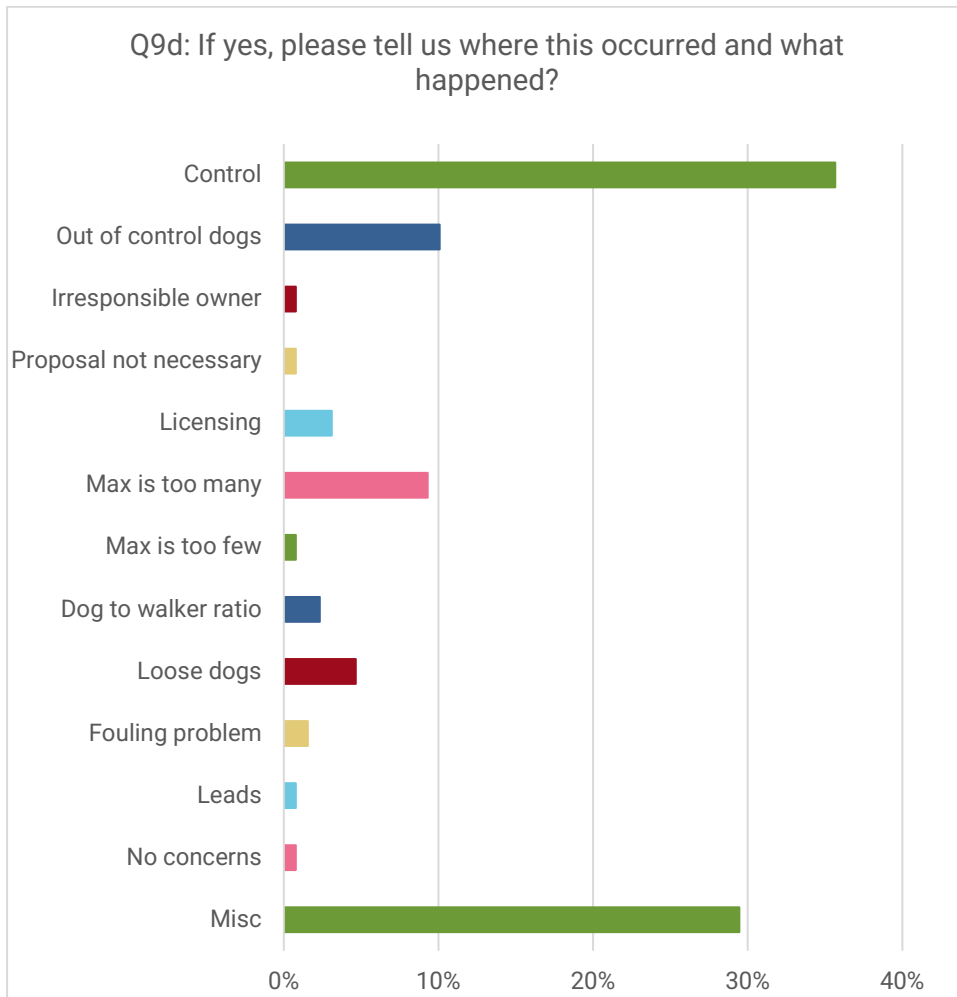
Q9b: How much of a concern is a person walking too many dogs?	Total	% Responses
Not a concern	319	41%
A small concern	206	26%
A fairly big concern	100	13%
A very big concern	90	11%
Don't know	71	9%
Grand Total	786	100%

Question 9C: Have you had any concerns in the last 12 months where a person was waking too many dogs for them to control well?



Q9c: Have you had any concerns in the last 12 months where a person was waking too many dogs for them to control well?	Total	% Responses
No	638	86%
Yes	102	14%
Grand Total	740	100%

Question 9D: If yes, please tell us where this occurred and what happened



Q9d: If yes, please tell us where this occurred and what happened?		
No. Respondents	104	
No. Comments	129	% Comments
Misc.	38	29%
No concerns	1	1%
Leads	1	1%
Fouling problem	2	2%
Loose dogs	6	5%
Dog to walker ratio	3	2%
Max is too few	1	1%

Max is too many	12	9%
Licensing	4	3%
Proposal not necessary	1	1%
Irresponsible owner	1	1%
Out of control dogs	13	10%
Control	46	36%

Q9d: Named town/village where concerns have been raised regarding too many dogs being walked for them to be controlled well.	Total Comments	% Names
Badby	3	2%
Billing	1	1%
Boddington	1	1%
Brackley	7	5%
Brampton Valley	5	4%
Braunston	1	1%
Brixworth	3	2%
Bugbrooke	6	5%
Chipping Warden	1	1%
Cogenhoe	3	2%
Cottesbrooke	1	1%
Crick	3	2%
Daventry	6	5%
Dodford	1	1%
Duston	1	1%
East Haddon	1	1%
Everdon Stubbs	1	1%
Eydon	1	1%
Grange Park	1	1%
Guilsborough	1	1%

Hartwell	1	1%
Hunsbury Hill	1	1%
Moulton	1	1%
Northampton	3	2%
Onley	2	2%
Pitsford reservoir	1	1%
Salcey Forest	1	1%
Silverstone	3	2%
Stoke Bruerne	2	2%
Towcester	1	1%
Towcester public	1	1%
Welton	1	1%
West Hunsbury	1	1%
Unnamed	62	48%
Grand Total	129	100%

Q9d: Specific location within town/village where too many dogs have been walked for them to control well.	Total Comments
Badby	
Greens	1
Woods	2
Billing	
Unnamed	1
Boddington	
Reservoir	1
Brackley	
Martial Dair Boulevard	2
Unnamed	5
Brampton Valley	

Unnamed	5
Braunston	
Unnamed	1
Brixworth	
Country park	1
Unnamed	2
Bugbrooke	
Canal	1
High Street	2
Sports area	1
Unnamed	2
Chipping Warden	
Unnamed	1
Cogenhoe	
Playing Fields	1
Pocket park	2
Cottesbrooke	
Unnamed	1
Crick	
Woodlands	2
Unnamed	1
Daventry	
Abbey Fields	1
Borough Hill	1
Country park	1
Everdon Woods	2
Skate park	1
Dodford	
Unnamed	1
Duston	

Unnamed	1
East Haddon	
Playing Fields	1
Everdon Stubbs	
Unnamed	1
Eydon	
Unnamed	1
Grange Park	
Unnamed	1
Guilsborough	
Unnamed	1
Hartwell	
Ashwood Lane	1
Hunsbury Hill	
Parks	1
Moulton	
Crowfields	1
Northampton	
Dallington Park	1
Parks	1
Pastures	1
Onley	
Parks	2
Pitsford reservoir	
Unnamed	1
Salcey Forest	
Unnamed	1
Silverstone	
Hazelborough Woods	1
Unnamed	2

Stoke Bruerne	
Towpath	2
Towcester	
Watermeadow	1
Towcester public	
Footpaths	1
Welton	
Unnamed	1
West Hunsbury	
Parks	1
Unnamed	
Country park	3
Fields	1
Leisure Centre	1
Parks	1
Towpath	1
Unnamed	55
Grand Total	129

Question 9 D: Comments received from respondents who had agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 9 regarding the maximum number of dogs.

- East Haddon Playing Fields - not in control because walking too many
- Dallington Park, person with 3 large boisterous dogs not on lead, not under control Frightening to have them run up and jump up.
- Daventry sorts park where a woman regularly has 4/5 dogs not entirely under control
- At Everdon woods, in March 2021, a lady opened the back of her car and 7 small chihuahua type dogs rushed out of the vehicle at my daughter, my dog and myself, surrounded us, all barking and baring their teeth, darting towards us and away again
She had no control over them, none of them were on leads and their behaviour was extremely aggressive despite their small size.
She wasn't apologetic at all despite me shouting at her to get them under control so we could carry on our walk.
- Borough Hill. Nearly had a bike accident when a pack of dogs were chasing me.
- Same park as when son was bitten.

- Lady had too many dogs and couldn't recall
Them they were a pain no control
- Sports Fields and Canal. Bugbrooke
 - Local fields
 - Having to stop running, cycling until they have called them back.
Increased dog fouling especially near the car parking areas at the woods, just where children like to play and build dens and get covered in poo.
 - Dog walkers walking large packs of dogs under little control if any
 - Country park
 - Hazelborough woods silverstone, clearly professional dog walkers, mixed pack of dogs. Professional dog walkers should require licence. Also using same walk multiple times per day with different dogs in the public areas in silverstone village, clearly they are not the dog owner but being paid. Different rules need to apply to them.
 - I am aware of one lady who owns five dogs and walks them together. She always carries poo bags and I have seen her picking up after her dogs many times. But I cannot imagine she can possibly spot all of it, all of the time.
 - Great Billing and Little Billing
Person was being dragged along. Also struggled to pick up dog poo.
 - There are more and more dog walking companies walking multiple dogs they should be regulated to 4 dogs and paying to use public areas for business
 - In Dodford person was walking in excess of 6 big Alsatian type dogs. They were strong, pulling the lady along and barking. It was frightening she didn't have proper control and had no ability to pick up after them all.
 - Professional dog walkers sometimes walk locally with multiple dogs.
 - Dog walker, in a park 6 dogs and she had no control and one of them escaped and took 15 mins to get back on lead
 - On Abbey fields woman walking 4 dogs one large aggressive dog off lead confronted my dog which was on lead frightening my dog I was using a mobility scooter and my dog tangled his lead around me trying to escape
 - Local dig owner has 6 dogs. All out of control small yapping and biting dogs.
 - At the meadow in Towcester . From this I don't walk my dog over there anymore it can be very intimidating and the dog owners can and are unapproachable , because they think it their right to let their pets or dog walkers etc just to let their packs of dogs run free and it's causing concern for me personally because my dog who is on her leash when near other unknown dogs is surrounded by a pack of dog walkers dogs. She has been bitten a couple of times.
 - Pastures, and Brampton Valley Northampton
 - Brampton Valley Way and Brixworth Country Park. Too many dogs, off lead.
 - I on occasions walk my daughters two small dogs, never let them off the lead and it's really difficult to pick up their mess without a double lead so I can hold the lead with one hand and pick up with the other, so to walk more than two dogs is difficult to control
 - See previous answer
 - West Hunsbury parks
 - Various roads in parish where a dog walker (rather than owner) was exercising 6 very lively dogs.

- Have seen dog walker in the country park with 5/6 large dogs where their leads are attached to a belt around the walkers waist if these dogs decided to bolt they were large enough to pull the walker off their feet and drag them along. I also witnessed a young woman slightly built being pulled off her feet along a gravel path whilst trying to walk a young Doberman which she obviously could not control/hold as it pulled the lead from her hand fortunately I was able to quickly get myself and my dogs behind a fence so it could not get to us. There should be restrictions on who can own they types of dogs.
- Ashwood Lane Hartwell...regular walker with 5 /6 working dogs all off lead. One us aggressive to other dogs but it is put on a lead if asked.
- One lady that walks digs around Brackley has 7 dogs!!! None are nice or in control!!
- Parking in the village to walk several across the fields .
- See earlier answer to be honest four dogs is too many if they have a combined weight and strength beyond the handler. I see lots of dog packs that are not under control including one man who didn't carry leads for all of them when challenged
- Not all the dogs were under control
- Grange park. Salcey forest
- Brackley, Silverstone and surrounding area. Nothing happened. The professional dog walkers are not able to watch too many dogs.
- can remember but I've seen it
- A person who has 3 and 4 dogs regularly walks around the fields to the west of the village and can be heard at some distance shouting for her dogs some of whom are not on leads
- Dog walker from nearby town brings around 20 dogs for daily walks around our village and never has control and never picks up poo
- Chipping Warden. The person walking the dogs was clearly having issues walking them.
- Brampton Valley way.
- Parks anywhere in the county. Brampton valley way. Pitsford res.
- no direct experience
- Duston people walking a pack of dogs have no control
- People will several dogs cannot control them and they attack my dog or intimidate us
This is a big frustration.
- A dog walker had approximately eight dogs off their leads in Cogenhoe Pocket Park. When it was pointed out that it is a wildlife area and the dogs should all be on leads, as signed at both entrances, she said 'go [expletive] yourself' and carried on as before. The dogs were running around completely randomly with no control.

In the past my wife and I were approached by an aggressive dog which was being walked by a professional dog walker with a large group of dogs; eight or nine. The walker, who was some distance away at the time, managed to retrieve the dog eventually but it did seem as if it might attack us. I grew up with dogs and am used to being around them and pet all dogs I meet while walking. This was a dangerous animal. I reported the incident to the Police who spoke with the dog walker but they were unable to do anything until it attacks someone.

- I tend to cross the road if there is somebody who has more than 3 dogs!!
- Every morning lady walking just two dogs, on leads but totally out of control. They drag her along while she's swearing at them then she just let's go of the leads by the gate to fields in homestead drive and stands there bellowing at them
- High street bugbrooke.
A Professional dog walker (well known in the village) had too many with her, 2 got loose and caused a bit of a problem to try to catch them
They ran into roads and the local shop.
- Everdon Stubbs
Bugbrooke
- Towcester public footpaths
- Cogenhoe Paying Fields, professional dog walkers with 6 dogs off lead and not under control
- On my walks there are always professional dog walkers walking 4+ dogs.
- In Crick Woodlands and on the associated footpaths I have seen dog walkers with several dogs off the lead not under control.
- Near Cottesbrooke
- I have only seen issues with people unable to control large dogs. I don't think it's a number issue, but size of dog compared to owner issue.
- Often seen in the village
- As I stated before
- Many people in Braunston have more than one dog. I feel that the owners can only control one dog at any one time
- Badby Woods
- Brixworth country park, dogs off lead bothering my on lead dog and owners were not taking any notice
- Badby Woods and on the greens in Badby
- Dog fights on tow paths entering properties alongside the canal
- boddington Reservoir
- I walker with six dogs lost controls of two of them which ran off.
- Not really too much of a concern in Eydon. I'll be tedious and reiterate my point made earlier about the use of "wander leads" which I have seen become entangled.
- They can't control that many. 2 person to 4 dogs would be a maximum. If more dogs then should have more people unless can show they have full control
- Local park. The dogs were under control but weren't getting any exercise. The dog walker had 6-8 dogs and was standing still on their phone
- Onley Park.
dangerous to people and other animals - pack mentality. As previously stated, already attacks. No way anyone can control more than 2 dogs.
- Hunsbury Hill Park
- Have experienced people with multiple dogs effectively forcing you to walk in the road to avoid them, in Brackley.
- Walking along the path between Martial Daire Boulevard and Avenue Bernard I have come across a local resident who owns 5 dogs who all start barking aggressively at my dog (& every dog I've seen pass them); the owners are unable to pull them all out if the way and so I have to turn around and walk my dog in the opposite direction and then wait for them to move on.

- I had seen a dog walker recently with 6 dogs and she was struggling to keep control of them and keep hold of them on their leads.
- I have seen it a few times. Can't remember where.
- The land behind the leisure centre - people with multiple dogs running all over the place and not being watched.
- In [Name]. A woman walks a bunch of small aggressive dogs all held together on a group lead. She has no control over them.
- 2 professional dog walkers walking together along a bridleway, all off lead anything from 12 dogs upwards, absolutely terrify some dogs and they never put them on leads.
- I have witnessed 2 dogs being walked together and the owner can't keep them under control, therefore, would like to see no more than 2 dogs walked. Preferably just one at one time.
- Regularly see a couple of dog walking businesses (and hear!) with a large number of dogs together.
- NN12 countryside
Professional dog walkers with no control
- Guilsborough
- This was on a walk in Warwickshire, I directly witnessed. However, often there are people walking too many dogs on the towpath near Stoke Bruerne making passing them difficult.
Dog poo on Towpaths is very bad as there often isn't room to bypass it.
- Brackley
- Crow Fields Common (see earlier comments)
- I've seen a couple of people with about 6 dogs at once. No matter how well behaved they are they run around get twisted and can be a target for other dogs. It's difficult controlling two dogs, I feel 2 is enough to be out walking with any more they should do a second walk.
There are dog walkers who stick to that but those with more should be stopped. Once came across someone with one dog who dragged their owner into the bushes, having more than one with big dogs can be a risk.

Question 9D: Comments received from respondents who disagreed or strongly disagreed to Proposal 9 regarding the maximum number of dogs.

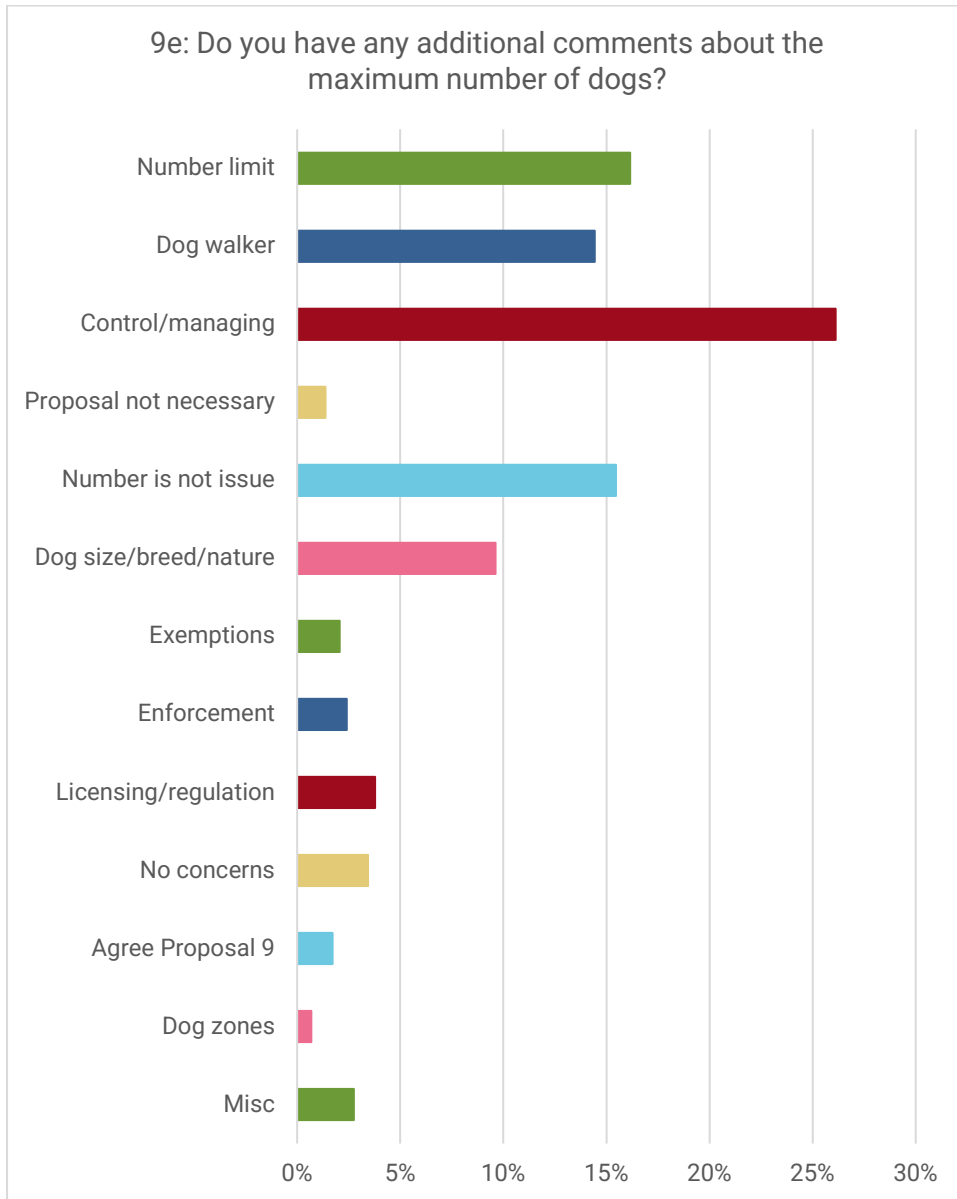
- A resident of Welton who has recently left the village wasn't often in control of his 5 badly behaved dogs, but this was down to the dogs' poor training and some physical disability on his part.
- There is a family in my street where [person] is dragged by three dogs down the street when even on a lead. 4 is too high a number, it should be size and number driven.
- 4 is too many
Limit it to 2
Amount of people making cash on the side tax free being dog walkers has got out of hand.
- Would be significantly detrimental to dog walking businesses
- Bugbrooke village

- Occasionally walking a number of dogs can be difficult, but also to can be trying to was just one very stong dog.
Or someone walking 8 trained huskys or 5 sheep dogs could have no problems at all
So I think it would me be a latter of control.
- Don't penalize the majority due to an inconsiderate minority. Sort out those that cannot control more than 4 dogs
- Pro dog walkers often walk 4 dogs of all sizes and temperaments. Often they go into pack mode and they can't manage them as a group. Dogs run out together on leads to attack other dogs off lead trying to pass. The number of dogs isn't always the issue, more the temperament and size of the animal as on the lead, they can overpower the owner/walker. [Name] area.
- [Name] - dog walker who is paid to do so, more than 3 dogs. It was impossible to get past them.
Dogs act as a pack and its harder to control them.
- A professional walker should be awolled up to 6 if in control. There will go out buisness only allowing 4.what about breaders.what happens if you meet friends have you have 9 dogs between you! No way only 4 at a time. This is now a postcode lottery warkshire have different guidlinesz 5 mins up the road.
- never seen anyone with more than about 2 dogs!
although is banned in other areas this may increase as the problem moves
- I think walking over 4 dogs isn't a concern as long as they are under control
- This proposal does not consider dog size. 4 tiny dogs would be of less concern to me and my family than one large dog.

Question 9D Comments received from respondents who neither agreed nor disagreed to Proposal 9 or didn't know.

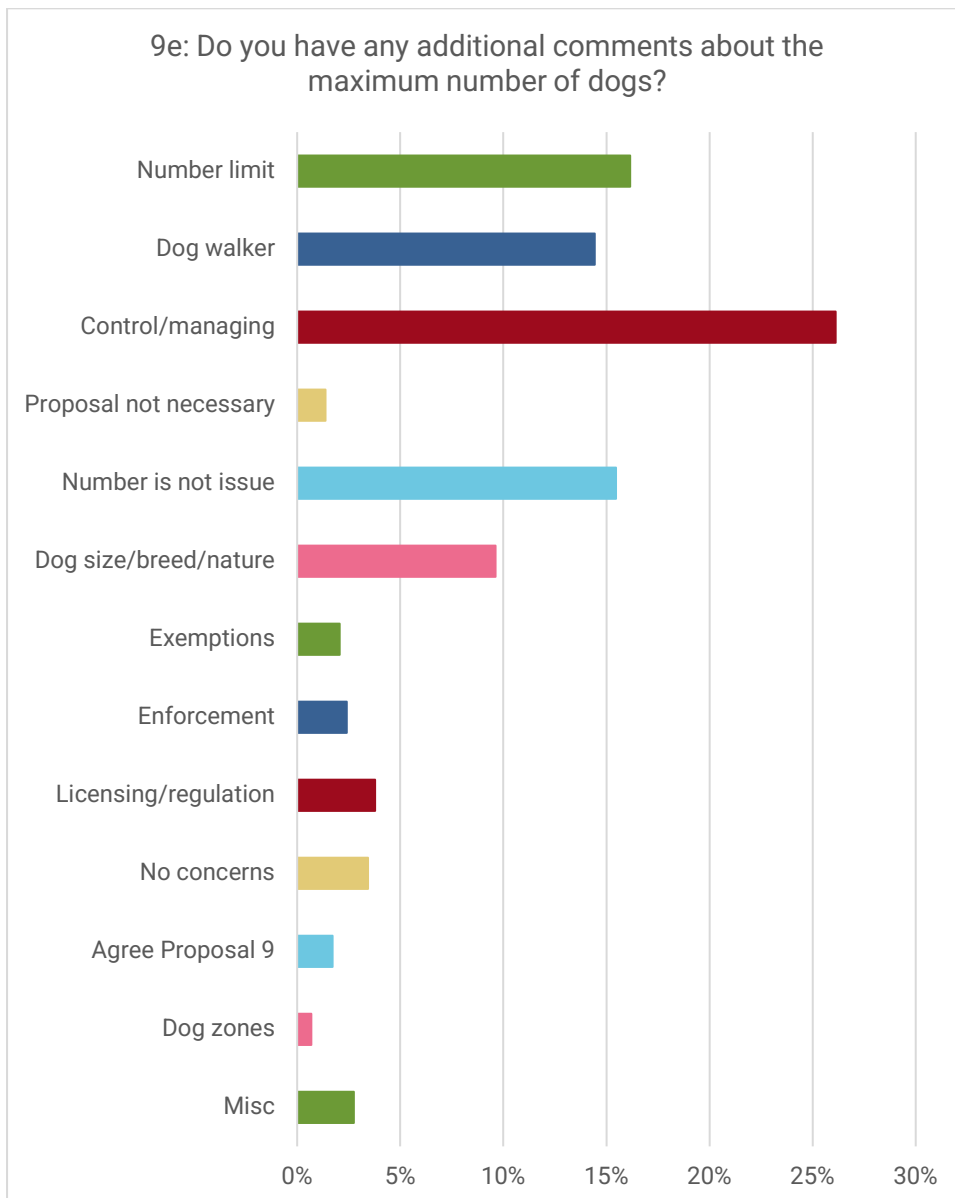
- All the parks in Northampton
- Some owners / walkers have incredibly good control of their dogs.
Many owners with only one dog have never understood the psychology of dogs, crossing roads to reinforce aggressive behaviour to other dogs.
A blunt instrument based on numbers alone doesn't help this
- 2 dogs being walked, when one starts barking at someone, the other will often follow. i would suggest a license for registered dog walkers who wish to walk more than 2 dogs at the same time ... otherwise, limit the proposal to 2 dogs to be walked at any one time, unless registered as a dog walker.
- 3 dogs not under control at Daventry country park
- It would be clear to any well balanced person where "some" becomes "too many".
Two is too many for some, but those tiny little dogs, a dozen could be controlled so long as the leads are intact.
Difficult, but perhaps a combined weight of dogs compared to the weight of the dog walker....
- It all depends on who is walking the dogs. If they are responsible, then all good
- Its about control not amount of dogs. 5 well behaved dogs could be safer than one untrained one

Question 9E: Do you have any additional comments about the maximum number of dogs?



9e: Do you have any additional comments about the maximum number of dogs?		
No. Respondents	224	
No. Comments	291	% Comments
Misc.	8	3%
Dog zones	2	1%
Agree Proposal 9	5	2%

No concerns	10	3%
Licensing/regulation	11	4%
Enforcement	7	2%
Exemptions	6	2%
Dog size/breed/nature	28	10%
Number is not issue	45	15%
Proposal not necessary	4	1%
Control/managing	76	26%
Dog walker	42	14%
Number limit	47	16%



Limits suggested by responders	Total Comments	% Responses
2 large, 4 small	1	2%
3 large, 4 small	1	2%
Less than 4 dogs	4	9%
4 dogs	20	43%
3 dogs	3	7%
2 dogs	13	28%
1 dog	3	7%
No Max	1	2%
Grand Total	46	100%

Question 9E: Additional comments about the maximum number of dogs received from respondents who agreed or strongly agreed to Proposal 9.

- It depends on the size and temperament of the dogs. 4 tiny dogs are not the same as 4 alsatians
- I dont think it's the number of dogs. whenever Ive seen an out of control dog it's usually on its own.
professional dog walkers have a reputation to consider so i don't believe its them walking 5 or 6 dogs that is the problem. its family dogs with no social skills/not trained!
- I think 4 is enough for any one person to walk safely in public.
- If one person has several dogs, regardless of where they are walking, they should all be on a lead to ensure they are kept under control.
- I assumed that 4 was maximum anyway. I think as well that if they are huge dogs perhaps the limit should be less.
- Size should be a factor
- I completely agree that there should be a restriction on the number of dogs being walked. It's incredibly hard to be in full control of a group of dogs, even when they're well behaved.
- I think if the dogs are well trained and under control you can walk up to 6 dogs per handler or owner
- Are hunting hounds included? Or other working packs?
- You need to state in a public place or footpath crossing farm land with the exception of working dogs working or training on that land with the owner's permission. Some well trained handlers on a farm or on a pheasant shoot, can handle more than four dogs off the lead under full control.
- It makes sense in case something went wrong
- How would this be enforced?
- For me, this is a concern. I own two dogs and I know that it can sometimes be a challenge as they do have a habit of both 'going' at the same time, I have to keep

an eye on where both are going so I can dispose of both. I can see that if I were in charge of more than two, I could struggle to spot all the areas.

- Dogs are pack animals and are reactive. Four dogs can generate a lot of pulling power and even if they are small dogs they could trip up the walker.
- make it no more than 2
- Can't see how a person can be in control of even four dogs - even on leads - my maximum was two usually very well behaved dogs - dogs can be unpredictable as can all animals
- No matter how well someone thinks they can control dogs then if they all get spooked then there is no way that they can get lots of dogs under control. It's an accident waiting to happen. Let alone if someone tries to steal one of them.
- How would this apply to fox hounds being exercised?

I have personally exercised 5 Labradors at one time - all are well trained and obedient and so no problem in fact most people express pleasure in seeing them - I think its very appropriate for professional dog walkers and can see that one rule is needed for all.

- Especially when off lead you can't watch any more than 1 dog at a time to see what it's doing and where it is doing it's business.
- You tried this some years back but it still happens. If you couldn't police that, how do you intend to police even lower amounts of dogs.
- I have more of a concern with people using Flexi leads. These are dangerous, I was tripped up by a dog one and cut my hand open. Owners cannot have control of a dog on one of these leads.
- I've never seen anyone walking more than 3 dogs in this area
- Common sense needs to apply. A local here has five "rats" or "handbag dogs". No idea what they are but smaller than my cats. She can walk 8 as far as I'm concerned so long as they don't poo on the pavement or trip me up with their tangle of leads.

On the other hand a little old lady with two reactive staff ie crosses is a concern. I don't think setting an arbitrary maximum number is helpful.

Also what about age limits? Can an 80 year old safely walk/ control 2 large dogs? But how about two teenagers on their mobiles can they control four hounds? Suppose mum drags her unwilling but large 13 year old out with her. Can she then walk all of her five pooches?

Not keen on this law at all. There should be a requirement to demonstrate adequate control only enforced when an "event" or complaint occurs. So if you have three medium sized dogs on leads can you really pick up their excrement without being pulled in three directions at once?

Rather like eating while driving is illegal but prosecuted only when an accident happens as being demonstrably careless.

- Depends on the size of the dogs. A very large breed should be on a 1-1 Smaller breeds 2/3 to one.
- This is in a recreation park and dogs running round in packs and owners being abusive when asked to call their dogs off... once again who is around to prevent this
- I think 4 dogs should be the maximum

- Again who is going to enforce the rule? A lot depends upon the dogs and handler, a v experienced handler with well trained dogs would not present a problem, 1 person with 1 manic dog can be very disruptive!
- • The behaviour of the dogs and the competency of the handler need to be taken into consideration if considering this order. Research from 2010 shows that 95% of dog owners have up to 3 dogs. Therefore the number of dogs taken out on to land by one individual would not normally be expected to exceed four dogs.
- Dog sitters and commercial walkers should be licensed and insured
- Large groups of dogs develop a pack mentality and are likely to become uncontrollable.
- Size of dogs should be considered e.g. 4 smalls dogs ok but 4 st Bernard's wouldn't be
- Would this apply to hunts? Plenty of times pets have been killed by hounds. It makes no sense, 5 chihuahuas is a totally different situation to 5 Tibetan Mastiffs, we don't need more restrictions and silly rules
- If 4 is industry recommendation then that would seem sensible number to choose.
- The maximum number should also apply to ownership.
- I agree with this proposal, there are too many dog walkers who put money before dog welfare, although my concern is this will result in more doggy daycare which is poorly regulated and often causes "problem dogs", which can then become stressed dogs, which may react when encountered by an off lead dog, so a vicious circle ensues.
Regulate the daycare
- 4 seems a good number if under control but do wonder if this would affect dog walking businesses.
- It's difficult to pick up mess with more than four dogs.
- People walking too many dogs, especially if they are off lead, ie football club/ community centre, can't see where all these dogs are fowling, therefore it gets left.
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. wootton rec. This will push dog walkers from grange park to wootton
- Now this is a good idea and you should utilise it. Professional dog walkers are a damn nightmare.
I would also stop providing free dog bags everywhere because they are the ones using them all and as a business they should be buying them.
- Again, how will you enforce this? The best way would be for central government to address professional dog walkers to require licensing insurance and follow health and safety guidelines.
- how would this be enforced?
- A person cannot reasonably control more than 4 dogs so any number higher than that is dangerous
- I can appreciate that professional dog walkers may sometimes need to exceed the permitted number of dogs but, as is the case with the ratio of children to adults when in their care, something similar could be implemented for dogs.
- I have personal concerns that people walking larger number of dogs can struggle to control them and feel that a limit on the number of dogs is a proportionate measure to address this issue

- AS a professional dog walker /carer I find that 4 dogs to be as many as safely can be walked to ensure the dogs are safe and so am I, Also if you have any more to be able control them while collecting poo or adjusting say a lead can be a safety risk to not only yourself but the dogs and other persons around you.
- Have often seen someone locally walking 5 or 6 very well behaved dogs with no issues at all and with none of the dogs causing a threat or nuisance to people, livestock or other dogs. Difficult to say what number is it acceptable.
- size and breed of dog should be taken into consideration as regard to the maximum number being walked, as it is easier to control 4 small dogs rather than 4 big dogs. They should be kept on a lead in a public area full stop.
- 4 seems too many.
- This would be common sense in my opinion. More than 4 seems a lot for one person to manage
- Dangerous to have more than 4. Even 4 seems quite high.
- Maximum of 3 is best, how can 1 person control 4 dogs at once? It's reckless and unnecessary.
- Four should definitely be the maximum though I prefer two, which allows full control.
- Dog walkers need to have 3 dogs not any more this is an area where greater regulations need to be introduced.
- An exemptions process may need to be in place for either specifically qualified professional dog walkers or private dog walkers where appropriate. Certain dogs perform better in packs and are reassured by this. The importance is the competency of the the dog walker
- Realistic.
- I love dogs but it would be impossible to control multiple strong dogs if they decided to attack another dog or approach a fully under control dog with behaviour problems
- How would this apply to groups e.g. 2 families meeting, each in charge of 3 dogs? 5 dogs is realistically too many dogs for 1 person to watch responsibly, but with multiple owners should be ok.
- Four dogs seems reasonable.
- If they are all on a lead and under control what is the issue ?
- I would set the limit at 3 large dogs and 4 small dogs!
- Dogs are pack animals and if one were to demonstrate threatening behaviour that single person wouldn't be able to control the situation and the other dogs may follow suit and harm innocent members of the public.
- 4 dogs is more than enough, most people couldn't control 2 dogs if they became agitated.
- Four must be the maximum. No more.
- Seems fair, given the need to keep proper control and to pick up after all the dogs
- It should probably be size / weight of dog and not number of dogs. A person walking two huskies or other large dog, will find it harder to control them. Whereas a person walking four small ones, might find it easier. Number isn't everything.
- Even 4 is too many!
- Four seems reasonable. But this is an unregulated industry and there are many dog walkers who will just find somewhere else to take multiple dogs.

- I think two is enough as you have two hands, I think if it's your business that it needs a much better proposal
- Unless given a special license one should be enough
- Dog walkers exercising others dogs do walk more than 4
- Some people should not have one dog, whilst others may be able to control 5 or more. Placing a number on it is not helpful
- Only 2 dogs per person
- I think the limit of four dogs is fair - it's hard to see how one could properly control more at a time, unless the dogs are particularly well trained and cooperative. To be honest, I never see anyone walking more than three - and even that is something of an exception.
- Agree that dog walkers should have a limit.
- Limit is also good for a dog's wellbeing
- Should be 2 large or 4 small.
- This is a very sensible proposal otherwise owners cannot be in control.
- Should be kept on leads at all times
- One person couldn't possibly control so many dogs.
- 4 is too many. Two should be the maximum. Someone walking 4 dogs and is ridiculous. They take U.K. the whole pavement, they miss some of the poo, they can't control all 4.
- Often see dog walkers with a whole pack. They are not the owners and if all the dogs pulled at once they would not be able to control them. Four small dogs might be ok. Four big dogs could not be held by one person.
- Two hands, two dogs.
- I haven't seen anyone walking more than that that I remember, but I have heard of issues from friends who own dogs, who have seen people out walking more dogs than this and causing chaos on footpaths where people cannot get past.
- One person can not adequately control a large number of dogs and the risk of both fouling and intimidation & danger to others increases
- I believe that 4 dogs for 1 person in a public place is too many!
- If dogs are on lead and under control it is not a problem for me, if they are running out of control with no recall they should definitely be kept to max number. You can't possibly monitor so many off lead.
- I assume it is 4 dogs per person.
- Clearly the walker should be able to control the dogs
- Many dogs equals less control
- Sensible idea
- I agree that there needs to be a rule in place for a maximum number of dogs to ensure prevention of anyone losing control and putting people at risk.
- I have two myself and i dont know how anyone could control more than that. Depends on the size of dog i guess.
I think the rule should be more along the lines of "no more than a combined weight of 60kg or single dog if over 60kg" since my two are close to 50kg combined and if they both pull then i certainly wouldnt be able to control them with a third dog whereas someone with 4 pugs could easily have two or three more. Using a combined weight would make it more appropriate but i think harder to enforce though

- Until the dog walking industry is regulated it will be hard to enforce limited numbers on professional dog walkers.
- Two in my opinion is enough, those with lots you get barking going past the house, jumping up on the fences, trying to snap at your dog. People can manage a hoard of dogs unless you are in that business and have a licence. Even little dogs two is more than enough.

Question 9E: Additional comments about the maximum number of dogs received from respondents who disagreed or disagreed strongly to Proposal 9.

- This is a silly proposal, and the Council should not be interfering with professional dog walkers or people with several well behaved animals
- It is unfair to responsible dog owners who have a large number of dogs but their dogs are trained and under control at all times. I think a limit to four should only be in place if one or more of the dogs is aggressive or untrained.
- dogs are pack animals if you can walk the Alpha you can walk the whole pack.
- I'd love to know the justification for why 4 is okay but not 5? Is there some robust research you can cite?
- Seriously, What is wrong with you?
- As long as the dog walker can control them, there shouldn't be a maximum amount. You could damage a "professional" dog walker's business with this rule. If a household has more dogs than that, they may not be able to walk them all if not all together due to time constraints or health issues. Why impose this rule when there doesn't seem to have been any problems?
- If you have more than 4 dogs, this rule makes your life difficult. It doesn't discriminate between someone with 5 small, good-natured and obedient dogs on leads and someone with 5 large, badly-trained and unruly dogs running amok.
- I've seen people walking more dogs and they have been kept well behaved. Also good dog walkers with well behaved dogs.
- I know a few doing owners who walk more than 4 dogs together, they are impeccably well trained. What if I walk 4 great danes one day and 4 chihuahuas the next, what is worse?
- If you are walking in an appropriate open area and your dogs are well trained and owned by you then there should not be an issue with walking more than 4 dogs
- It also depends on who is holding the lead. I've seen children holding leads of 2 big dogs and it's silly.
- Don't understand why it should be illegal for one person to walk 5 dogs. Might be unadvisable, but I believe making it illegal is far too Orwellian a response. Use of legal penalties should be restricted to the most severe transgressions and this, in my opinion, does not come close to the threshold. Perhaps in Russia, but not in England.
- There are an increasing number of dog walkers who run effective businesses to make sure that owners can go to work and make sure their dogs are looked after. If the walker is competent I don't think it is too much of an issue. The [name] recommend a maximum of 4 so I would tend to go with this guidance. This appears to be the national law anyway.

Personally I would rather a dog licence back at a nominal fee.

- If the dogs are under control and trained. No problem.
- One dog could cause an issue. What is the basis for 4? What's the evidence that someone can control 4 dogs but not 5? and surely if there are specific individuals that are causing an issues walking more than 4 dogs then other powers can be used such as CPW / CPN
- Depends where and some people can cope with more than 4 dogs it is also dependant on the dogs involved
- A one-size fits all approach when something more nuanced is needed. I can think of people where two dogs would be too many. I can think of people where six would be fine.

People are different, dogs are different.

- Again if under control no problem
- So long as they are in control then its OK
Sometimes circumstances force people to do things that are less than perfect we should show tolerance
- There are some very responsible owners with well trained dogs who can walk up to six dogs under complete control. Professional dog walkers should be restricted to only walking two dogs at once unless they are from the same home. There should be substantial fines £1000 for breach. People who pay for their dog to be walked do not deserve to be ripped off by people who think it is ok to put four dogs who don't know each other on leads and be made to walk together.
- What if your jobs a dog walker ? Let these people earn a living ???
- depends on whether dogs under control
- This is an arbitrary figure, some people (not professional dog walkers) do have more than 4 dogs and this is unfairly directed at them who may have impeccably behaved dogs.
- If someone has five dogs they should be able to walk their own pets together, this is ridiculous.
- I have several friends who walk dogs professionally and often walk 5 or 6 dogs, typically 3 clients with 2 or 3 dogs each. They are professionals in full control of the dogs and know them well. They would not take an unknown dog on a walk with multiple other dogs without getting to know the new dog. The exemption for this should be for professional dog walkers whos job depends on it who may not be able to earn enough money by only walking 4 or less dogs at a time
- Leave the guidelines where they already are. I've never seen anyone walk more than 3 dogs in my area so it's not likely a significant problem anywhere. Usually they have the most experience and thus the most control so again it's a waste of time and money to over-engineer solutions to a microbial issue.
- It would really depend on the size of the dog.
- Much depends on the size of the animals - but 4 large dogs is another matter personally I think two should be maximum
- I have not seen anyone walking 4 dogs or more.
But I really think there should be a limit in the number of dogs people should keep in urban areas. 1 or 2 is more than plenty.
Also, dogs who bark excessively should be removed from the property.
- Professional dog walkers should not be effected by this

- This takes no account of the level of training of the dogs or the skill of the owner. I have known a former police dog handler who could walk his 5 dogs at the same time with them all under perfect control. Similarly I live in an area where some people have multiple extremely well-trained working dogs, again, under full control.
Some owners can't even keep one dog under control.
A rule involving a maximum number of dogs is therefore unreasonable - rules should be based on whether a dog is actually under control or not.
- As a professional dog walker we are insured to walk 6 dogs at any one time. However, we would not walk 6 dogs off lead in a built up area, village parks for example, but we would walk 6 well controlled dogs off lead on a rural footpath. We would need to have the option to be able to walk 6 dogs on a lead.
- How can you judge the number of dogs versus control? A neighbour of mine has 6 dogs. They all walk in a well controlled way. They respond immediately to command. Why should they be limited? How about people with too many children?
- Its not about a maximum number but about having the ability to control the dogs being walked. The size/power of the dog is more relevant than number
- As long as all the dogs are under control I don't think this is an issue, this surely would be dependent on the nature and size of the dog. Are you going to limit the number of children someone can walk with....especially if they don't have full control as I can note incidents where children has been left to run riot.
- As long as the walker can prove that they're in control of all dogs then I don't see a problem. We don't need a "nanny state".
- I know one very responsible person who owns 6 dogs and they behave well. Trg being less nannying perhaps? Dog owners are generally highly careful people and do not wish to cause harm. Target the baddies not the whole population perhaps?
- Putting a limit on the number of dogs will affect shelters and potentially put dog walkers out of business.
- Should only be two in my opinion irrespective of size, as small dogs can be very aggressive. If any dog is known to be aggressive, should be muzzled.
- When did we vote for Stalin to head the council?
- This is too much. It's none of the council's business how many dogs people walk, just so long as they are in control of them.
And the law ALREADY requires that a person does not allow a dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, so why would be need yet another regulation?
- This could have a huge impact on dog walkers. It comes back to the earlier question, and people being in control of animals, rather than a straightforward count.
- You can't punish owners who own more than 4 dogs. Similarly, dog walkers have their own insurance that already caps the amount of dogs they are allowed to walk at once.
- The majority of multiple dog owners have the required control over their dogs and necessary knowledge of dog behaviour, and also the respect for other dog owners and public in general. They would keep relevant dogs on lead as necessary, or choose to walk their dogs in an appropriate sized group.

The exception to this, in my opinion, would be professional dog walkers who may take a large group of dogs who they do not know well and the dogs do not know each other. I feel this is an entirely separate issue from individuals walking their own dogs and should be dealt with via a separate licence for dog walking as a professional.

- Again the people with ONE or TWO dogs are the concern.
They DO NOT pick up after them
They DO NOT CONTROL THEM
We can walk anywhere up to 7 or 8 dogs at a time.... We control them. We train them DAILY and the concerns are the irresponsible people with ONE dog that runs into us. THAT is what causes issue. Like seriously get a grip.
I will emphasise this point again... DO NOT punish multiple dog responsible households for the idiotic people with ONE or TWO dogs.
- As a multiple dog owner I would have to either leave a dog at home or do shorter walks to fit them in. As a professional dog walker my insurance allows 6 dogs to be walked at one time, less than this is not sustainable, especially with rising fuel costs
- I've seen situations where a person cannot control 1 dog, and others where they have multiple dogs under perfect control.
This is specific to the dog, and the person and people should not be tarnished with the same brush
- I strongly believe that most owners with 4+ dogs are responsible
- Why four? The size and breed of dogs vary greatly and the number four has no relation to how the owner controls the dogs
- Should this also apply to maximum number of children a person walks? A maximum number of pushchairs? A maximum number of mothers gathered at the school gate.
Get a grip
- I don't feel this should apply to dog walkers who are registered as such with the council. (I'm not a dog walker myself). I feel dog walkers should have to register with the council and prove they have appropriate public liability insurance.
- Why should it matter?
- Maximum 3 in my opinion
- 4 is too many 2 3 max how can they control 3 or 4 dogs
- I often walk my two dogs and my mum's three. No issues.. what a nuisance to do two lots of walks! My mum is having cancer treatment, why make things more difficult for us all?
- This proposal is based on ignorance. I have friends with multiple dogs. One is a retired trainer and Crufts judge. The other is a dog behaviourist.
- Providing the dog walker had appropriate experience and control and good mix of dogs I have no issue
- If they are a professional dog walker and they can control them there is no issue
- Ridiculous. How dare the WNC think it has the right to prohibit anyone from owning and exercising more than four dogs. It would be step too far.
- Surely this depends on how well behaved the dogs are and how experienced the dog walker is. Any sensible person will only take out the number of dogs they know they are able to control. This proposal assumes that the general population are incapable of assessing their own risks and capabilities.

- This is unfair, it is possible a person may have more than 4 dogs or may run a walking business. This is not required
- Surely if dogs are under control it's not an issue! This feels some what over the top. The other proposed measures act as a control. I would hate to see an extension of this being applied to children, and whilst that may appear flippant it's the start of unnecessary beurocracy
- As long as they are under control ie a professional dog walker I have no concerns
- 1 dog can be a hindrance so to walk more than 1 will magnify the issue. 1 person per dog is enough.
Any more than 1 dog can't be kept adequately under supervision.
You need a free hand to shorten the lead to keep them under adequate control.
Dogs act as a pack and its harder to control them.
- Needs to be assessed on a case by case basis. Are all of the dogs under control?
- I think this is really silly, I have known people walk more than 4 dogs safely on many occasions
- Many people have more than four dogs.
How do you propose such cases exercise their dogs ?
Would you suggest the same for children ?
- Depends on the size of the dog. 4 small dogs are controlled more easily than 4 large dogs. Not a problem for me as I have 1 dog, bit this will be an issue for professional dog walkers and that could have a knock on effect to dog owners who cannot find a dog walker in their area. It's a difficult one.
- Dog walking is a business, and it's far better that dogs are walked professionally rather than being locked up all day. I don't feel that 4 dogs is the right number - I've seen walkers with 6 dogs and they seem in good control of them. Have the professional walkers been consulted about the number of dogs they feel they can walk and remain in good control of them?
- See above.
Previous comment: A professional walker should be awolled up to 6 if in control. There will go out buisness only allowing 4.what about breaders.what happens if you meet friends have you have 9 dogs between you! No way only 4 at a time. This is now a postcode lottery warkshire have different guidlinesz 5 mins up the road.
- Dog walkers please cancel this know
- I use a dog walker & my dog walks with 5 other dogs, which helps with socialising. Reducing the numbers will increase price & may put walkers out of business & there may also be a possibility of more dogs ending up in kennels to be re-homed.
- My dogs are walked by a dog walker and they much prefer it in a bigger group, such as 6-8 dogs. I have full trust in my dog walker to 1) not walk too many dogs that they can't control 2) clean up after each dog and 3) only walk in appropriate areas
- I think the pandemic has been hard enough on professional dog walkers, their clients have been working from home so did not require their services etc. Professionals are in control of their dogs, and fully insured. I think maximum six dogs is already fair and they shouldn't be further restricted.

- I believe that this proposal will personally affect individuals who choose to become dog walkers as well as own their own dogs. I feel that as long as the individual is able to control the dogs, it is unfair to restrict them
- For dog walkers this could be prohibitive. Large groups should perhaps be kept on lead but exclusion is unrealistic. I know several people who own 6 dogs.
- I have 4 dogs and i also walk my 87 year old mother in laws dog, that means i am unable to walk her dog with my 4 resulting in her dog not being walked as I wouldn't always have time to go back and pick her dog up for a walk, also i adopt ill treated dogs along with my 4 so how do i have time to do multiple walks costing me more in fuel to drive them somewhere when the cost of living is going through the roof, not feasible to introduce this law!!
- I have four dogs myself and I work my my dog to it's not they amount of dogs it's the owners if they have 8 dogs and they can walk all 8 at one time and control them that's great there are personal dog walkers that should be able to walk at least eight as a responsible own I or personal dog Walker you know the dogs that you can walk in big croups and dogs you can how about the council offering a dog walking area only that could be fenced off and a charge could be applied I think going down to 4 would not only upset myself and put personal dog Walkers out off work please think hard before lowering the numbers again
- This is utter nonsense...I have more concerns with families being in public with large numbers of often feral children!
- Surely if the dogs are under control and well behaved it isn't a concern.
- So what if people walk more than 4 dogs
- How would this affect a pack of hunting dogs hounds or beagles?
If they are a professional dog walker I do not think they would walk more than four dogs at a time anyway
- Two dogs is too many dogs if they are untrained. Generally I have found those with 4 or more dogs have better behaved dogs that those with just one. It is not about the number of dogs but how little training some people give their dogs.
- I think it depends on the size of the dogs. For instance one of my neighbours walks 5 small dogs, has them under control and picks up after them. Another family near me has one large dog which none of them can control (it drags the walker over) and it has attacked my dog a number of times.
This rule would penalise the wrong person
- Stop being so anti-dog! It is the owners r dog walkers that need controlling not the number of animals. One dog can be more dangerous than a load of well behaved dogs
- What about multiple dog who behave perfectly?
Don't see why such an attack on peoples freedom and dog ownership is needed. What about people shooting ducks and geese with shotguns on the river bank?
- As long as they can keep them under control then that's ok
- I have 5 dogs and think I act responsibly. I will do a risk assessment based on weather conditions and where I am. In good volition and a quiet area I can walk all 5. At other times I do 2 or 3 separate walks as conditions permit. I think it would be unreasonable to remove that freedom.
- If the dogs are under control what is the issue?
- I think this is a ridiculous suggestion, it specifically relates to dog walkers and in mu experience all dog walkers I have come across conduct themselves

appropriately and know what dogs they can walk in groups and with who we'll enough to not be told there should be a maximum number. It's a hard enough job without the council putting in frankly pointless parameters.

- Size of dogs, behaviour of dogs? Persons, what if a group of you meet to walk dogs? What if you are looking after other peoples dogs because they are ill and don't have time for a gazillion walks a day with multiple dogs? Do south northants council really not like dogs?
- Only that it doesn't consider dog size or breed.
- This measure would ban a pack of hounds - it is reasonable only to have the power to instruct those not in control of their dogs (whatever the number) to remove them from an area.

Question 9E: Additional comments about the maximum number of dogs received from respondents who neither agreed nor strongly agreed to Proposal 9 or did not know.

- Surely this depends? For example I know of one couple with 5-6 small dogs (Yorkshire terriers or similar sized dogs). In this instance, they have rehomed a few older dogs as owners have died. All are well controlled on leads, etc. This would be altogether different if the dogs were German Shepherds for example. So I would like to see some discretion here for private owners, IF the dogs are under obvious control. This is of course a different situation for dog walkers, who are doing it as a paid employment.
- Depends on individual level on control - some people cannot control one or two dogs.
- Why a limit? I didn't know we lived in a nanny state? If the person is fit, well and able to cope with 4 or more dogs leave them alone!!!
- It would depend if the person was in control of said dogs
- It is not the number of dogs but whether they are under control.
- I think professional dog walkers should be able to walk more, however the penalty for dog mess etc should be higher for them if they cannot keep control.
- It is dependent on the dogs and owner.... not just a number.
- The issue surely is one of whether the dogs are under control. I have seen people incapable of controlling one dog and people able to handle several. The number 4 is a bit arbitrary but I have no real issue with it.
- I know someone who has five spaniels and has no problem walking them although she now walks them in small groups due to different ages. I think it depends on the size of the dog, hoe well trained it is and the person. Surely dog walkers are not supposed to walk that many anyway?
- Why 4 - I can't recall ever seeing anyone walking more than a couple. Sounds like another unenforceable and un-necessary rule.
- It depends on the dogs. Dogs who are well trained, walk well as a group together and are under control, this would be fine. However if the dogs were boisterous or out of control together, pulling on leads, barking etc. this would not be acceptable.
- Pro walkers could be asked to prove it, they are likely more responsible than just a person that has lots of dogs.

- Provided all dogs were under the control of the person, then I do not see the requirement to limit numbers - it could have a potentially devastating effect on self-employed individuals and small business... and they generally don't need yet something else making their business/employed life more difficult.
If the dogs are NOT under control, then they would fall foul of the other parts of this proposal (such as keeping a dog on a lead etc) regardless of how many the person was walking - therefore, again, I see no need to put a number cap in place when the other parts of the proposal are relevant.
- Dog walkers and owners are usually aware of their limitations with respect to the amount of dogs they are in charge of. It is down to their level of responsibility and knowledge to avoid problems. One person walking five well behaved dogs could be more in control than a person with just one unruly dog. However in a worst case scenario it would obviously be easier to manage fewer dogs so four would be a good maximum.
- I have never seen anyone walk more than 4 dogs at a time.
- If the dogs are under control then it's not a concern as to how many they have
- If they are controlled the number isn't an issue
- If it is for a supplied service the person needs to have the dogs under control regardless of number.
- It would be clear to any well balanced person where "some" becomes "too many". Two is too many for some, but those tiny little dogs, a dozen could be controlled so long as the leads are intact.
Difficult, but perhaps a combined weight of dogs compared to the weight of the dog walker....
- I think it comes to being under control and that depends on the size and power of the dogs and the size and strength of the human. One person could cause a danger to others with two big dogs, the next might be fine with 6 small dogs on leads. I don't think one size fits all and it shouldn't be just about professional dog walkers. They could have their own rules if they want to. (BTW, I only have one dog so there's no personal interest in this one).
- Again those responsible people would not walk more dogs than they feel comfortable with!
- I think it should be different for registered professional dog walkers as they tend to have them under control!
- I think this depends on where the dogs are being walked. If they are on private land where they cannot come into contact with the general public
- Some people may own more than four dogs...
- I would think it depends on the size of the dogs being walked. Four chihuahuas would be less of an issue than four 30kilo dogs.
- As always it is the owner not the dog that we should be looking at, a responsible owner will have control of their dogs and irresponsible one won't even if they only have 1 dog.
- I don't see anyone walking 4 or more dogs in Evenley, however I do from my office in Daventry (Kettle Wood). There are a couple of dog walkers who appear to have 6 or 7 dogs there, but I have never seen them not pick up dog waste. They look to have the same dogs each day and appear to be in total control, so if that is the case I don't see any problem.

- If there are areas where people are walking a large number of dogs, enable areas where they can exercise the dogs away from the general public, or put up signs, of where this is possible. That way people who are concerned can stay away.
- Four well behaved dogs might be less of a threat than one very badly behaved one.
- Difficult one - multiple dogs become a pack and more than 4 should not be off lead together. More than 4 tiny sausage dogs are not going to be a problem. It should be more about the breed rather than the number of dogs. 2 Rotweilers would be a huge handful for one person if they became aggressive whereas multiple small dogs would be easily controlled.
- Surely it is more important that the dog(s) are under controls?!
4 under control dogs is far more acceptable than 1 out of control dog.
If you can walk 6 dogs in a civilised manner why shouldn't you be able to?
- Depends on the dogs and where they are walked
- As long as person has good control there's no problem. What if you own more than 4 dogs ?
- Persons are known to exercise several dogs within the parish but no issues reported
- Those walking more than the dog limit should only be sanctioned if the dogs are evidently out of control or potentially so. The reasonable limit is a function of both number and size.
- Don't know enough about this to give an informed comment

Comments from Organisations for Proposal 9 – Maximum number of dogs

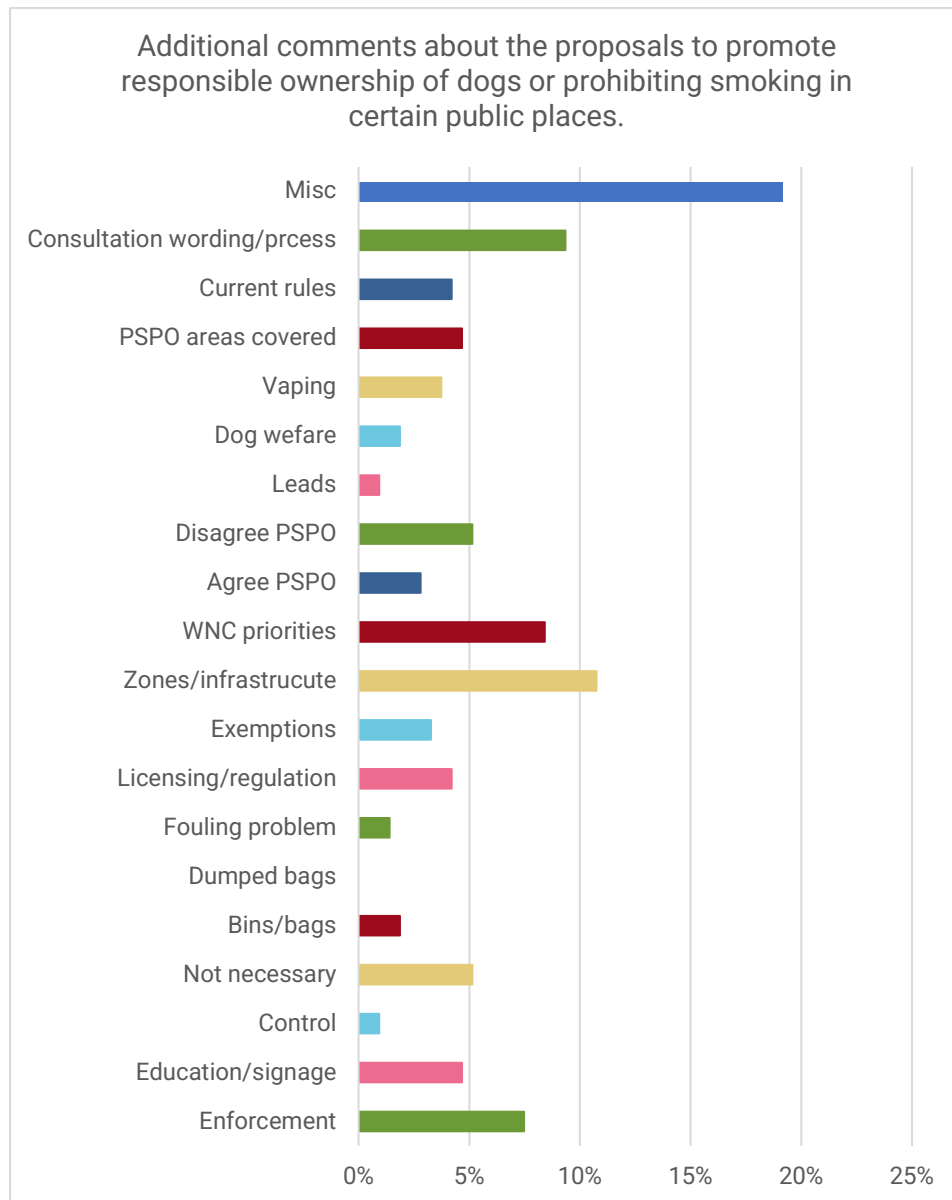
Dogs Trust

- The behaviour of the dogs and the competency of the handler need to be taken into consideration if considering this order. Research from 2010 shows that 95% of dog owners have up to 3 dogs. Therefore the number of dogs taken out on to land by one individual would not normally be expected to exceed four dogs.

Other comments not covered by the specific proposals.

183 responded and made 217 comments.

Additional comments received about the proposals to promote responsible ownership of dogs or prohibiting smoking in certain public places grouped by theme.



Additional comments about the proposals to promote responsible ownership of dogs or prohibiting smoking in certain public places.		
No. Responded	183	
No. Comments	217	% Comments
Enforcement	41	7%
Education/signage	20	5%
Control	9	1%
Not necessary	10	5%
Bins/bags	8	2%
Dumped bags	4	0%
Fouling problem	2	1%
Licensing/regulation	11	4%
Exemptions	6	3%
Zones/infrastructure	18	11%
WNC priorities	23	8%
Agree PSPO	7	3%
Disagree PSPO	9	5%
Leads	3	1%
Dog welfare	3	2%
Vaping	4	4%
PSPO areas covered	11	5%
Current rules	2	4%
Consultation wording/process	10	9%
Misc.	16	19%

Overall comments received about dog control proposals

- There needs to be more poo bins and they should be emptied more often to avoid just dropping the bag next to the bin because it is full. It would encourage better compliance.
- this is all pie in the sky crap, you don't have the ability to enforce it, its just box ticking to say you are doing something about peoples concerns 230 dog poo complaints against 40 50 thousand dog owners in district, what is really needed is a £500 dog licence.
im an ex smoker for over 10 years now, its not that a bad a problem, alcohol that's what should really be tackled (and mental health, there's no help for that) and you waste your time on this.
- I don't have a problem with smoking in Daventry. It used to be a problem but I think it has decreased the past few years. I really feel the town could benefit from a dog park as they are far too many dogs off leads in Daventry and we need to tighten up the dogs on the leads. The country park should also rethink their policy on dogs off leads to include the whole of the park. A very nervous friend of mine got jumped by a dog that was off lead and no longer comes to the

park anymore. We need safe spaces for people to go who are uneasy around dogs off leads just as much as we need a safe space for dogs to be let off their leads.

- If there were designated areas for off-lead dog walking, it would help protect the other areas for other people.
- I think there are bigger fish to fry. Potholes, drug use, youths who need support to catch up on their development, isolated old people, people who very soon won't be able to feed their family and keep them warm. Or have you been too busy focusing on dogs to think about societies real issues?
- Dogs play an important role in getting people out and about and they are good at encouraging their people and other people to talk and interact. There are many lonely and socially isolated people who get most of their human contact on a daily dog walk and they should not be discouraged.
- training of owners to understand that they are responsible for their dogs behaviour
- Develop more dog infrastructure across the whole WNC area
- The default method of promoting responsible behaviour should not be legal penalties for perceived transgressions of societal norms, it is a worry to me that WNC seem intent on banning or making illegal behaviours without presenting hard evidence e.g. facts and figures of local transgressions etc.

Dog owner behaviour, where I have witnessed repeated failure over time by a worrying number of owners to comply with the suggested behaviours, is a case where I believe there is evidence; I have not witnessed any incidents of any of the other 'behaviours of concern' and as WNC has not presented evidence of need, I do not support those.

- Bring in dog licences at £100 a year to pay for proper enforcement
- If people had to buy a dog licence like many years ago things might be different.
- Provide more safe places for dogs to exercise off lead.
- Although these are both important issues, your efforts would be better utilised in improving local bus services. Another bus service in and out of Badby is due to terminate.

We moved from Staverton to Badby when their bus service ended. If you expect support from villagers on the public spaces issue, please give us a bus service so that we can get to the public spaces. The ability for people to get into Daventry from villages is far more important to mental well-being than a few minor issues that might be an issue with dogs.

- Don't think this will stop irresponsible dog owners or smokers as they ignore rules at the moment so this sadly won't change their attitude
- Too many owners of dogs do not take up training and expect to know how to deal with puppies/rescues with no idea of impact. We should be looking at dog ownership now as a way of life and people should be made to take puppy classes/behaviour support revamped to help protect the dogs and owners before trouble can even start.
- I don't like dog fouling or smoking, but I like this overbearing nanny-state even less.
- I feel you have very low statistics to say there are issues with dogs in the community. Looking at the latest statistics a third of all homes have a dog so how many dogs would you say you have in Daventry and South Northamptonshire?

How about trying to promote positive experiences of dogs instead of looking at the negatives. Yes there are a very few in the minority who may not have full control of their dog or who do not pick up their poo, but why penalise the majority?

- The use of flexi leads / extending leads is very concerning as the people using these seem to have as little control as having no lead at all and hence they are very dangerous near roads and livestock
- I think that the enforcement is the difficult part. There are so many more dogs now so will always be irresponsible owners as well as responsible ones. Dog poop has always been an issue in my village especially when darker nights draw in and people cannot be seen. How do you enforce that?
- Dog thieves should be hung
People should be encouraged to own dogs
- Dog training groups should also be restricted to the number of dogs allowed within a group.
- Try focusing on important issues not dog poo ! God grief if this is the best ideas you have to improve things with our council tax you all need to think again I am appalled !
- Please do not punish people who want to do the right thing.
Please provide more areas for free dog walking when you give permission for housing estates. A lot of people move to our lovely countryside so that they can keep a dog. They often find that the countryside is not as open and accessible as they think so it is important for planners to make proper appropriate provision as dogs do need space to run freely sometimes. It is part of the joy of living in the countryside.
- encourage parish councils to increase provision dog bins,note local large landowners can be unhelpful in this area
- Vat poo is a pet hate of mine, the amount scattered around and in my garden borders and tubs is frankly disgusting
- Free or subsidised dog training classes. All dogs to pass a test similar to cycling proficiency? This might especially appeal to children 8+. Who might graduate to Agility and compete locally. All this would promote responsible dog ownership for the next generation.
Licence fee to be reintroduced but at a sensible rate say £25 pa? If you can't afford this you really can't afford to own and feed a dog. Exceptions for the homeless or those on benefits
- I think signage should be put in place for a code of conduct for all the proposals in this survey. It's not just people here but wild life too.
We have lots of deer being displaced and other wildlife because of the houses being built and vast expansion of The Town of Towcester. Lots of people now drive into Towcester from Northampton and surrounding areas. We need to keep people safe as well as our pets. I certainly need to feel safe as should my dog , as a full paying council tax resident , while I'm out walking in and around our lovely town.
- I and many people have concerns about dog fouling and dogs off leads where people are walking. To be honest I have completed this survey but it is a waste of time because nothing will get done about the issues, it is just for your tick box which is very sad

- I have filled in questionnaire as for some time been concerned for my dogs safety and ashamed of other members of society who are rude, ignorant , in general the minority but give all dog owners a bad name. I can't see anything changing from raising these questions, a box ticking exercise, be delighted if there are changes ,please prove me wrong !!!

- The PDSA's 'Paw Report 2018' found that 89% of veterinary professionals believe that the welfare of dogs will suffer if owners are banned from walking their dogs in public spaces such as parks and beaches, or if dogs are required to be kept on leads in these spaces. Their report also states that 78% of owners rely on these types of spaces to walk their dog.

We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours. [organisation] works with local authorities across the UK to help promote responsible dog ownership. Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss this matter.

We would be very grateful if you could inform us of the consultation outcome and subsequent decisions made in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.

- People who don't have time to walk or look after their own dog should not be allowed to own one in the first place.

House opposite me the dog is left home alone for 5 hours each morning then visited at lunchtime for a short time,

Then left alone again from 1pm to 6pm

- Leaving dog mess lying around or in bags hanging from trees, and leaving cigarette butts on the floor all need to become socially unacceptable. There needs to be a real public information effort to get the social, environmental and economic costs of this out to the public. This includes teaching children in schools, providing information when people buy or acquire a dog, as well as fining owners. When buying a dog people should have to complete some sort of minimum 'training' or 'certification' to show that they understand the basics of animal husbandry and what responsible dog ownership looks like. This would include all the matters discussed in this questionnaire and more. Pet shops, breeders and dog homes should all play their part in ensuring that owners not only care for the dog but care for the wider community of which they are part.
- Just a thought but tying responsible dog ownership up with smoking in one order seems to be a random pair of unconnected issues? Why not have two separate orders acknowledging that these are unconnected and have very different impacts on society?

I hope the whole order won't fall on the failure of ether element not giving the required level of concern?

- Make some open spaces, woods and wild life areas completely dog free.
- Please refer to, and re-word these questions <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf> an assistance dog does not need to be trained by a prescribed charity, please refer to the equalities act
- Responsible ownership of dogs goes a lot wider than what you are proposing, there should be a registration/permit system in place that owners apply for and

legally tracked, compulsory dog training or checks on owners care of dogs, harsher penalties for dog/animal abuse and specific areas/fields where dogs may be off lead, like american dog parks.

- This is just one of the many resources that will clarify the legal position regarding the non-existence of a central Assistance Dog Register and how dogs trained by other means that through the AD(UK) charities are still, legally valid, Assistance Dogs. <https://info275494.wixsite.com/assistedoglaw>
- I am a registered dog walker with the correct insurance in place. The registration process made me more aware of my responsibilities. I think more dog owners/walkers should have to undergo some sort of assessment or analysis to make them aware of their responsibilities.
- Any rules, or exemptions from rules, must be applied to all assistance dogs, as is required by the Equality Act of 2010. You should not be discriminating against certain types of assistance dogs.
- Dogs who have attacked a person, should be despatched. Once is one time too many.

Officers should get more powers to remove dogs who are a nuisance (noise, aggression, pooing).

Charge dog tax for all owners.

Make dog training compulsory.

Ban dangerous breeds and staffies.

- People who use very long dog leads must stay focused on their dogs. I saw a dog go on the road while it's owner was busy on their phone, luckily the driver saw the dog on time.

Also, vapers should follow the same rules as smokers.

- Some dogs have not been properly socialized and can be very aggressive towards other dogs even on a lead and there should be some way of reporting these dog owners.
- My main concern is dogs even being allowed onto school sites.
- I just do not understand how you are going to enforce this. You need a Dog Warden...should not have got rid of the one you had
- From experience, I am not sure this consultation is even warranted. Perhaps it is just where I walk the dogs, but I don't think this is really much of an issue at all.
- No amount of law enforcement will rule out these problems, it starts at the point of becoming an owner and the willingness to train the animal from the off. This would make a significant difference to the animals welfare and the enjoyment of shared spaces when well controlled animals are present. A register of owners should be lobbied for.

It must be recognised that some breeds need to run off lead, most medium size dogs and gun dogs are examples. Provision must allow for this else well trained, respectful animals will suffer as the expense of idiots. Quiet fields/ bridle paths / areas of country parks are spaces where owners should be able to enjoy their dogs whilst respecting the needs of others and applying some common sense

- As previously mentioned - no point in introducing anything if you aren't going to enforce it. That would just annoy everyone and potentially lead to confrontations between other people and dog owners and smokers.
- The survey is very one sided and makes dogs seem like an inconvenience/annoyance. I hope that the outcome is to ensure responsible

behaviour and not to ban dogs from areas. As a dog owner it is becoming increasingly disheartening to be treated like a social outcast and pushed away from public areas because of other peoples ignorance and not cleaning up after their dogs or keeping them under control.

- All of these proposals are good in theory but in reality I do not know how they will be enforced when we do not have enough police officers to properly police South Northants.

Those responsible people in society would already do all of these things. I am a dog owner and I ensure my dog is under control and I pick up his poo all the time. I used to smoke and would only do so where appropriate and not around children so it is all well and good having these restrictions but the reality is a different matter.

- Teenagers need reminding about picking up poo
- THE PARISH COUNCIL'S MAIN CONCERN WOULD BE HOW THESE FOULING/SMOKING ISSUES WOULD REGULARLY BE CONTROLLED BY APPOINTED OFFICERS AS THIS HAS NOT BEEN SEEN TO HAVE WORKED HISTORICALLY
- People should not smoke when collecting or dropping off children at school. It is a nuisance to adults and not showing a good example to children. Preferably dogs should not be outside the school gates and parents who bring their dog should wait across the road or away from the gates so children can pass without getting close.
- Generally it is the owners with ONE or TWO dogs that causes issues... Fine them, enforce they do to compulsory dog training classes, that they much complete and PASS before being able to walk in public again.... This will reduce much more issues that punishing the responsible people with 5_ dogs. Again we train our dogs daily... it is our passion and hobby just for the minority the ruin this, making it harder to simply walk our dogs.
- Dog poo bags used and then thrown in front gardens/hung in trees. Really common in Brixworth.
- Generally I agree, but I welcome proposals from the council regarding dog parks, or specific areas where dogs can be off lead
Don't be the council that continues to take away without giving anything back.
- One of the biggest problems of being a dog owner is caused by not educating children about dogs. My dogs are under control and what frightens them is children running up to them or running and screaming when they go past them. More education in schools on how children should behave around dogs to me is common sense
- [organisation] welcomes the exclusions placed around assistance dog owners in relations to this consultation. Assistance dogs play an important role in the lives of their owners, supporting them to be independent and to live the life they choose. Guide dogs are trained to support people with sight loss to have independent mobility. The Equality Act 2010 (and the Disability Discrimination 1995 in Northern Ireland) enshrines the right for assistance dogs to accompany their owners into nearly all places.
- Not everyone likes dogs, especially when they run towards you barking and jumping up. Dogs should be kept under control at all times.

- I own a dog and I'm disgusted by the amount of owners who refuse to pick up their dogs mess, and who allow th to jump up at people/prams etc...
Cigarette smoking isn't much of a problem here as a lot of people don't smoke publicly and those that do usually put them in a bin, but I still don't think they should be allowed to smoke in children's play parks
- The WNC need to install more dog poo bins and should talk to residents who walk dogs on sensible places for these to be installed.
- Why is there so much emphasis on dog fouling, and smoking when the much larger issue facing us is litter, which includes cigarette butts. Litter is an ugly eyesore, in the most part it doesn't break down, is an environmental hazard and a huge problem that needs tackling.
- Penalties for other kinds of littering (not just dog poo)
- It seems you are much more concerned about dog ownership than you are about smoking.

Smoking is illegal in most public spaces and causes lung cancer which can lead to horrible painful death. Passive smoking endangers innocent people who are around the smokers.

Of course smoking should be banned from all of the places you mention.

Dog ownership on the other hand enhances the mental health of the owner - hence the boom in sales of puppies during Lockdown, often regrettably by people unaware of the responsibility that comes with owning a dog. To dictate to individuals how many dogs they are allowed to have is way beyond the Council's remit. In any case, dogs are expensive to keep and very few people would want to keep more than two or three.

But, what would you do about trail hound packs, for instance? Forbid them to exercise in open countryside? This is a completely unnecessary and illiberal proposal.

Please note my earlier comments about dog poo bags - they do not biodegrade and the poo itself is less long lasting and offensive than bags full of it left lying about.

- Please allow this to lapse.
Extra legislation and the burden on tax payers is not needed as 99% of people are responsible and you are punishing them for the mistakes of the 1% with restrictive laws. Local bye laws are there for dog mess etc, this is too intrusive on the majority
- Appreciate that there are irresponsible dog owners, but implementing too many controls unjustly punishes responsible owners. I'd like to see the same energetic efforts being used to promote greater access and use of our wonderful public spaces. Take a look at some of the positive approaches being used to get people active. More cycleways and lots more public footpaths are needed. Consider allowing all set aside land to be common access for all
- Unruly or loud dogs should mean enforcement proceedings brought about on the owners. Or dogs removed to better accommodation/care
- I believe any statistics drawn from this questionnaire should be ignored. It seems to be drawn up by the person who wants a specific outcome. It is poorly designed and is a manipulation of the outcome!

My impression this questionnaire is designed in a way to get a foregone conclusion and therefore is not a democratic process.

- Please don't ban dogs from certain areas. Walking dogs prevents loneliness and encourages exercise. If you put up hurdles to make it difficult to be walked, the dogs will suffer and the owner will suffer. Focus on the troublesome dog owners only, and please don't punish the masses for the faults of a few.
- This is an unbalanced questionnaire which focusses on dogs and responsible ownership more heavily than on smoking.
Questionnaire needs to cover and make allowances for disability.
Council need to get in their own house in order and clean it up first before bringing in new rules for the public.
- All for responsible dog ownership and responsible smoking being permissible. However the closed nature and the varying response abilities on this survey simply illustrates a policy has been developed to meet the desires of a certain number of people, and it's been crafted in a fashion to enable this to happen 'with the support of the wider community after consultation'
Quite horrific if you consider the broader possibilities of such 'consultation'
- Allowing dogs to foul and not pick up is a finable offence, however who enforces these? It's all very well having these rules in place, but without enforcement officers it's pointless. I assume these officers will be in large towns but what about smaller more rural communities?
- dog poo bags left hanging from trees , gate posts or just left there, etc should be prohibited
- It should be taken into account that cyclists and scooter riders travel on pavements which is dangerous as dogs wearing a lead can be hurt by inconsiderate people using this mode of transport as they travel at speed which could injure dog or owner. Thank you
- Dog licence should be reintroduced and be at least £500 per dog.
- Illegal hunting with dogs is a problem
- Even disabled people should pick up their dog poo. There are plenty of gadgets available to assist. A dog belonging to a disabled owner still has to poo and it's just as unpleasant and dangerous to health as dog poo belonging to an able bodied owner. Or the services of a dog walker should be used
- Just to add sometimes its not the number of dogs but the size of them and owners not controlling them
- In an effort to 'enforce' what is promotion of responsible dog ownership impact on general animal welfare needs to be carefully considered; limiting how or when dogs can be exercised will lead to other issues arising ie frustrated dogs who can't get enough exercise in places locally, which as a dog owner, I pay taxes for the up keep of parks. I'm asking for balance.
- This next comment does not relate to dog owners and public places, and so may not come under the umbrella of this survey, but I also have concerns about dog owners who choose not to train their dogs properly: some owners do not walk their dogs but keep them cooped up indoors often leading to barking and general disturbance when people walk past their house or garden.
- Size of dog / breed / temperament is more important than numbers. And if you had 4 Rotweilers for example, without soft muzzles they could be killers but they can't be if they are muzzled. 10 Cockapoos together are going to be no trouble at all.

- As stated, majority of dog owners are very responsible. Personally I find dogs off lead to cause me great anxiety. Especially when the owner is some distance away and would not be able to control the dog. Regrettably, most instances of dog attacks are when off lead.
- People need educating about the impact that when they don't clear up after their dog or the stress that is caused when dogs run up to people who don't have dogs.

Yes stop smoking in areas that are visited by children.

But please let's end this were going to fine you culture.

- There seem to be so many more dogs in built up areas now, following Covid. More regulation is definitely needed. They also bark an awful lot at home.
- Dog barking is becoming a bigger problem. Both while at home and when out and about. Owners who cannot control their dogs barking should also receive fines. Dogs are a real nuisance in Brackley for the rest of us who don't own dogs.
- I love dogs. Am not anti dog.
- More education should be provided by councils for all about aspects of dog training and practical help. Instead of fines and a bureaucratic approach give compulsory education and help
- I believe that dog licenses should be brought back, and people who are repeatedly fined under the proposals should lose those licenses.

I also understand that some people feel that smoking in public should be banned completely, but it remains legal and therefore should not be treated any more harshly than drinking alcohol in public. We all know the repercussions of second hand smoke, but in a wide open and public area like a park this danger is very much reduced. Public drinking on the other hand, causes aggression, noise, violence, dangerous driving, smashed glass in public areas etc and this is far more harmful to other people. I also believe you are "lumping in" the issue of smoking tobacco in public, with those who wish to smoke illegal substances in public. There is a very large difference. One is illegal, the other is not. Please bear this in mind.

- In my experience with local authorities he who shouts loudest gets their way. It would be a shame if unfair regulations were brought in and applied over zealously. I like living where I do because it's dog friendly. I'd hate that to change on the basis of a few loud voices.
- Larger poo bins in popular areas make sure they're not too close to people's houses. There are three bins in the small wood on poppyfield way in brackley right next to a house the smell as you walk past is bad it must be awful in warm weather for the house owner never mind the banging of the bin lids.
- I feel it is important to put the PSPO in place in the South Northants to establish a safer and cleaner environment for the public/dog walkers and we will then be able to put in place deterrents for dog fouling, litter and dog's off the lead.
- DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST TRAINED AND UN-TRAINED DOGS
- A National campaign should be carried out to educate people about dog fouling and smoking
- I just want to have the quiet enjoyment of walking my dog without stepping in dog mess or being harassed by dogs whose owners have no control over them. I'm finding more and more that I have to pay to use a private dog field just to be able to enjoy being out with my dog.

- I have had dogs for over 40 years and have been involved in rescue for a number of years. My dogs are not perfect...but they are under control. I am very concerned about the huge increase in dog ownership by irresponsible people and the number of dog on dog attacks where the dog is off lead and completely out of control. At the moment, dog on dog is not a crime and no consideration is given to the trauma this causes. The owner of the offending dog walks away leaving devastation behind. Anything that can be done to help prevent that situation...like keeping dogs on lead in public places..has to be a help.
- Excessive restrictions should not be placed on the majority of responsible dog owners because of a small minority who are irresponsible. So if there are problems then the perpetrators should be sought out and encouraged to conform, without imposing blanket restrictions. Are there sufficient dog wardens to tackle any problems?
- The visible presence of a warden is paramount, where I live alongside the canal at Long Buckby Wharf, I have NEVER seen a dog warden, despite it being a 'hot spot' for dog attacks and dog poo. Legislation is pointless if it isn't enforced.
- Reintroducing the dog licenses to contribute to the increased costs to Councils due to the explosion of dog ownership. As many breeds cost thousands to buy, £100 per year per dog would be reasonable and probably promote more responsible ownership
- This does appear that dog owners are the latest easy target of increased restrictions. There are more important antisocial issues that would be better addressed as a priority
- You get stuck like a record and just churn out the same stuff. Why for example have you never funded dog parks in villages and towns if you want better control?
Why haven't you examined horses and bikes using public footpaths. You take the easy route every time. It's always smokers and dogs
- Stray dogs probably spend more time in public places than private ones such hta a PSPO applying to public places addresses the problem.
The reverse applies to cats who race to private places and linger and poo and infuriate most resident dogs. This issue needs addressing notwithstanding their legislated right to roam. Cat poo, like dog poo, is noxious. The presence of cats can mean that larger dogs have to be on the lead in their own garden or else risk a cat fight or jumping out of even an enclosed garden
- It would be good if there was an enclosed field in the King's Sutton domain, that was open to the public to allow there dog to run free, even at a small charge
- It is disappointing that "Agricultural land" is specifically excluded, since this will have the effect that the proposals will not apply to the public footpaths crossing our local fields.
One issue which we have faced in Yardley Hastings is of filled poo bags being left in the hedgerows. Poo bags should be made of compostable/biodegradable material, NOT plastic.
- Parish Councils should have ability to specify public areas dogs should be kept on a lead based on local feedback
- Please don't make this an opportunity for the public to complain about dog owners.
- Appropriate signage

It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs, The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 makes it a legal requirement for local authorities to – “cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to - (i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and (ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be).”

Assistance dogs

The [organisation] welcomes the exemptions proposed in this Order for assistance dogs. We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission’s guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-allbusinesses.pdf> We would therefore encourage the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person’s dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council, which can be found below from their 2020 PSPO which included the following exemption provisions on dog control: Nothing in this Order shall apply to a person who – a) is registered as a blind person on a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or c) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of training assistance dogs and upon which he relies for assistance d) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability. or that of Northumberland County Council: “(4) The term “Assistance Dog” shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability. (5) The expression “disability” shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation”

- My opinion is, more dog poo bins, more litter bins, and why also is it the smokers that get it in the neck!

And if you claim benefits and sit in coffee shops all day, then you should be make to pick litter up on your way to the coffee shop.

- I am a resident of [name] and as a responsible dog owner I would not be supportive of this planned new legislation. More dog waste bins and regular emptying are required rather than excluding dog owners from playgrounds and open sports facilities, playing fields etc. More wardens would also help.
- [organisation] support the proposal for a PSPO in the Daventry and South Northants areas.

Football pitches used for grassroots football are often public parks that are enjoyed by all members of the local community, including dog walkers.

Unfortunately some dog owners behave irresponsibly and don't pick up their dog's mess in these parks.

As you're fully aware, this can be highly unpleasant and potentially dangerous. An unwanted task for a grassroots football coach, manager or parent is to comb the pitch before kick-off and pick up dog mess on behalf of the inconsiderate minority of dog owners. Therefore we support the introduction of greater powers for WNC enforcement officers to deal with this matter.

I have asked for the consultation to be shared on our [organisation] social media channels to encourage clubs from these specific areas to share their thoughts too.

- Thank you for your email regarding the PSPOs. We had a Parish Council meeting last Thursday 24th March where the Councillors had a chance to discuss this matter.

The Councillors are keen to retain the PSPOs that are currently in place in [name], namely dogs must be on leads in Church yards and the cemetery. Also no dogs are permitted in the children's play area.

A new PSPO for [name] that the Councillors have asked me to raise with you is in relation to the Playing Field (map attached). This is used by many groups at the [name] including the Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies. We had had instances of dog fouling on the field and in particular towards and in the area of the [name]. The Councillors would like to see a ban on dogs extended to the Playing Field and not just in the Children's Play Area. The one challenge in doing so is that there is a public footpath from [name]. In which case, the ban might be from the children's play area to the entrance at West End nearest [name].

If that is not possible, could we ask for an order requiring dogs to be on a lead within the Playing Field please

- I agree with keeping dogs under control on ` paths over fields.
Dogs running amok especially when there is livestock in fields are reasons why many land owners not opening up their fields to the public.
- I have completed the online questionnaire, but would just like to add, that the Parish Council supports the need for a PSPO for dog waste as described in the consultation, and if this comes into force there are a number of areas within [name] that the council would like to register with your department as areas of concern for this issue.
- I agree with keeping dogs under control on ` paths over fields.
Dogs running amok especially when there is livestock in fields are reasons why many land owners not opening up their fields to the public.
- How interesting, yet when I called the dog warden for being screamed at by a woman as my well behaved dog was upsetting her vicious, reactive dog on a public field by walking 20m in the opposite direction and not looking at it, a dog that takes 2 people to hold on 2 leads and still lunges at people and dogs I was told `until he bites there's nothing we can do'.
- We pay council tax and parks are thrown up so would be good to enable dog safe places
- How about more dog friendly places and agility parks
- Why would this promote good dog ownership I'm confused think there may be way bigger issues across the county than this
- I have tried to complete survey and didn't save what I have added:

- Dog owners who own dogs who are not good with others - should have a lead to show they need space so that dog owners are warned in advance
- More enclosed dog areas where they can be put on a lead that's safe, where not so good dogs that need space do not go to, so other dog walkers can enjoy
- Create environmentally friendly dog bags near dog bins, for those who use I didn't have a Pooh bag on me
- Enclosed dog area cctv operated to fine those who don't pick up and also evidence of owners who don't control dogs
- Have Astro dog friendly places so grass/ mud etc not an issue
- Have areas enclosed with activity's for dogs like children do In parks that people pay for in council tax
- Look at solutions rather than creating a negative response
- The field near [name] could be better used and could be more enclosed for dog owners
- Dog and children areas should be completely separate so then you don't get the I am scared of dogs so I need to be negative about creating more spaces for dogs
- Most dogs behave better than most humans these days, are cleaner
- It's the minority that spoil it for others.
- Bit like parents of the children with anti social behaviour

Overall comments about smoking proposals.

- this is all pie in the sky crap, you don't have the ability to enforce it, its just box ticking to say you are doing something about peoples concerns 230 dog poo complaints against 40 50 thousand dog owners in district, what is really needed is a £500 dog licence.
im an ex smoker for over 10 years now, its not that a bad a problem, alcohol that's what should really be tackled (and mental health, there's no help for that) and you waste your time on this.
- I don't have a problem with smoking in Daventry. It used to be a problem but I think it has decreased the past few years. I really feel the town could benefit from a dog park as they are far too many dogs off leads in Daventry and we need to tighten up the dogs on the leads. The country park should also rethink their policy on dogs off leads to include the whole of the park. A very nervous friend of mine got jumped by a dog that was off lead and no longer comes to the park anymore. We need safe spaces for people to go who are uneasy around dogs off leads just as much as we need a safe space for dogs to be let off their leads.
- Don't think this will stop irresponsible dog owners or smokers as they ignore rules at the moment so this sadly won't change there attitude
- I don't like dog fouling or smoking, but I like this overbearing nanny-state even less.
- Smoking should be also banned in public areas outside shops in Daventry centre. There should be designated outdoor smoking areas that are the only place people should be allowed to smoke.
- Just a thought but tying responsible dog ownership up with smoking in one order seems to be a random pair of unconnected issues? Why not have two separate

orders acknowledging that these are unconnected and have very different impacts on society?

I hope the whole order won't fall on the failure of either element not giving the required level of concern?

- People who use very long dog leads must stay focused on their dogs. I saw a dog go on the road while it's owner was busy on their phone, luckily the driver saw the dog on time.

Also, vapers should follow the same rules as smokers.

- Smoking in or near bus stops should be prohibited and enforced. Any outside public workers should not be allowed to smoke, as this is their place of work and most often there is nowhere for them to put out their. Vaping should not be allowed in public areas, as all too often even if you are walking 10 feet behind. You get engulfed in the vapour/smoke, which is also very thick to obscure your vision
- As previously mentioned - no point in introducing anything if you aren't going to enforce it. That would just annoy everyone and potentially lead to confrontations between other people and dog owners and smokers.
- All of these proposals are good in theory but in reality I do not know how they will be enforced when we do not have enough police officers to properly police South Northants.

Those responsible people in society would already do all of these things. I am a dog owner and I ensure my dog is under control and I pick up his poo all the time. I used to smoke and would only do so where appropriate and not around children so it is all well and good having these restrictions but the reality is a different matter.

- THE PARISH COUNCIL'S MAIN CONCERN WOULD BE HOW THESE FOULING/SMOKING ISSUES WOULD REGULARLY BE CONTROLLED BY APPOINTED OFFICERS AS THIS HAS NOT BEEN SEEN TO HAVE WORKED HISTORICALLY
- People should not smoke when collecting or dropping off children at school. It is a nuisance to adults and not showing a good example to children. Preferably dogs should not be outside the school gates and parents who bring their dog should wait across the road or away from the gates so children can pass without getting close.
- I have no issues with actual smoking in the areas ie cigarettes and tobacco being covered on the PSPO but strongly disagree on the vape element as this does not affect other people at all
- I own a dog and I'm disgusted by the amount of owners who refuse to pick up their dogs mess, and who allow them to jump up at people/prams etc... Cigarette smoking isn't much of a problem here as a lot of people don't smoke publicly and those that do usually put them in a bin, but I still don't think they should be allowed to smoke in children's play parks
- Why is there so much emphasis on dog fouling, and smoking when the much larger issue facing us is litter, which includes cigarette butts. Litter is an ugly eyesore, in the most part it doesn't break down, is an environmental hazard and a huge problem that needs tackling.

- Actually issue fines and get shops to stop employees standing outside smoking and flicking butts on the floor - they should receive a fine for allowing this to happen on public highway outside of their property.
- Vapes. Not only do we not want to breathe in other people's smoke but nor do we want to breathe in vape fumes
- It seems you are much more concerned about dog ownership than you are about smoking.

Smoking is illegal in most public spaces and causes lung cancer which can lead to horrible painful death. Passive smoking endangers innocent people who are around the smokers.

Of course smoking should be banned from all of the places you mention.

Dog ownership on the other hand enhances the mental health of the owner - hence the boom in sales of puppies during Lockdown, often regrettably by people unaware of the responsibility that comes with owning a dog. To dictate to individuals how many dogs they are allowed to have is way beyond the Council's remit. In any case, dogs are expensive to keep and very few people would want to keep more than two or three.

But, what would you do about trail hound packs, for instance? Forbid them to exercise in open countryside? This is a completely unnecessary and illiberal proposal.

Please note my earlier comments about dog poo bags - they do not biodegrade and the poo itself is less long lasting and offensive than bags full of it left lying about.

- This is an unbalanced questionnaire which focusses on dogs and responsible ownership more heavily than on smoking.

Questionnaire needs to cover and make allowances for disability.

Council need to get in their own house in order and clean it up first before bringing in new rules for the public.

- All for responsible dog ownership and responsible smoking being permissible. However the closed nature and the varying response abilities on this survey simply illustrates a policy has been developed to meet the desires of a certain number of people, and it's been crafted in a fashion to enable this to happen 'with the support of the wider community after consultation'

Quite horrific if you consider the broader possibilities of such 'consultation'

- Vaping is supposed to be less harmful than smoking, though there are some question marks about that. If you pass someone in the street who is vaping they emit absolutely clouds of smoke. I don't think secondary smoke from vaping is as harmful as secondary cigarette smoke, but it's unpleasant. Have you considered banning vaping from the same areas as smoking?
- People need educating about the impact that when they don't clear up after their dog or the stress that is caused when dogs run up to people who don't have dogs.

Yes stop smoking in areas that are visited by children.

But please let's end this were going to fine you culture.

- Would be good to have no smoking near schools and also town centre in the main public areas.
- I believe that dog licenses should be brought back, and people who are repeatedly fined under the proposals should lose those licenses.

I also understand that some people feel that smoking in public should be banned completely, but it remains legal and therefore should not be treated any more harshly than drinking alcohol in public. We all know the repercussions of second hand smoke, but in a wide open and public area like a park this danger is very much reduced. Public drinking on the other hand, causes aggression, noise, violence, dangerous driving, smashed glass in public areas etc and this is far more harmful to other people. I also believe you are "lumping in" the issue of smoking tobacco in public, with those who wish to smoke illegal substances in public. There is a very large difference. One is illegal, the other is not. Please bear this in mind.

- A National campaign should be carried out to educate people about dog fouling and smoking
- Just that the smoking thing feels tacked on, there's very little about the reasons why this is an issue and I would be very reluctant to impose *another* way for people to lose money in this climate. I would hate to see people being fined for dropping a cigarette butt or smoking with friends.
- You get stuck like a record and just churn out the same stuff. Why for example have you never funded dog parks in villages and towns if you want better control?

Why haven't you examined horses and bikes using public footpaths. You take the easy route every time. It's always smokers and dogs

- My opinion is, more dog poo bins, more litter bins, and why also is it the smokers that get it in the neck! And if you claim benefits and sit in coffee shops all day, then you should be make to pick litter up on your way to the coffee shop.
- This council is getting worse stopping people smoking in parks. Start spending the money on cleaning the streets.
- Most people go to parks for healthy reasons like running and other sports, walking their dog etc. I, for one, don't want to take my grandchildren to the park with people smoking. If you have to walk through a park you can wait to light up surely?

Overall non-specific comments

- More staff resources are needed in the enforcement team to educate and enforce these issues, particularly in the smaller towns and villages away from Northampton.
- None of these measures are of any use unless you have the resources to enforce them. It's not good just saying any officer of the council will be authorised to enforce or issue FPNs. From my experience this will not work.
- This is simple over regulation where it is not necessary or proportionate to the issue.
- Actually seeing some enforcement of the PSPO would be good. The one in Daventry was on for 6 years. I don't think there has been any past putting up the signs.
- More Signs.
More enforcement.
- I feel embarrassed for you, what sort of pathetic individuals conceived this nonsense?

- Blanket area application will be a disaster. Discretion needs to be applied in the circumstances at the time. This is about facilitation , education and encouragement rather than draconian enforcement.
- Its long overdue and I'm pleased to see it happening.
- Please consider the 'lawful excuse or authority' addition. Thank you.
- Is there sufficient enforcement officer presence doubtful will no doubt be as effective as litter laws not very effective
- Given the above controls are implemented, hopefully there will be sufficient resources given to police these areas and issue fixed penalty notices. Not just within office hours Monday to Friday
- See comments about licences.
- People need to use common sense. We don't need laws or rules.
- As stated education is key
- Non, hope it goes through 🙏
- Just make sure that there is clear signage and enforcement officers visibly patrolling. Also whilst they are there can they log and report graffiti as it's a real eyesore everywhere. Thanks
- Get on with something more important.
- Promote good behaviour through existing channels. Stop creating more work that offers little value.
- We support all these proposals but enforcement will be the key to their success .
- Any public space should be welcoming and safe for everyone.
- Place highly visible signs within the areas of concern
- I am concerned about the cost of signage and staffing to promote these ideas. Unless there is significant money put into enforcement, it is simply window dressing. The window dressing money could be better spent on social care or improving the environment.
- See earlier comments. They apply across all sections of this wasteful exercise
- I have a feeling that enforcement which I would welcome will not extend to rural areas. I expect not many think to report incidents I will from now on
- Fully support tighter controls
- This is all good in theory, however we already have powers, acts of parliament and law in place to tackle some of the proposed conditions. If these are not being utilised them what would yet another order bring to the table? You need people available to enforce in a proportional manner and I currently do not see the capacity within the authority. Therefore this could just be seen as a paper exercise.
- Please do not encourage any type of policing because individuals can never know more than a group and can cause more harm by becorruptible ible
- What about enforcement?
- Why only part of new county; equal problems in old Northampton town area, e.g. wootton rec. This will push anti social behaviour from grange park to wootton. Do it for the whole unitary authority.
- If you do your research you will find that PSPOs written too broadly will be challenged in court, not only by individuals but by organizations. If this is implemented will only result in limited good press and have no real effect as there is not a dog warden service to enforce. You are also citing less than one complaint per day throughout the council as justification for implementing a

council-wide PSPO. The majority of these complaints could be corrected with current legislation if you had qualified dog wardens out and about to enforce.

- Good to propose this but who / how will it be enforced effectively.
- Most of this is unevidenced in both cause and effect, and lack clarity about how the proposals would tackle the problem and lacks evidence that the suggested tactics have a track record of working.

Some of these proposals are already covered by criminal law anyway, why more regulations.

This really is a Mickey mouse effort.

- I see very little point in this legislation.
- Is this really the top concerns of the council?

There is insufficient means to enforce it and it just excites the Facebook moaners

- How does the Council intend monitoring the actions of these people?
- Please reflect on if this is truly a worthy issue, when considering the plethora of real problems the council should be addressing.

Pot holes, fly tipping, surging council tax bills for stripped back services. Come on

- Stop your big brother culture.
- Would be good to see more and faster action on potholes and repairs to the road through buckby wharf rather than this issue which would seem to have been raised by a vocal minority.
- Increase the fine value which could be of more of a deterrent.
- I'm afraid these proposals do not promote anything they seek to enforce by negative reinforcement which fails to give individuals ownership and responsibility for their own actions.
- Just coming out of Covid. Entirely wrong time for this. Try again when life is on an even keel again
- I sure there is the same too high for drinking and drugs
- To remove freedoms is getting towards a prohibitive and authoritarian state.
- I think the council would be more well intentioned to filling pot holes, calling on the old and needy, providing services for schools etc rather than administering laws that are unmanageable to administer on a day to day basis.
- As mentioned on one of the previous screens, I really feel that public education and encouraging people to be brave enough to tackle others who behave in an anti-social way, is the best way forward. I would like to think that as much effort and resource is put into public education as it is into generating legislation.
- Unless the council is prepared to put resources into policing these proposals nothing will change. That will of course bring significant costs which not doubt the rate payers will have to shoulder. As these proposals are not likely to have significant impact and ask could our money be better spent elsewhere
- I think this has the potential to be a good thing, but without boots on the ground enforcing it, there'll be no change.

It then just becomes another council paperwork exercise, which everyone loves to bash councils about.

- Why create additional legislation that is going to be difficult to monitor and in force without a large cost on signage and personnel. Generally you will find that all these areas are already covered by certain legislation if they need to be
- Strongly opposed to these proposals. Stop wasting your time and do something else more constructive.

- I would like Creaton Playing Field to be covered by an order and to have appropriate signage and enforcement when possible
- Need to make sure there are enough pop bins
- he doesn't like the wording "sight impairment" which is used to describe disabilities. He also wasn't keen about the fact that I couldn't capture his "other" disabilities specifically and sufficiently i.e. he has long covid and 4 prolapsed disks which he didn't think fitted adequately under the existing categories – we ticked "physical disability", "sight impairment" and the "other" option. He also doesn't like the big age gap that is used to capture the over 50 year-old people – "50-64" when all the other age brackets are closer together, he is 54. He also queried why we needed to know if this was an individual or organisation that was being asked to respond. Once I explained, he was happy with this and responded as an individual which then led onto the equality questions.
- Maybe spend the money on actually picking up bins instead?
- What has gender, religion and ethnicity etc to do with dog fouling and smoking?
- About time too! Subjects came up during old SNC time but they failed to do anything about it!
- Only a few responsible people take any notice of PSPO

Organisations overall Comments received.

Dogs Trust

The PDSA's 'Paw Report 2018' found that 89% of veterinary professionals believe that the welfare of dogs will suffer if owners are banned from walking their dogs in public spaces such as parks and beaches, or if dogs are required to be kept on leads in these spaces. Their report also states that 78% of owners rely on these types of spaces to walk their dog.

We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours.

Dogs Trust works with local authorities across the UK to help promote responsible dog ownership. Please do not hesitate to contact should you wish to discuss this matter.

We would be very grateful if you could inform us of the consultation outcome and subsequent decisions made in relation to the Public Space Protection Order.

Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs welcomes the exclusions placed around assistance dog owners in relations to this consultation. Assistance dogs play an important role in the lives of their owners, supporting them to be independent and to live the life they choose. Guide dogs are trained to support people with sight loss to have independent mobility. The Equality Act 2010 (and the Disability Discrimination 1995 in Northern Ireland) enshrines the right for assistance dogs to accompany their owners into nearly all places.

The Kennel Club

Appropriate signage

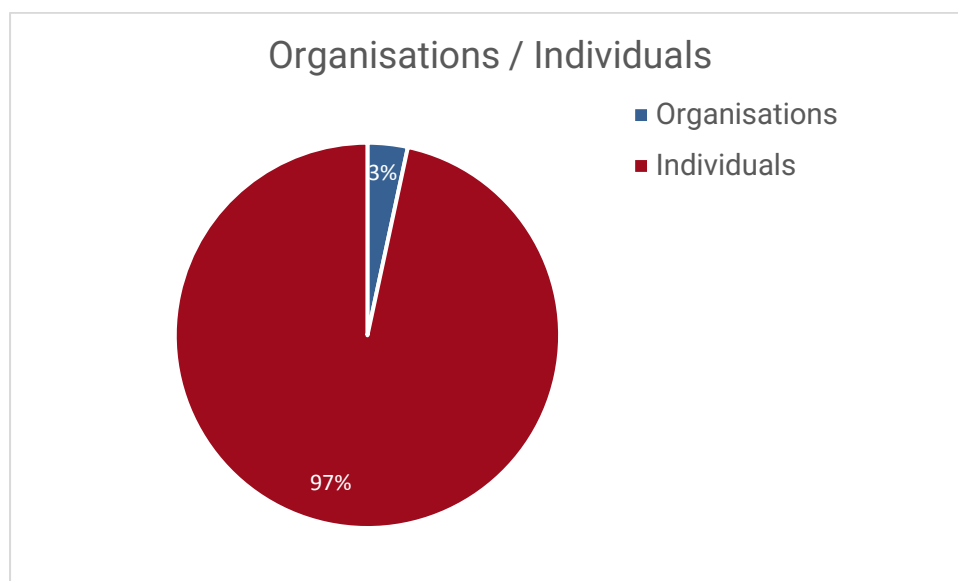
It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs, The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 makes it a legal requirement for local authorities to – “cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to - (i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and (ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be).”

Assistance dogs

The Kennel Club welcomes the exemptions proposed in this Order for assistance dogs. We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission’s guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-allbusinesses.pdf> We would therefore encourage the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person’s dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council, which can be found below from their 2020 PSPO which included the following exemption provisions on dog control: Nothing in this Order shall apply to a person who – a) is registered as a blind person on a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or c) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of training assistance dogs and upon which he relies for assistance d) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability. or that of Northumberland County Council: “(4) The term “Assistance Dog” shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability. (5) The expression “disability” shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation

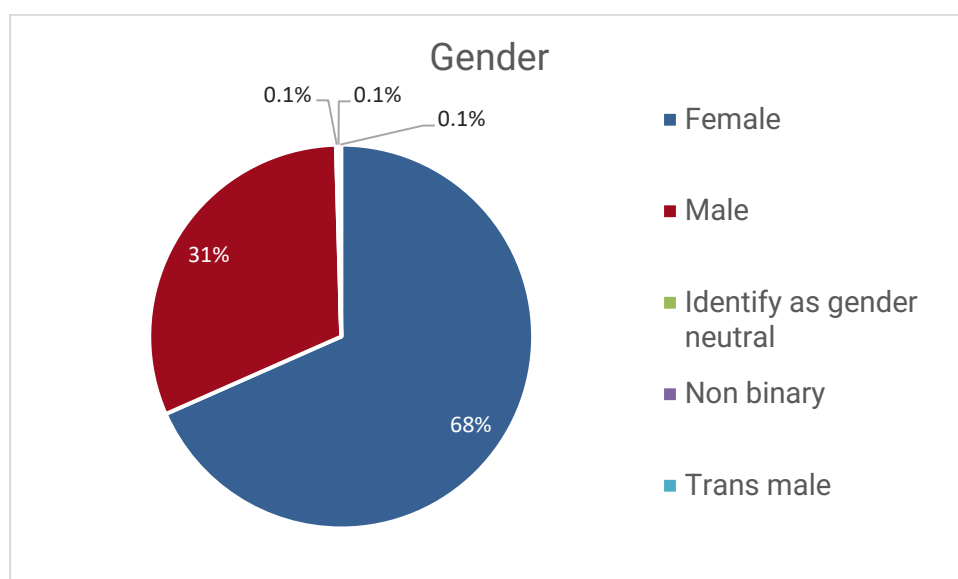
Equality Information Questions

Responses received as an Individual or Organisation.



Responses received	Total	% Responses
Organisations	43	3%
Individuals	1232	97%
Grand total	1275	100%

Responses received for gender.

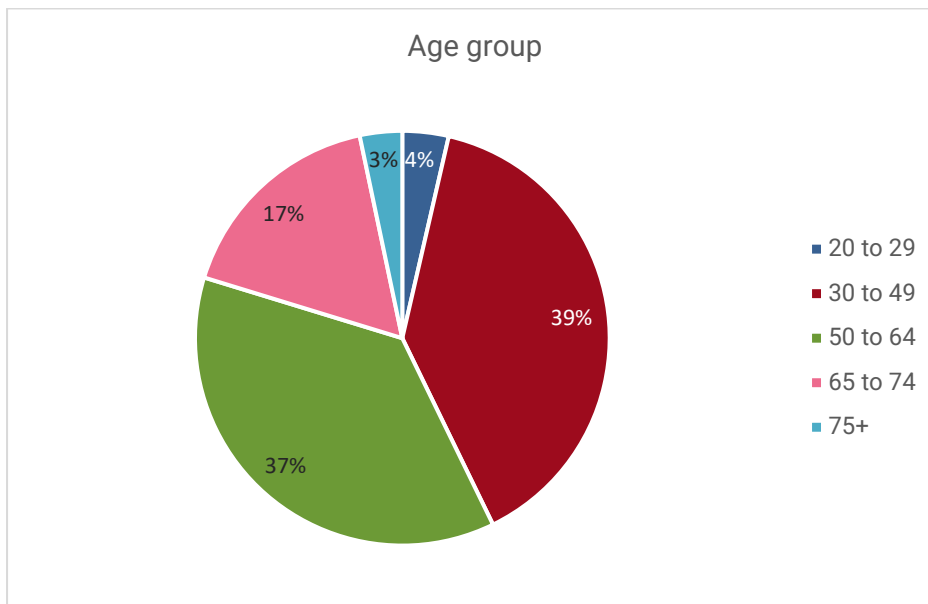


680 indicated their gender	Total	% of total
Female	465	68%
Male	212	31%
Identify as gender neutral	1	0.1%
Non binary	1	0.1%
Trans male	1	0.1%
Grand Total	680	100%

Responses received to indicate if respondents were pregnant or had a new baby in last 6 months.

10 responded that they were pregnant or have a new baby	Total	% of total
No	647	98%
Yes	10	2%
Grand Total	657	100%

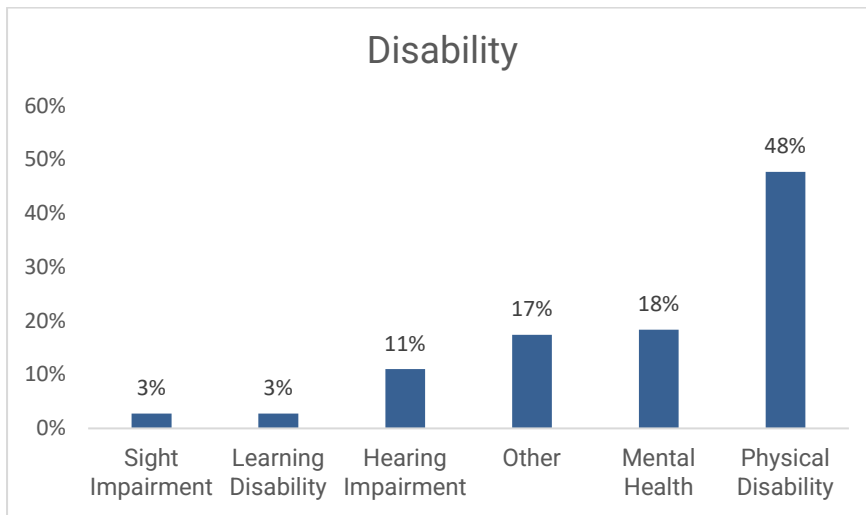
Responses received to indicate age group of those that responded.



666 gave their age group	Sum of count	% Total
20 to 29	24	4%
30 to 49	261	39%
50 to 64	246	37%
65 to 74	113	17%
75+	22	3%
Grand Total	666	100%

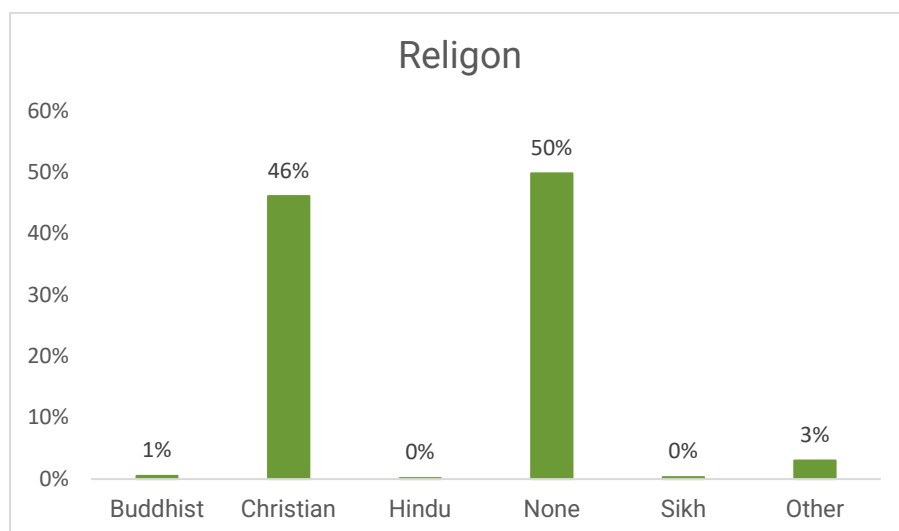
Responses received to indicate disability and type of disability.

77 responded that they have a disability	Total	% of total
No	584	88%
Yes	77	12%
Grand Total	661	100%



109 indicated a disability	Total	% of total
Sight Impairment	3	3%
Learning Disability	3	3%
Hearing Impairment	12	11%
Other	19	17%
Mental Health	20	18%
Physical Disability	52	48%

Responses received to indicate religion or belief.



574 indicated a religion	Total	% of total
Buddhist	3	1%
Christian	273	46%
Hindu	1	0%
None	295	50%
Sikh	2	0%
Other	18	3%
Grand Total	592	100%

Responses received to describe ethnic origin.

628 indicated their ethnicity	Total	% of total
Asian or Asian British: Indian	1	0.2%
Asian or Asian British: Other Asian Background	1	0.2%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic Background: Other mixed / multiple background	2	0.3%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic Background: White & Black Caribbean	2	0.3%
Other ethnic group: Other (please state below)	1	0.2%
White: Other White Background	21	3.3%
White: White British	593	92.9%
White: White Irish	7	1.1%
Other specified	10	1.6%
Grand Total	638	100%

Responses received to best describe how respondents think of themselves.

557 indicated their sexuality	Total	% of total
Bisexual	20	4%
Gay Man	6	1%
Gay Woman / Lesbian	5	1%
Heterosexual	526	94%
Grand Total	557	100%

Responses received to describe marital status.

622 indicated their marital status	Total	% of total
Civil Partnership	6	1%
Co-habiting / Living together	89	14%
Married	417	67%
Other	19	3%
Single	64	10%
Widow / Widower	27	4%
Grand Total	622	100%

PR Campaign – PSPO consultation

Press/Media:

Press release:

[Have your say on measures to promote responsible dog ownership](#)

Media Coverage:

- [Residents invited to have say on promoting responsible dog ownership – Daventry Express](#)
- [Have your say on promoting responsible dog ownership – About My Area](#)
- [Have Your Say On Measures To Promote Responsible Dog Ownership – Revolution Radio](#)

Articles:

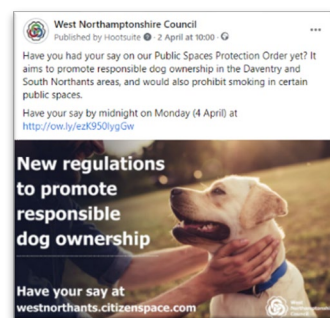
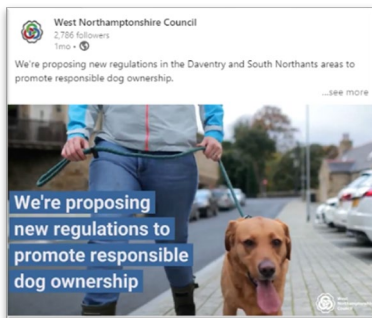
- Parish Briefing article (sent to all parishes in West Northants)
- Members' Briefing newsletter (sent to all WNC councillors)

Partner websites:

- [News | Daventry Town Council](#)
- [Brackley Town Council](#)
- [Crick Community \(crickparish.org.uk\)](#)
- [Rothersthorpe Parish Council](#)
- [East Haddon Parish Council](#)
- [Village Website for the people of Old](#)
- [News - Tags: News | Newnham Parish Council](#)
- [Braunston Parish Council News](#)
- [Yelvertoft Parish Council](#)
- [Blisworth Parish Council's Website](#)
- [Woodford cum Membris Village Signpost](#)

Social media

Mixture of graphics/videos used:



Channels used:

Facebook: 4 posts, 31,409 impressions, 28,500 reach, 4,525 engagement

Twitter: 4 posts, 2,976 impressions, 114 engagement

Instagram: 2 posts, 146 impressions

LinkedIn: 3 posts, 873 reach

Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation : ownership of dogs and prohibition of smoking in certain places

Overview

West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) is considering whether to make a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to promote responsible dog ownership and prohibit smoking in certain public spaces across the former administrative council areas of Daventry District and South Northants.

A PSPO allows councils to impose restrictions on the use of specific areas. A PSPO can deal with persistent and unreasonable nuisances and anti-social behaviour that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life for the local community in a particular area. They intend to help ensure that the public can use and enjoy public spaces and can help to make West Northamptonshire a better and safer place to live.

The feedback that you provide will be used to inform any potential restrictions that could be contained in the new PSPO.

A PSPO, for dog related matters, does operate in the former administration council area of Northampton Borough which expires on 18th September 2023.

What's the problem?

In 2021, the WNC received more than 230 complaints about dog fouling and dog control issues and, whilst the majority of dog owners are caring, responsible individuals, there are still some who are irresponsible.

Effective implementation and enforcement of dog control prohibitions and requirements via PSPOs have historically reduced dog related issues.

Dog mess is the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets. Whilst WNC receives many dog fouling complaints each year, it believes that the true number of incidents is far greater than the number reported.

Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant but also dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis, a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness and seizures.

WNC is keen to take measures to combat these problems and is proposing to use powers contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Act ("the Act") to give its enforcement officers powers to deal with dog owners who fail to properly control their dogs in public open spaces across the former Daventry and South Northants District areas.

The consultation process

Legally, we must have evidence to show the need for the Order. The activities controlled by the PSPO need to have had, or be likely to have, an unreasonable and detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and are, or are likely to be, persistent and continuing in nature.

The feedback we receive during this consultation can form part of the evidence we need to draft and implement a new PSPO for the former Daventry and South Northants district areas.

Any PSPO made following this public consultation exercise will be reviewed in 2023.

The former Northampton Borough Council, dog related, PSPO expires on 18th September 2023 and a PSPO covering the entire WNC area is likely to be considered.

How to share your views

We are keen to hear from the local community. We are inviting you to read the background to the consultation and complete an online consultation questionnaire.

If you have any queries, comments or would like a copy of this questionnaire in another format (including paper, easy read or large print) you can contact us by email or telephone. Our contact details are as follows:

Email address: environmentalimprovement.ddc@westnorthants.gov.uk

Telephone: 01327 302260

The consultation will close at midnight on Monday 4 April 2022.

Your opinion is very important to us, so if you would like to have your say, please follow the link below to the online survey.

Background to the Proposals

The Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB). This legislation also replaced the Dog Control Orders made under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) can be used to address particular nuisance or problems in public places that have a "detrimental effect on the local community".

The proposed PSPO would allow WNC to extend its powers to prohibit certain dog related activities or require dog owners to comply with certain requirements across its administrative area in order to encourage more responsible dog ownership. In addition, there is a proposed requirement to prohibit smoking in certain public spaces.

Following an extensive consultation exercise in 2015 the former Daventry District Council at that time introduced a PSPO to tackle irresponsible dog ownership. This was further extended following subsequent consultation in 2018. Its extension saw a 36% decline in dog-related complaints over 3 years.

Due to the impact of Covid and the formation of the new unitary council, WNC, this PSPO has now expired but many residents are still familiar with its requirements as responsible dog owners.

WNC is now seeking the views of members of the public and other interested organisations with a view to considering whether to make a new PSPO with the aim of encouraging responsible dog ownership, many of which were in place in the former Daventry District until December 2021 and, extend its geographic scope to include the former South Northants area which covers a combined area of 500 square miles and has a population of 177,000.

Under the new PSPO, WNC would be able to prohibit certain activities or require dog owners to comply with certain specific requirements.

We would like to hear your views on each of the potential prohibitions and requirements.

You can view maps of the areas the PSPO may apply to.

Maps of affected areas

Map: combined former Daventry District and South Northants Council areas <user_uploads/2022-dog-ownership-and-smoking-pspo-map-of-combined-former-ddc-and-snc-2.jpg>

Map: former Daventry District Council area <user_uploads/map-of-wnc-former-ddc-area-for-pspo.jpg>

Map: former South Northamptonshire Council area <user_uploads/map-of-wnc-former-snc-area-for-pspo.jpg>

Proposal 1: Failure to clean up after your dog

Persons in control of a dog must clean up and remove its faeces, poo or mess from the area and place it in a bin or take it home for disposal

Please note:

This applies to any land which is open to the air (on at least one side) that the public are entitled to have access to within the former Daventry and former South Northants areas. This applies to public footpaths and bridlepaths.

There are many specific dog poo bins located around the former Daventry District and former South Northants areas, however, if there is not one nearby, it is permitted to place the dog poo in a public bin or take it home for disposal with your household waste.

A registered blind person, or a person with a disability affecting their mobility, manual dexterity or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects and who relies upon a dog trained by a prescribed charity for assistance would be exempt from this order – agricultural land is also exempt from this order.

1a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 1?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree
- Don't know

1b) How much of a concern is dog fouling in your area?

Please select only one item

- A very big concern
- A fairly big concern
- Not a very big concern
- Not a concern at all
- Don't know/No opinion

1c) If you consider dog fouling a "very big concern" or a "fairly big concern", please give details of the problem location in the town or village. Be as specific as you can

1d) Do you have any additional comments about dog fouling?

Proposal 2: Dog exclusion zone

Persons in control of a dog must not take it into or onto any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise:

Children's play areas;
Educational facilities;
Playgrounds;
Skateparks;
Tennis courts;
Multi-use games areas;
Bowling greens.

Please note:

The requirement could be that dogs are excluded from all children's play areas containing children's play equipment such as slides, swings, climbing frames, and which are either enclosed on all sides by fences, or by other structures or markings that define the boundary of the play area such as wood chip or safety surface. These clear boundaries may make it easy for people to identify the extent of the dog exclusion area.

By describing the areas where dogs are not allowed, rather than by using named and mapped areas, we will ensure that new or developing play areas, educational facilities, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas and bowling greens, fenced or otherwise, will be included and a common approach across the whole of the former Daventry District and former South Northants areas may give residents some certainty as to the intended usage of areas.

Registered assistance dogs will be exempted from this form of exclusion.

2a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 2?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree
- Don't know

2b) In the past 12 months, have you had any concerns about dogs in any of the following, please tick any of the following that apply

Please select all that apply

- Children's play areas;
- Educational facilities;
- Playgrounds;
- Skateparks;
- Tennis courts;
- Multi-use games areas;
- Bowling greens;
- None of these.

2c) If you have had any concerns in any of these areas, please say where it was and what happened?

2d) Have you had any concerns or seen anything of concern with dogs in other public spaces in last 12 months in the former Daventry District or South Northants District area?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

2e) If yes, where did it occur and what was the concern?

2f) Do you have any additional comments about a dog exclusion zone

Proposal 3: Dogs on leads

Persons in control of a dog must ensure the dog is on a lead in cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens, allotments, car parks to which the public have access and sports grounds, sports fields and pitches when in use for authorised sporting activity.

Please note:

Allowing dogs to enter cemeteries, burial sites, graveyards and/or memorial gardens and allotments whilst on a lead, means owners could keep their dogs with them to ensure their dog is not stressed by separation and it may also reduce risk of theft of the dog if it would otherwise be left unattended.

Authorised sporting activity would mean an organised sports event such as an amateur football or rugby game taking place on a WNC owned pitch. This proposal may prevent dogs from running onto pitches during play and spoiling enjoyment for other users of the public open space.

3a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 3?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree
- Don't know

3b) How much of a concern are dogs not being kept under control in your area?

Please select only one item

- A very big concern
- A fairly big concern
- A small concern
- Not a concern
- Don't know

3c) Have you had any concerns with dogs being off lead in any of these areas in the last 12 months, please tick all that apply

Please select all that apply

- Cemeteries;
- Burial sites;
- Graveyards and/or memorial gardens;
- Allotments;
- Car parks to which the public have access
- Sports grounds, sports fields and/or pitches when in use for vauthorised sporting activity; Other (please specify below)

Other, please specify

3d) If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?

3e) Do you have any additional comments about dogs on leads

Proposal 4: Dogs on leads by direction

Persons in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer.

Please note:

For animal welfare reasons, it is advantageous for dog owners to be able to exercise their dogs off lead in open spaces. WNC recognises that most dog owners act responsibly and keep their dogs under the appropriate level of control when they are out. However, if they are not properly supervised and controlled, 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 even cause road traffic accidents. In such circumstances, we believe the option should exist for authorised officers to require a dog to be put on a lead. Authorised officers will carry appropriate identification.

This proposal may enable WNC to 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.

4a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 4?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree
- Don't know

4b) Have you had any concerns about owners not putting dogs on their lead in the past 12 months?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

4c) If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?

4d) Do you have any additional comments about proposal to put dogs on leads when asked?

Proposal 5: Dogs on leads near schools

Persons in control of a dog must put their dogs on leads near school entrances/exits during school days

Please note:

Where there are lots of children, it is sensible to place dogs on a lead to ensure proper control and to minimise the chance of a dog fouling in the immediate area and it being trodden into the school.

5a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 5?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree
- Don't know

5b) How much of a concern do you think dogs not being kept under control near a school is in your area?

Please select only one item

- A very big concern
- A fairly big concern
- Not a very big concern
- Not a concern at all
- Don't know/No opinion

5c) Have you had any concerns with dogs being off leads near schools in the last 12 months?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

5d) If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?

5e) Do you have any additional comments about dogs on leads near schools?

Proposal 6: Appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess

Persons in charge of a dog must carry a poop bag or other appropriate means for clearing up after their dog.

6a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 6?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree
- Don't know

6b) How much of a concern is it that dog owners should have appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess?

Please select only one item

- A very big concern
- A fairly big concern
- A small concern
- Not a concern
- Don't know

6c) Have you had any concerns about dog owners not having appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess in the last 12 months?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

6d) If yes, what was the concern and where did it happen?

6e) Do you have any additional comments about persons having the appropriate means to pick up dog faeces, poo or mess?

Proposal 7: Prohibition of smoking

All persons are prohibited from smoking tobacco, tobacco related products, smokeless tobacco products including electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes or any illegal substances within the following whether fenced or otherwise:

Children's play areas
Playgrounds
Educational facilities
Skateparks
Tennis courts
Multi-use games areas
Bowling greens

Please note:

In Northamptonshire there are approximately 96,000 smokers, with the County seeing more than 7,000 hospital admissions, 300,000 GP appointments and more than 1,000 smoking related deaths each year. As part of The Council's commitment to the Public Health Northamptonshire plan, we need to do all we can to reduce exposure to second-hand smoke and make smoking less visible to children. Children's play areas, playgrounds, educational facilities, skateparks, tennis courts, multi-use games areas, bowling greens, fenced or otherwise are all public places for residents to go to maintain and enjoy a healthy lifestyle which can be supported with the banning of smoking in these areas. This no smoking policy has already been adopted across all Country Park play areas in West and North Northamptonshire. A common approach across the whole of the former Daventry District and former South Northants areas may give residents certainty and clarity of the requirement.

The prohibiting of smoking in these areas will help reduce littering of cigarettes and associated items and will help keep open spaces safer, cleaner and greener for all.

7a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 7?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
 Agree
 Neither Agree nor Disagree
 Disagree Strongly
 Disagree
 Don't know

7b) How much of a concern is smoking in the areas listed?

Please select only one item

- A very big concern
 A fairly big concern
 A small concern
 Not a concern
 Don't know

7c) In the past 12 months, have you had any concerns about smoking in any of the following areas, fenced or otherwise. Please tick any that apply

Please select all that apply

- Children's play areas
- Educational facilities
- Playgrounds
- Skateparks
- Tennis courts
- Multi-use games areas
- Bowling greens
- None of these

7d) If yes, where was this and what happened?

7e) Do you have any additional comments about prohibition of smoking?

Proposal 8: Fixed penalty charge

The maximum fixed penalty charge for breaches of the PSPO permitted by the Act is £100. A potential fine of £100 may be an effective deterrent against non-compliance with the PSPO.

Any enforcement including the issuing of fixed penalty notices will be undertaken in line with the Council's enforcement policy

8a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 8?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree
- Don't know

8b) Do you have any additional comments about the fixed penalty charge?

Proposal 9: Maximum number of dogs

Persons in charge of multiple dogs, should not be allowed to walk any more than 4 at any one time.

Please note:

This could potentially apply to all dog walkers; those who walk dogs professionally and dog owners.

This maximum number has been recommended in Professional Dog Walker Guidelines drawn up by The Pet Industry Federation, RSPCA and The Dog Trust.

9a) To what extent do you agree or disagree with Proposal 9?

Please select only one item

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree Strongly
- Disagree
- Don't know

9b) How much of a concern is a person walking too many dogs?

Please select only one item

- A very big concern
- A fairly big concern
- A small concern
- Not a concern
- Don't know

9c) Have you had any concerns in the last 12 months where a person was waking too many dogs for them to control well?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

9d) If yes, please tell us where this occurred and what happened?

9e) Do you have any additional comments about the maximum number of dogs?

Other Comments not covered by the specific proposals

If you have any additional comments about the proposals to promote responsible ownership of dogs or prohibiting smoking in certain public places that have not been addressed in this questionnaire, please feel free to add them below.

Additional comments on all/any proposals

Individual or Organisation

Are you responding to this questionnaire as an individual or on behalf of an organisation / community group?

Please select only one item

- As an individual
- On behalf of an organisation / community group

Organisation

If you're responding on behalf of an organisation or community group, please tell us the name of your organisation and your job title / role.

If you're responding on behalf of an organisation, business or community group, please tell us the name of your organisation, business or community group and your job title / role:

Name of organisation:

Job title / role:

Which best represents your organisation, business or community group?

Please select only one item

- Charity
- Public sector
- Education sector
- Dog related business
- Non-dog related business
- Other, please specify below

Other, please specify

More about you

As an organisation, we collect specific demographic information from the people who participate in our consultations or complete surveys to build up an accurate understanding of the communities that we serve so that services and policies can be delivered to meet the needs of everybody, and ensure that everybody has an opportunity to have their voice heard.

Please feel free to leave any questions which you do not wish to answer.

Any information you chose to provide will be treated confidentially and in accordance with data protection legislation.

Are you:

Please select only one item

- Male
- Female
- Other, please state below
- Prefer not to say

Other, please state

Are you currently pregnant or have you had a baby in the last 6 months?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

How old are you?

Please select only one item

- 0 to 9
- 10 to 19
- 20 to 29
- 30 to 49
- 50 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75+
- Prefer not to say

Do you have a disability?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If 'Yes', please tick the appropriate box(es) which best describes your disability?

Please select all that apply

- Mental Health
- Physical Disability
- Hearing Impairment
- Learning Disability
- Sight Impairment
- Other

What is your religion or belief?

Please select only one item

- None
- Christian
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Buddhist
- Prefer not to say

Any other religion (please state)

How would you describe your ethnic origin?

Please select only one item

- White: White British
- White: White Irish
- White: White Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- White: Other White Background
- Asian or Asian British: Indian
- Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British: Chinese
- Asian or Asian British: Other Asian Background
- Black or Black British: Caribbean
- Black or Black British: African
- Black or Black British: Other Black Background
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic Background: White & Black Caribbean
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic Background: White & Black African
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic Background: White & Asian
- Mixed / Multiple ethnic Background: Other mixed / multiple background
- Other ethnic group: Arab
- Other ethnic group: Other (please state below)
- Prefer not to say

Any other ethnic group (please state)

If you are 16 or over which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?

Please select only one item

- Bisexual
- Gay Man
- Gay Woman / Lesbian
- Heterosexual
- Prefer not to say

Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What would you describe your marital status as?

Please select only one item

- Married
- Single
- Civil Partnership
- Co-habiting / Living together
- Widow / Widower
- Other
- Prefer not to say

This page is intentionally left blank



West Northamptonshire Council Dog-related Evidence Statistics For Former Administration Areas of Daventry District And South Northants - 2018-2021

Former South Northants figures

Case type reports by calendar year	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total over 4 years	Average number over 48 months by complaint type
Stray Dog	30	30	18	14	92	1.91
Dangerous Dog Report	4	2	10	6	22	0.45
Dog Fouling Reports			12	30	42	0.875
Total	34	32	40	50	156	3.25
Average number of all report types per month	2.83	2.66	3.33	4.16		

Notes:

- Dog on human attacks were referred to police. Data not captured
- When SNC were merged with Cherwell, the Dog Warden was provided by them and the process was different
- During the 19/20 period there was a different recording system so figures may not be completely accurate
- Dog fouling figures recorded from July 2020 onwards.



Former Daventry District figures

Case type reports by calendar year	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total over 4 years	Average number over 48 months by complaint type
Stray Dogs	12	12	10	10	44	0.91
Dog fouling reports	118	91	63	72	344	7.16
Dog other (large number walked, rehome enquiries, general advice)	19	11	10	10	50	1.04
Dog Lost	18	21	24	11	74	1.54
Dog Found	42	35	19	12	108	2.25
Dog Barking	48	41	26	41	156	3.25
Dog attack – dog	27	31	33	25	116	2.41
Dog attack – person	6	14	7	5	32	0.66
Dog attack – other animal	0	4	1	0	5	0.10
Dog chipping	1	0	0	0	1	0.02
Total	291	260	193	186	930	19.37
Average number of all report types per month	24.25	21.66	16.08	15.5		

Notes:

- PSPO in place across former Daventry District since 2015 - Expired 1 December 2021
- From 2018 to 2021 there has been a 36% decrease in all reports

Northamptonshire implements a 'No Smoking' rule for Country Parks play areas

Country Parks across North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire Councils have committed to play areas becoming smoke free zones.

Signage is now up in Country Park play areas in both unitary authorities banning smoking in a bid to stop youngsters from picking up the habit after a concerned member of the public flagged the issue after witnessing smoking around her children.

This proposal for this signage was put forward by Public Health Northamptonshire and backed by both North and West Northamptonshire Country Parks. It takes action in a practical way to reduce the exposure to, and visibility of, smoking.

Sadly smoking remains the leading cause of death and ill health in the United Kingdom, and every day more than 200 people die from a smoking related condition in England alone. Smoking places an enormous strain on our health service, social care system, and economy. Every day in England 280 children start smoking, and two thirds of these children will go on to become daily smokers.

There are approximately 96,000 smokers in our county. Every year in Northamptonshire smoking is responsible for more than 7,000 hospital admissions, 300,000 GP appointments, 30 house fires, and over 1,000 deaths.

Councillor Helen Harrison, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing for North Northamptonshire Council says: "Our Country Parks play an important role in helping our residents explore the great outdoors with friends and family, and thousands flock to enjoy these areas every year, myself included. Despite our Country Parks being the epitome of a healthy and active lifestyle, exposure to second-hand smoke whilst enjoying these areas is sadly not uncommon, even in children's play areas."

Councillor Matt Golby, Portfolio Holder for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration for West Northamptonshire Council concludes: "It is really important to make smoking less visible to our younger residents. Implementing

a no-smoking rule in all of our Country Parks children’s play areas ensures that these environments remain a safe and fun place for adults and children alike.”

Those who are looking to quit smoking can self-refer to Northamptonshire’s Stop Smoking services which offer:

12 weeks of specialist support to help you stop smoking

Bi-weekly telephone consultation with a Stop Smoking Advisor

Tips and advice on how to quit

A free course of nicotine replacement therapy

A free e-cigarette starter kit and ample supply of e-liquid

Products sent directly to your door at no cost

For more information visit www.northnorthants.gov.uk/stopsmoking or call 0300 126 5700

Or follow @smokefreeNN1 on Twitter and Facebook:

Notes to editors:

The following parks are implementing the ‘No Smoking’ rule:

West

Daventry

Watermeadow (Towcester)

Brixworth

North

Barnwell

Sywell

Fermyn Woods

Irchester

This page is intentionally left blank



Northampton Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order 2020

Northampton Borough Council ("the Council") makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 ("the Act").

The land described by the maps at Appendices 1, 1A and 1B, being land in the area of the Council, is land to which the Act applies and will be protected by this Order.

The Order may be cited as the Northampton Borough Council Public Spaces Protection Order 2020.

1. Any person is prohibited, at any time when within the area outlined in black at Appendix 1 of this Order, from ingesting, injecting, smoking or otherwise using intoxicating substances. Intoxicating substances are defined for the purposes of this Order as substances with the capacity to stimulate or depress the central nervous system, including illegal drugs or psychoactive substances (so-called "legal highs"), but excluding alcohol, tobacco or prescription medication.

2. Persons within the area outlined in black at Appendix 1 will not have any item that can be used to assist in the taking of intoxicating substances defined in paragraph 1 above. This includes any device for smoking substances other than e-cigarettes. It also includes needles, except for those packaged and sealed by the manufacturer and stored in a hard case.

3. Persons within the area indicated outlined in black at Appendix 1 will not have in their possession any open containers of alcohol in any public place open to the air.

4. No person shall urinate or defecate in any public place open to the air in the area outlined in black at Appendix 1. This does not include public toilets.

5. No person shall spit in any public place open to the air in the area outlined in black at Appendix 1.

6. Persons who are in charge of a dog must remove its faeces from the land from land outlined in black at Appendix 1 forthwith unless:

a. there is reasonable excuse for failing to do so (not being in possession of a bag to remove the faeces is not a reasonable excuse); or

b. the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to his failing to do so.

7. A person in charge of a dog on land within the following areas only, within the larger area outlined in black at Appendix 1, must keep that dog on a lead at all times:

a. all children's play areas in public parks,

b. all cemeteries,

c. Northampton town centre (as outlined in black at Appendix 1A) and

d. The "Phase 2" area of Upton Country Park (as outlined in red at Appendix 1B).

8. Any person who fails to comply with the prohibition at paragraph 3 of this Order without reasonable excuse commits an offence under section 63 of the Act if they then fail to cease drinking alcohol and dispose of or surrender any open containers of alcohol in their possession upon request by a Police Constable ("a Constable") or a person duly authorised in writing by Northampton Borough Council ("An Authorised Officer").

9. This Order is subject to the exemptions at Appendix 2.

10. A person committing an offence under Section 63 of the Act may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice ("FPN") of £100.00 by a Constable or an Authorised Person, in accordance with section 68 of the Act, payment of which will discharge liability to conviction for that offence

11. A person guilty of an offence under Section 63 of the Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500). No proceedings may be taken for any offence before the end of the 14 day period following the date of issue of an FPN. The person may not be convicted of the offence if the FPN is paid before the end of that period.

12. Any person who fails to comply with the prohibition at paragraph 1 of this Order without reasonable excuse commits an offence under section 67 of the Act if they then fail to comply with a reasonable request by a Constable or an Authorised Officer to;

- a. surrender any open containers of intoxicating substances in their possession,
- b. surrender any item used to assist in the taking of any intoxicating substance or
- c. secure safe disposal of any needles in their possession not sealed and stored as set out in Paragraph 2 of this Order.

13. Any person who fails to comply with any prohibition at paragraphs 4,5,6 and 7 of this Order without reasonable excuse also commits an offence under section 67 of the Act.

14. A person committing an offence under Section 67 of the Act may be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice ("FPN") of £100.00 by a Constable or an Authorised Person, in accordance with section 68 of the Act, payment of which will discharge liability to conviction for that offence.

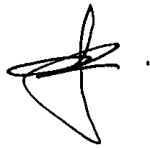
15. A person guilty of an offence under Section 67 of the Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale (currently £500). No proceedings may be taken for any offence before the end of the 14 day period following the date of issue of an FPN. The person may not be convicted of the offence if the FPN is paid before the end of that period.

16. In consulting upon the prohibitions within this Order and upon making it, the Council has had particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly as set out in Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights

17. This Order originally came into force on 18th September 2020 for a period of three years from that date. An amended version of the Order incorporating paragraph 7 (d) was made on the

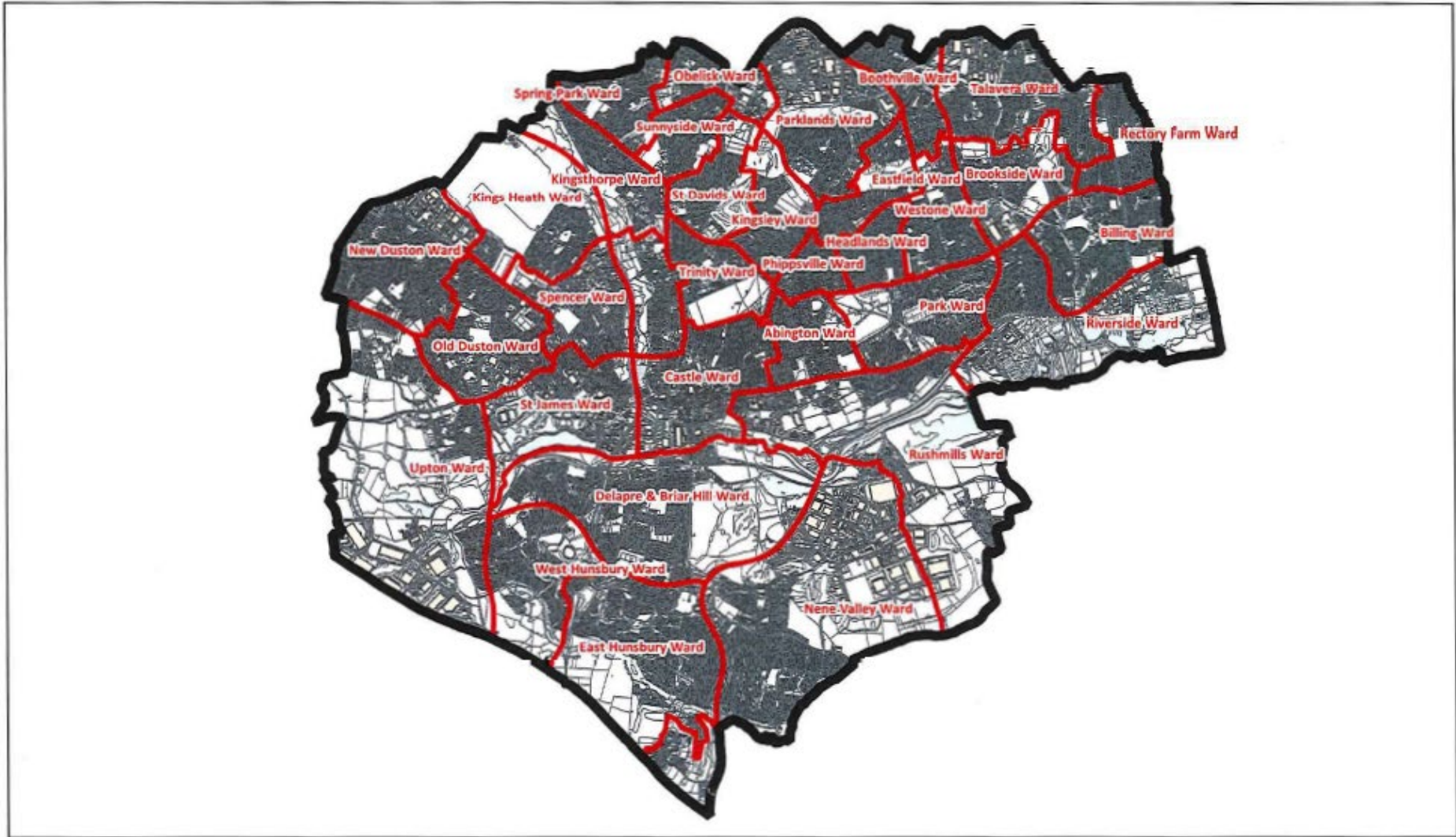
following date and comes into force on 26th March 2021 for the remainder of the three year period which commenced on 18th September 2020.

Dated: 25th March 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a horizontal stroke, followed by a period.

Signed

Francis Fernandes
Borough Secretary
Northampton Borough Council



Title: **Appendix 1**

© Crown Copyright 2014. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey data with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Ordnance Survey is a registered trademark. Northampton Borough Council License Number 100019655.

Scale: 1:68,417

Scale: 1:68,417

Scale: 1:68,417



Title: **Appendix 1A**

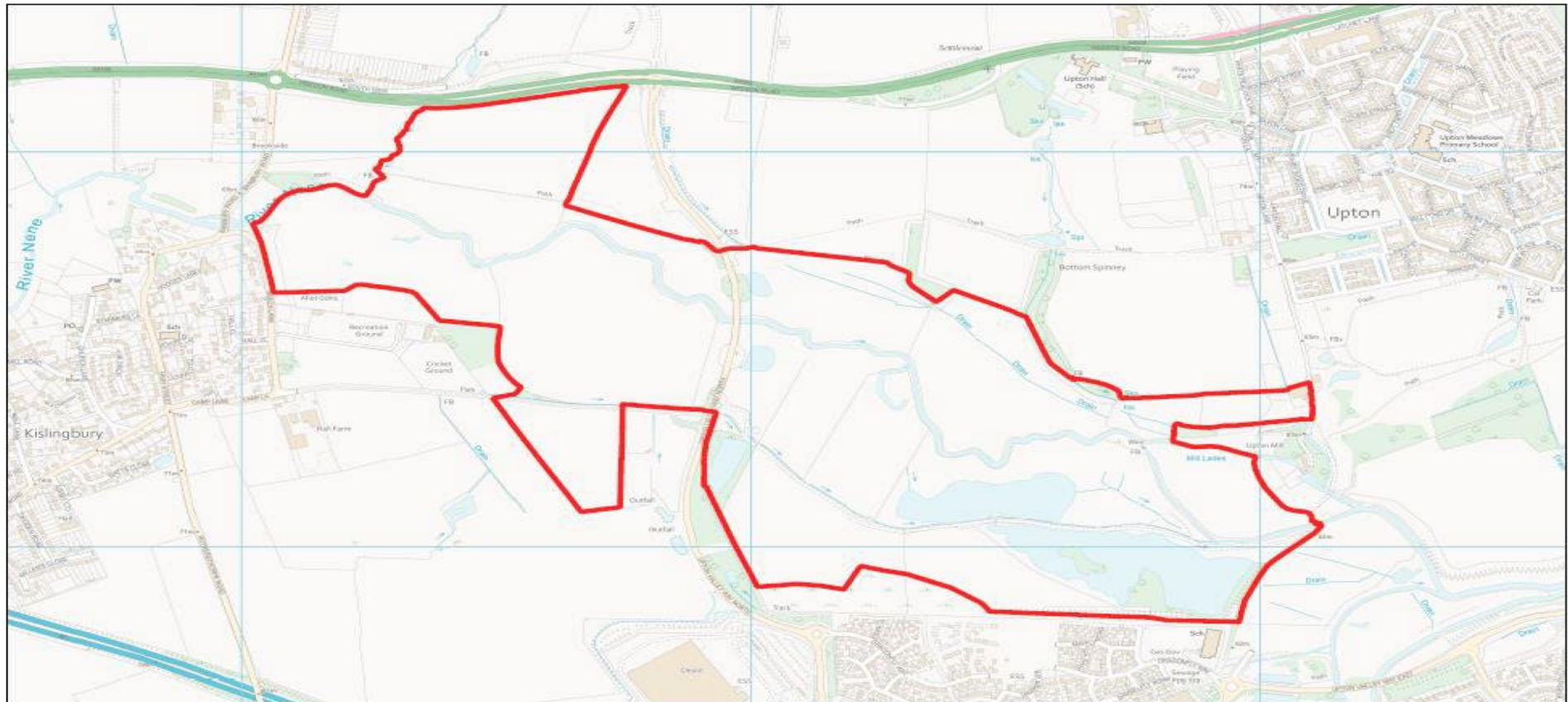
© Crown Copyright 2014. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey data with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Ordnance Survey is a registered trademark. Northampton Borough Council License Number 100019655.

Scale: 1:10,000

Scale: 1:10,000

Scale: 1:10,000

Appendix 1B



Title: Upton Country Park - Phase 2

© Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey licence no. 100019655

Date: 22-10-2020

Scale: 1:7500 @ A3

Drawn by: -----

APPENDIX 2

Exemptions

1. Nothing in Paragraph 3 of this Order, (relating to the consumption of alcohol in a public place open to the air) shall apply to:

(a) Premises authorised by a premises licence to be used for the supply of alcohol

(b) Premises authorised by a club premises certificate to be used by the club for the supply of alcohol;

(c) A place within the curtilage of premises within paragraph (a) or (b);

(d) Premises which by virtue of Pt 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 may at the relevant time be used for the supply of alcohol or which, by virtue of that Part, could have been so used within 30 minutes before that time;

(e) A place where facilities or activities relating to the sale or consumption of alcohol are at the relevant time permitted by virtue of a permission granted under section 115 of the Highways Act 1980 (highway-related uses)

2. A prohibition in the Order on consuming alcohol does not apply to council-operated licensed premises or land:

(a) When the premises or land are being used for the supply of alcohol; or

(b) Within 30 minutes of the end of a period during which the premises have been used for the supply of alcohol.

3. Nothing in Paragraph 5 and 6 (removal of dog faeces & dogs on leads) shall apply to a person who:

(a) is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or

(b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or

(c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which he relies for assistance.

This page is intentionally left blank



Equality Screening Assessment

The Equality Screening Assessment form must be completed to evidence what impact the proposal may have on equality groups within our community or workforce. Any proposal that results in a negative impact must have a full Equality Impact Assessment completed before approval is sought.

1: Proposal

Requirement	Detail
Title of proposal	Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), made under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
Type of proposal: New policy / change to policy / new service / change to service / removal of service / project / event	Introduction of a new Public Spaces Protection Order across the former administrative areas of Daventry District and South Northants which form part of the new West Northamptonshire Council.
What is the objective of this proposal?	<p>Using powers contained in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, introduce a new PSPO to the former Daventry District and former South Northants areas of West Northamptonshire.</p> <p>The PSPO is intended to introduce a number of new dog control requirements to protect and improve public health and public safety from the adverse actions of dogs and less responsible dog owners. The PSPO is also intended to prohibit smoking in specific open spaces.</p>

Requirement	Detail
<p>Has there been any consultation on this proposal? (list all the groups/ communities, including dates)</p>	<p>Yes, this took place for a period of 6 weeks from 21st February 2022 until midnight 4th April 2022. The consultation was carried out through the WNC Consultation Hub. Interested persons and statutory consultees viewed the PSPO proposals and made representation.</p> <p>The following consultees were notified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Town Councils (Daventry, Towcester and Brackley) and 145 Parish Councils in the proposal areas. • 104 Schools in the proposal areas. • Council licenced dog breeders, pet shops, home boarders, performing animals and animal boarders in the proposal areas. • Police – Police Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable, ASB Sergeant for West Northants area, Daventry and South Northants Community Police. • Dog welfare charities – The Kennel Club, The Dogs Trust, RSPCA. • Assistance Dog Charities - Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Assistance Dogs UK, Autism Dogs, Canine Partners, Dog Aid - Assistance in Disability,

Requirement	Detail
	<p>Dogs for Good, Canine Partners, Medical Detection Dogs, The Seeing Dogs Alliance, Support Dogs For Autism, For Epilepsy, For Disability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog related businesses and dog welfare specialists who operate in the proposal areas – dog groomers, professional dog walkers, vets and dog trainers. • Trade and industry bodies representing those in proposal area - National Association of Pet Sitters and Dog Walkers (NARPS UK), Association of Professional Dog Walkers and Sitters. • Landowners – WNC, National Trust. • Other interest groups – Ramblers Association, Keep Britain Tidy, The Canal and River Trust. Northants Football Association. • West Northants Council Officers including: Chief Executive, Executive Director Place, Economy & Environment, Assistant Director Assets (parks and open spaces), Assistant Director Highways & Waste, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic, Assistant Director Customer Services, Community Partnerships Manager, Community Safety Officer, Senior Licensing and Litigation Solicitor, Assistant Director for Regulatory Services, waste, cleansing, environmental protection and environmental crime, dog warden, pest control, Park Rangers.

Requirement	Detail
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors including Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Engagement, and Regulatory Services. • Residents and users of public open space in the proposal areas. • Resident’s panel and persons on the WNC Consultation Register.
<p>Did the consultation on this proposal highlight any positive or negative impact on protected groups? (if yes, give details)</p>	<p>Full consultation took place. Consideration was given to protected groups who may be affected by dog related issues that the PSPO seeks to address and those who may be restricted by the terms of any resulting PSPO.</p> <p>Exemption is proposed for protected groups that may be otherwise negatively impacted.</p> <p>As a result of the consultation, it was identified that negative impact may be attributed to some protected groups who have assistance dogs.</p>
<p>What processes are in place to monitor and review the impact of this proposal?</p>	<p>Consultation with specific persons and organisations (outlined above) who may be affected by the introduction of the PSPO.</p> <p>The consultation identified a potential impact regarding the use of assistance dogs and therefore, consideration will be given to the Equality and Human Rights Commission’s guidance for</p>

Requirement	Detail
	<p>businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs.</p> <p>If authorised, the duration of the PSPO will be set until 18th September 2023 at which point, there is a requirement to carry out a review.</p>
<p>Who will approve this proposal?</p> <p>Committee, CLT</p>	<p>Cabinet.</p>

2: Equality Consideration

Consider in turn each protected group to ensure we meet our legal obligations of the Equality Act (2010).

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact <p>Delete as appropriate.</p> <p>There can be more than one answer per protected group.</p>
<p>Age</p> <p>Different age groups that may be affected by the proposal in different ways.</p>	<p>Some elderly people may be unsteady on their feet/lose balance when picking up after their dog leading to falls and injury.</p> <p>Dogs being placed on leads by direction, keeping dogs on leads in specific areas and having dog exclusion zones is likely to be beneficial to all but</p>	<p>Officer discretion or exemption from the requirements of the PSPO to pick up after their dog if affected.</p>	<p>Neutral</p> <p>Positive</p>

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
	particularly the elderly and young as dogs can be kept under the appropriate level of control reducing the chance of injury.		
Sex Is one sex affected more than another or are they affected the same?	None known.	N/A	Neutral
Disability It is likely to have an affect on a particular type of disability? why?	Yes, however, nothing in the proposed PSPO shall apply to a person who is registered as a blind person on a register compiled under section 29 or the National Assistance Act 1948; or is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (register charity number 293358) and upon which the person relies for assistance; or has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out common day-to-day activities in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK, or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of	Exemption from the requirements of the PSPO. An assistance dog does not have to be one that has been trained or provided by a charity. The term "Assistance Dog" shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability. The expression "disability" shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation"	Neutral

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
	training assistance dogs and upon which the person relies for assistance. Has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability.		
Gender Reassignment Will there be an impact on trans males and/or trans females?	None known.	N/A	Neutral
Race Are people from one ethnic group affected more than people from another ethnic group?	None known.	N/A	Neutral
Sexual Orientation Are people of one sexual orientation affected differently to people of another sexual orientation?	None known.	N/A	Neutral

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.
Religion or Belief Does the proposal affect people differently depending on whether they have or do not have a religion or a belief?	None known.	N/A	Neutral
Health & Wellbeing 1. Health behaviours: diet, exercise, alcohol, smoking. 2. Support: community cohesion, rural isolation. 3. Socio economic: income, education. 4. Environment: green spaces, fuel poverty, housing standards)	<p>The proposed PSPO would reduce the amount of dog fouling and littering of discarded cigarettes and associated items. This would improve public health and the surrounding environment, making it more pleasant and enjoyable.</p> <p>The PSPO would improve public safety from the adverse actions of uncontrolled dogs and less responsible dog owners.</p> <p>The PSPO would make public open spaces cleaner, improve mental wellbeing for all - dog owners and their dogs, non-dog owners and those who may be fearful of dogs.</p>	None required.	Positive

Protected Groups	General Equality Duty Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include factual evidence of how some people in this group may be affected. • Consider the outcomes and processes. • Does this seek to eliminate discrimination? • Does this promote fostering good relations? 	Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes can be made to mitigate any negative impact. • Are there opportunities to remove possible barriers or disadvantages that a group may face. 	Impact <p>Delete as appropriate. There can be more than one answer per protected group.</p>
	<p>The PSPO would improve the WNC area and increase enjoyment levels for all people who live, work, visit and use the public opens spaces.</p> <p>The PSPO would reduce the propensity to smoke or suffer the associated effects of second-hand smoke which is also beneficial to health and household finances.</p> <p>The PSPO would reduce visibility of smoking to children which would benefit their health as they are less likely to emulate behaviour.</p>		

3: Equality Impact

Question	Response
<p>What overall impact does the proposal have on the protected groups?</p> <p>If a negative impact is identified in section 2, the response will be a Negative Impact.</p>	<p>No Impact / Positive Impact / Negative Impact</p>
<p>Does a Equality Impact Assessment need to be completed?</p> <p>(Yes, if any negative impact is found)</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>

Question	Response
	If yes, this Assessment must be adjoined to the Equality Impact Assessment.
Copy attached to Committee Report?	Yes / No
Copy attached to Options Appraisal?	Yes / No

4: Ownership

Question	Response
Department	Regulatory Services
Section	Environmental Health - Environmental Improvement
Lead Officers Name	Joanna Oakes
Lead Officers Title	Community Projects Officer
Lead Officers Contact Details	Joanna.oakes@westnorthants.gov.uk 01327 302259
Lead Officers Signature	Joanna Oakes
Date completed	12.05.22

Completed forms must be sent to the Equality Office via email to by email to equalities@westnorthants.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

11 October 2022

CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR HR & CORPORATE SERVICES: COUNCILLOR MIKE HALLAM

Report Title	Procurement of Elections Stationery and Printing Services Contract
Report Author	Mark West, Interim Electoral Services Manager, mark.west@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

West MO	Catherine Whitehead	28/09/2022
West S151	Martin Henry	26/09/2022
Communications Lead/Head of Communications		

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's approval to proceed with the procurement and award of contract of the Election Stationery and Printing services. The value of the contract over the full period of will exceed the £500k delegation and therefore the decision is a key decision.
- 1.2. In order to proceed with the award of the contract in accordance with procurement procedures the report seeks a delegation to the Director of Legal & Democratic in consultation with Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services to award the contract to the successful bidder.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 A contract must be in place for the provision of Electoral Services print requirements, which requires specialist technical printing that is not available in-house nor within other print and post contracts that the council has.
- 2.2 West Northamptonshire Council's contract for electoral printing expires on the 30 April 2023 and we need to arrange a new contract from 1 May 2023.
- 2.3 This printing includes all election materials (i.e. ballot papers, postal votes, poll cards) and the provision of printing for the conduct of the annual canvass.
- 2.4 The value for the life of the contract is £1,000,000 and is within existing service budgets or reclaimable from the Cabinet Office for the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner elections and the Parliamentary Elections.
- 2.5 Print costs relating to registration materials and local elections are met wholly by the local authority. This includes printed materials for elections for West Northamptonshire ward councillor elections, Neighbourhood Planning Referenda and Council Tax referenda. Printing costs for parish elections are recharged to the parish as part of their election costs.
- 2.6 The current contract expires on 1 May 2023 without the ability to extend the contract further. A competitive process needs to be followed to ensure continuity of successfully run elections.
- 2.7 Electoral printing is a highly specialist service with a limited pool of print providers that necessitates the need for a dedicated tender. They would need to specialise in Electoral legislation compliance and extracting and manipulating data from bespoke Election Management software. Materials include legally compliant items such as ballot papers, multi-part postal voting packs and envelopes and the annual canvass forms and notices. This is a request to meet a statutory duty, of the council and the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer.
- 2.8 This includes but is not limited to, the requirement to conduct an annual canvass (Sec 10(1) Representation of the People Act 1983) to appoint a Returning Officer (Sec 36 Representation of the People Act 1983); to print ballot papers (Rule 16 Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006); to print postal vote packs (Rule 22 Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006). Alternatives to procuring this service via a contract do not exist, due to the specialist nature of the product required and the scale of West Northamptonshire Council Operations.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet;
 - Agree that the Council proceeds with the procurement of a maximum five-year year contract for the supply of elections stationery and printing services; and
 - Delegate to the Director for Legal and Democratic Services authority to conduct the procurement in accordance with paragraph 6 of this report and award to the successful bidder

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 To ensure that the Council can comply with its statutory duties in relation to the conduct of elections.
- 4.2 To ensure compliance with the Council's contract procedure rules and national procurement legislation in relation to the procurement of public contracts.

- 4.3 To ensure that the procurement takes place before the expiry of the current contract.
- 4.4 To ensure that the Council's printers are able to meet the very specific requirements relating to the printing of election materials.

5. Report Background

5.1 In May 2019 and following a competitive tendering exercise, the Council entered into Framework agreement for electoral print with Adare SEC Limited for the provision of elections stationery and printing services for a four-year period commencing 1 May 2019. This contract is now due to expire on 30 April 2023 without the ability to extend further. The other parties to the framework have negotiated new contracts independently. So, we are looking to have a new contract just for West Northamptonshire Council. The register of electors currently comprises of around 275,000 electors and around 185,000 properties. We also have around 52000 electors who will vote by post.

5.2 Electoral printing is a highly specialist service with a limited pool of print providers that necessitates the need for a dedicated tender. They would need to specialise in Electoral legislation compliance and extracting and manipulating data from bespoke Election Management software. Materials include legally compliant items such as ballot papers, multi-part postal voting packs and envelopes and the annual canvass forms and notices. This is a request to meet a statutory duty, and thus spend, of the council and the Returning Officer/Electoral Registration Officer. This includes but is not limited to, the requirement:-

- to conduct an annual canvass (Sec 10(1) Representation of the People Act 1983)
- to appoint a Returning Officer (Sec 36 Representation of the People Act 1983)
- to print ballot papers (Rule 16 Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006)
- to print postal vote packs (Rule 22 Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006)

Election print customers ie local authorities will require production of print materials at the same time as each other and this puts high pressure on the print companies. Following the pandemic when several elections took place on the same day, there was a significant strain on the print companies nationally to deliver materials to all its customers. There were some issues as a result and it is therefore, a significant risk to the delivery of a safe election if the print provider does not meet its contractual obligations. For this reason the procurement of this contract will place significant weight on the ability of the supplier to be able to meet the statutory print standards and volume requirements.

5.3 Alternatives to procuring this service via a contract do not exist, due to the specialist nature of the product required and the scale of West Northamptonshire Council Operations. Without a procured contract West Northamptonshire Council would not be able to meet its statutory duties. It is a highly specialised service with a limited pool of companies able to meet tight deadlines and also maintain on-going awareness of the changing legislative requirements that are necessary to meet our liabilities.

5.4 The new contract would cover the following scheduled elections;

Year	Election(s)
2023	
2024	Parliamentary, PFCC Election
2025	WNC Ward Elections & Parish Elections
2026	
2027	

6 Issues and Choices

- 6.1 Due to the specialised printing of statutory documents the contract will be awarded to one supplier only with the requirements that the supplier has employees who are members of the professional body (The Association of Electoral Administrators). To provide printing for both registration and election material.
- 6.2 The value of the contract is an approximate spend based on previous years spend, although does depend on the number of elections/referendums to be held during the financial year.
- 6.3 Bids would be assessed using a combined price / quality scoring system to ensure that as well as obtaining a competitive market price, bids also meet the Council's requirements in terms of financial standing, capacity, and ability to complete the work, quality of performance and approach to managing the work. The Council can be assured of obtaining the best value for the requirements and reduce as far as possible the risk of selecting a provider whose performance may be unsatisfactory.
- 6.4 The tender evaluation will comprise of:
- Selection questions – first stage.
 - Written tender questions – second stage.
 - Interview & Presentation – final stage.
- 6.5 Other options that have been ruled out are.
- Framework agreements such as CCS RM6170-Lot 2- Print Management Services – these agreements limit the options of printers with the relevant election experiences.
 - In-house printing - due to the specialist nature of this printing the in-house department are not able to provide the service required.

7 Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

- 7.1.1** This report seeks approval to proceed with the procurement of a 4 + 1 year contract for the Supply of Elections Stationery and Printing Services, in accordance with the strategy set out in the report.
- 7.1.2** The estimated cost of this proposal over the full 5-year period is £1,000,000. This will be met from a combination of budget provisions from the grant funding from the Cabinet Office, General Fund budget and drawdown from Election Reserve if necessary.
- 7.1.3** The expenditure will be monitored as part of the budget monitoring arrangement for the service area

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1** The procurement process must be conducted in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCRs) and the Councils own procurement rules as set out in the Constitution's Contract Procedure Rules
- 7.2.2** Section 1.1 of this report correctly states that this is a key decision due to its financial value and thus, under section 10.2 of the Constitution's Financial Procedure Rules, must be approved by Cabinet.
- 7.2.3** This proposed procurement is in excess of the financial thresholds set in accordance with the PCRs and thus a competitive tender exercise is required.

7.2.4 WNC Legal Services will advise and assist officers about the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements

7.2.5 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council must provide the Electoral Registration Officer with sufficient resources to conduct the annual canvass of the electoral register and the Returning Officer with sufficient resources to conduct elections.

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 Key risks during the course of the contract are:-

1. Not having a contract in place at the time of the anticipated commencement date.
2. Sudden and unexpected demise of one the successful bidders.
3. Deterioration of contract relationship between the Council and the successful bidders.
4. Printers not having the relevant experience to meet the statutory requirement.
5. Printers do not have the relevant capacity to be able to fulfil the requirement of the contract.

7.3.2 These risks are being managed and the contract will include robust contract performance management processes to ensure that potential problems are picked up early. We intend to select printers with experience and those with a proven track record.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 Consultation has taken place with the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer regarding the delivery of elections. There is no direct legal obligation to consult in respect of the procurement of the election tender.

7.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

7.5.1 It is not proposed to refer this decision to Overview and Scrutiny Committee as this is a statutory service with no alternative than to procure a print contract.

7.6 Climate Impact

7.6.1 There are impacts to the climate in relation to the production, delivery and transportation of printed materials. The criteria in relation to the printing will take into consideration distance, however there are a very limited number of providers who can deliver in this market and the Council needs to ensure that the contract can deliver its statutory duties.

7.7 Community Impact

7.7.1 None have been identified

7.8 Communications

7.8.1 The Communications Team has assessed this document for accessibility

8 Background Papers

8.1 N/A

This page is intentionally left blank



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

11th October 2022

Cabinet Member for Finance – Councillor Malcolm Longley

Report Title	Adoption and community use of assets
Report Author	Simon Bowers, Assistant Director Assets & Environment Simon.Bowers@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

Deputy MO	Jennifer Affie / Jeanette McGarry	1 September 2022
S151	Martin Henry	24 August 2022
Other director	Executive Director Place, Economy & Environment – Stuart Timmiss	24 August 2022
Head of Communications	Becky Hutson	23 August 2022

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Adoption of Assets Policy

Appendix B – Draft Policy on the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Property

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To propose policies relating to aspects of the Council’s business related to assets, specifically a policy on the adoption of assets, and a policy on the use of the Council’s property for voluntary, community, social enterprise, and faith (VCS) groups.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 As a new local authority, WNC does not yet have policies covering all significant areas of its operations. The practices of the predecessor councils are typically followed, but these do not provide a consistent basis for decision-making for West Northamptonshire.

- 2.2 Accordingly, two new policies are proposed addressing land and property-related issues. These are:
- a) Adoption of Assets.
 - b) The Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Property.
- 2.3 Each of the proposed policies is designed to give clarity to all concerned about the Council's approach to the matters it covers, helping to make the best use of public resources in pursuit of the Council's policy objectives.
- 2.4 The proposed Adoption of Assets Policy covers such matters such as which is the most appropriate adopting body, the sums which should be paid on adoption, and the terms of adoption.
- 2.5 The proposed Policy on the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Property provides a framework for a fair and open choice of which VCS group should be awarded use of the Council's property and on what terms having regard to all statutory constraints and requirements. It applies the Council's grants policy to assess the community benefit of each proposed use of a property.
- 2.6 Informal consultation has been carried out on both documents. It is proposed to adopt the Adoption of Assets policy on an interim basis whilst formal consultation is carried out on it, as continuing to operate without a policy framework is undesirable. The voluntary, community, social enterprise, and faith use of property policy is proposed for immediate adoption, with any changes which seem sensible following implementation being addressed in future updates.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- a) Authorises consultation on the draft Adoption of Assets Policy.
 - b) Adopts on an interim basis the draft Adoption of Assets Policy, pending the results of the consultation.
 - c) Adopts the draft Policy on Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Council Property.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 To provide a clear basis on which the Council takes decisions about the adoption of assets and about the use of its assets by voluntary, community, social enterprise, and faith groups.

5. Report Background

Overview

- 5.1 The Council began operating as a local authority a little over a year ago. As such, it does not have the fully-developed policy framework a local authority normally develops over time. Certain policies of the predecessor councils with a statutory backing were preserved under the provisions of the local government reorganisation regulations, but most were not. Whilst typically the

transferred policies are still applied (in many cases it would be unreasonable to do otherwise) they do not form a coherent basis of decision-making across West Northamptonshire.

- 5.2 In consequence the Council lacks clarity on a number of areas where it would be helpful for policy direction to be specified in order that operational decisions reflecting the Council's intentions can be taken promptly, effectively, transparently, and consistently.

6. Issues and Choices

Adoption of Assets

- 6.1 The Council is often asked to take on the ownership or control ('adopt') of assets such as open spaces. This arises most often in connection with development proposals but can also occur at other times, perhaps when an existing owner is struggling to maintain or manage a facility. Such assets are often of value to the community but carry a financial cost to look after.
- 6.2 A draft policy is therefore proposed to set out the parameters under which the Council will consider such requests. This seeks to:
- a) Clarify that 'adoption' in these cases means to take the legal ownership of the asset in question.
 - b) Establish the cases in which it is appropriate for the Council to adopt assets and those in which some other body should be preferred.
 - c) Define the levels of financial contribution (commuted sums or other mechanisms) the Council or other adopting bodies should seek, and under what conditions this may be reduced or waived.
 - d) Where it is not appropriate for the Council to adopt an asset because it is better controlled more locally, but a parish council is not going to adopt it, the parameters for a body which would take it on (this is designed to help avoid abusive management arrangements, and fall-back demands on the Council).
- 6.3 It is proposed that the policy would also be commended to the parish councils of West Northamptonshire for their own adoption, with the substitution of references to West Northamptonshire to references to their parish. Of course, the Council cannot compel parish councils to do this; they are free to take their own decisions. However, many parish councils may find it helpful. If the Council consults on that basis and makes available the consultation responses, it should avoid or reduce the need for parish councils to carry out their own consultations on adopting the policy.
- 6.4 The draft policy has been subject to information consultation with parish councils via the Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils (NCALC).
- 6.5 Due to the benefit of having a policy in place, it is proposed that it be adopted on an interim basis, whilst it is also formally consulted on. Following the formal consultation any appropriate changes would be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

VCS use of Council property

- 6.6 The Council frequently receives requests for the use of its property by voluntary, community, social enterprise, and faith group ('VCS') organisations seeking to deliver some form of community good. These range from room hire to exclusive occupation of a building for a prolonged period, typically under a lease. Where these are commercial transactions the appropriate charges are levied and no special considerations arise. However, such groups often seek discounted or free occupation in view of their community benefit and/or their inability to meet commercial terms. In those cases the Council would be making an under-value disposal of the property in question; in effect, a form of grant/subsidy by way of rental concession.
- 6.7 At present the Council has no formal means of determining which properties should be made available to VCS groups or which VCS group should be allocated one, and on what terms. There is a danger that this results in decisions which do not maximise value for money in achieving the Council's overall objectives.
- 6.8 A protocol is therefore proposed with the following key elements:
- a) The Council will identify on an ongoing basis the list of properties which is suitable for use of VCS groups and publicise this.
 - b) An application form will be provided for VCS groups to use.
 - c) When interest in using one of these properties is received, the application will be assessed by (i) the Housing & Communities team which deals with grant applications, including where appropriate with reference to the grants advisory panel, to assess the likely community benefits against the Council's objectives, and (ii) by the Assets & Environment team to assess the ability of the applicant to sustain the proposed occupation of the property on suitable terms.
 - d) If there was one applicant and its application was satisfactory then if the detailed terms could be agreed it would be granted a suitable form of occupation of the property.
 - e) If there was more than one applicant, the scores from the 'grant' assessment would be used to judge between them. The highest scoring applicant would be approached to agree detailed terms and if the detailed terms could be agreed it would be granted a suitable form of occupation of the property. If not, the offer would move the second-highest scoring applicant, and so on.
 - f) Definitions around which forms of occupation, including such issues as maintaining obligations and duration of agreement, should be applied in which cases.
 - g) Arrangement for parallel consideration of applications for grants and for use of property where the grant would be necessary for the property to be occupied as proposed.
- 6.9 In some cases the actual approval of outcomes would fall outside of officer delegations and would therefore need to be reported for authority to Capital & Assets Board or Cabinet. In those cases the policy would guide the recommendations put forward.
- 6.10 The draft policy was considered by the VCS Assembly, which represents VCS groups. The Assembly supported the draft policy. Its only comment which might be considered to suggest a change to the draft was a request that the Council is "sensitive re organisations and communities that may already occupy the buildings". It is considered that a group already operating from a building would have an inherent advantage in being able to demonstrate the value of its

the community, so there is no need to try and include an 'existing user' factor in the assessment of the merit of applications. The arrangements set out in the policy would also give existing occupiers of property substantial advance notice of the potential for change.

- 6.11 Whilst not requested by the VCS Assembly some minor updates have been made to the draft policy for clarity and to avoid unintended effects. These are that: It has been made clear that even if there is more than one application if the highest-scoring falls below the minimum threshold for grant award the special process applies (6.4 and 6.5); it has been clarified that for external funding to trigger longer tenancy periods it must be deliver significant sustainable value to the community (7.3.2); and it has been made explicit that for Type III property it is to be expected the Council will continue to seek commercial occupiers (9.3).

7. Implications (including financial implications)

Resources and Financial

- 7.1 The proposed policies are designed to make the best use of the Council's assets. They do not involve any new expenditure.

Legal

- 7.2 The legislative background to management of physical assets (land, including buildings) is complex, including the powers to acquire and dispose provided by the Local Government Act 1972 (and in the case of land to be acquired or held for planning purposes, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990), the general power of competence provided by the Localism Act 2011, and various other provisions. The proposed policies are designed to assist in compliance with these obligations as well as the general principles of public law such as decisions being taken on the basis of all relevant but no irrelevant considerations.
- 7.3 In domestic law the Council owes a general and important common law fiduciary duty to its Council tax payers and in EU Law to be retained after Brexit, it has a duty generally to act in a commercial manner in relation to property disposals.
- 7.4 The principal statutory provision is that set out at section 123(2) of the Local Government Act 1972, which states that "Except with the consent of the Secretary of State a council shall not dispose of land under this section, otherwise than by way of a short tenancy , at less than the best price that can be reasonably obtained." A short tenancy is the grant of a lease for not more than seven years.
- 7.5 Circular 06/03: Local Government Act 1972 general disposal consent (England) 2003 (the "General Consent") allows councils to make disposals at an undervalue provided that it can do within the terms of the General Consent in that the council considers that such disposal will help it secure the promotion improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. The authority is required to demonstrate this is the case.

- 7.6 Where the undervalue exceeds the threshold permitted under the General Consent (£2 million) then express consent from the SoS is required.
- 7.7 The council will need to adhere to any other statutory consents required to lawfully enable a disposal to be made of assets which require such, including for example, public open space land.

Risk

- 7.8 In each case the proposed policies are designed to mitigate the risks of not having policies in place. Without policies the Council is at risk of taking ad hoc decisions which do not maximise value for money in the public benefit. It is also at greater risk of decisions being challenged, either legally or by other means, as insufficiently well-grounded. Even if such challenges are defeated or fall away there is a cost in dealing with them.

Consultation

- 7.9 As noted in the body of the report, both draft policies have been subject to informal consultation, with parish councils and the VCS Assembly.
- 7.10 As noted in 6.5 it is proposed to formally consult on the draft Adoption of Assets Policy (whilst operating it on an interim basis). The responses to the informal consultation are considered as follows:

Consultee	Substance of comment	Response
NCALC	The policy “looked very good on first reading”.	Comments welcomed.
Towcester Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels ten-year pump priming period is too short. • Strongly supports requirement for freehold transfers on adoption. • Provided a list of WNC assets it wished to be considered for transfer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is considered 10 years is as much as can reasonably be required for pump priming. However, in some cases in-perpetuity sums would be due, which are higher. • No change requested. • These will be considered (not part of the policy consultation).
Greens Norton Parish Council	<p>The PC “has no issues generally on the Policy but wishes to express concerns relating to the assumptions made for calculations.”</p> <p>Clarification was sought, and obtained from the Chairman of</p>	<p>Two long time periods were used to calculate the likely long-term average real interest rate.</p>

Consultee	Substance of comment	Response
	<p>the PC, as to the nature of the concerns. It turned out that these were whether the interest rate used for the in-perpetuity calculation would be correct in a period of higher inflation and thus, probably, higher interest rates.</p> <p>It also became clear that the PC had misunderstood and thought the commuted sum would apply to transfers between councils.</p>	<p>Given the real interest rate is the interest rate minus the inflation rate, real interest rates show signs of being (on average) reasonably stable. There is also, as the Chairman acknowledged, no other data to use. Given this, the proposed rate has not been changed.</p> <p>A statement has been added to the draft policy clarifying that transfers between councils is not 'adoption'. This should make it clear that the commuted sum provisions would not apply in such cases.</p>
Blakesley Parish Council	As per Greens Norton Parish Council (same Clerk).	As per the response to Greens Norton Parish Council.
Whittlebury Parish Council	As per Greens Norton Parish Council (same Clerk).	As per the response to Greens Norton Parish Council.
Daventry Town Council	<p>Concerns about</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a 2008 document as part of the rationale. • Using specific interest rate rather than an index such as Bank of England or Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). • Lack of reference to safeguarding the community use of adopted assets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the 2008 document was used, the reasons were explained, and modern data also used. • The analysis did use PWLB data. If the suggestion is that an index should be used to regularly adjust the calculation, it is considered this is not appropriate as assets are held for long periods, which is why long term average rates were used. It would also be difficult to apply regular changes practically. • The draft policy has been amended to make this explicit.
Collingtree Parish Council	Asked for lists of WNC assets the PC could consider adopting.	Response provided (not part of the policy consultation).
Roade Parish Council	Raised various issues about transfers of assets from WNC to the Parish Council.	Response provided (not part of the policy consultation).

- 7.11 It is suggested that the proposed Policy on the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Property can be adopted without further consultation given (i) it uses the existing grants policy to assess community benefit, (ii) it can be amended in the future if practical use indicates that it could be improved, and (iii) the VCS Assembly has supported it.

Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.12 The report has not been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Climate Impact

- 7.13 The proposed Adoption of Assets Policy makes explicit mention of the need to operate assets on a net zero basis, in line with the Council's net zero goals. The proposed Policy on the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Property would ensure that the Council's grants policy is used to assess the community benefit of proposed uses of property; the grants policy allows for climate considerations to be taken into account by reference to the Council's objectives.

Community Impact

- 7.14 The proposed Adoption of Assets Policy should be of assistance to residents, community groups, and parish councils in providing a clear structure, transparency, fairness, and equity and expectations for the adoption of assets.
- 7.15 The Policy on the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Property should be of direct benefit to that sector, and thus the community more widely, by providing a clear and balanced framework for taking decisions on the use of property. The proposed Policy should also assist groups by using the grants policy for assessing community benefit, meaning groups do not need to learn a new set of criteria to score against.

Communications

- 7.16 It will be important that the Council brings attention to the policies once adopted, and in the case of the Adoption of Assets Policy, to the proposed consultation on it. Awareness of the policies will help them achieve their aims of giving clarity and consistency to the matters they cover.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 None.

Appendix A – Draft Adoption of Assets Policy

Appendix B – Draft Policy on the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Property



Adoption of Assets Policy – draft v0.5

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Through the processes of development and change, assets of various types frequently come to require a new custodian. This occurs, for example, when public open space and other community assets are created as part of development, but it also arises in a wide range of situations. The taking on of a new asset is often referred to as 'adoption'.
- 1.2 The Council is concerned to ensure that assets of public value are properly managed for the public good, whilst also ensuring that the interests of taxpayers and residents are protected.
- 1.3 The Council, and parish councils¹ in West Northamptonshire, are often called on to adopt assets. Other assets, particularly where new development is involved, may be adopted by management companies.
- 1.4 This policy defines the Council's approach to assets it is asked, or agrees to, adopt. It also represents the approach it seeks to take in relation to parish councils and management companies. Parish councils in West Northamptonshire are invited to adopt it, with necessary changes, for their own use.
- 1.5 There are specific legal regimes for adoption of water and sewerage systems (by water and sewerage undertakings), and highways (by WNC). Those are not covered by this policy.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions are used.
- 2.2 'Assets' – any land, building or structure on land or water, which has a public use or value. In most cases such 'assets' are in fact liabilities, in that they cost money to maintain and manage, but generate no or insufficient income to cover those costs.

¹ For brevity, 'parish council' is used in this policy to refer to all such entities, whether they have the style of town council, community council or other permitted style.

- 2.3 'Adopt' – to take ownership of and responsibility for. As noted in 1.5, this document does not cover adoption of water, sewerage, or highways under the specific legislation which relates to those. For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include the transfer of an asset between two councils.
- 2.4 'Adoption Sum' – in relation to any asset, the total of the commuted sum calculated in accordance with 8.4 and the other costs calculated in accordance with 8.5.
- 2.5 'Management company' – a company or other entity (apart from WNC or a parish council) which owns and manages, or is proposed to own and manage, an asset.
- 2.6 'Net zero' – delivering net zero (or less) emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases implicated in global warming, measured as carbon dioxide equivalent warming impact.
- 2.7 'Promoter' – the person or organisation seeking to have an asset adopted. This will normally be the person or organisation who owns the asset.

3. Considerations

- 3.1 There are several considerations which arise when an asset is considered for adoption. These include:
- 3.1.1 How provision is to be made for upkeep.
 - 3.1.2 The most appropriate body to adopt the asset in question.
 - 3.1.3 How the interests of the public as users, taxpayers, and (in some cases) charge payers are protected.
 - 3.1.4 The terms on which the asset is offered for adoption.

- 3.2 These considerations are addressed below.

4. Providing for upkeep

- 4.1 If an asset has a net positive value – that is, income generated from it is likely to exceed costs incurred in looking after it – provision for upkeep is not normally a concern. However, even in such cases it might be necessary to consider management of risk, especially if the adopting body has limited resources to cope with changes in income or costs arising from the asset (for example, if it is a smaller parish council or a management company).
- 4.2 In other cases, there is generally a net annual cost of looking after an asset. It is this net cost which is the concern, along with consideration of risk. As with net income-generating assets risk is a particular issue if the income stream is significant, costs may vary significantly, or the adopting body has limited resources to cope with changes in income or costs arising from the asset.

- 4.3 Considering provision for funding net cost, Appendix 1 sets out the relevant content of two background documents, ODPM Circular 5/05 and the Chris Britton Consultancy (CBC) paper 'Commuted Sums for Future Maintenance in relation to Adoption and Transfer of Infrastructure Assets'. Circular 5/05 was withdrawn when the National Planning Policy Framework was introduced, but without any suggestion that its contents were considered invalid or inappropriate.
- 4.4 Circular 5/05 suggests that where facilities are:
- 4.4.1 Purely for the users of a development it may be appropriate for the developer to make arrangements to fund their upkeep in perpetuity.
 - 4.4.2 For "wider public use" the costs should be taken on by the new owner, but funding ("pump priming") for the gap before the public sector funding streams arise may reasonably be sought from the developer.
- 4.5 These principles commend themselves in logic and accordingly are considered relevant even though Circular 5/05 has been withdrawn given that there is nothing similar replacing them in the National Policy Framework or currently inconsistent with them. They can reasonably be argued to logically apply whether or not development is the cause of a desire to pass the asset to a new owner.
- 4.6 In the case of assets solely for a specific local public use, these principles can be applied straightforwardly. It is clearly right that the public at large should not be required to fund maintenance and management of an asset that is of benefit to only a small number of people or, in the extreme, to only one person, such as a developer.
- 4.7 However, further consideration is needed for assets in wider public use; specifically, what is an appropriate "pump priming" period? The Circular suggested this should be until "inclusion in public sector funding streams". However, the structure of local government funding is such that it cannot be assumed to meet the costs of new assets. Council Tax income does not assist, because the grant arrangements deduct assumed income from these sources. Allocations of Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) are time limited. Accordingly, it would be possible to conclude that pump priming should be for an indefinite period, that is, in perpetuity. However, this conflicts with the express wording of the paragraph. Use of a period of ten years may represent an acceptable compromise between those two positions.
- 4.8 Typically, provision for in-perpetuity net costs is made by way of commuted sums. Such sums are designed to produce an income each year which matches the expected annual net costs relating to the asset.
- 4.9 The CBC paper identifies a long-term real interest rate of 2.2%. Analysis set out in Appendix 2 suggests that for WNC the long-term real interest rate is around 2.1%. Using

the 2.1% figure would mean that for WNC to receive annual income (actually, reduce its debt costs) by £Z per year would require a commuted sum of £X, calculated as follows:

$$£X = \frac{£Z}{0.021}$$

- 4.10 If a parish council or management company was to receive a commuted sum rather than WNC the money may be placed in an interest-bearing account (rather than being used to reduce debt) and thus earn a lower real interest rate. This would mean a higher commuted sum. However, it would be unreasonable for the promoter to face a higher cost merely by a change in adopting body. Given this, and given how close the CBC report figure is, it seems reasonable to apply 2.1% in all cases.

5. Adopting bodies

- 5.1 WNC is a large unitary council serving a diverse area. It recognises the important role parish councils play in managing local facilities for their communities. This is reflected in transfers of, for example, local open spaces and community centres to parish councils by WNC (and by its predecessor councils in preparation for the new local government arrangements from 1st April 2021).
- 5.2 More generally, there is value in facilities used purely or mainly by a specific group of people being looked after by that group of people. They can decide how much they wish to invest in upkeep, and can make changes to reflect local needs and wishes.
- 5.3 It therefore seems reasonable that where a facility is purely or mainly for local public use, the preferred adopting body would be either a management company controlled by those who would pay for upkeep, or a parish council. Conversely, where an asset is of benefit to people from an appreciable portion of West Northamptonshire, being more than one parish, it would be most appropriate for WNC to adopt it.
- 5.4 However, as noted in 4.1 and 4.2, it is important that smaller adopting bodies have means to manage the risks involved in owning assets, especially those where there is material risk of significant change to either income or costs. This may in some cases justify WNC itself adopting the assets.

6. Protecting public interests

- 6.1 Where assets are adopted by public bodies such as local authorities, the combination of democratic accountability to local people and the statutory regime acts to protect the public interest. However, where adoption is by a management company there is a risk that the public interest is not prioritised, or that the entity is not responsive to local concerns. Management companies come in many forms, both legally and practically, including those tied by ownership, control, or contract to service providers.

6.2 It is therefore important that the constitutional and contractual arrangements for management companies, where they are used, are designed to secure genuine local control, efficient and effective management, and a focus on the public interest.

6.3 These requirements are also important to WNC financially, because if they are not met the Council may in the future to be asked to adopt the asset in question to remedy poor management or local concern about charges levied by the management company.

7. Terms of adoption

7.1 It is important that any asset adopted is free from unnecessary controls and can be effectively managed over the long term. This will normally mean the adopting body receives freehold ownership free of all restrictions except those requiring the asset to be used for the purpose intended. These should provide sufficient flexibility to allow for changes in circumstances over time.

7.2 The adopting body will also need sufficient rights of access and any other rights necessary in each case to effectively operate and maintain the asset.

8. WNC approach

8.1 In considering adoption of assets, the Council will make reasoned decisions based on the facts of each case, guided by the following.

8.2 In considering any potential adoption the Council will assess if there is a need for adoption at all (for example, if the promoter of the adoption is able to continue caring for the asset and will or can be compelled to do so), and there is no other reason to favour adoption. Where the Council chooses to adopt an asset which could reasonably be retained by the promoter the commuted sum will be calculated on a perpetuity basis.

8.3 The preference for adoption of other assets is set out in the table below, together with the implications in terms of the commuted sum required.

Area of benefit	Default adopting body	Modifying factors	Revised adopting body	Commuted sum
Discrete small estate or community with only very limited use from wider parish	Management company meeting requirements given in 8.9	None	N/A	Pump priming
		Parish council wishes to adopt	Parish council	Pump priming
		Risk is too great for management company to manage	Parish council if willing; otherwise WNC	Perpetuity

Area of benefit	Default adopting body	Modifying factors	Revised adopting body	Committed sum
		Significant strategic interest for WNC to adopt	WNC	Pump priming
Wholly or mainly one parish in scale	Parish council	None	N/A	Pump priming
		Risk is too great for parish council to manage	WNC	Perpetuity
		Parish council declines to adopt	WNC	Perpetuity
		Significant strategic interest for WNC to adopt	WNC	Pump priming
More than one parish in scale*	WNC	None	N/A	Pump priming

Note: * An asset which happens to be on or close to a parish boundary does not fall into this category simply by that fact, if where it further from the boundary it would be recognised as benefiting a single parish.

- 8.4 Commuted sums shall be assessed by assessing the expected net annual maintenance and management costs (£Z) and calculating:
- 8.4.1 Perpetuity: £Z divided by 0.021.
- 8.4.2 Pump priming: £Z multiplied by 10.
- 8.5 In addition, any costs that are reasonably estimated would be incurred in the process of adoption and bringing the asset into an acceptable state shall be added. This includes any necessary environmental works, including costs of managing the asset to achieve net zero.
- 8.6 The full Adoption Sum must be paid as part of the adoption unless the promoter and any other person who might financially benefit from the adoption is incapable of making payment and the adopting body (and WNC, if not the adopting body) judges that it would nonetheless be in the public interest for the asset to be adopted. In such cases the promoter (or other financially benefiting person) shall pay as much of the Adoption Sum as it can afford.
- 8.7 WNC may treat any sum paid to it as either capital or revenue depending on the proper accounting treatment of its expenditure.
- 8.8 No part of any Adoption Sum will be repayable in the event that the net costs are lower than the estimate on which the commuted sum was based. This is because the adopting

body has taken a downside risk in accepting a particular commuted sum will be adequate and is accordingly entitled to benefit from any upside risk.

- 8.9 Any management company considered for adoption of an asset should meet the following requirements:
- 8.9.1 Be incorporated as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), or as a community interest company or community benefit society, in either case with an asset lock and prohibition on distribution of profits.
 - 8.9.2 Have suitable objects, such that the asset would be used for its intended purpose and available for all those it is expected to serve.
 - 8.9.3 Be empowered to meet any funding needs by means of a rentcharge or other appropriate mechanism on properties benefiting from the asset in question.
 - 8.9.4 Have as the only members and able to appoint directors (or other persons in control of the management company's business) the persons liable to pay rentcharges or other payments as may be appropriate to the management company ('members'). Only if the members fail to appoint sufficient directors for the management company to function shall any other person have the power to appoint directors. That person shall be the parish council and failing action by the parish council, WNC.
 - 8.9.5 Have no material debt or obligation to take on debt.
 - 8.9.6 Not have any contractual commitments to third parties on onerous terms, and in any event no contractual commitment at point of transfer of the asset which extends beyond 12 months.
- 8.10 Adoption of an asset should be by means of transfer of freehold title at nil value. In exceptional cases, such as where the promoter does not hold the freehold, the adopting body may consider a lesser form of ownership e.g., long leasehold on a peppercorn rent. The transfer to the adopting body must include all necessary rights (e.g., of access) to enable the asset to be used as intended, maintained, and managed.
- 8.11 The terms of transfers of assets to the adopting body should include such restrictions as are necessary to ensure that the asset is used for the function(s) which it is intended to perform. There should be no other restrictions or matters which impact on this. The restrictions which are imposed should be designed to allow sufficient flexibility such that the asset can still be of value when circumstances change, such as changes in recreational habits.

Appendix 1: Background documents

Two documents are of particular value when considering the Council's approach to adoption of assets. These are given below.

Former ODPM Circular 5/05: Planning Obligations

Circular 5/05 represented Government policy in connection with the use of planning obligations in connection with development control. It was withdrawn with key points included in the National Planning Policy Framework, but without any suggestion that its approach was flawed. It contains provisions relating to the assets that are capable of wider use.

Paragraphs B18 to B20 discussed maintenance payments:

- B18 states that in the case of “...facilities which are predominantly for the benefit of the users of the associated development, it may be appropriate for the developer to make provision for subsequent maintenance (i.e. physical upkeep). Such provision may be required in perpetuity.”
- B19, however, provides that “where an asset is intended for wider public use, the costs of subsequent maintenance and other recurrent expenditure ... should normally be borne by the body or authority in which the asset is to be vested. Where contributions to the initial support (“pump priming”) of new facilities are necessary, these should reflect the time lag between the provision of the new facility and its inclusion in public sector funding streams, or its ability to recover its own costs... Pump priming maintenance payments should be time-limited and not be required in perpetuity...”

Commuted Sums for Future Maintenance in relation to Adoption and Transfer of Infrastructure Assets

This document was produced by the Chris Britton Consultancy for Department for Transport and others and exists in a draft version dated June 2008. Publication was expected under the banner of the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG). Although it is understood this did not occur, the substance of the document remains valid.

Appendix 5 (p26) of the report states that an appropriate real long term interest rate when considering adoption of assets is 2.2%. This represents the difference between nominal interest rates and inflation rates in the UK, averaged over a long period of time.

Appendix 2: WNC interest costs

Given the date of the Chris Britton Consultancy document, it is appropriate to consider if real interest rates have materially changed since its publication. It is also useful to ensure the rate applied relates to the circumstances of WNC.

In practice, if WNC is paid a commuted sum, it is likely to use it to offset borrowing it already has or would otherwise incur. Like most principal councils, the Council has significant debts built up from the provision of capital assets and this position is unlikely to change. This means that the interest rate to be used for these purposes should reflect WNC's borrowing costs rather than the sums earned if it invested the money concerned. This means a slightly higher interest rate is applied (which corresponds to slightly lower commuted sums).

To form a reasoned view of real interest rates over a substantial period of time, CPI inflation was compared against the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) interest rate for new maturity loans each year. To reflect the spread of maturity periods the Council is likely to use, the average interest rate for all available loan lengths was used. As PWLB interest rates vary over time, the yearly rate was taken as a weighted average of interest rates applicable over the different periods of the year. Thus, the yearly average interest rate is calculated as follows:

$$r = \frac{\sum ip}{P}$$

Where:

r = Yearly average interest rate.

i = Average interest rate in any period.

p = Period during which interest rate i applied.

P = Sum of p during the year (it should be noted that because interest rates do not change exactly at year ends, P varies slightly from year to year).

The results were as follows:

Year	P , days	%		
		Yearly average interest rate (r)	CPI inflation	Real interest rate
1998	364.0000	5.6	1.6	4.0
1999	364.0000	4.9	1.3	3.6
2000	365.0000	5.2	0.8	4.4
2001	364.0000	5.0	1.2	3.8
2002	370.0000	5.0	1.3	3.7
2003	360.0000	4.7	1.4	3.3
2004	368.0000	4.9	1.3	3.6

Year	<i>P</i> , days	%		
		Yearly average interest rate (<i>r</i>)	CPI inflation	Real interest rate
2005	364.0000	4.5	2.1	2.4
2006	364.0000	4.4	2.3	2.1
2007	365.0000	5.7	2.3	3.4
2008	366.0000	4.6	3.6	1.0
2009	367.0000	4.1	2.2	1.9
2010	365.3861	4.2	3.3	0.9
2011	364.0187	4.5	4.5	0.0
2012	364.9811	3.7	2.8	0.9
2013	365.0001	4.0	2.6	1.4
2014	365.0050	3.9	1.5	2.4
2015	366.9946	3.2	0.0	3.2
2016	365.0001	2.7	0.7	2.0
2017	364.0008	2.6	2.7	-0.1
2018	364.9938	2.7	2.5	0.2
2019	364.9993	2.5	1.8	0.7
2020	367.9976	2.5	0.9	1.6
2021	365.0024	2.0	2.6	-0.6
Average				2.1

Whilst the yearly averages vary significantly, the average over 24 years (the longest period for which data was available) should give a sensible view of likely typical real interest rate. It is of note that the 2.1% calculated is very close to the 2.2% given in the Chris Britton Consultancy document.



Policy on the Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise, and Faith Group use of Property – draft v0.6

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council owns, generally freehold, a wide range of property. This includes its direct operational facilities such as offices, depots, civic accommodation, libraries, and parks; community buildings such as community centres; and commercial property including shops, warehouses, and factories. All of this property is intended to support achievement of the Council's objectives, whether through service provision, income generation, regeneration, or a combination of these. Preserving some historic properties is an objective in its own right. In some cases, property is deliberately placed in the hands of others to deliver a service, typically one focused on community needs but also some operational properties such as depots.
- 1.2 Owning property can be financially beneficial, but – particularly where the property is not appropriate or efficient for service provision or in occupation by a commercial tenant – it also carries costs. These costs include maintenance, security, general management, and typically business rates. Where a property has a positive capital value retaining it also carries an opportunity cost; if sold or rented out commercially, the income could be used for other purposes supporting the Council's objectives.
- 1.3 The Council also receives frequent requests to provide property, often at below market rates, from groups or organisations which provide some form of benefit to the community. This policy is designed to provide a means by which the Council can make well-founded decisions about which properties should be made available for community uses, on what terms, and to whom.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions are used.
- 2.2 'VCS group' – a voluntary, community, social enterprise, or faith group which complies with 2.3 and is one of the following:
- 2.2.1 A charity under the law of England & Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland.

- 2.2.2 A community benefit society (or, under the previous law, an industrial and provident society which exists for the benefit of the community and is not a co-operative).
 - 2.2.3 A community interest company with a no distribution rule.
 - 2.2.4 Another form of company registered under the law of England & Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland with articles which provide for a community purpose, with a no distribution rule.
 - 2.2.5 A community amateur sports club (CASC) registered with HM Revenue & Customs as such.
 - 2.2.6 An unincorporated association with rules which provide for a community benefit purpose, and a no distribution rule.
- 2.3 In all cases to be considered a VCS group the entity must not have borrowing or other arrangements which side-step the no distribution rule, for example debt with equity characteristics. For VCS groups of the types described in 2.2.4 to 2.2.6 there must be credible arrangements for the no distribution rule to be protected from change.
- 2.4 'Asset lock' – a prohibition on distributing assets except to another organisation which itself meets the criteria of a VCS group.
- 2.5 'Available property' – property belonging to or under the control of the Council which it has included on a list of available property under section 3.
- 2.6 'Core requirements' – all of the following:
- 2.6.1 Meeting the provisions of Section 7 as applied in the listing for that available property.
 - 2.6.2 Providing a credible business plan which shows that the proposed tenancy can be sustained.
 - 2.6.3 Demonstrating that any proposed works to the Available property can be funded (see 6.7).
 - 2.6.4 Demonstrating the ability to carry out any proposed works to the Available property safely and competently.
 - 2.6.5 Showing how the requirements of Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 (or other relevant powers to dispose) and/or the UK subsidy control regime can be met, including (if applicable) by charging a rent or premium.
- 2.7 'Near future' and 'shortly' – typically within the next 12 months but may be longer if applicable to the type of property and the scale of investment and planning likely to be needed to occupy it.
- 2.8 'No distribution rule' – an asset lock and provisions prohibiting the distribution of profits to (as applicable) members or shareholders.

2.9 'Tenancy' – a lease or a license to occupy.

3. Available property

3.1 The Council will maintain three lists of property available to VCS groups:

3.1.1 **Type I:** Property which is intended for community sporting use (for example, football pitches and clubhouses).

3.1.2 **Type II:** Other property which is intended for community use (for example, community centres).

3.1.3 **Type III:** Property which is not intended for community use, but which is not currently required for its intended purpose (for example, shops or offices). The motivation for offering these for VCS group use would be to mitigate the Council's holding costs.

3.2 The lists will be published on the Council's website, with details of the property concerned. Property which is not currently available, but which is expected to become available in the near future will also be listed.

3.3 The lists will indicate:

3.3.1 The periods after which the Council will consider applications for each available property. Typically, this will be quarterly, but depending on the circumstances of each property this may vary.

3.3.2 The type of occupation the Council intends to offer (see 3.4), including any special terms or considerations which would apply.

3.4 The standard types of occupation will be as follows:

3.4.1 **Category A:** Room use. This would provide regular or near-constant use of a room or rooms, but without exclusive occupation.

3.4.2 **Category B:** Exclusive occupation of a building, or a discrete part of a building, or an area of land.

4. Application process for property on an available property list

4.1 The Council will publish on its website an application form for VCS groups wishing to be considered for use of an Available property. This form will include:

4.1.1 Details of the VCS group, including an explanation of how it meets the requirements set out in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3. Alternatively, it may explain how the VCS group would be constituted so as to meet the requirements of paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 if it is not yet so constituted.

- 4.1.2 Details of the activities which the VCS group proposes would be carried out in or by means of the Available property.
 - 4.1.3 An explanation of how the activities would meet WNC's corporate objectives.
 - 4.1.4 An outline of the business plan for the proposed use of the Available property, including how this would be financially sustainable, such as running costs and maintenance. This must address the financial and risk consequences of its proposals under 4.1.5 and 4.1.6.
 - 4.1.5 Proposals for the form and terms of occupation of the Available property, which must reflect the requirements of section 7.
 - 4.1.6 Proposals for any changes or improvements the VCS group would wish to make to the property.
 - 4.1.7 Evidence of the VCS group's ability to fund (see 6.7), and safely and competently carry out, the works proposed in 4.1.6.
 - 4.1.8 An explanation of how the proposed tenancy would comply with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 (or other relevant powers to dispose) and the UK subsidy control regime, including (if applicable) any rent or premium the Council should charge
- 4.2 To express interest the VCS group would complete and submit the form.

5. Interest in property that is not on an available property list

- 5.1 If a VCS group identifies a property owned or controlled by the Council which is not on an Available property list but which it considers is, or will shortly become, available, and the VCS group wishes to be considered to occupy it, the following shall apply:
- 5.1.1 The VCS group shall contact the Council at [insert email address], giving brief details of the property and its proposals.
 - 5.1.2 The Council will respond either indicating that it does, or does not, consider there is a realistic prospect of the property becoming an Available property in the near future.
 - 5.1.3 If the Council indicates that it considers that the property may become an Available property in the near future, then it will include it in the relevant list under Section 3.
 - 5.1.4 The VCS group may then apply to occupy the property in accordance with Section 4.
- 5.2 This process will also apply if a VCS group wishes to use a Type I available property for a non-sporting use. In this case, if the Council considers the property should be recategorised as Type II it will do so, and then Section 4 will apply.

6. Consideration of applications

- 6.1 After the date specified on the applicable list, the Council will consider all applications made for an Available property.
- 6.2 The value of the proposed use will be considered in line with the Council's policy and procedures for assessing applications for grants current at the time. This assessment will result in a score being awarded to the proposed use.
- 6.3 Applications to use Type I available properties will be tested on the grounds of sporting uses only. (For the avoidance of doubt, unless specifically excluded in the listing both sporting and non-sporting uses will be assessed for Type II available properties.)
- 6.4 If there is only one application then this will be considered the highest scoring application and the process proceed accordingly.
- 6.5 If the highest-scoring application did not meet the Council's minimum requirements for the award of a grant then the process may proceed at the Council's discretion but the available property would be treated as if it was Type III (whether or not it actually was).
- 6.6 An assessment of the other elements of the application with the highest score will be made to ascertain whether it was likely that the VCS group would be able to meet the core requirements.
- 6.7 Where the VCS group is also applying for grant funding from the Council which would enable it to comply with core requirement 2.6.3 ("that any proposed works to the Available property can be funded"):
 - 6.7.1 The Council will where practical consider the grant application and the application to use the Available property in parallel.
 - 6.7.2 If the grant application would be successful if the VCS group was awarded occupation of the property, it will be assumed for the purposes of assessing the application for occupation of the Available property that the grant will be awarded.
 - 6.7.3 If the grant application would not be successful even if the VCS group was awarded occupation of the property, both applications will be rejected.
 - 6.7.4 If the Council cannot practically consider the two applications in parallel, it will be assumed that the grant application would be unsuccessful when considering the application to be awarded occupation of the Available property.
- 6.8 If it appears likely that the highest scoring application will be able to meet the core requirements, then formal negotiations to agree the legal terms will be commenced in accordance with Section 8. If the highest scoring application does not appear likely to be able to meet the core requirements, or if after a reasonable period of negotiations no

agreement on legal terms is reached, then the highest scoring application will be disqualified and the next highest scoring application will become the highest scoring. The process will then repeat until a successful VCS group is identified or there are no remaining applicants to consider.

6.9 If it appears justified in any case, for example if there are a large number of applications for one Available property, then an initial sifting assessment of both aspects of the applications may be made. This would be used to exclude applications which were either unlikely to achieve a competitive score for the proposed use or were unlikely to be able to meet the core requirements. The remaining applications would then be subject to the process outlined in paragraphs 6.2 to 6.8 above.

7. Terms for use of property

7.1 The matrix below indicates the main terms which would normally apply to each type of Available property and category of occupation.

	Type I	Type II	Type III
A: Room use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licence to occupy. • Maximum 12 months term (renewable). • Service charge will reflect actual costs to WNC such as utilities and postal services. • No repairing obligations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licence to occupy. • Maximum 12 months term (renewable). • Service charge will reflect actual costs to WNC such as utilities and postal services. • No repairing obligations. 	Not granted.
B: Exclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease for buildings. Licence for playing fields etc. • Maximum term 7 years (but see 7.3). • Where only part of building, service charge may typically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease. • Maximum term 7 years (but see 7.3). • Where only part of building, service charge may typically include wider range of items. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease. • Maximum 12 months term (renewable). • Internal repairing obligations.

	Type I	Type II	Type III
	include wider range of items.		

7.2 In all cases:

- 7.2.1 Tenancies will be granted without a statutory right of renewal ('contracted out').
- 7.2.2 There will be a service charge or similar payment applied to cover actual costs (e.g., utilities, facilities management, and insurance) to WNC. This is most likely to be relevant in occupation Category A.
- 7.2.3 Rent will normally be a peppercorn and no premium will be charged. However, where it is necessary to comply with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 (or other relevant powers to dispose) and/or the UK subsidy control regime, a rent or premium will be charged at a level which makes the tenancy legally compliant.

7.3 The term of tenancies for Category B occupation of Types I and II property may be longer than seven years in the following cases:

- 7.3.1 Where this is reasonably necessary to deliver a sustainable business plan (typically if borrowing is required).
- 7.3.2 Where this is a requirement of an external funder, such as a grant-giving body, and the amount of external funding is material to the works to be undertaken and would add significantly to the value received by the community.

7.4 Where a tenancy term of longer than seven years is justified under 7.3 the term will be the minimum period reasonably required to meet the requirements of the case which applies.

7.5 Where an external funder requires security over the property that the terms of that should be acceptable to the Council

8. Agreements and occupation

- 8.1 The Council will prepare initial drafts of legal agreements, drawing on its templates and reflecting the requirements of this policy.
- 8.2 The Council will ensure that in granting a tenancy it is compliant with Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 (or other relevant powers to dispose) and the UK subsidy control regime.
- 8.3 Each party is to bear its own legal costs in preparing legal agreements.

8.4 No occupation of property may take place until the relevant legal agreements are in place.

9. Renewal

9.1 In the case of leases or licences granted for up to 12 months, these may be renewed without a further competitive process for periods of up to a further six years in total on the same basis. Shortly before the end of the seven years the property will be listed as a property which will become an available property and subject to the competitive process outlined above.

9.2 However, if the Council concludes at any time that a change in circumstances means that it is likely to be in the public interest to run a competition for occupation of such a property it will be listed as a property which will become an available property at the end of the current lease or license term and subject to the competitive process outlined above.

9.3 In the case of Type III property, the Council would normally continue to market the property commercially whilst it was occupied by the VCS group. If a suitable commercial tenant was found the tenancy held by the VCS group would not be renewed at the end of its term.

10. Special cases

10.1 Sections 3 to 8 above do not apply where a VCS group has been procured to deliver a service on behalf of the Council using Council property. In such cases:

10.1.1 The procuring team is responsible for agreeing with the Assets & Environment team the proposed occupation arrangements prior to commencement of procurement. These will normally involve the VCS group being granted a license to occupy relevant WNC property but may sometimes involve the grant of a lease.

10.1.2 Such licenses or leases will be without the statutory right of renewal ('contracted out') and contain provisions terminating them in the event that the service agreement terminates, irrespective of the cause.

10.1.3 Either the VCS group or the procuring team will pay a service charge covering WNC actual costs in providing the space.

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET

11 October 2022

Cabinet Member for Finance: Cllr Malcolm Longley

Report Title	Office Optimisation Stage 1 building adaptations budget and disposals
Report Author	Colin Barrett, Head of Works Colin.Barrett@westnorthants.gov.uk

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

MO	Catherine Whitehead	03/10/2022
S151	Martin Henry	03/10/2022
Other Director	Stuart Timmiss – Executive Director Place, Environment & Economy Simon Bowers – Assistant Director Assets & Environment	22/09/2022
Communications	Becky Hutson – Head of Communications	29/09/2022

List of Appendices

None

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek authority for budget to carry out stage 1 of building adaptation works for the office optimisation programme. These relate to the planned closure of the Lodge Road, Daventry offices for Council services and creation of a new Daventry hub.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 As part of the Future Way of Working programme the Council has been reviewing its offices (the Office Optimisation project). Following the transfer of North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) staff out of One Angel Square and the adoption of hybrid working current occupancy levels across the Council's buildings are low. There is also a drive towards more co-location with partners to jointly deliver services and collaborate to help reduce public service costs, as well as looking at ways to reduce the Council's carbon footprint through more energy efficient buildings.
- 2.2 Due to the urgency of financial challenges facing the Council and the need to deliver upon property savings already built into the council's revenue budgets, a decision on part of the work – to close the Lodge Road offices in Daventry – has been made. Staff and services would be moved to alternative accommodation. This includes developing a new hub for WNC services in Daventry at the Abbey in nearby St John's Square.
- 2.3 The relocation of services from Lodge Road is the first stage of the Council's Office Optimisation project. To accommodate those services and staff affected, the Council needs to make adaptations to the Abbey in readiness for the closure of Lodge Road to Council services by 31st March 2023.
- 2.4 It is also necessary to make arrangements for the disposal and interim management of the Lodge Road offices.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- 3.1.1 Agree to the proposed new capital budget of £2 million to carry out Stage 1 of the Office Optimisation project and recommend to Council that the Capital budget is amended to reflect the proposed change.
- 3.1.2 Authorise the Assistant Director Assets & Environment to procure and award the contracts to deliver the Stage 1 works.
- 3.1.3 Authorise the Assistant Director Assets & Environment in consultation with the Executive Director Finance and Cabinet Member for Finance to dispose of the Lodge Road offices, in whole or part, by leasehold or freehold, for the best consideration reasonably obtainable.

4. Reason for Recommendations

- 4.1 To provide an effective accommodation solution, and best value for the residents of West Northamptonshire in consideration of service operating models and Council objectives.
- 4.2 To provide a fit for purpose facility to replace the Lodge Road offices for Council services which enables the wider objective to provide cost effective accommodation.
- 4.3 To reduce the Council's energy use and carbon emissions.

5. Report Background

- 5.1 The Council currently provides main office accommodation from the existing pre-vesting day buildings at Lodge Road, Daventry; Abbey Centre, Daventry; The Forum, Towcester; Guildhall, Northampton; and One Angel Square, Northampton. Following the departure of many staff now employed by North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) from One Angel Square and the adoption of hybrid working, this office estate is significantly under-used. Under half of desks are in use at any time. There is also a drive towards more co-location with partners to jointly deliver services and collaborate to help reduce public service costs, as well as looking at ways to reduce the Council's carbon footprint through more energy efficient buildings.
- 5.2 As part of its Future Ways of Working programme the Council has been reviewing its office needs under the Office Optimisation project. There are different constraints relating to each building, so the eventual solution will involve a mixture of exiting buildings and bringing others into retained buildings, with the aim of securing a good level of use across the estate and reduced net costs.
- 5.3 As part of this process a decision has been taken to close the Lodge Road offices and to relocate services to alternative accommodation. Along with services from the Council, the Lodge Road offices accommodate services from Northamptonshire Children's Trust (NCT) and Jobcentre Plus (JCP).
- 5.4 Meeting the needs of its residents and businesses requires a continued operating base for the Council in Daventry. This will provide a one stop shop facility and accommodation for a range of services best provided locally. Following a review, the proposed location is the Abbey. This is an office building used for some Council services, including Daventry library, voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups, and one commercial tenant. There is also some space recently vacated by a different commercial tenant.
- 5.5 The VCS groups already in the Abbey are a natural complement to the services to be provided and it is intended these are retained alongside the Council's own services. The existing commercial tenant will need to relocate; discussions to that effect are underway.

- 5.6 To accommodate the needs of the relocated staff and services the Abbey requires adapting. This will increase capacity and ensure suitable working environments. Where practical, cost effective, and within timescale requirements measures to ensure the building meets future energy performance requirements will also be undertaken. The building does have some limitations, including a central load-bearing wall, which have to be taken into account. This is likely to result in a degree of compromise between cost and creating open-plan working environments.
- 5.7 The existing heating, ventilation and cooling plant to the Abbey building is old and in poor condition. It will need to be upgraded to provide a suitable working environment and to reduce the energy demands of the building.
- 5.8 Once vacated of Council services the Lodge Road offices would contain, until the end of their respective agreements, JCP and NCT.
- 5.9 NCT has indicated a willingness to work with the Council to relocate its services to elsewhere in Daventry. It is proposed this is within the Abbey. This offers the potential to develop hub with adults and children's services, housing services, the library, and allied VCS services all in one place.
- 5.10 The JCP lease is due to end in November 2022. In the interests of good public services and to secure continued income it is proposed to seek to continue to provide for JCP, either in Lodge Road or elsewhere; this will depend on JCP's views and on what other demands there are for the Lodge Road offices. The most likely relocation site, should this be required, is currently poorly-used space in the upper parts of Daventry Leisure Centre. This can be provided with direct access to the St John's Square car park, immediately opposite the Abbey and thus retaining reasonable public service integration.
- 5.11 Once vacated, the Council would be free to dispose of the Lodge Road offices. There are a range of options. It is proposed to that, unless a compelling offer comes forward separately, the building be marketed and the most favourable offer or offers taken. This may involve the freehold sale of the whole building, or leasehold disposal or all or parts of it.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The choices on the budget open to the Council are as follows.
- a. Do nothing. This would not enable the closure of Lodge Road to Council services, retain a high level of under-used office space, not contribute to savings goals or the development of a unified 'one Council' culture.
 - b. Approve the proposed budget. This would enable the work to proceed and the new Daventry hub to be created.

- c. Instead seek to purchase or lease office accommodation elsewhere in central Daventry. This is unlikely to provide suitable accommodation and location, and would not optimise use of the Abbey. It would involve new lease rent or purchase costs.
- 6.2 Given the time required to deliver the Stage 1 works, procurement will need to commence as soon as possible. For this reason, formal Cabinet authority for procurement is recommended to be granted now, and in advance of Council approval of the budget.
- 6.3 It is undesirable for the Council to hold vacant or partially vacant Lodge Road offices any longer than necessary. This incurs costs, leaves the building vulnerable, and does not make any economic or social contribution to Daventry. It is therefore recommended that authority is granted to enable its disposal for the most economically advantageous outcome.
- 6.4 However, it is also possible that the building might deliver greater benefits from other Council uses. These will also be tested prior to any decision to dispose.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

Resources and Financial

- 7.1 Detailed analysis of the expected savings is currently underway. Early indications are that we will save in excess of £200k pa. The freehold or leasehold disposal, or use for other Council purposes, of the Lodge Road offices should generate capital or revenue income (or savings). The relocation will also support the delivering of more integrated, efficient, and effective services, which should in time deliver other savings.
- 7.2 There is, however, likely to be a significant period where the building is held partially vacant, despite measures to accelerate disposal or re-use. These will reduce the initial savings. Again, at the time of writing these costs are being calculated. However, this is inevitable when making accommodation changes and does not undermine the overall case.
- 7.3 The proposed budget is £2 million capital, which should be sufficient for these works. Over 20 years on an annuity basis this would cost £147k pa at 4%. However, these costs should be met by income from the disposal of the Lodge Road offices, meaning that there is no adverse impact (after, say, the first year) on the revenue account.
- 7.4 Additional costs it is not legitimate to charge to capital are also likely to be incurred. These are currently being quantified but should not exceed £100k.

Legal

- 7.5 The Council has the power to provide offices and other facilities it needs to provide services under Section 111 (ancillary etc. powers) of the Local Government Act 1972 and under the general power of competence provided by Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 7.6 The Council has no legal obligation to retain office buildings in Daventry but does have an obligation under the Local Government Act 1999 to deliver best value. In reaching this decision Members will also need to have regard to the Council's obligations under the public sector equality duty (most notably in this context, to "advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it").
- 7.7 The Council has duties towards its workforce and other users of its building under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and under the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992. The proposed arrangements in the Abbey would comply with these duties.
- 7.8 In proceeding with these changes, the Council would comply with various applicable duties, including in relation to its employees, under the Employment Rights Act 1996, and landlord and tenant law.

Risks

- 7.9 There are a number of risks inherent in these proposals.
- 7.10 The Council may be unable to complete the construction works prior to April due to (a) delay in appointing designers and the contractor and (b) programming the works around existing occupants. To mitigate these risks, it is proposed to make an early appointment of the design team and contractors, and to create a small working group that can work closely with the affected services, tenants, contractor, and design team to progress differing work packages in parallel.
- 7.11 Costs of the refurbishment could increase due to prevailing market conditions. This will, as far as possible, be mitigated by making early appointments and placing orders for materials in short time.
- 7.12 The disposal of Lodge Road may take an extended period, slowing down the receipt of the full benefits of the relocation of services. This will be mitigated, as required, by marketing, and by taking a flexible approach to the type of disposal.
- 7.13 Disruption to services as staff and systems move. This is being mitigated by a cross-organisational working group addressing issues such as IT and staffing. Where possible, services will relocate at times which suit their operational needs.

- 7.14 Reputational risks around the perception that the Council is reducing its focus on Daventry and the surrounding area. This risk should be reduced by the investment going into creating the new Daventry hub at the Abbey.

Consultation

- 7.15 Staff affected by the relocation are currently being consulted with. This consultation process has been discussed and agreed with the joint consultative group including trade unions.

Climate Impact

- 7.16 By closing the Lodge Road offices to its staff, the Council will reduce its carbon footprint and costs of energy. Whilst some increase in staff travel may result the combination of hybrid working and the open of using 'hot desks' in the Abbey should mean any increase in carbon emissions from that source is minimal.
- 7.17 The Abbey Centre has an existing solar (photovoltaic) array on the roof to generate sustainable electricity. Options to reduce energy costs and carbon footprint include the installation of more efficient heating, cooling, and ventilation solution.

Community Impact

- 7.18 By relocating services and staff from Lodge Road to the Abbey the Council is seeking to retain the positive socio-economic impact that having staff located within the town centre provides to Daventry. The re-use of the Lodge Road offices should also deliver benefits to Daventry town centre, whether by residential, office, hotel, or other commercial use.
- 7.19 Retaining the existing community services such as DACT, Time to Talk and Citizens Advice Bureau in the same locality as they currently are but within close proximity to Council services should enhance the service offering of all parties by closer integration.

Communications

- 7.20 It will be essential to continue to communicate effectively with employees about the Daventry relocation proposals, along with the public and other key stakeholders as the plans progress. Communication is also planned for VCS tenants and for service users who may be affected by the changes.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 None.

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank