

Report to Cabinet

4th October 2016

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor A Khan

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)

Is this a key decision?

No – Although the proposals within the report affect the whole city, the impact is not expected to be significant.

Executive Summary:

On the 6th January 2015 Cabinet approved the Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control) (the Order). It was implemented on 15th June 2015.

Cabinet created a Cabinet Consultative Committee to monitor the efficacy and effectiveness of the Order and make such recommendations as are deemed necessary. Their views and recommendations have resulted in proposed minor changes to areas within parks that are covered by the Order. A 30 day public consultation was carried out on these proposed changes.

This report requests the approval of Cabinet to agree to the suggested amendments from the Public Consultation and the Cabinet Consultative Committee

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is recommended to agree to the amendments to the designated areas under the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control).

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1: a report on the findings of the consultation

Appendix 2: Original and unchanged Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)

Appendix 3: maps of the relevant parks, detailing proposed changes

Background Papers

None

Other useful documents:

The current Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)

http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/16447/public_space_protection_order_coventry_dog_control

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No. Although this report has not been considered elsewhere, the matter was considered by the Cabinet Consultative Committee.

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:

Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)

1 Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control) was approved by Cabinet on 6th January 2015 and implemented on the 15th June 2015 for a three year period. Cabinet created a Cabinet Consultative Committee (the CCC) to monitor the efficacy and effectiveness of the Order and make such recommendations as are deemed necessary. The CCC was made up of representatives from a number of Park Friends Groups, the Dogs in Coventry Group, dog training organisations, a dog behavioural expert, the Sunday Football League, the visually impaired and two elected members of the Council.
- 1.2 The City Council has worked closely with the CCC, prior to and after the implementation of the Order. In response to recommendations from the CCC, we have facilitated the organisation of educational talks in primary schools on responsible dog ownership. With advice from the CCC we have also piloted different signage in our parks and streets and examined the positioning of bins in the park.
- 1.3 The CCC has supported the Order and both they and the Council have been pleased by the high levels of compliance particularly in the City's parks. However, the CCC believes that minor amendments are required to ensure that there is fair and equitable use of some of the city's parks.

2 Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 Prior to the creation of the original Order, 'friends of parks' groups had determined areas which were 'dogs prohibited' or 'dogs on lead' areas. In the previous consultation the Council had given assurances that these existing areas would not be changed.
- 2.2 The Order has now been in force for 15 months and it has become clear that some of these previously prescribed areas were either causing confusion, or they were not logical to dog owners and non-dog owners alike. Furthermore, there are other areas within the parks, which clearly needed protection. Within the CCC, the Dogs in Coventry Group worked closely with the relevant Park Friends Groups and have proposed changes to specific areas within the parks. These changes were supported by the Cabinet Consultative Committee.
- 2.3 Officers conducted a 30 day public consultation on these proposed changes; a report on the findings of the consultation can be seen at Appendix 1. In summary the majority of consultees supported the proposed amendments to the Order. However, it is proposed that the specified areas in Longford Park should not be changed and be kept in accordance with those originally specified by the friends of Longford Park. For practical reasons this has the support of senior officers who maintain the parks and carry out enforcement of this order.
- 2.4 Appendix 2 contains the new proposed Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control); alterations to the wording of the new Order were not required (see paragraph 5).
- 2.5 Appendix 3 consists of maps of the relevant parks, detailing these proposed changes. These maps do not form part of the Order; they are merely for information and clarification.

2.6 Recommendation - Cabinet is recommended to agree to the amendments to the designated areas under the existing Public Spaces Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control).

3 Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 A public consultation was carried out regarding the proposed changes to the designated areas of the premier parks. The results of the consultation are detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

4 Timetable for implementing this decision

4.1 If the Cabinet approves the recommendation, the amendments to the Order will come into effect 28 days after being published on the Council's web site.

5 Comments from the Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial Implications

Any resources required to consult and amend the Order will be financed from existing budgets.

5.2 Legal Implications

The provisions covering the creation of a Public Space Protection Order (the Order) are contained in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, sections 59-75. PSPOs can only apply to public places. Whilst this report does not vary the wording of the original Order, the changes to the designated areas will be published on the Council's website 28 days before their implementation and appropriate signage will be erected to ensure public knowledge of the changes (see Appendices 1

6 Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's Plan?

There are clear research findings that show that the local environmental quality in a person's living environment has a significant impact on their health and well-being. Residents in areas which have a low environmental quality often have an increased "fear of crime". This particular tool will contribute to the Council's key objectives to 'create an attractive, cleaner and greener city' and 'make communities safer together with the police, to reduce crime and anti-social behavior'.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

None

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

See 6.1

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

Phil Hibberd - Pest Control & Animal Welfare Manager

Directorate:

Place Directorate

Tel and email contact:

Tel: 024 76 83 2256

E-mail: phil.hibberd@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Craig Hickin	Head of Environmental Services	Place	18/8/16	18/8/16
Graham Hood	Head of Street Scene & Green Spaces	Place	18/8/16	18/8/16
Lara Knight	Governance Services Co-ordinator	Resources	24/8/16	25/8/16
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and Members)				
Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Resources	18/8/16	23/8/16
Gillian Carter	Solicitor Team Leader (Regulatory) Legal Services	Resources	18/8/16	23/8/16
Karen Mihajlovic	Business Partner (Service Support)	Resources	18/8/16	23/8/16
Andrew Walster (on behalf of Executive Director, Martin Yardley)	Assistant Director Street Scene and Regulatory Services	Place	18/8/16	9/9/16
Councillor A Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities	-	12/09/16	14/9/16

This report is published on the Council's website: www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings

