

Report to Cabinet

28<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities - Councillor A Khan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:**

**Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)**

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**Is this a key decision?**

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

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**Executive Summary:**

The Council consulted on the renewal of the Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control), with one slight amendment in Allesley Park, which received support from the public, park friends groups and dog related organisations and businesses.

The Order is required to assist with the enforcement of dog fouling offences, but also to specify: where dogs should be kept on leads, where dogs are prohibited, the maximum number of dogs that can be walked by one person and enabling officers to request that a dog be put on a lead if problems are ensuing.

180 people responded to the consultation and the desire to renew the Order received overwhelming support. This report requests the approval of Cabinet to renew the Order for a further three years.

**Recommendation:**

Cabinet is recommended to agree to the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control), with the inclusion of one additional 'dogs on lead' area in Allesley Park (Fairy Village) for a further three years.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1: The proposed Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)

Appendix 2: Maps of the relevant parks

Appendix 3: Results of the consultation

**Background Papers**

None

**Other useful documents:**

None

**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

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

**Report title:**

Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)

**1 Context (or background)**

- 1.1 Cabinet originally approved the Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control) 'the Order', in 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 worked closely with the CCC, prior to and after the implementation of the Order. In response to recommendations from the CCC, the Order was slightly amended and this was approved by Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016.
- 1.3 The Council have been pleased by the high levels of compliance particularly in the City's parks. This has been achieved despite reduced enforcement resources and a great deal of the success is owed to those responsible dog owners who routinely challenge adverse behaviour whilst walking their own dogs.

**2 Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 **Option 1** - The Council could refuse to renew the Order. Not recommended.
- 2.2 **Option 2** - Cabinet could renew the Order for a further three years. It is not proposed to change the wording of the Order. The Order was designed to be flexible and it gives the council powers to designate new children's play areas as 'dog exclusion areas' and also the power to remove restrictions when the play areas are removed, or re-sited, which happens on occasions. The proposed Order can be seen in Appendix 1. Maps are available in Appendix 2, which show the extent of the Order in a number of the City's parks, but these do not form part of the Order.
- 2.3 Whilst it is not proposed to change the wording on the Order, it is proposed to increase the area covered by the 'dogs on leads' Order on a small area of land within Allesley Park. This will incorporate 'Fairy Garden' which is adjacent to Allesley Hall. This is an exploration area designed to be used by small children. This can be seen in Appendix 2 of the report.
- 2.4 The public and key stakeholders were consulted and 180 people responded. They were overwhelmingly in support of renewing the Order. Specific details can be seen in section 3 of the report.
- 2.5 This option is recommended to Cabinet.

2.6 Recommendation - Cabinet is recommended to agree to the renewal of the Public Spaces Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control), with the inclusion of one additional 'dogs on lead' area in Allesley Park (Fairy Village) for a further three years.

### **3 Results of consultation undertaken**

3.1 As part of the proposal to renew the Order, Officers have consulted key stakeholders and members of the public. The consultation was started on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 and was open for 30 days. 180 people completed the consultation and the results can be seen in Appendix 3 of the report.

3.2 In summary, people, businesses and organisations who completed the consultation were overwhelmingly in support of the Order.

- **Dog fouling of land:** Do you agree that Coventry City Council officers should continue to deal with dog fouling where the owner fails to clear up after their dog?  
**97.77% supported the Order**
- **Dogs on leads:** Do you believe that Coventry City Council should continue with a Dogs on Leads Order for specific areas of the city?  
**88.76% supported the Order**
- **Dogs on lead 'Fairy Village':** Do you support the inclusion of 'Fairy Village' at Allesley Park as a dogs on leads area?  
**91.67% supported the amendment**
- **Dogs on leads by direction:** Do you agree that authorised Council officers should continue to be granted powers to insist that an owner puts their dog on a lead?  
**96.99% supported the Order**
- **Dog exclusion zones:** Do you agree that authorised Council officers should continue to be able to restrict owners from taking their dogs into certain places which are clearly signed?  
**93.94% supported the Order**
- **Dogs (specified maximum):** Do you agree that the Council should continue to be granted powers to introduce a 'Dogs (Specified Maximum) on Land Order'?  
**94.51% supported the Order**

### **4 Timetable for implementing this decision**

4.1 If the Cabinet approves the recommendation, the Order will come into effect immediately.

### **5 Comments from the Director of Finance and Corporate Resources**

#### **5.1 Financial Implications**

Any resources required to implement and enforce 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. The Order must be published on the Council's website and notices erected at the relevant sites to draw attention to the existence of the Order.

## **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**

An equalities impact assessment was conducted when the first Order was created. This was recently reviewed and no adverse impacts were noted. The Order contains a range of exemptions for those persons who rely on 'assistance' dogs and the exemptions have proved successful and sufficient.

### **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment**

See paragraph 6.1 of the report.

### **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None

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