

# PSPO – Dog Control



## Adults & Health - Environmental Health Unit

# Dog Control in Key Council Areas

Currently Dog Control in Stockton and associated issues concerning irresponsible dog owner behavior are addressed via:

- Animal Welfare Collection Service for Stray Dogs
- Use of The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 provisions
- Proactive Animal Welfare Patrols
- Stenciling & Signage in Problematic Areas
- Via Council Media channels

There are no dog control orders in place across Stockton and only voluntary schemes exist within our parks and green spaces. The three key locations where wider dog nuisance is caused by irresponsible dog owners have been identified as: Ropner Park, Preston Park & the Crematorium/Cemeteries.

# Ropner Park



Stockton-on-Tees  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment and Housing

Big plans for our places and open spaces

# Preston Park



# Stockton Crematorium & Cemeteries



# Possible PSPO Provisions

The potential use of a PSPO for dog control functions would allow for fixed fines to be applied to irresponsible dog owners.

Limit the number of dogs an individual can walk/exercise at any one time.

Set areas where dogs must be on a lead and/or avail officers of the ability to ask for dogs to be placed on a lead with immediate effect.

Establishing dog free zones/areas.

The key difference between the existing voluntary schemes and a designated PSPO allows for fines to be issued and gives clear instruction to the public as to when dogs must be kept under control.

# Considerations for a Dog Control PSPO

1. The PSPO would need to be based on existing local knowledge for areas of concern
2. Funding would need to be identified to address operational costs
3. Enforcement will require additional staff/training/patrols to be in place to act upon noncompliant and/or irresponsible dog owners
4. Public response to the proposed controls
5. Should a PSPO be established for a defined area then existing legal powers (The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996) would be superseded and any dog fouling enforcement would need to be addressed via the Antisocial Behavior, Crime and Policing Act 2014

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