



COFNOD O BENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO GAN SWYDDOG
RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

Penderfyniad Allweddol | Key Decision ✓

Mae'r Penderfyniad Wedi'i Ddirprwyo hwn wedi'i bennu yn 'Benderfyniad Allweddol' gan ei fod yn debygol o:

This Delegated Decision has been established as a 'Key Decision' as it is likely:

a) arwain at y Cyngor yn ysgwyddo gwariant sylweddol neu wneud arbedion sylweddol;

to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant;

neu / or:

b) fod yn arwyddocaol o ran sut mae'n effeithio ar gymunedau sy'n byw neu'n gweithio mewn ardal sy'n cynnwys dwy etholaeth neu adran etholiadol neu ragor.

to be significant in terms of its effects on Communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral wards.

c) Eraill / Other:

PWNC | SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXTENSION TO RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC'S DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

DIBEN YR ADRODDIAD | PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

The two Public Spaces Protection Orders related to dog controls within Rhondda Cynon Taf are due to expire on 30th September 2026. At any point before expiry of these orders, the Council can vary or extend them by up to three years if it considers it necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring.

This report revisits the terms of the existing orders and seeks approval, in principle, of the proposal to extend those orders and to authorise officers to publicise the proposed orders and to consult as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet for decision on renewal of the Orders.


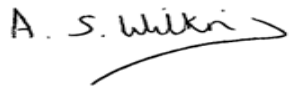
PENDERFYNIAD WEDI'I DDIRPRWYO | DELEGATED DECISION:

It was **AGREED**:

1. To approve in principle, the proposal to extend the two Public Spaces Protection Orders for dog control within Rhondda Cynon Taf, for a further period of three years from 1st October 2026, in the form set out at Appendix A1 and A2 of the report;
2. To authorise officers to publicise the proposed orders and to carry out a consultation exercise as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014; and
3. That officers prepare a further report for Cabinet decision detailing the responses to the consultation and any recommendations for amendments to the proposed orders.


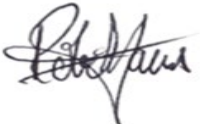
Llofnod y Prif Swydddog

Chief Officer Signature

 Louise Davies Enw (priflythrennau) Name (Print Name)	Director of Community Services Swydd Designation	1 st June 2026 Dyddiad Date
 Andy Wilkins Enw (priflythrennau) Name (Print Name)	Director of Legal and Democratic Services Swydd Designation	2nd June 2026 Dyddiad Date

Mae'r penderfyniad yn cael ei wneud yn unol ag Adran 15 o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 2000 (Swyddogaethau'r Corff Gweithredol) ac yn y cylch gorchwyl sy wedi'i nodi yn Adran 5 o Ran 3 o Gyfansoddiad y Cyngor. The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

YMGYNGHORI | CONSULTATION

	Cllr Ann Crimmings – Leader of the Council	1 st June 2026
LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGH O'R CABINET CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE	ENW A SWYDD NAME AND DESIGNATION	DYDDIAD DATE
	Cllr Bob Harris – Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Leisure	1 st June 2026
LLOFNOD YR AELOD YMGYNGH O'R CABINET CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE	ENW A SWYDD NAME AND DESIGNATION	DYDDIAD DATE
LLOFNODSWYDDOG YMGYNGH CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE	ENW A SWYDD NAME AND DESIGNATION	DYDDIAD DATE

A FYDD Y PENDERFYNIAD YMA'N CAEL EFFAITH AR Y WARD?

WILL THIS DECISION HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE WARD?

BYDD | YES **NA FYDD | NO****Unrhyw sylwadau pellach/Oes angen rhoi gwybod i'r Aelod Lleol:**

Any further comments/Need for Local Member to be informed:

This decision is applicable to all wards of RCT

RHEOLAU'R WEITHDREFN GALW-I-MEWN | CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.

A YW'R PENDERFYNIAD YN UN BRYD A HEB FOD YN DESTUN PROSES GALW-I-MEWN GAN Y PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU?:

IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

NAC YDY | NO ✓

Rheswm dros fod yn fater brys | Reason for Urgency:

Os yw'n cael ei ystyried yn fater brys - llofnod y Llywydd, y Dirprwy Lywydd neu Bennaeth y Gwasanaeth Cyflogedig yn cadarnhau cytundeb fod y penderfyniad arfaethedig yn rhesymol yn yr holl amgylchiadau iddo gael ei drin fel mater brys, yn unol â rheol gweithdrefn trosolwg a chraffu 17.2:

If deemed urgent - signature of Presiding Member or Deputy Presiding Member or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....
(Llywydd | Presiding Member)

.....
(Dyddiad | Date)

DS - Os yw hwn yn benderfyniad sy'n cael ei ail-ystyried yna does dim modd galw'r penderfyniad i mewn a bydd y penderfyniad yn dod i rym o'r dyddiad mae'r penderfyniad wedi'i lofnodi.

NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.

DYDDIADAU CYHOEDDI A GWEITHREDU | PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES

CYHOEDDI | PUBLICATION

Cyhoeddi ar Wefan y Cyngor | Publication on the Council's Website:- 02-06-26

DYDDIAD | DATE

GWEITHREDU'R PENDERFYNIAD | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

Nodwch: Fydd y penderfyniad hwn ddim yn dod i rym nac yn cael ei weithredu'n llawn nes cyn pen 3 diwrnod gwaith ar ôl ei gyhoeddi. Nod hyn yw ei alluogi i gael ei "Alw i Mewn" yn unol â Rheol 17.1, Rheolau Gweithdrefn Trosolwg a Chraffu.

Note: This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Yn amodol ar y drefn "Galw i Mewn", caiff y penderfyniad ei roi ar waith ar:

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be:

08.06.26

DYDDIAD / DATE

WEDI'I GYMERADWYO I'W GYHOEDDI: ✓ | APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION :✓

Rhagor o wybodaeth | Further Information:

Cyfadran Directorate:	Community Services
Enw'r Person Cyswllt Contact Name:	Laura Dando
Swydd Designation:	Community Safety Manager
Rhif Ffôn Telephone Number:	07385 406193

DELEGATED DECISION

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL BUSINESS AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE, THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

29TH MAY 2026

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC'S DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

Author(s) Gary Black – Head of Community & Wellbeing and Resilience
Laura Dando – Community Safety Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The two Public Spaces Protection Orders related to dog controls within Rhondda Cynon Taf are due to expire on 30th September 2026. At any point before expiry of these orders, the Council can vary or extend them by up to three years if it considers it necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring.
- 1.2 This report revisits the terms of the existing orders and seeks approval, in principle, of the proposal to extend those orders and to authorise officers to publicise the proposed orders and to consult as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The outcome of the consultation will be reported to Cabinet for decision on renewal of the Orders.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve in principle, the proposal to extend the two Public Spaces Protection Orders for dog control within Rhondda Cynon Taf, for a further period of three years from 1st October 2026, in the form set out at Appendix A1 and A2 of the report.
- 2.2 Subject to 2.1 above, to authorise officers to publicise the proposed orders and to carry out a consultation exercise as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014; and
- 2.3 Subject to 2.1 and 2.2 above, require officers to prepare a further report for Cabinet decision detailing the responses to the consultation and any recommendations for amendments to the proposed orders.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Dog fouling remains a significant concern for the Council and for those who live, work and visit the County Borough. Dog Fouling is unpleasant and is a serious risk to human health, particularly amongst children.
- 3.2 The Public Spaces Protection Orders in relation to dog controls has allowed the Council to introduce a range of reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the use of publicly accessible land across the County Borough and helped control the harmful activities of irresponsible dog owners whilst allowing responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.
- 3.3 Despite the introduction of the orders in October 2017 and their renewals in October 2020 and October 2023, there remains a minority of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control. Officers therefore consider it vital the orders, which would ordinarily expire on 30th September 2026, are renewed for a further period in order to maintain the significant benefits the orders have had in relation to dog fouling and ensure appropriate powers remain in place to deal with the minority who continue to flout the laws.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Dog fouling is unsightly, unpleasant and can lead to toxocariasis in humans. Toxocariasis causes serious illness and even blindness. It is caused by a parasite that lives in dogs' digestive systems. Eggs are present in the faeces of infected animals. If infected material is ingested, the eggs hatch into larvae and can cause toxocariasis. The disease can be controlled if dog faeces are disposed of immediately in a responsible manner.
- 4.2 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 (the 'Act') introduced provisions whereby a local authority can make Public Spaces Protection Orders ('PSPOs'). A PSPO is designed to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area. The behaviour must be having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the community, it must be persistent or continuing and it must be unreasonable. PSPOs are designed to ensure that the law-abiding majority can enjoy public space, safe from anti-social behaviour.
- 4.3 The majority of dog owners are responsible, clean up after their dogs and keep them under control. However, a minority of irresponsible dog owners create significant problems. The Council receives many complaints each year about dog fouling in public places. In addition, despite the introduction of the Dog Control PSPO's some of our playing fields need to be checked for dog fouling before they can be used; on occasion individuals wishing to use the playing fields for sport are doing this.

5. CURRENT DOG CONTROL PSPOs

- 5.1 This report revisits the terms of the following two Public Space Protection Orders which came into effect on 1st October 2023:

[RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL \(DOG CONTROL\) PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2023](#)

[RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL \(DOG CONTROL – ABERDARE PUBLIC PARK\) PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2023](#)

(the “Dog Control PSPO’s”)

- 5.2 This report reviews the impacts of the Dog Control PSPOs and considers the case for varying and extending them for a further three years, as permitted by the Act.
- 5.3 The introduction of the Dog Control PSPOs, following a public consultation exercise, created transparency and consistency within Rhondda Cynon Taf and gave authorised officers the ability to issue fixed penalty notices for offences that were not able to be previously enforced.
- 5.4 The activities prohibited by the Dog Control PSPOs are:
- (i) The prohibition of Dog Fouling in all Public Places within Rhondda Cynon Taf;
 - (ii) A requirement for a person in charge of a dog to keep that dog on a lead at all times in Cemeteries owned and/or maintained by the Council;
 - (iii) A requirement for a person in charge of a dog at all times to carry bags or other suitable means for the disposal of dog faeces;
 - (iv) A requirement for a person in charge of a dog to follow a direction given by an Authorised Officer, if they deem reasonably necessary, that a dog be put and kept on a lead in a Public Place within Rhondda Cynon Taf for such period and/or in such circumstances as directed by the Authorised Officer; and
 - (v) A prohibition excluding dogs from all Schools, Playgrounds and Marked Sports Pitches owned and/or maintained by the Council and certain Community Council sites as set out in the Order.
- 5.5 In relation to the Dog Control PSPO covering Aberdare Park there is a specific requirement for a person in charge of a dog to keep that dog on a lead at all times in Aberdare Public Park. This requirement is consistent with existing provisions that have been in place since 1866 (local bye law) and with the expectations of many users of the park. Further detail in respect of this particular requirement can be found in the report presented to Cabinet in [September 2017](#) prior to the original commencement of the PSPO.

- 5.6 The Dog Control PSPOs were not put forward as a means of unduly restricting the exercising or recreation of dogs across the County Borough. The reason for making the Dog Control PSPOs was to address the detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality caused by the irresponsible behaviour of a small minority of dog owners; and to set out a clear standard of behaviour to which all dog owners were required to adhere.
- 5.7 The Council employs a dedicated team of Wardens who patrol the County Borough with powers to enforce the Dog Control PSPOs in line with the Council's Enforcement Policy. The penalty for committing an offence of failing to comply with a PSPO without reasonable excuse is a maximum fine of level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000). Alternatively, the opportunity to pay a fixed penalty of £100 may be offered in place of prosecution.

6. EXTENSION OF THE DOG CONTROL PSPOS

- 6.1 At any point before expiry of the Dog Control PSPOs, the Council can extend them by up to three years if it considers it is necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring.
- 6.2 According to section 60(2) of the Act, before the time when a PSPO is due to expire, the local authority that made the PSPO may extend the period for which it has effect if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent-
1. Occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the Order, or
 2. An increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.
- 6.3 Section 61 of the Act makes provision for the Order to be varied by increasing or reducing the affected area, or by altering or removing a prohibition or requirement included in the Order or by adding a new one. For an order to be able to be varied, the Council must be satisfied that, on reasonable grounds, the following two conditions are met.

The first condition is that:

- a. Activities carried on in a public place within the Council's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; or,
- b. It is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect or likely effect, of the activities:

- a. Is or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature;
- b. Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable; and,
- c. Justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

- 6.4 This report does not propose any variations to the main conditions of the PSPO. Any variations will need to be subject to public consultation.
- 6.5 When the existing PSPO was renewed in 2020 and 2023, a number of Community Council owned sites were included within it as a result of consultation feedback and requests from Community Councils. It is likely therefore that there may be further similar representations made from stakeholders to have additional areas included within the PSPO should Cabinet agree to consult on any extension.
- 6.6 If the Dog Control PSPOs are to be extended this must be done before the time the Orders are due to expire, on 30th September 2026. In the event of the orders not being extended, they would lapse on 1st October 2026 at which point there would be no restrictions on dogs in Rhondda Cynon Taf (save for any enforceable local byelaws).
- 6.7 Officers consider it reasonable to assume that anti-social behaviour in regard to dog controls in the restricted areas would reoccur, and/or increase in the frequency and/or seriousness if the Orders are not extended. There would continue to be a positive effect on local environmental quality with the proposed extended and varied orders and continued enforcement against dog fouling and irresponsible dog owners.
- 6.8 Consultation feedback received prior to the introduction of the Dog Control PSPOs in [2017](#) and when it was renewed in [2020](#) and [2023](#) highlighted that there was overwhelming public support for the introduction of the orders and prohibitions and requirements in relation to the control of dogs. During the most recent consultation, there was wide scale support for each of the elements of the PSPO, with over 89% of respondents agreeing with each of the elements of the PSPO and that they should be continued over the next 3 years.
- 6.9 The Council's Community Warden Service who have responsibility for enforcing the Dog Control PSPO issued 129 fixed penalties under the PSPO for dog fouling and dogs being in a designated restricted area in 2023, in 2024 there were 105 fixed penalties issue and in 2025 there were 108.
- 6.10 The most recent Keep Wales Tidy report, published in 2023 entitled 'An Analysis of Local Environmental Quality in RCT 2022-23' shows that the presence of dog fouling on streets in RCT remained consistently at 10.9%. Unfortunately, Welsh Government did not fund KWT to recreate the surveys in Wales last year (24-25) so a current comparison is not available. However, it is worth noting that prior to the original introduction of the PSPO in 2017 this figure was around the 18% mark. The report also shows that instances of dog fouling are generally spread evenly across the County Borough. This report does therefore demonstrate that since its introduction in 2017 the PSPO has led to a reduction in the presence of dog fouling on the streets of RCT but also highlights it still remains an issue.

- 6.11 Factoring in the above it is therefore proposed to extend and vary the Dog Control PSPOs, for a further period of three years from 1st October 2026, in the form set out at Appendix A1 and A2 to this report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 In accordance with the Act if the recommended proposed extension and variation of the Dog Control PSPOs is approved in principle the Council is then required to consult the Chief Officer of Police for the area, community councils, community representatives the Council thinks it appropriate to consult and the owner or occupier of land (not owned or occupied by the Council) within the restricted areas.
- 7.2 The Council is also required to publish the text of the proposed draft extended and (if relevant) varied order on its website.
- 7.3 It is therefore proposed the Council undertakes a comprehensive consultation exercise with the public, relevant bodies and other interested parties in accordance with the Act's requirements on the proposal to extend and vary the Dog Control PSPOs as outlined in the report.
- 7.4 Subject to that consultation exercise being initiated by Cabinet, officers would report the outcome of the consultation to the relevant Scrutiny Committee in the first instance and thereafter to Cabinet for any final decision(s) on the proposals.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY (INCLUDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY) IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Council must be able to demonstrate that a PSPO is a necessary and proportionate response to the problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them. The Council is required to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs. This must take into consideration the need for people, particularly children, to have access to dog-free areas and areas where dogs are kept under strict control, and the need for those in charge of dogs to have access to areas where they can exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.
- 8.2 In developing the original PSPO an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken to ensure that:
- The Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties, and
 - Due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the decision in terms of equality and discrimination.

- 8.3 This exercise will be refreshed but it is considered the impact on residents, visitors and businesses is expected to continue to be positive, as these proposals should continue to act as a deterrent to irresponsible dog ownership. Taking into account the exemptions set out in 8.4 and 8.5 below there is no adverse impact on any other protected characteristics from its adoption through to its potential variation and extension. Subject to Cabinet approval to proceed, the EIA would be published on the Council's website alongside the consultation document.
- 8.4 The provisions of the proposed Dog Control Orders would not apply to a person who:
- (i) Is registered as partially sighted or blind, in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948;
 - (ii) Is registered as "sight-impaired", "severely sight impaired" or as "having sight and hearing impairments which, in combination, have a significant effect on their day to day lives", in a register compiled under section 18 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014;
 - (iii) Has a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry, or otherwise move everyday objects, such that he cannot reasonably be expected to remove the faeces; or (iv) has some other disability, such that he reasonably cannot be expected to remove the faeces.
- 8.5 The provisions of the orders would not apply to a dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.
- 8.6 For the purposes of the orders, a 'disability' means a condition that qualifies as a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.
- 8.7 Nothing in the Order shall apply to the normal activities of a working dog whilst the dog is working. This includes dogs that are being used for work in connection with emergency search and rescue, law enforcement and the work of HM Armed Forces and farm dogs that are being used to herd or drive animals.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Should the proposed orders be extended, there would be a need to amend existing signage to reflect this however any associated costs would be met from existing budgets.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 10.1 Section 60(2) of the Act states that before the time when a public spaces protection order is due to expire, the local authority that made the order may

extend the period for which it has effect if satisfied on reasonable grounds that doing so is necessary to prevent:

- (a) Occurrence or recurrence after that time of the activities identified in the order, or
- (b) An increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities after that time.

10.2 An extension under this section:

- (a) May not be for a period of more than 3 years.
- (b) Must be published in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State.

10.3 A public spaces protection order may be extended more than once.

10.4 Section 61 states that where a public spaces protection order is in force, the local authority that made the order may vary it:

- (a) By increasing or reducing the restricted area;
- (b) By altering or removing a prohibition or requirement included in the order or adding a new one.

10.5 A local authority may make a variation that results in the order applying to an area to which it did not previously apply only if the conditions in section 59(2) and (3) are met as regards activities in that area.

These are:

The first condition is that:

- (a) Activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
- (b) It is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities:

- (a) Is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature.
- (b) Is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- (c) Justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

10.6 A local authority may make a variation that makes a prohibition or requirement more extensive, or adds a new one, only if the prohibitions and requirements imposed by the order as varied are ones that section 59(5) allows to be imposed.

The only prohibitions or requirements that may be imposed are ones that are reasonable to impose in order:

- (a) To prevent the detrimental effect from continuing, occurring or recurring, or
- (b) To reduce that detrimental effect or to reduce the risk of its continuance, occurrence or recurrence.

- 10.7 Where an order is varied, the order as varied must be published in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- 10.8 A local authority, in deciding whether to extend the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect (under section 60) and if so for how long and whether to vary a public spaces protection order (under section 61) and if so, how must have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the Convention.
- 10.9 A local authority must carry out the necessary consultation and the necessary publicity, and the necessary notification (if any), before extending the period for which a public spaces protection order has effect or varying it.

“the necessary consultation” means consulting with:

- (a) The chief officer of police, and the local policing body, for the police area that includes the restricted area;
- (b) Whatever community representatives the local authority thinks it appropriate to consult;
- (c) The owner or occupier of land within the restricted area;

“the necessary publicity” means:

- (a) In the case of a proposed order or variation, publishing the text of it;
- (b) In the case of a proposed extension or discharge, publicising the proposal;

“the necessary notification” means notifying the following authorities of the proposed order, extension, variation or discharge:

- (a) The community council (if any) for the area that includes the restricted area.

The requirement to consult with the owner or occupier of land within the restricted area:

- (a) Does not apply to land that is owned and occupied by the local authority;
- (b) Applies only if, or to the extent that, it is reasonably practicable to consult the owner or occupier of the land.

- 10.10 In relation to a variation of a public spaces protection order that would increase the restricted area, the restricted area for the purposes of this section is the increased area.

11. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 It is considered there are no immediate Welsh Language implications relating to the proposals within this report. All signs in respect of the PSPO are bilingual. The Council will ensure compliance with Welsh Language Standards if a consultation process is initiated in relation to the proposals outlined within this report and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment will be prepared alongside the consultation document.

12. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 12.1 The proposals in this report are consistent with the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2030, in particular "*Nature and the environment – Clean, safe and sustainable RCT*"
- 12.2 These proposals are also consistent with the Well-being Goals under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:
- *A healthier Wales – a society in which people's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.*
 - *A Wales of cohesive communities – attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.*

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 Dog fouling remains a significant concern for the Council and for those who live, work and visit the County Borough and is a serious risk to human health, particularly amongst children.
- 13.2 The Public Spaces Protection Orders in relation to dog controls has allowed the Council to introduce a range of reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the use of publicly accessible land across the County Borough and helped control the harmful activities of irresponsible dog owners whilst allowing responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.
- 13.3 Despite the introduction of the orders in October 2017, and their renewal in October 2020 and October 2023 there remains a minority of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control. Therefore officers consider it vital the orders, which would ordinarily expire on 30th September 2026, are renewed for a further period of three years in order to maintain the significant benefits the orders have had in relation to dog fouling and ensure appropriate powers remain in place to deal with the minority who continue to flout the laws.

13.4 Cabinet is now asked to consider initiating the necessary consultation to extend, and if appropriate vary, the Dog Control PSPOs as outlined in the report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED DECISION

29th MAY 2026

PROPOSED EXTENSION AND VARIATION TO RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC'S
DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

A REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF LEGAL &
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES IN DISCUSSION WITH THE
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL BUSINESS AND THE
WELSH LANGUAGE, THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND THE
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Background Papers

- a) Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Controls) – Joint Report of Director of Highways & Streetcare Services & Service Director of Public Health & Protection in discussion with the relevant Portfolio Holders, Councillor A Crimmings and Councillor J Rosser: 22nd June 2017
- b) Public Spaces Protection Orders (Dog Controls) – Aberdare Park - Joint Report of Director of Highways & Streetcare Services & Service Director of Public Health & Protection in discussion with the relevant portfolio holders, Councillor A Crimmings and Councillor J Rosser: 28th September 2017
- c) Proposed Extension and Variation to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Orders Joint Report of the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services and Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services in discussions with the relevant portfolio holders, Councillors A. Crimmings and R. Lewis – 25th June 2020
- d) Proposed Extension and Variation to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC's Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Orders Joint Report of the Director of Public Health, Protection and Community Services and Group Director Prosperity, Development and Frontline Services in discussions with the relevant portfolio holders, Councillors A. Crimmings and R. Lewis: 24 September 2020
- e) Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Chapter 12

f) Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Reform of anti-social behaviour powers: statutory guidance

Officers to contact:

Andy Wilkins, Director of Legal & Democratic Services
Louise Davies, Director of Community Services
Steve Williams, Director of Environmental Services

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Appendix A1

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (DOG CONTROL) PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2026

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council ('the Council') in exercise of its powers under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the 'Act') hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order:

1. This Order may be cited as the 'Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order 2026' (the 'Order').
2. This Order comes into force on 1st October 2026 and shall have effect and remain in force for a period of three years from that date.

OFFENCES

3. The effect of this Order is to impose the following conditions within Rhondda Cynon Taf:
 - (vi) The prohibition of Dog Fouling in all Public Places within Rhondda Cynon Taf;
 - (vii) A requirement for a person in charge of a dog to keep that dog on a lead at all times in Cemeteries owned and/or maintained by the Council;
 - (viii) A requirement for a person in charge of a dog at all times to carry bags or other suitable means for the disposal of dog faeces;
 - (ix) A requirement for a person in charge of a dog to follow a direction given by an Authorised Officer, if they deem reasonably necessary, that a dog be put and kept on a lead in a Public Place within Rhondda Cynon Taf for such period and/or in such circumstances as directed by the Authorised Officer; and
 - (x) A prohibition excluding dogs from all Schools, Playgrounds and Marked Sports Pitches owned and/or maintained by the Council and certain Community Council sites as set out in the Order.
4. For the purposes of this Order:
 - 4.1 'Dog Fouling' means failing to immediately remove the faeces of a dog by a person who is in charge of that dog.
 - 4.2 Placing dog faeces in a receptacle on land which is provided for the purpose, or for the disposal of waste, shall be a sufficient removal from the land. Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise) shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.
 - 4.3 'a person in charge of a dog' means a person who habitually has a dog in his/her possession at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.

- 4.4 'Public Place(s)' means any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right by virtue of express or implied permission.
- 4.5 'Authorised Officer' means a constable or a person authorised by the Council for the purposes of enforcing this Order.
- 4.6 For the purposes of 3(iv) above an Authorised Officer may only direct a person to put and keep a dog on a lead 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 the worrying or disturbance of any animal.
- 4.7 'Detrimental Activities' means any activity or behaviour involving a dog, or persons in charge of a dog, which has had, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, where that effect is persistent or continuing in nature, and is unreasonable, so as to justify the restrictions imposed by 3(i) to 3(v) of this Order.
- 4.8 'Rhondda Cynon Taf' means the whole area of the county borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf as shown in Schedule 1 to this Order.
- 4.9 'Cemeteries' means the areas of land designated for use as a cemetery by the Council during the operating period of this Order.
- 4.10 'Schools' means the areas of land designated for use as a school by the Council during the operating period of this Order.
- 4.11 'Playgrounds' means the areas of land designated for use as a playground by the Council during the operating period of this Order.
- 4.12 'Marked Sports Pitches' means the areas of land designated for use as a marked sports pitch by the Council during the operating period of this Order.
- 4.13 'Community Council sites' means the areas of land as shown and detailed in Schedule 2 to this Order.
5. It is an offence for a person, without reasonable excuse, to engage in Detrimental Activities which they are prohibited from doing by effect of this Order or fail to comply with a requirement to which a person is subject by effect of this Order.
6. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 of the Act have been satisfied and, that it is in all the circumstances expedient and reasonable to make this Order for the purpose of prohibiting the above activities and introducing the stated requirements. The effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make them unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by this Order.

EXEMPTIONS

7. The provisions of this Order do not apply to a person who:
 - (i) is registered as partially sighted or blind, in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948;
 - (ii) is registered as “sight-impaired”, “severely sight impaired” or as “having sight and hearing impairments which, in combination, have a significant effect on their day to day lives”, in a register compiled under Section 18 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014;
 - (iii) has a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry, or otherwise move everyday objects, such that he cannot reasonably be expected to remove the faeces; or
 - (iv) has some other disability, such that he reasonably cannot be expected to remove the faeces.
8. The provisions of this Order do not apply to a dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.
9. For the purposes of this Order, a ‘disability’ means a condition that qualifies as a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.
10. Nothing in this Order shall apply to the normal activities of a working dog whilst the dog is working. This includes dogs that are being used for work in connection with emergency search and rescue, law enforcement and the work of HM Armed Forces and farm dogs that are being used to herd or drive animals.
11. Where a person in charge of a dog wishes to rely upon any of the exemptions set out in this Order the burden shall be on that person to prove they satisfy the requirements of the exemption being relied upon.

PENALTIES

12. A person who is guilty of an offence under this Order is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
13. A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued by an Authorised Officer to a person who breaches this Order, offering them the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty.

THE COMMON SEAL OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Was hereto affixed in the presence of

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Andrew Wilkins

Director, Legal & Democratic Services

SCHEDULE 1 – RHONDDA CYNON TAF AREA

SCHEDULE 2 – COMMUNITY COUNCIL SITES

Appendix A2

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL (DOG CONTROL – ABERDARE PUBLIC PARK) PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2026

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council ('the Council') in exercise of its powers under Section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the 'Act') hereby makes the following Public Spaces Protection Order:

1. This Order may be cited as the 'Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (Dog Control Aberdare Public Park) Public Spaces Protection Order 2026' (the 'Order').
2. This Order comes into force on 1st October 2026 and shall have effect and remain in force for a period of three years from that date.

OFFENCES

3. The effect of this Order is to impose the following condition within Rhondda Cynon Taf:
 - (i) A requirement for a person in charge of a dog to keep that dog on a lead at all times in Aberdare Public Park.
4. For the purposes of this Order:
 - 4.1 'a person in charge of a dog' means a person who habitually has a dog in his/her possession at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog.
 - 4.2 'Aberdare Public Park' means all land within the boundary of Aberdare Public Park as detailed in Schedule 1.
 - 4.3 'Authorised Officer' means a constable or a person authorised by the Council for the purposes of enforcing this Order.
 - 4.4 'Detrimental Activities' means any activity identified or behaviour involving a dog, or persons in charge of a dog, which has had, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, where that effect is persistent or continuing in nature, and is unreasonable, so as to justify the restriction imposed by 3(i) of this Order.
5. It is an offence for a person, without reasonable excuse, to engage in Detrimental Activities which they are prohibited from doing by effect of this Order or fail to comply with a requirement to which a person is subject by effect of this Order.
6. The Council is satisfied that the conditions set out in Section 59 of the Act have been satisfied and, that it is in all the circumstances expedient and reasonable to make this Order for the purpose of prohibiting the above activities and introducing the stated

requirements. The effect or likely effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make them unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by this Order.

EXEMPTIONS

7. The provisions of this Order do not apply to a person who:
 - (v) is registered as partially sighted or blind, in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948;
 - (vi) is registered as “sight-impaired”, “severely sight impaired” or as “having sight and hearing impairments which, in combination, have a significant effect on their day to day lives”, in a register compiled under Section 18 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014;
 - (vii) has a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry, or otherwise move everyday objects, such that he cannot reasonably be expected to remove the faeces; or
 - (viii) has some other disability, such that he reasonably cannot be expected to remove the faeces.
8. The provisions of this Order do not apply to a dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.
9. For the purposes of this Order, a ‘disability’ means a condition that qualifies as a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.
10. Nothing in this Order shall apply to the normal activities of a working dog whilst the dog is working. This includes dogs that are being used for work in connection with emergency search and rescue, law enforcement and the work of HM Armed Forces and farm dogs that are being used to herd or drive animals.
11. Where a person in charge of a dog wishes to rely upon any of the exemptions set out in this Order the burden shall be on that person to prove they satisfy the requirements of the exemption being relied upon.

PENALTIES

12. A person who is guilty of an offence under this Order is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
13. A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued by an Authorised Officer to a person who breaches this Order, offering them the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty.

THE COMMON SEAL OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Was hereto affixed in the presence of

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Andrew Wilkins

Director, Legal & Democratic Services

SCHEDULE 1 – ABERDARE PUBLIC PARK

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM INCLUDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

(Revised March 2021)

Please refer to the current Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this document. If you would like further guidance please contact the Diversity and Inclusion Team on 01443 444529.

An equality impact assessment **must** be undertaken at the outset of any proposal to ensure robust evidence is considered in decision making. This documentation will support the Council in making informed, effective and fair decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010.

This document will also contribute towards our duties to create a More Equal Wales within the

- Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015.

The [‘A More Equal Wales – Mapping Duties’](#) guide highlights the alignment of our duties in respect of the above-mentioned legislation.

SECTION 1 – PROPOSAL DETAILS

Lead Officers: Laura Dando and Gary Black

Service Director: Rhian Hope

Service Area: Public Protection (Community Services Directorate)

Date:

1.a) What are you assessing for impact?

Strategy/Plan	Service Re-Model/Discontinuation of Service	Policy/Procedure	Practice	Information/Position Statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	√	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.b) What is the name of the proposal?

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC'S DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

1.c) Please provide an overview of the proposal providing any supporting links to reports or documents.

Dog fouling remains a significant concern for the Council and for those who live, work and visit the County Borough.

Dog Fouling is unpleasant and is a serious risk to human health, particularly amongst children.

The Public Spaces Protection Orders in relation to dog controls has allowed the Council to introduce a range of reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the use of publicly accessible land across the County Borough and helped control the harmful

activities of irresponsible dog owners whilst allowing responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.

Despite the introduction of the orders in October 2017 and their renewal in October 2020 and 2023 there remains a minority of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control. Officers therefore consider it vital the orders, which would ordinarily expire on 30th September 2026, are renewed for a further three year period in order to maintain the significant benefits the orders have had in relation to dog fouling and ensure appropriate powers remain in place to deal with the minority who continue to flout the laws

The Cabinet report can be found [here](#) (Agenda Item 6)

1.d) Please outline where delivery of this proposal is affected by legislation or other drivers such as code of practice.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 (the 'Act') introduced provisions whereby a local authority can make Public Spaces Protection Orders ('PSPOs'). In creating a PSPO the Local Authority will need to ensure that there is sufficient evidence to support the test as stated in the legislation and guidance. The test is designed to be broad and focus on the impact anti-social behaviour is having on victims and communities. A PSPO can be made by the council if they are satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out, or likely to be carried out, in a public space:

- have had, or are 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; and
- justifies the restrictions imposed.

To implement a Public Space Protection Order for dog controls to restrict persistent anti-social behaviour in public spaces. The aim of the Order is to prevent or reduce anti-social behaviour, as a result of irresponsible dog owners.

1.e) Please outline who this proposal affects:

- Service users √
- Employees √ (in the context of those officers who administer and enforce the Dog Control PSPO's
- Wider community √

SECTION 2 – SCREENING TEST – IS A FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED?

Screening is used to determine whether the initiative has positive, negative or neutral impacts upon protected groups. Where negative impacts are identified for protected groups then a full Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Please provide as much detail as possible of how the proposal will impact on the following groups, this may not necessarily be negative, but may impact on a group with a particular characteristic in a specific way.

Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups. Please take an intersectional approach in recognising an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
Age (<i>Specific age groups i.e. young people or older people</i>)	Positive	<p>The PSPO is considered to have a positive differential impact on all protected characteristics of age. All age groups benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all age groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces</p> <p>The exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches, playgrounds benefits children, youths and adults that play sport as it helps to provide a clean and safe area for sports to be played</p>	<p>A report published by Keep Wales Tidy entitled ‘An Analysis of Local Environmental Quality in RCT 2022-23’ shows that the presence of dog fouling on streets in RCT has remained consistent (at 10.9%) when compared to the period the PSPO was renewed in 2020. It is worth noting however that in 2021-22 the presence of dog fouling was recorded on 8.9% of streets – so the most recent report does unfortunately evidence an increase. Prior to the original introduction of the PSPO in 2017 this figure was</p>

		<p>on. The consultation feedback supported this conclusion with a number of comments highlighting the importance of maintaining a safe environment for young people particularly to be able to play and participate in sporting activities.</p>	<p>around the 18% mark. The report also shows that instances of dog fouling are generally spread evenly across the County Borough. This report does therefore demonstrate that since its introduction in 2017 the PSPO has led to a reduction in the presence of dog fouling on the streets of RCT but also highlights it still remains an issue.</p> <p>Consultation feedback received prior to the introduction of the Dog Control PSPOs in 2017 and when it was renewed in 2020 highlighted that there was overwhelming public support for the introduction of the orders and prohibitions and requirements in relation to the control of dogs. Over 90% of respondents supported the Council's proposed approach to dealing with dog fouling and that dog fouling should be prohibited.</p> <p>As part of the consultation launched in respect of the proposed renewal of the PSPO for a further 3 year period from 1st October 2023 there remained strong support for the PSPOs with 88.3% of respondents saying they continue to support the Council's approach. At the same time there was wide scale support (over 89%) for each of the elements of the PSPO.</p>
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		<p>Prior to the consultation it was identified that some individuals may have physical limitations (reduced mobility) and impairment that may reduce ability to remove dog fouling, restrict ability to restrain a dog on a lead and having to travel further to exercise their dog (on foot or by vehicle) – Enforcement Officers would therefore need to take a view on individual cases and are provided with training in relation to this.</p> <p>Some concerns were raised in the consultation with limiting areas that people with mobility issues can exercise their dogs and highlighted the positive effect of walking with dogs in local areas. Other respondents raised concerns about feeling unsafe around dogs off leads or dealing with dog fouling when mobility-impaired. The Council has introduced a dedicated fenced off dog walking area in Ynysangharad Park which has proved successful and is exploring opportunities to roll out similar schemes in other parks.</p>	<p>Consultation feedback did highlight that this was a concern and therefore the mitigation identified, and already implemented under the operation of the existing Order is important to address this point.</p> <p>Consultation comments included:</p> <p><i>“I'm already limited to where I can walk my dogs due to my disabilities but extended the areas in which I wouldn't be able to walk my dog would make life for me very difficult as it is I often have to ask family members to walk my dogs and I'm grateful for the help I get but I do like to try and get out when I have someone to help me”</i></p> <p><i>“As we age a dog can be a lifeline, there must be designated areas within easy reach for dogs to run and chase a ball”</i></p> <p><i>“Many elderly people are unable to drive to areas to walk their dogs and a little wander around a field first thing in a morning or during the day where their dog can have a little run is so important for physical and mental well-being”</i></p>
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<p>Disability <i>(people with visible and non- visible disabilities or long-term health conditions)</i></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>The PSPO dog controls is expected have a largely positive differential impact on all Protected Characteristics of Disability. This group will benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all age groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces.</p> <p>Some potential issues that were identified included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability to remove dog fouling • Reduced ability to restrain dog on lead • Ability to know about restrictions (sensory and cognitive impairment) • Reduced ability to communicate (hearing/speech impairment) • Ability to understand restrictions (cognitive impairment) <p>In order to address the potential impacts of these no enforcement on any Public Space Protection Order dog control will take place if an individual has a disability that affects the person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise</p>	<p>Consultation feedback included comments such as:</p> <p><i>"Help me feel safer whilst using the Country Park"</i></p> <p><i>"disabled unable to crouch down and pick up poo? I thought they had a protected characteristic and the rules didn't apply"</i></p> <p><i>I'm already limited to where I can walk my dogs due to my disabilities but extended the areas in which I wouldn't be able to walk my dog would make life for me very difficult as it is I often have to ask family members to walk my dogs and I'm grateful for the help I get but I do like to try and get out when I have someone to help me"</i></p> <p><i>"Disability is the only factor to consider here regarding slips/dogs mess on wheelchair wheels etc."</i></p> <p>Dog Control Order and dog fouling legislation provides exemptions in particular cases for registered blind people, deaf people and for other</p>

		<p>move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a registered charity and upon which the person relies for assistance.</p>	<p>members of the public with disabilities who make use of trained assistance dogs. Consideration will need to be given to the application of these exemptions</p> <p>Exemptions for Disabled People</p> <p>The provisions in the Order do not apply to a person who:</p> <p>(a) is registered as partially sighted or blind, in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or</p> <p>(b) is registered as “sight-impaired”, “severely sight-impaired” or as “having sight and hearing impairments which, in combination, have a significant effect on their day to day lives”, in a register compiled under section 18 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014;</p> <p>(c) has a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or otherwise move everyday objects, in respect of a dog trained by a prescribed charity and upon which they rely for assistance.</p> <p>The dog exclusion provision in the Order does not apply to a dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and</p>
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			<p>upon which a disabled person relies for assistance. However, it is expected that all reasonable measures should be undertaken to prevent assistance dogs going onto marked sports pitches.</p> <p>When sporting activities take place on the pitches, dogs should be kept under control and not allowed to go onto the marked pitch.</p> <p>For the purposes of the Order, a “disability” means a condition that qualifies as a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and a “disabled person” means a person who has such a disability.</p>
<p>Gender Reassignment <i>(anybody who’s gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they were assigned at birth including non-binary identities)</i></p>	Neutral	<p>The PSPO dog controls is expected have a neutral impact on all Protected Characteristics of Gender Reassignment. However, this group will benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces</p>	<p>No specific issues were raised in the previous consultation process in respect of this protected characteristic.</p>

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
Marriage or Civil Partnership <i>(people who are married or in a civil partnership)</i>	Neutral	<p>The PSPO dog controls is expected have a neutral impact on all Protected Characteristics of Marriage and Civil Partnership. However, this group will benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces.</p>	<p>No specific issues were raised in the previous consultation process in respect of this protected characteristic.</p>
Pregnancy and Maternity <i>(women who are pregnant/on maternity leave)</i>	Positive	<p>The PSPO dog controls is expected have a positive differential impact on all Protected Characteristics of Pregnancy and Maternity. This group will benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces.</p> <p>Individuals may be characterised as having mobility issues relating to their pregnancy and therefore Enforcement Officers will need to take a view on individual cases. Training will be provided to all Officers with delegated authority to issue enforcement</p>	<p>Consultation feedback comments did highlight the risk of someone who is pregnant coming into contact with dog faeces and therefore supported a renewal of the dog control pspos.</p>

		Fines.	
Race <i>(ethnic and racial groups i.e. minority ethnic groups, Gypsy, Roma and Travellers)</i>	Positive	<p>The PSPO dog controls is expected have a positive differential impact on all Protected Characteristics of Race. This group will benefit from having improved controls of antisocial behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces.</p> <p>Some considerations in respect of this protected characteristic might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of written Welsh/English used on signage • Understanding enforcement officers in conversation • Where a FPN is served understanding the content of such a penalty <p>These considerations could be mitigated by ensuring signs are more pictorial in nature.</p>	No specific issues were raised in the previous consultation process in respect of this protected characteristic.
Religion or Belief <i>(people with different religions and philosophical beliefs including people with no beliefs)</i>	Neutral	<p>The PSPO dog controls is expected have a positive differential impact on all Protected Characteristics of Religion. However, this group will benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog</p>	No specific issues were raised in the previous consultation process in respect of this protected characteristic.

		control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces.	
Sex <i>(women and men, girls and boys)</i>	Neutral	The PSPO dog controls is expected have a neutral impact on all Protected Characteristics of Sex. However, this group will benefit from having improved controls of antisocial behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces.	No specific issues were raised in the previous consultation process in respect of this protected characteristic.
Sexual Orientation <i>(bisexual, gay, lesbian, straight)</i>	Neutral	The PSPO dog controls is expected have a neutral impact on all Protected Characteristics of Sexual Orientation. However, this group will benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces.	No specific issues were raised in the previous consultation process in respect of this protected characteristic.

In addition, due to Council commitments made to the following groups of people we would like you to consider impacts upon them:

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
Armed Forces Community <i>(anyone who is serving, has served, family members and the bereaved)</i>	Neutral	The PSPO dog controls is expected have a neutral impact on the Armed Forces Community. However, this group will benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces	No specific issues were raised in the previous consultation process in respect of this protected characteristic.
Carers <i>(anyone of any age who provides unpaid care)</i>	Neutral	The PSPO dog controls is expected have a neutral impact on Carers. However, this group will benefit from having improved controls of anti-social behaviour relating to dog control. This will benefit all groups to enjoy public spaces with reduced fear of anti-social behaviour relating to dog controls and support proactive enforcement relating to dog fouling in public spaces	No specific issues were raised in the previous consultation process in respect of this protected characteristic.

If the initial screening test has identified negative impacts then a full equality impact assessment (section 4) **must** be undertaken. However, if after undertaking the above screening test you determine a full equality impact assessment is not relevant please provide an adequate explanation below:

Are you happy you have sufficient evidence to justify your decision?

Yes *

No

Name: Laura Dando

Position: Community Safety Manager

Date: 19th May 2026

Please forward a copy of this completed screening form to the Diversity and Inclusion Team.

PLEASE NOTE – there is a separate impact assessment for Welsh Language. This must also be completed for proposals.

Section 3 Socio-economic Duty needs only to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. Definition of a 'strategic nature' is available on page 6 of the Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty Welsh Government Guidance.

SECTION 3 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY (STRATEGIC DECISIONS ONLY) – NOT APPLICABLE TO THIS PROPOSAL

The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services.

Please consider these additional vulnerable groups and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single parents and vulnerable families• Pensioners• Looked after children• Homeless people• Students• Single adult households	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People living in the most deprived areas in Wales• People with low literacy and numeracy• People who have experienced the asylum system• People misusing substances• People of all ages leaving a care setting• People involved in the criminal justice system
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<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
<u>Low Income/Income Poverty</u> <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i>	Select from the following:		
<u>Low and / or No Wealth</u> <i>(enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future)</i>	Select from the following:		
<u>Material Deprivation</u> <i>(unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.)</i>	Select from the following:		

<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
<u>Area Deprivation</u> <i>(where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport))</i>	Select from the following:		
Socio-economic background <i>(social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)</i>	Select from the following:		
Socio-economic disadvantage <i>(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)</i>	Select from the following:		

SECTION 4 – FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

You should use the information gathered at the screening stage to assist you in identifying possible negative/adverse impacts and clearly identify which groups are affected.

- 4.a) In terms of disproportionate/negative/adverse impacts that the proposal may have on a protected group, outline the steps that will be taken to reduce or mitigate the impact for each group identified. **Attach a separate action plan where impacts are substantial.**

In this EIA certain factors have been identified as challenges for certain protected characteristics. Below we have identified these and these are set out below alongside the mitigating actions and any action to be take.

ISSUE

- Dog owner due to age/mobility/latter stages of pregnancy is unable to clear dog fouling or comply with any other restriction
- Dog owner has sensory or mobility issues
- Dog owner has liveried/un-liveried assistance dog and is unable to clear fouling or comply with any other restriction

GENERAL MITIGATING ACTIONS

- Informing the community of the PSPO dog controls and how they will be managed.
- Promoting and communicating good dog ownership behaviours.
- Clear signing of controls.
- Media / social media information at regular intervals reinforcing the controls
- Direct engagement with specialist groups and the provision of good information/media.

ACTION TAKEN/TO BE TAKEN

Officers receive training about this aspect of enforcement and will continue to do so.

A FPN can be appealed and information submitted about mitigating circumstances. Appeals are determined by the service manager.

In the case of liveried assistance dogs the dog owner is not challenged by the enforcement officer other than to offer assistance.

- 4.b) If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible, please explain why they are not possible.

N/A

- 4.c) Give sufficient detail of data or research that has led to your reasoning, in particular, the sources used for establishing the demographics of service users/staff.

The Dog Controls PSPOs have been in force since 2017, a period of nine years. This has allowed the Council to refine its approach to enforcement (and associated mitigation in respect of potential negative impacts on any individual with a protected characteristic.) It has also allowed it to develop its approach to educating people about the issue of dog fouling and the provisions/rules of the dog control orders through press and social media campaigns. Feedback is also received as part of the enforcement process which is used by the relevant services to inform their approach, evaluate and if necessary revise it.

Data from an annual report produced by Keep Wales Tidy in respect of a survey of recorded incidents of dog fouling across the County Borough was also used to inform the proposal.

- 4.d) Give details of how you engaged with service users/staff on the proposals and the steps taken to avoid any disproportionate impact on a protected group. Explain how you have used feedback to influence your decision.

The consultation will run from 8th June 2026 until 20th July 2026.

The aim of the consultation is to gather the views of residents and other relevant bodies and interested parties on proposals to renew a Public Spaces Protection Order, with regards to dog fouling in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The consultation will use an online survey on the Let's Talk platform. The survey aims to gain feedback on the proposals.

To ensure wide outreach and involvement of the wider community the consultation will be promoted on the [Councils consultation webpage](#) to encourage engagement. A short video will be created outlining the key elements of the PSPO, this will be placed on the webpage and also shared on social media sites.

An email will be sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation, including the following;

- South Wales Police and Police & Crime Commissioner
- Sports Clubs/Leisure 4 life App 12000 active users
- Neighbouring local Authorities
- Schools
- Councillors/MPs/SMs

- RSPCA, Kennel Club etc.

- Neighbourhood Networks

Posters will be placed in in a number of key local parks, leisure centres and community centres.

Respondents will be encouraged to write in using a dedicated email address consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk, in order to allow them to share their views.

The proposals will be presented and discussed at the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 21st September 2026.

The full consultation report, outlining the key findings and feedback from the consultation process included the emerging issues/themes will be appended to the Cabinet report put before Members prior to any decisions made in respect of the proposal to extending the dog control PSPOs for a further three year period.

4.e) Are you satisfied that the engagement process complies with the requirements of the Statutory Equality and Socio-economic Duties?

Yes

No

SECTION 5 – MONITORING AND REVIEW

5a) Please outline below how the implementation of the proposal will be monitored:

The Council's Cabinet will consider the Consultation Report (together with impact assessments) and decide, based on the feedback, whether to proceed with the proposal, amend the proposal or not proceed with the proposal. If the Council's Cabinet decides not to proceed, the Dog Control PSPO's would not be renewed and their relevant provisions fall away. If the Council's Cabinet approve the proposal, it will mean the Dog Control PSPOs will be extended for a further three year period from 1st October 2026. Should Cabinet determine to extend the Dog Control PSPOs their effectiveness will be monitored by the relevant service departments using feedback received from service users and data.

5b) When is the evaluation of the proposal due to be reviewed?

Legislation requires the PSPOS to be reviewed every three years if they are to be renewed or varied. However feedback received in relation to the PSPOs during the intervening period is used by the relevant services to inform their approach to things such as enforcement and educational/press campaigns in respect dog fouling.

5c) Who is responsible for the monitoring and review of the proposal?

Director of Community Services

5d) How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?

As stated above legislation requires the PSPOS to be reviewed every three years if they are to be renewed or varied. Therefore all feedback received following any extension and subsequent extensions is used to inform that renewal process as is the case now.

SECTION 6 – REVIEW

As part of the Impact Assessment process all proposals that fall within the definition of ‘Key Decisions’ must be submitted to the Review Panel. This panel is made up of officers from across Council Services and acts as a critical friend before your proposal is finalised and published for SLT/Cabinet approval.

If this proposal is a Key Decision please forward your impact assessment to Councilbusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk for a Review Panel to be organised to discuss your proposal. The EqIA guidance document provides more information on what a Key Decision is.

It is important to keep a record of this process so that you can demonstrate how you have considered equality and socio-economic outcomes. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below

Officer Review Panel Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Officer Review Panel considerations
Consultation Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consultation

SECTION 6 – SUMMARY OF IMPACTS FOR THE PROPOSAL

Provide below a summary of the impact assessment. This summary should be included in the equality and socio-economic impact section of the Cabinet report template. The impact assessment should be published alongside the report.

The Council must be able to demonstrate that a PSPO is a necessary and proportionate response to the problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them. The Council is required to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs. This must take into consideration the need for people, particularly children, to have access to dog-free areas and areas where dogs are kept under strict control, and the need for those in charge of dogs to have access to areas where they can exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.

In developing the original PSPO an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken to ensure that:

- The Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties, and
- Due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the decision in terms of equality and discrimination.

The provisions of the proposed Dog Control Orders would not apply to a person who:

- (i) is registered as partially sighted or blind, in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948;
- (ii) is registered as “sight-impaired”, “severely sight impaired” or as “having sight and hearing impairments which, in combination, have a significant effect on their day to day lives”, in a register compiled under section 18 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014;
- (iii) has a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical coordination, or ability to lift, carry, or otherwise move everyday objects, such that he cannot reasonably be expected to remove the faeces; or (iv) has some other disability, such that he reasonably cannot be expected to remove the faeces.

The provisions of the orders would not apply to a dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.

For the purposes of the orders, a 'disability' means a condition that qualifies as a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.

Nothing in the Order shall apply to the normal activities of a working dog whilst the dog is working. This includes dogs that are being used for work in connection with emergency search and rescue, law enforcement and the work of HM Armed Forces and farm dogs that are being used to herd or drive animals.

This EIA has identified there may be impacts on certain protected characteristics that require consideration should the proposal proceed. It has identified mitigating actions that could be put in place and those already in place to mitigate any negative effects. These are highlighted in the preceding sections of the EIA, particularly in relation to the protected characteristics of age and disability.

DRAFT

SECTION 7 – AUTHORISATIONS –

Lead Officers: Laura Dando and Gary Black

Name: Laura Dando Position: Community Safety Manager

Date: 19.05.26

I recommend that the proposal:

- Is implemented with no amendments
- Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined ✓
- Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on protected groups or socio-economic disadvantage

Director Approval:

Name: Louise Davies

Position: Director Community Services

Date: 28.05.26

Please submit this impact assessment with any SLT/Cabinet Reports.

WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIS) tool enables RCT Council to consider the principles and requirements of the [Welsh Language Standards \(No.1\) Regulations 2015](#) to ensure compliance with the [Welsh Language \(Wales\) Measure 2011](#).

Stage 1 – Information Gathering

NOTE: As you complete this tool you will be asked for **evidence to support your views**. Please see [Welsh Language Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for more information on data sources.

Proposal Name:	PROPOSED EXTENSION TO RHONDDA CYNON TAF CBC'S DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS
Department	Public Health, Protection and Communities/ Frontline Services/ Legal & Democratic Services
Service Director	Louise Davies
Officer Completing the WLIA	Laura Dando
Email	Laura.Dando@rctcbc.gov.uk
Phone	07385406193
Brief Description	<p>The two Public Spaces Protection Orders related to dog controls within Rhondda Cynon Taf are due to expire on the 30th September 2026. At any point before expiry of these orders, the Council can vary or extend them by up to three years if it considers it necessary to prevent the original behaviour from occurring or recurring.</p> <p>The proposal, subject to the necessary consultation prescribed in legislation, is to extend those orders and to authorise officers to publicise the proposed orders as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.</p>
Date	19 th May 2026

**Please outline who this proposal affects?
(Service Users, Employees, Wider Community)**

- Service users ✓
- Employees ✓ (in the context of those officers who administer and enforce the Dog Control PSPO's)
- Wider community ✓ (including residents and those who work in the County Borough and visit it)

DRAFT

<p>What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?</p>	<p>Dog fouling remains a significant concern for the Council and for those who live, work and visit the County Borough.</p> <p>Dog Fouling is unpleasant and is a serious risk to human health, particularly amongst children.</p> <p>The Public Spaces Protection Orders in relation to dog controls has allowed the Council to introduce a range of reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the use of publicly accessible land across the County Borough and helped control the harmful activities of irresponsible dog owners whilst allowing responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.</p> <p>Despite the introduction of the orders in October 2017 and their renewal in October 2020 and 2023 there remains a minority of dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control. Officers therefore consider it vital the orders, which would ordinarily expire on 30th September 2026, are renewed for a further three year period in order to maintain the significant benefits the orders have had in relation to dog fouling and ensure appropriate powers remain in place to deal with the minority who continue to flout the laws</p> <p>The 2023 Cabinet report can be found here (Agenda Item 6).</p> <p>There are no specific links as to the use of the Welsh Language in respect of the proposal – Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended. Fixed Penalty Notices are also issued bilingually.</p>
<p>Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups? If so, list them here.</p>	<p>All members of the public who live, work and visit the County Borough benefit from a safer, cleaner environment as a result of reduced dog fouling and dogs being kept under control. The proposal will not specifically affect Welsh Language groups.</p>
<p>Current linguistic profile of the geographical area(s) concerned</p>	<p>The 2021 Census figures regarding the Welsh language show a decrease in the percentage of Welsh speakers across Wales to 17.8%. There was, however, a small increase in RCT – the percentage of the population of the county borough who can speak Welsh increased from 12.3% to 12.4%. Numerically, RCT saw a 2.8% increase in the number of Welsh speakers in the county borough, from 27,779 speakers to 28,556 speakers. RCT was also one of only four LAs in Wales to see an increase in the percentage of Welsh speakers – the others were Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Tudful. All of these are neighbouring</p>

	<p>county boroughs, which could demonstrate that our region is seeing some positive trends in terms of increases in Welsh speakers, and that there may be a resulting increase in demand for services through the medium of Welsh. As further, more detailed, data from the Census becomes available for RCT (e.g. LSOA data), we will need to consider what impact it may have on the services we provide.</p>
<p>Other relevant data or research</p>	<p>A previous public consultation exercise in relation to the proposal ran from 10th July 2023 until 18th August 2023.</p> <p>The aim of the consultation was to gather the views of residents and other relevant bodies and interested parties on proposals to renew a Public Spaces Protection Order, with regards to dog fouling in Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p> <p>The consultation used an online survey which was built using Snap XMP. The survey aimed to gain feedback on the proposals.</p> <p>To ensure wide outreach and involvement of the wider community the consultation was promoted on the Councils consultation webpage to encourage engagement. A short video was created outlining the key elements of the PSPO, this was placed on the webpage and also shared on social media sites.</p> <p>An email was also sent to key stakeholders to promote the consultation and encourage participation, including the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Wales Police and Police & Crime Commissioner - Sports Clubs/Leisure 4 life App 12000 active users - Neighbouring local Authorities - Schools - Councillors/MPs/SMs - RSPCA, Kennel Club etc. - Neighbourhood Networks <p>Posters were placed in in a number of key local parks, leisure centres and community centres.</p> <p>A telephone consultation option was in place, through the Council’s contact centre. This option allows people to discuss their views or request consultation materials. Individual call backs were available on request and a consultation Freepost address provided an option for postal responses.</p>

Respondents were encouraged to write in using a dedicated email address consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk, in order to allow them to share their views. Overall, there were a total of 5 emails/letters received from the public relating to the consultation.

The proposals were presented and discussed at the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 17th July 2023.

Overall, 319 survey responses and 5 emails/letters were received to the consultation.

The full consultation report, outlining the key findings and feedback from the consultation process included the emerging issues/themes will be appended to the Cabinet report put before Members prior to any decisions made in respect of the proposal to extending the dog control PSPOs for a further three year period.

88.3% of respondents to the online survey said they supported the Council's approach to dealing with dog fouling.

There was wide scale support, with over 89% of respondents agreeing with each of the elements of the Dog Control PSPOs and that they should be continued over the next 3 years.

The following question was specifically asked as part of the survey

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes provision for the specification of standards of conduct in relation to the Welsh language and consequently the Council has a legal duty to look at how its decisions impact on the Welsh Language.

Please let us know how you feel the proposal could impact opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language (Positive or Negative) and if in any way it treats the Welsh Language less favourably than the English Language?

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

In this section you need to consider the impact, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement. This is to ensure that the opportunities for people who choose to live their lives and access services through the medium of Welsh are not inferior to what is afforded to those choosing to do so in English, in accordance with the requirement of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Please note there is a separate impact assessment for Equality and Socio-Economic duty that must also be completed for policy proposals.

Remember that effects that are positive for some groups could be detrimental to others - even among Welsh language groups. Consider the effects on different groups. For example, a proposal may be beneficial to Welsh learners, but not to Welsh speakers.

Previous Welsh Language Impact Assessments can be found on Inform by [clicking here](#).

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language	Positive	Whilst there are no specific impacts on the use of the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the	Welsh Language Promotional Strategy Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy	Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual

<p>e.g. staff, residents and visitors</p> <p>The rights of Welsh speakers and learners to use Welsh when dealing with the council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>		<p>details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.</p>	<p>Consultation feedback included comments such as</p> <p><i>"I don't believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the Council continues to maintain its bilingual provision."</i></p> <p>Some respondents indicated that <i>'bilingual signage should show the Welsh translated first'</i></p>	<p>Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role.</p>
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Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	<p>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?</p>	<p>Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.</p>	<p>What evidence do you have to support this view?</p>	<p>What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</p>
<p>Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Whilst there are no specific impacts on increasing the</p>	<p>Welsh Language Promotional Strategy</p>	<p>Support Welsh Language training and</p>

<p>speakers e.g. Welsh Medium Education / Study Opportunities. Links with the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy / RCTCBC Five Year Welsh Language Strategy</p>		<p>number/percentage of Welsh Speakers as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.</p>	<p>Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy</p>	<p>look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role.</p>
<p>Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work and in the community</p> <p>Actively encourage and promote the use of our services in Welsh to see an increase in demand over time</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Whilst there are no specific impacts on increasing opportunities to use the Welsh Language as a result of this proposal, the signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.</p>	<p>Welsh Language Promotional Strategy</p> <p>Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy</p> <p>Consultation feedback included comments such as</p> <p><i>"I don't believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the Council continues to maintain its bilingual provision."</i></p> <p>Some respondents indicated that</p> <p><i>'bilingual signage should show the Welsh translated first'</i></p>	<p>Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role</p>

Stage 2 – Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>Compliance with the <u>Council's Statutory Welsh Language Standards</u> e.g. increasing or reducing the Council's ability to deliver services through the Medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work</p>	Positive	Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	<p>Existing signs already installed in respect of those locations which are covered by the current version of the Dog Control PSPOs</p> <p>Consultation feedback included comments such as</p> <p><i>"I don't believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the Council continues to maintain its bilingual provision."</i></p> <p>Some respondents indicated that</p>	<p>Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers.</p> <p>Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role</p>

			<i>'bilingual signage should show the Welsh translated first'</i>	
Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably than the English language	Neutral	Signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.	Existing signs already installed in respect of those locations which are covered by the current version of the Dog Control PSPOs	Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers. Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role

Stage 3 - Strengthening the proposal

Having listed actions in section 2 which may mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts – please record below which ones you will imbed into the policy proposal and who will be responsible for them.

Also consider is the proposal necessary? Would it be possible to meet demand without any new developments? Could other existing provision be used? Where should the development be?

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?
Support Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers. Look at positive recruitment e.g. targeting Welsh job sites, Welsh classes	Ongoing	Director of Community Services

If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible to implement, please explain why. Give sufficient detail of data or research that has led to your reasoning.

What was identified?	Why is it not possible?
Guaranteeing Welsh speaking staff in order to be able to engage in the language choice of the members of the public, including any communication with regards to issuing of fines	Current staffing structure of service need to improve Welsh language skills / capacity before implementation.

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Stage 4 – Review

For all policy proposals, whether it is a Significant Key Decision or not, you are required to forward this assessment to Welsh Language services – welshlanguageofficer@rctcbc.gov.uk and the Consultation and Engagement team – consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk in the first instance for some initial guidance and feedback.

As part of the Welsh Language, Equalities and Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment Process all proposals that fall within the definition of Significant Key Decision should present at the Officer Review Panel. This panel is made up of officers from across Council Services and acts as a critical friend before your report is finalised and published for SLT/Cabinet approval.

If this proposal is a Key Strategic Decision please forward your completed (Stage 1>6) impact assessment, policy proposal/report and consultation report to CouncilBusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk for an Officer Review Panel to be organised to discuss your proposal. [See our guidance document](#) for more information on what a Significant Key Decision is.

It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in sustainable Welsh language considerations wherever possible. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below in collaboration with the relevant departments.

Welsh Language Services Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Welsh Language Services feedback
Welsh Language Services advise you to explore the options available to the targeted recruitment of Welsh speakers. Welsh Language Services advise you to ensure that that the process of issuing fines, from beginning to end, including any challenge to any payments etc. is available in both languages.		
Officer Review Panel Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Officer Review Panel considerations

Consultation Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consultation

Stage 5 – Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

How and who will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?

The Council's Cabinet will consider the Consultation Report (together with impact assessments) and decide, based on the feedback, whether to proceed with the proposal, amend the proposal or not proceed with the proposal. If the Council's Cabinet decides not to proceed, the Dog Control PSPO's would not be renewed and their relevant provisions fall away. If the Council's Cabinet approve the proposal, it will mean the Dog Control PSPOs will be extended for a further three year period from 1st October 2026. Should Cabinet determine to extend the Dog Control PSPOs their effectiveness will be monitored by the relevant service departments using feedback received from service users and data, such as the annual Keep Wales Tidy report. Legislation requires the PSPOS to be reviewed every three years if they are to be renewed or varied. However feedback received in relation to the PSPOs during the intervening period is used by the relevant services to inform their approach to things such as enforcement and educational/press campaigns in respect dog fouling. All feedback received following any extension and subsequent extensions is used to inform that renewal process as is the case now.

Stage 6 – Summary of Impacts for the Proposal

Provide below a summary of the impact assessment, to include some of the main positive and negative impacts along with an overview of actions taken since the impact assessment to better contribute to more positive impacts. This summary must be

included in the Welsh Language Considerations section of the SLT/Cabinet report template. It is not suitable to only write 'please see full report at Appendix x' in the body of the report. The impact assessment must be published alongside the report.

A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been completed and the main findings are as follows -

Whilst, as a result of this proposal, there are no specific impacts on

- (i) the use of the Welsh Language;
- (ii) increasing the number/percentage of Welsh Speakers; and
- (iii) increasing opportunities to use the Welsh Language

The signs that are used to transmit the details of the Dog Control PSPO to the public in relevant locations are all bilingual and will remain so should the PSPO be extended.

The majority of comments received through the consultation exercise survey responses agreed there was/would be no specific impact on the Welsh Language in the context of (i) – (iii) above.

Evidence used to support this conclusion includes the Welsh Language Promotional Strategy, Welsh Government's [Cymraeg 2050 Strategy](#) and Consultation feedback which included comments such as

"I don't believe there would be any detrimental impact on Cymraeg, provided the Council continues to maintain its bilingual provision."

Actions that can be taken to better contribute to positive future impacts include:

- (i) Supporting Welsh Language training and look at improving the number of bilingual Environmental Enforcement Officers; and
- (ii) Pro-active recruitment of Welsh speakers to undertake the Enforcement Officer role. Look at positive recruitment e.g. targeting Welsh job sites, Welsh classes

The Welsh Language Service advise officers ensure that that the process of issuing fines, from beginning to end, including any challenge to any payments etc. is available in both languages. FPNs are issued bilingually.

Stage 7 – Sign Off

Name of Officer completing the WLIA	Laura Dando	Service Director Name:	Louise Davies
Position	Community Safety Manager	I recommend that the proposal: (Highlight decision)	Is implemented with no amendments
			Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined
			Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the Welsh language
Signature		Service Director Signature	
Date	19.05.26	Date	28.05.26