

## **Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Control - Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)?**

A PSPO is an Order that is enforceable under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem, in a specific area, that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life. It does so by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone.

### **What will the proposed PSPO cover?**

We are consulting on the following areas:

- 1) It will be an offence for any person in charge of a dog, which defecates on public land, to fail to remove the faeces.
- 2) It will be an offence for any person in charge of a dog to fail to provide evidence of a suitable receptacle (such as a poo bag) to pick up dog faeces when requested to do so by an authorised officer.
- 3) It will be an offence for any person in charge of a dog to take the dog into, or permit the dog to enter, an enclosed children's play area to which the public have access.

### **What area would the PSPO cover?**

The PSPO will cover any place within the South Holland District to which the public have access.

### **How will the PSPO be enforced?**

Any person not complying with a PSPO can be issued by an Authorised Officer a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice. The level of this fine is fixed by law. They can be taken to court if the fine is not paid within the specified timeframe. A person guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (£1,000), unless:

- they have the consent from the owner, occupier or person in charge of the land, not to comply with the order (private land)
- they have a reasonable excuse for failing to comply, or
- they fall within one of the other exemptions within the order.

### **What are the exemptions?**

Exemptions are prescribed within the Order for the following:

- a. A person is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or

- b. A person has a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination, or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects; in respect of a dog under their control which is trained by a prescribed charity and upon which they rely for assistance.

**How long will the PSPO last?**

A PSPO lasts for three years. After that we would decide whether to renew it in consultation with residents.

**What happens after the consultation period?**

The Council will consider the feedback and make a final decision, which is anticipated to be in November 2024.

**How will you inform people of the new rules if a PSPO is introduced?**

We will publicise the decision and the new rules, and regularly remind the public through social media and news. The PSPO and accompanying information will be published on the Council website.