

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF		MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE		ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	7 JUNE 2016	8
APPOINTMENTS TO MEMBER WORKING GROUP - PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS				

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report outlines the proposal for the establishment of a cross party member working group: 'To investigate the possible use and implications of Public Space Protection Orders at Fylde and to make recommendations on whether they should be used, where they should be used and for what activities they should be used'. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) potentially have wide ranging implications enabling a local authority to make an order on any public space if activities carried out have a detrimental impact on the quality of life for the local community, and it is likely these activities will persist. The objective is consider the impact on public open spaces of activities related to dog walking, in particular dogs roaming without a leash and individuals in charge of an excessive number of dogs usually as part of a commercial venture. A cross party and cross committee working group has been proposed because PSPO's can impact on a wide range of issues and there is benefit in looking at everything possible at the same time.

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee nominate two representatives to be part of the cross party working group looking at Public Space Protection Orders on the grounds that the work of the group will cover issues relevant to the remit of this committee.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Operational Management Committee on March 8th 2016 agreed the following:

1. The committee agree to establish a cross party working group to consider the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders across the borough which will report back to the Operational Management committee and make any appropriate recommendations.
2. That the cross party working group established consists of seven elected members with three from the Operational Management Committee, two from the Tourism & Leisure Committee and two from the Environment, Health & Housing Committee
3. That the three representatives from the Operational Management Committee are the Chair and Vice Chair and a further member nominated by the committee.
4. That the Chairs of Tourism & Leisure and Environment, Health & Housing are asked to nominate two representatives from their committee to be part of the cross party working group.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	√
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	√

REPORT

1. For a number of years the Council has considered measures to address problems associated with dogs roaming off leads disturbing, even attacking people or other dogs, and individuals exercising an excessive numbers of dogs, in some areas of the borough on some public open spaces. Concerns over these issues have been raised in response to a number of complaints made by individuals and community organisations. The council has previously considered dog control orders to address the issues however, after consultation and careful consideration no proposals were put forward to introduce dog control orders. Legislation has now changed with the powers that were available through dog control orders becoming part of Public Space Protection Orders under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
2. Public Space Protection Orders are intended, and should only be applied when *“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”, and “it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect”*. This is certainly the case with many of the reports received in relation to roaming dogs and professional dog walkers. The legislation states that the impact of the activity *“is or, is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable”*. Public Space Protection Orders provide an opportunity to address an ongoing problem in some areas of the borough.
3. It is a complex and sensitive subject matter which requires appropriate detailed member input through a cross party working group. Although the subject of dogs on leads and professional dog walking activities fall primarily within the remit of the Operational Management Committee it is recognised that the issue also has tourism and environmental health implications, as well as the fact that PSPO’s can cover other activities i.e. barbeques on public land. It is therefore proposed that the cross party working group is also cross committee with elected members from the Operational Management, Tourism & Leisure, and Environment, Health & Housing committees, with the recommendations made by the working group being put before the Operational Management Committee for consideration.
4. The Chairman of the Operational Management Committee has proposed that the cross party working group should have seven members, with three from the Operational Management Committee, and two each from the Tourism & Leisure Committee and the Environment, Health & Housing Committee. It is important to have a political and geographical balance to the cross party working group because of the differences experienced across the borough from dogs off leads and professional dog walkers.
5. The scope of the cross party working group is: **‘To investigate the possible use and implications of Public Space Protection Orders at Fylde and to make recommendations on whether they should be used, where they should be used and for what activities they should be used.’**

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications as a result of the report.
Legal	There are no legal implications as a result of the report.
Community Safety	There are no community safety implications as a result of the report.
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no human rights or equality implications as a result of the report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no sustainability or environmental implications as a result of the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no health & safety or risk management implications as a result of the report.

LEAD AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Operational Management Report and Minute	March 8 th 2016	www.fylde.gov.uk

There are no attached documents.