



Dog Control – Public Space Protection Order

Report by Consultation & Engagement Team

October 2023

1. Background and methodology

Between 29th August and 26th September, the Council ran a public consultation, seeking to engage residents and stakeholders that have an interest in anti-social behaviour relating to dog control, in sharing their reflections on whether the Public Space Protection Order on ‘*Dogs Exclusion*’, ‘*Dogs on Leads*’, ‘*Dogs on Leads by Direction*’, and ‘*Fouling of Land by Dogs*’ has been effective over the past three years. It also called for consultees to consider whether Bolton Council should extend the Order for a further three years.

During that period a comprehensive communication plan was implemented to raise awareness of the proposal across the borough, with a strong emphasis on engaging residents. An email was distributed to all stakeholders, including the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector, as well as Elected Council Members. Supporting documentation was made accessible on the Council’s consultation webpages and social media was heavily utilised throughout the period to share key messages about the consultation.

Participants were surveyed using a questionnaire tool made up of open and closed questions, over a period of 4 weeks, providing respondents the opportunity to reflect and share their thoughts on the extension proposal. The questionnaire was made available both digitally and offline, with the questionnaire being accessible on the council’s consultation web page, as well as in hard copy format, on request.

*A copy of the questionnaire is included at the end of this document, located in Appendix A.

Analysis notes

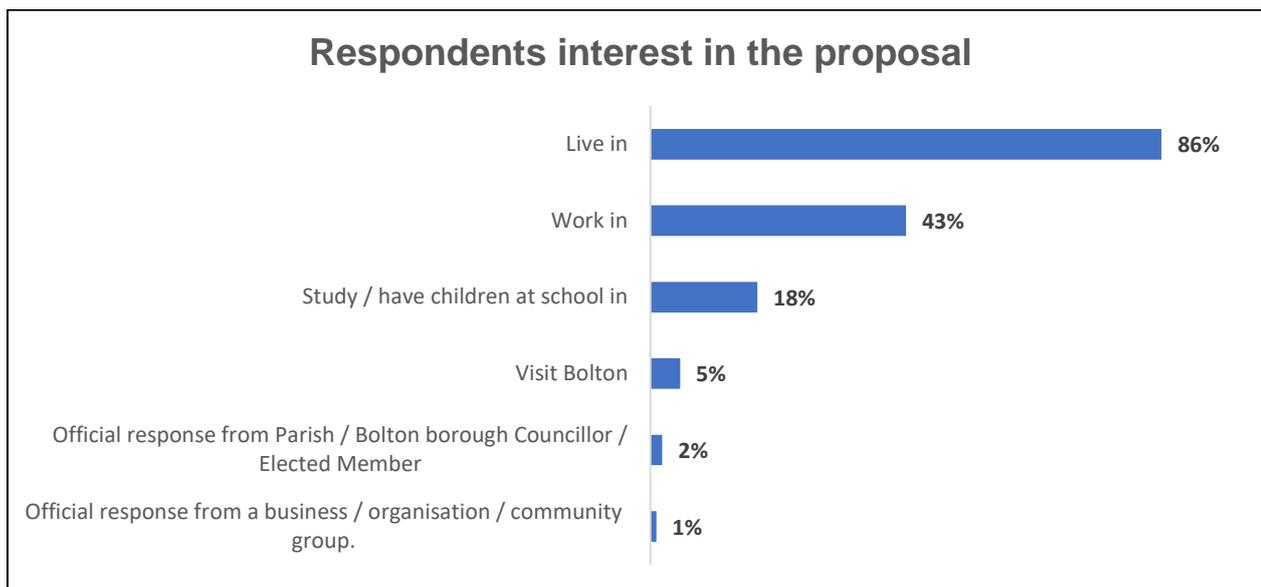
- Results are presented in the questionnaire format with ‘Don’t know’ type responses removed unless stated.
- Comments have been categorised where feasible. Unless otherwise stated, categories with 5 or more responses are shown. Categories may overlap and a comment from one respondent included in multiple categories. A sample of comments [verbatim] are included in the report. Comments may be abbreviated so that only the relevant extract is included. One comment may be coded into multiple categories, and each category may only cover a certain aspect of the comment, for example a respondent may have made both positive and negative comments about the same aspect.
- Base: unless otherwise stated the base is the number of respondents to a particular question.
- Data has been cleansed where appropriate, e.g., comments moved into existing responses.

2. Consultation responses

Throughout the consultation period 192 responses were received from residents and stakeholders, as well as three email responses (see Appendix B).

Those responding to the digital survey are inclusive of 86% of residents living in the borough; 43% of stakeholders working in the borough; 18% of stakeholders studying in Bolton or have children in

educational establishments in the borough and 5% of respondents visiting the borough. Official responses were received from Elected Council Members, as well as professional animal related businesses.



A number of open-ended questions were included within the survey-based questionnaire, to give respondents the opportunity to comment on the proposal to extend the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for a further three years, as well as suggest alternative approaches to the current PSPO for Dog Control. The following sections highlight the responses to those questions.

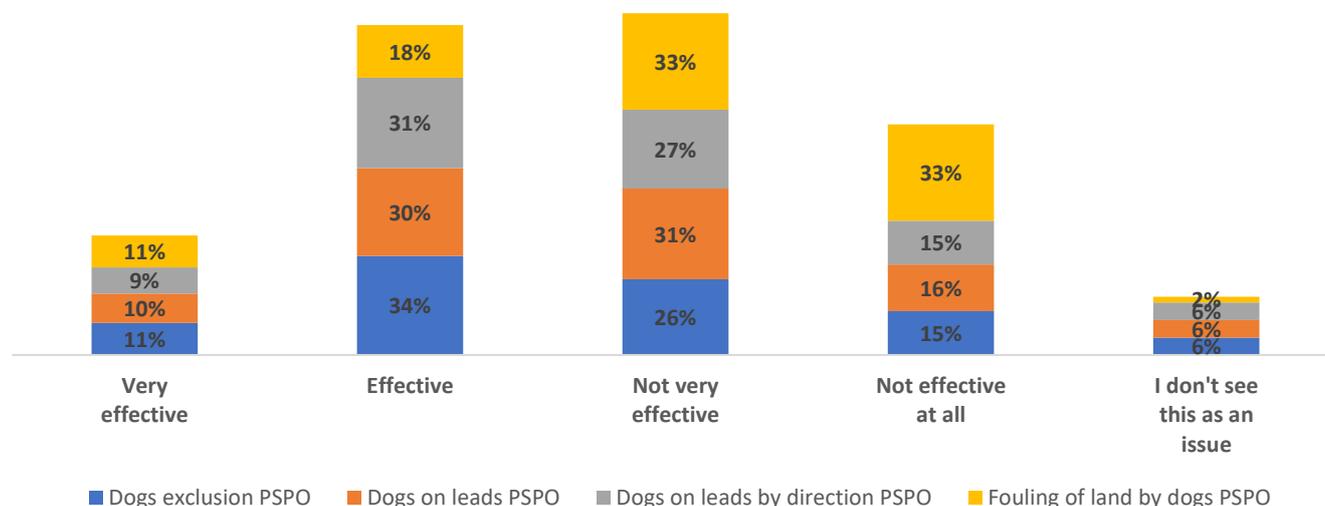
3. Current Dog Control PSPO

3a. Effectiveness of Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders

All respondents were asked to reflect on the current PSPO for Dog Control, across the four areas of ‘Dogs Exclusion’, ‘Dogs on Leads’, ‘Dogs on Leads by Direction’, and ‘Fouling of Land by Dogs’. The current Order has been operational since 2020, however was originally granted in 2007 and became a Public Space Protection Order under the anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. To support residents and stakeholders in their decision-making process, ‘Notice of Intention to Extend’ documents for each of the PSPO areas were made available.

When asked to reflect upon the effectiveness of the ‘Dogs Exclusion’ Order, 45% of residents and stakeholders stated it is effective. 41% stated that it wasn’t effective. The Order of ‘Dogs on Leads’ was found to be ineffective by 47% of respondents. When referring to the ‘Dogs on Leads by Direction’, 42% stated that it is ineffective, but 40% felt it is effective. When asked to consider the effectiveness of the ‘Fouling of Land by Dogs’, 66% stated that it is not effective.

How effective / ineffective do you feel that the four PSPOs have been in dealing with any irresponsible dog control issues?



Base average: 177

3b. Comments on the current effectiveness of Dog Control Public Space Protection

Residents and stakeholders were provided with the opportunity to comment on how effective the current Public Space Protection (PSPO) order has been on reducing anti-social behaviour in relation to Dog Exclusion, Dogs on Leads, Dogs on Leads by Direction and Fouling of Land by Dogs. 109 comments were received from stakeholders, which have been categorised into the following 8 key themes.

Theme	Number of responses
Increase in dog fouling, including the littering of dog bags	38
Locations	26
Enforcement	23
Dogs off leads / extendable leads	22
General agreement	18
One regulatory model should not apply to all dog owners	12
Advisory signs / messaging	10
Types of dog owners not abiding by the PSPO	8

Increase in dog fouling, including the littering of dog bags

As indicated in the table above, the majority of respondents state that the current order around 'Fouling of Land by Dogs' had been significantly ineffective. This led to the vast number of comments being around this theme. 38 comments were received that reflected upon the frustration of dog owners not cleaning up after their dog had fouled in different locations across the borough, including highways, parks, recreational

areas and residential areas. Further comments outlined the increase in littering of dog fouling bags, particularly owners hanging excrement bags on tree branches, bushes, and railings. Comments around dog fouling and littering were often entwined with the lack of enforcement of the PSPO. In addition, stakeholders called for the littering of dog bags to be included within the proposal to extend the Dog Control order.

- *“Anyone who hangs their dogs poo on the branch of a tree should be locked in the stocks and publicly flogged by people throwing their dog poo at them in Victoria Square!”*
- *“Dog fouling is at an all time high. I had to walk in the road with a double buggy and toddler as the pavement on the bridge church road kearsley is absolutely covered in dog excrement. It is a daily occurrence.”*
- *“Regularly see dog faeces around my area of Halliwell/Smithills. One of the most irritating things are people who pick up the waste and then leave the bags on the floor, hung in trees, sat on walls. I think this is worse than not picking it up at all.”*
- *“There is dog poo everywhere on public paths, open spaces. Where are the dog bins for those who disrespect the rules for whatever reason.”*
- *“Noticed a lot of dog fouling recently”.*
- *“The amount of dog fouling is terrible”.*
- *“As a new dog owner, I’m surprised by the number of people that don’t clean up after their dog. However, given that no-one is policing this, why would they?”*
- *“We have found dog poop in the play areas. It is horrible.”*
- *“I strongly believe that dog owners should be held to account for the fouling on the highways and open spaces, that their animals cause.”*
- *“Where Claypool Road foot pavement meets with Ainsworth Avenue in Horwich there is persistent dog fouling or owners hanging poo bags from trees and bushes”.*
- *“Fouling of land is still a major issue & PSPO’s help”.*
- *“To make restrictions around dog fouling really effective we need dog poo bins in all popular walking areas.”*

Locations

26 comments were received that specifically referenced areas where offences had been observed. A small number of comments referenced areas where dogs should be able to access freely.

- *“They tend to do it in quieter areas (e.g. housing estates, any quiet green space) where they know they won’t be caught.”*
- *“I personally don’t see an issue taking dogs into enclosed areas (e.g. Brazley Park) if the dog is on a lead”.*
- *“There needs to be more consideration for areas where dogs are around children as this is hazardous when dogs are fighting and not in leads in play areas.”*
- *“Dogs in graveyards should be on leads. Dogs in play areas should be on leads”.*
- *“There needs to be designated dog exercise areas within parks.”*
- *“I have personally been attacked by a dog off lead when walking in countryside with farm animals present”.*
- *“We are always coming across dogs in closed play areas when we are out with our grandchildren. We have found dog poop in the play areas. It is horrible.”*
- *“Lots of dogs come into play areas such as Moss Bank Park and Queens Park”*
- *“Horwich Old Station Park - Dogs off leads - Poop not picked up - All weather football pitch used as a dog run around area? Would you play football on that in the rain when you get sprayed with dog pee and remnants of poop?”*
- *“Bolton has some areas such as near schools where some of the above aren’t as effective, such as cleaning up dog litter.”*

Enforcement

23 comments were received that particularly focused on the lack of enforcement across the PSPO, with some stakeholders reflecting on whether a PSPO should be extended if it cannot be fully enforced.

- *“I don’t see how it will be possible to police this better as proving who is allowing dogs to foul is difficult. It would be excellent if Bolton Council would invest in more dog wardens to make the PSPOs more effective, currently the warden(s) are overstretched and it is apparent from the increase in problem dog issues.”*
- *“There is no one ever around to stop to speak to them or to fine them.”*
- *“Outside Bolton Town Centre there’s very little consistent enforcement. I’m fed up of ringing the council to complain about the problem in Harwood.”*
- *“Enforcement is the key, as is appropriate training for those who are expected to enforce the PSPOs.”*
- *“The PSPO’s that are currently in place have proven to be unnecessary and pretty pointless / useless, particularly when it comes to dog fouling. Extending the terms for another 3 years would be futile.”*
- *“The PSPO are only effective if there is some one around to enforce the order.”*

Dogs off leads / extendable leads

22 comments were received that highlight concerns with dogs being off their lead and additional challenges with dog owners using extendable leads.

- *“Dogs off lead on roads is a real problem.”*
- *“Nobody respects the dogs on leads rule. As an owner of a nervous dog, I cannot walk him anywhere except secure fields due to other dog owners ignoring dog lead rules wherever we try to walk.”*
- *“There are too many dog not on leads in public spaces.”*
- *“Should the metric system be used for the lead length (either alongside or instead of the imperial measurement)”*
- *“Never seen anyone being ‘directed’ to put their dog on a short lead, so don’t see difference in those orders.”*
- *“The number of dogs off leads, even in crowded spaces is mind blowing.”*
- *“They are also often not on the lead and bound over to us and can sometimes fight with each other when we are near which is scary.”*
- *“I live in an area where people think they can walk their huge dogs off leads and never clean up after them.”*
- *“I have had a dog walker refuse to put their (many) dogs on leads when I asked. The council was unable to do anything about it. Walkers with many dogs (6+) means that pathways are often blocked and inaccessible for the general public, especially when they aren’t on lead and are roaming the whole path.”*

General agreement

18 resident and stakeholder comments generally agreed with the need for a Dog Control PSPO.

- *“These PSPOs are desperately needed, but there is a huge lack of support and training for organisations who are meant to uphold them.”*
- *“I am in support of them”.*
- *“They act as deterrent when needed”.*
- *“I do hope that the order is renewed and that this is made a priority by those involved.”*
- *“The current PSPOs are the bare minimum and should certainly be retained.”*
- *“I’m sure they could be more effective but not renewing them or reducing the service will only make small children at risk and out pavement even dirtier.”*
- *“These should be renewed and their enforcement continued with. This will assist in making the control of dogs on a lead, and the cleaning up of faeces the norm. There is an educational benefit to these orders.”*

One regulatory model should not apply to all dog owners

12 comments were received from residents who felt that responsible dog owners and well trained dogs should not be restricted by some of the measures within the Dog Control PSPO, particularly those concerning the use of leads.

- “Absolutely ridiculous to put all dogs in the same category, my dog walks off the lead and has never caused any issues. If someone is not in control of a dangerous dog then I can understand, but to put all dogs in the same category is unfair.”
- “If the owner is behaving responsibly, has the animal under control and the dog has been well trained then it’s totally unnecessary to demand or insist that they be put on a lead. Well behaved Dogs deserve the freedom and ability to be able to run, swim, sniff and play without the restriction of a lead”.
- “I would sooner see Bolton Council developing an approach about respectful dog ownership.
- “Responsible dog owners should not be criminalised when you already have laws to hand to tackle the irresponsible few.”
- “Whilst I support the control measures in theory, they are creating a hostile atmosphere for responsible dog owners whilst leaving the irresponsible ones unpunished.”

Advisory signs / messaging

10 comments were received that reflected upon the better use of effective messaging, either via advisory signage at key locations, or via general messaging.

- “More signs on the lighting columns would be a deterrent, but there are only a few signs about”.
- “I think more needs to be done to change this idea and culture that it doesn’t matter. Police presence, signage etc to make it very clear and visible.”
- “Signage is poor”.
- “Signage and fencing needs to be much more visible and effective.”
- “I wonder if signs on lamp posts would be possible, and also, if contact details for the Council/Police could be made more visible so we could report it.”

Types of dog owners not abiding by the PSPO

Some respondents (8 comments) referred specifically to the types of dog owners not abiding by the PSPO and their behaviour if confronted. One comment focused specifically on licensing for dog ownership.

- “Find generally if I approach dog owners about dogs being present in exclusion zones such as parks and or off leads I am usually met with verbal abuse, sometimes on an extreme level with awful language directed at me in front of my 2 small children.”
- “Lack of regards from some dog owners.”
- “Perhaps licensing for dog ownership should be much more vigorous and cost of a license include the cost of street cleaning”.
- “Dogs are not the problem it is the few irresponsible owners that are the issue and they should be tackled separately”.

Other comments were particularly concerned about how the proposal affects people with protected characteristics, particularly people that are disabled, including those with visual impairments and hidden disabilities. Some residents require assistance dogs, which sometimes aren't registered, due to vast waiting lists. These individuals feel their needs aren't considered within the PSPO and request that consideration be made to any extension:

“Owner-trained assistance dogs have the same access rights as charity-trained assistance dogs. The section of law that states that assistance dogs for those with mobility issues should be trained by a charity only refers to taxis. The government's own Dog Protection Order document states that trained assistance dogs are exempt, it does not say that they must be trained by a charity. To allow one type of assistance dog but not others is discriminatory”.

and

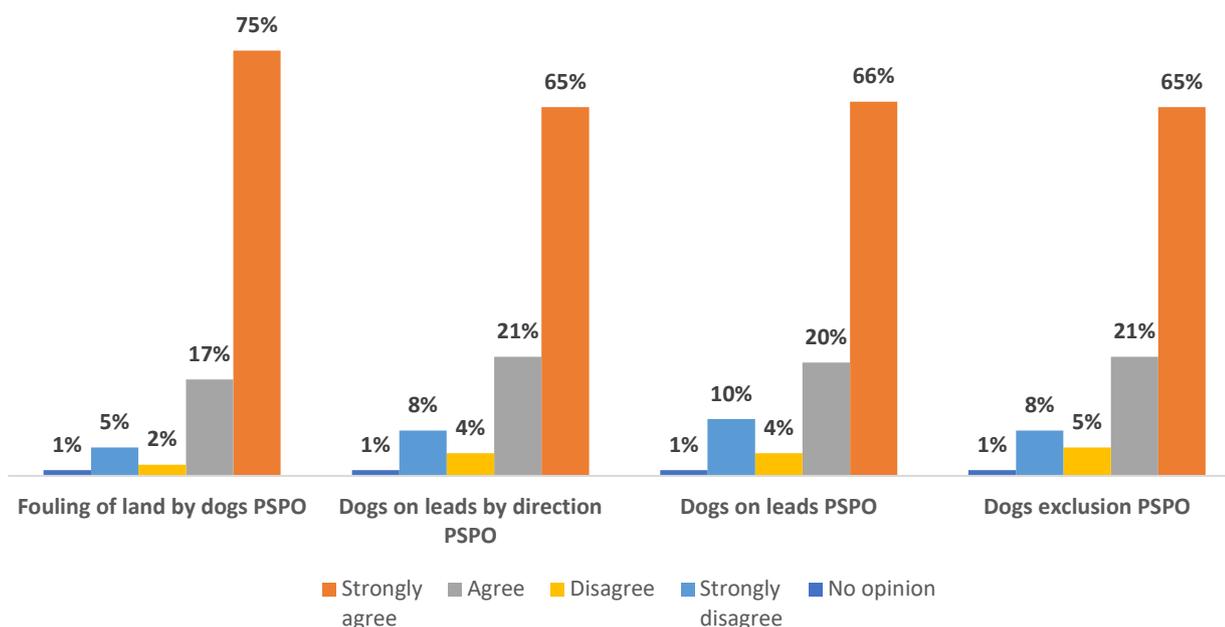
“It can be very difficult to get an official service dog, so many people with disabilities use their pet.”

4. Dog Control PSPO: 3-year extension

4a. Extending the Dog Control for a further three years

All residents and stakeholders taking part in the consultation were asked to reflect on their experience of the current PSPO and consider whether Bolton Council should extend the order for a further three years. An average of 182 responses were received, outlining a significant majority being in favour of extending the PSPO across all four dog control areas. 92% of respondents agree that the 'Fouling of Land by Dogs' should be extended; 86% agree that 'Dogs on Leads by Direction' should be extended; 86% agree that 'Dogs on Leads' should be extended; and 86% also agree that 'Dog Exclusion' be extended.

How strongly do you agree / disagree that the dog control PSPOs which are due to expire in October 2023 should be renewed for another three years?



Base average: 182

4b. Comments on PSPO extension

All residents and stakeholders were provided the opportunity to comment further and provide their feedback on the Council extending the order for a further three years, as well as offer alternative approaches and considerations for tackling anti-social behaviour around dog control. 83 comments were made, with cross cutting themes. These have been categorised into the following 8 themes.

Theme	Number of responses
Enforcement and reporting measures	30
General agreement	22
Dogs on leads	17
General disagreement	13
Dogs have specific areas to go off lead / more green spaces	9
Impact for those with protected characteristics, inc hidden disabilities	8
Better signage, messaging, and education	8
Dog fouling	6

Enforcement and reporting measures

A significant number of comments (30) reflected upon the need for more effective reporting and enforcement approaches to be adopted. Residents and stakeholders felt particularly concerned by the

ineffectiveness of the current PSPO enforcement processes and called for this to be reviewed if the Council were seeking the powers to extend for a further three years.

- *“It is not reasonable to expect one dog warden to be the answer to all the issues - often the incidents are after working hours.”*
- “I believe they should be renewed with stronger consequences”.
- “Enforcement of dog controls needs to be prioritised to be effective.”
- “If these are to be renewed for another 3 years, ensure that they are being enforced.”
- “Desperate need for better enforcement, as currently the police do not always have the time or understanding of these PSPOs, and with only one dog warden to cover the borough, resources are far too stretched.
- “PSPOs are a good thing, but there are not enough enforcement officers to implement these types of schemes.”
- “As long as it's strictly enforced! Which I don't see at the moment?”
- “There needs to be a higher noticeable presence of enforcement officers. And offenders need to be fined and publicly humiliated.”
- “There is no point in these public order notices if there is not the manpower to endorse them.”

General agreement

22 comments were received from residents and stakeholders that generally agreed with the proposal to extend the Order for a further three years.

- “Hope it will continue after 3 yrs too.”
- “The increase in dangerously out of control dogs mean these PSPOs are needed more than ever.”
- “There are so many poorly trained dogs and irresponsible owners. The PSPOs should definitely be extended.”
- “Whilst they may be ineffective in outer areas I have no doubt where there is resource they are effective”
- “I strongly agree there should be PSPOs in place but they need to be enforced”.
- “There should be no relaxation of rules. There are more dogs than ever and rules need to be in place. Dog licences should be reintroduced.”

Dogs on leads

17 comments were received that made specific reference to the challenges of dogs not being on a lead, the use of extendable leads and having dog walkers caring for multiple dogs whilst out walking.

- *“The detail should be reviewed to consider more creative / proactive advice and protection for children and other animals around dogs off lead.”*
- *“Content could be improved to mean that clearer guidance is given to dog owners to make them think before allowing dogs to roam freely”.*
- *“I would limit the number of dogs that could be walked by one person, whether those dogs are their own or the person is a dog Walker.”*
- *“Possibly look into all dogs off a lead being muzzled in public places, I do a lot of walking in the countryside and so many owners can’t control their dog/dogs when off a leash”.*
- *“A limit should be considered for the number of dogs that one handler can control”.*
- *“The matter of dogs on farming land also needs controlling”.*
- *“I somewhat agree with the dogs on leads rule and exclusion to certain areas, but I think some exclusions are a bit excessive, specifically for well behaved dogs and responsible owners.”*

General disagreement

13 comments were received that generally disagreed with extending the Dog Control PSPO for a further three years.

- *“Strongly disagree as its a waste of time.”*
- *“I find that it is ridiculous that the council feels it necessary to have in place the draconian measures as above as dogs are not the problem it is just the few irresponsible owners, these people can be dealt with laws already in place”.*
- *“There are already existing laws to deal with dog fouling and out of control dogs - these should be enforced upon the people who flout the law and act irresponsibly - there are plenty more responsible dog owners who now suffer due to PSPO rules”.*
- *“My dogs and I should not be punished because of a few thoughtless individuals. Laws already exist to stop them - those laws should be used.”*
- *“Us responsible dog owners should not be criminalised when you already have laws to hand to tackle the irresponsible few.”*

Dogs have specific areas to go off lead / more green spaces

9 stakeholder comments called for dogs to have the right to exercise and go off lead and therefore there is a need to consider additional recreational and green space for dogs / dog owners to access.

- “The pspo should not be reinstated as it is detrimental to dogs health in that there are very few SAFE places that dogs can run free”.
- “Dogs must have space to exercise.”
- “We need more green spaces where dogs must be kept on leads”.
- “Dogs need off lead exercise to be able to run, and provided they are under control should be allowed to do so”.
- “In parks, create a fenced of dog friendly area. I have seen this done in other towns/cities.”

Impact for those with protected characteristics, inc hidden disabilities

8 comments were provided from residents and stakeholders who called for consideration within the PSPO be made to dog owners who have protected characteristics, including those with hidden disabilities. Reference was made to their being waiting lists for assistance dogs, resulting in those with particular challenges using their own dogs for support. These current challenges are not reflected within the PSPO.

- *“The list of assistance dogs which are excluded from the restrictions are not exhaustive and in fact are discriminatory against those with invisible disabilities. We have an assurance dog trained by an ADUK charity member, the same organisation that covers blind and hearing dogs. Our dog is an autism assistance dog for my son who is severely disabled yet his dog appears to be excluded from this list which is both unfair and discriminatory. His dog is trained to the exact same high standards as blind and guide dogs, wears a jacket to highlight she is an assurance dog and has the same levels of public liability insurance.”*
- *“Please change your discriminatory assistance dog policy”.*
- *“It can be very difficult to get an official service dog, so many people with disabilities use their pet. It can be impossible for dogs to get enough exercise if they are forced to be on lead (especially for disabled people).”*

Better signage, messaging, and education

8 comments recommended that improvements should be made to how the PSPO is promoted, including making people aware of what it covers and the enforcement measures in place. Recommendations include better signage, campaigns and educational programmes.

- *“People don’t read signs on lampposts, or they assume that they don’t apply to them.”*
- *“Perhaps sending literature out to local vets, dog boarders, breeders, and dog trainers would be a useful start so they can disseminate the information to the public.”*
- *“Surely signage explaining what is sensible is better option and saves money”.*
- *“I do feel there are not enough signs in public places warning people of the PSPO’s”*
- *“It would be nice if there were reasons on the signs so people understand why the restrictions are in place.”*

Dog fouling

6 comments were received on the challenges around dog fouling across the borough.

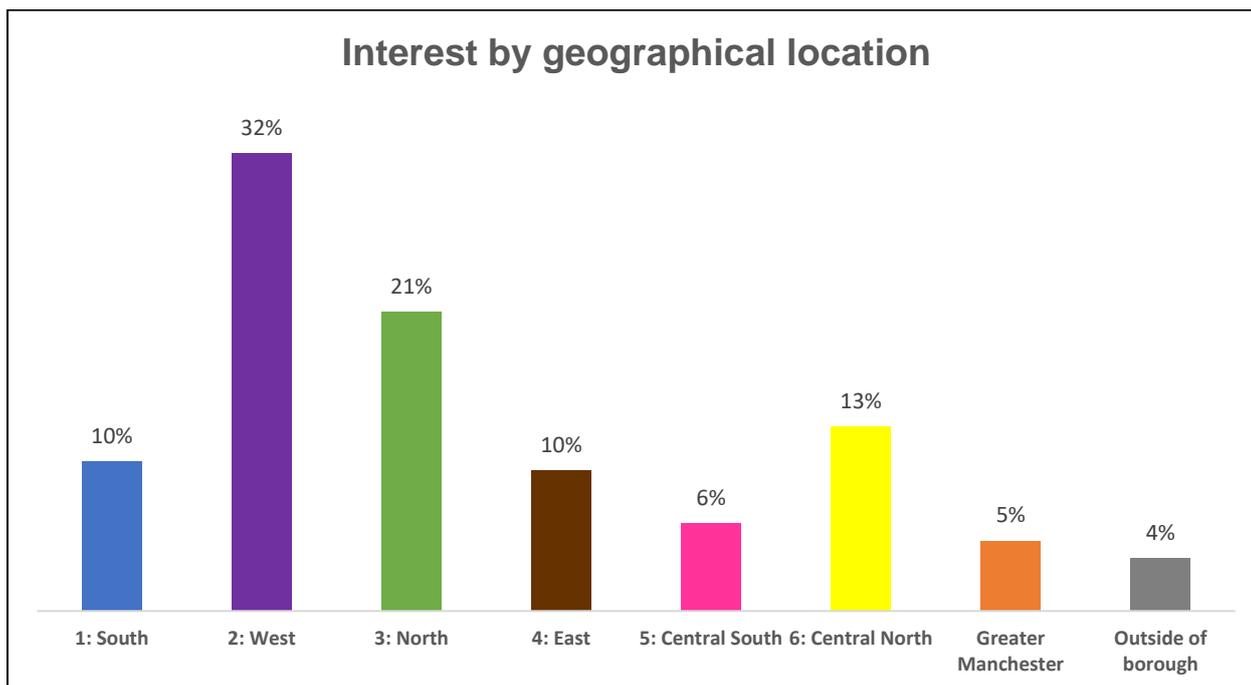
- *“We need to put our foot down and say no, we are not taking this from human beings who have a responsibility to clean up after a dog poos”.*
- *“As a dog owner, there is a noticeable difference in the amount of dog mess there is on the streets”.*
- *“Fouling of land should be absolutely extended.”*

Other comments received called for further resourcing to support dog owners to abide by the PSPO, by investing in more dog fouling bins across the borough and fenced enclosures, **“there need to be more bins to encourage people to use them”** and **“in parks, create a fenced of dog friendly area. I have seen this done in other towns/cities”**.

5. Stakeholder demographics

5a. Interest by geographical area

The table below outlines the demographics of respondents by geographical neighbourhood. A total of 164 respondents provided their full postcode. The greatest number of respondents are from the West of the borough (32%); the North of the borough are represented by just over one-fifth of respondents (21%) and Central North of the borough is represented by 13% of respondents. All other areas have less than 10% of responses. 9% of replies are from respondents outside of the borough, including 5% from other locations in Greater Manchester.



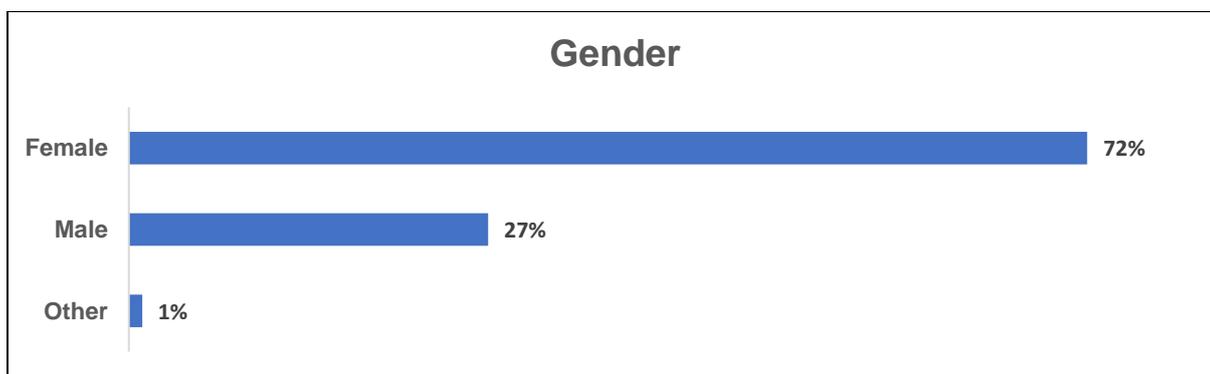
Base: 164



*Neighbourhoods are a local geography for integrated health and social care; all have a population of around 50,000 residents.

5b. Gender

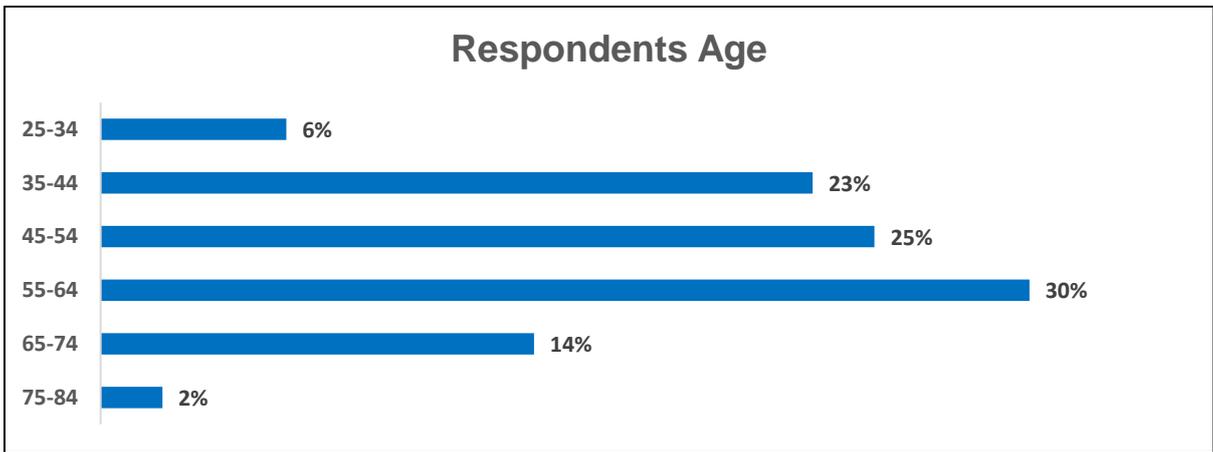
176 responses were received providing the respondent's gender. 72% of respondent's identity as being female, 27% as male and 1% of respondents identify as 'other'.



Base: 176

5c Age

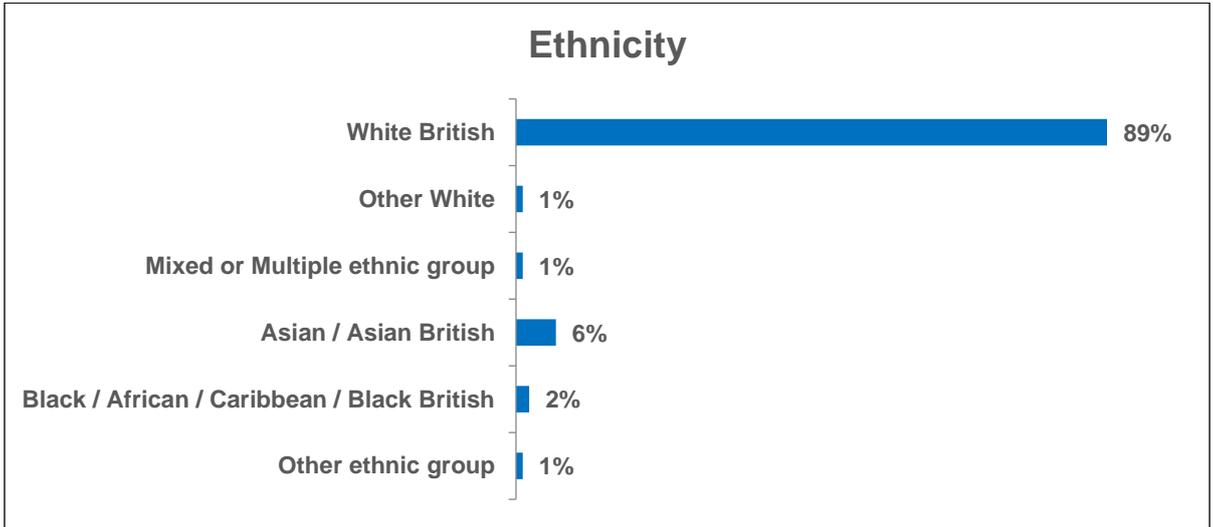
Those respondents indicating their age, were ranged between the ages of 25 – 84 years. 6% of respondents are under the age of 34 years. 78% of respondents are aged between 35 – 64 years. 16% of responses were received from individuals above the age of 65 years.



Base: 178

5d. Ethnicity

173 respondents provided their ethnicity when undertaking the consultation. 89% report as being white – British. 11% report as being from other ethnically diverse communities, this includes 6% from the Asian / Asian British community.



Base: 173

6. Summary

Between the 29th August and the 26th September, Bolton Council ran a four week consultation reviewing the effectiveness of the current Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and consideration of whether the Council should extend the Order for a further three years. 192 responses were received, as well as three email responses. 86% of respondents taking part in the digital survey are residents in the Bolton borough.

Reflecting on the effectiveness of the current PSPO and the four thematic areas within the Order, only ‘Dog Exclusion’ was deemed effective, with a marginal majority of 45%. The three other areas were seen as being ineffective in reducing anti-social behaviour around dog control. Failing on Land by Dogs was



deemed as the most ineffective thematic, with 66% of respondents stating it was an ineffective area within the Order.

Respondents who commented further were particularly concerned by the increase in dog fouling and the littering of dog foul bags across the borough; the locations where offences take place; and the challenges around the lack of enforcement. It should also be noted that residents with protected characteristics, particularly those with disabilities and hidden disabilities, felt that the current Order discriminated them and their assistance dogs. The stakeholders cited known challenges with waiting times for support dogs and having to use their own dogs for support. This should be an area of consideration for future extensions.

When asked to reflect upon Bolton Council extending the Dog Control PSPO for a further three years, stakeholders were in majority agreement that all four thematic areas should be extended. However, residents and stakeholders felt that the Council needed to implement more effective reporting and enforcement measures for the Order to be fully effective. As well as general agreement comments, residents felt that there needed to be greater measures in place for dogs on leads, as well as restricting the numbers of dogs being walked by one owner, and consideration made to extendable leads. It should be noted that some comments called for the Council to consider designated dog lead-free zones, enabling responsible owners to exercise their dogs freely.

Again, consideration was also called for the extension to be more inclusive of people with protected characteristics, supporting owners with assistance dogs, or using pets as support dogs.

End.

Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders review 2023

Consultation closes on 26 September 2023

Bolton Council currently has four Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders [PSPOs] which are due to expire in October 2023.

They give the police and authorised officers of Bolton Council additional powers aimed at preventing nuisance caused by irresponsible dog owners or dog walkers.

Background

Four Designated Public Protection Orders were originally granted in 2007 and became Public Spaces Protection Orders under the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The four orders are:

- The Dogs Exclusion PSPO
- The Dogs on Leads PSPO
- The Dogs on Leads by Direction PSPO
- The Fouling of Land by Dogs PSPO

A PSPO can last up to three years, after which it must be reviewed. Following a review, the PSPO can be extended for a further three years. There is no limit to the number of times a PSPO may be renewed.

The four dog control PSPOs were all renewed in 2020 and are due to expire on 19th October 2023.

We invite you to give your views on the proposal to renew all four dog control PSPOs.

Please read the documents on the 'Active consultations' page of Bolton Council's website for full details of the PSPOs

www.bolton.gov.uk/directory/13/consultations/category/195

Your views will be considered alongside other information to help Bolton Council decide whether or not to renew the dog control PSPOs.

Your response - keeping your data safe

Most questions are optional; just miss out any that you don't want to answer.

The results of this consultation may be made public. If you're responding as an individual you won't be identified in any report as your responses will be anonymised and grouped with those from other people.

If you're responding in an official capacity your response may be published but no personal details will be included.

Any personal data you provide will be held securely, in line with our retention schedule and privacy policy

www.bolton.gov.uk/data-protection-freedom-information/privacy-notices

We use Snap Surveys professional software to collect and process your data. Their privacy policy can be found here

www.snapsurveys.com/survey-software/privacy-policy-uk/. Snap Surveys Ltd. follow the UK General Data Protection Regulation.

Area and behaviour covered

The PSPOs are summarised below, but full details of the behaviour and specific areas covered can be found on 'Active consultations' page of Bolton Council's website www.bolton.gov.uk/directory/13/consultations/category/195

General summary

All four dog control PSPOs relate to the Borough of Bolton.



If renewed, the four dog control PSPOs would allow Greater Manchester [GM] Police or any authorised officer of Bolton Council to prevent / tackle issues caused by irresponsible dog owners and dog walkers.

Anyone who fails to comply with a request from GM Police or other authorised person under one of the PSPOs could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice fine of £100 or a fine of up to £1,000 if taken to court.

Summary of each dog control PSPO

The Dogs Exclusion PSPO

If renewed, the Dogs Exclusion PSPO would mean that dogs couldn't be taken into enclosed areas in our borough that are set aside as play areas or youth sports areas.

It would cover all enclosed [fenced and gated] play areas / youth sports areas which have public access and signs indicating that dogs aren't allowed.

There would be exemptions for anyone who was registered blind or had certain disabilities.

The Dogs on Leads PSPO

If renewed, the Dogs on Leads PSPO would apply to Class A and B roads, adjoining footpaths and verges, all cemeteries and all closed graveyards maintained by Bolton Council.

This PSPO would mean that anyone in charge of a dog would be guilty of an offence if they refuse to put the dog on a short lead [no more than 6 foot] when instructed to do so by an authorised officer of the council or police.

The PSPO would apply on all land covered by the PSPO, unless the person had a reasonable excuse for not complying, or where they had permission from the land-owner / person in charge of the land.

The Dogs on Leads by direction PSPO

If renewed, the Dogs on leads by direction PSPO would mean that anyone in charge of a dog would be guilty of an offence if they refuse to put the dog on a short lead [no more than 6 foot] when instructed to do so by an authorised officer of the council or police.

This PSPO would apply on all land covered by the PSPO, unless the person had a reasonable excuse for not complying, or where they had permission from the person in charge of the land.

The Fouling of Land by Dogs PSPO

If renewed, the Fouling of Land by Dog PSPO would mean that anyone in charge of a dog that defecates on land covered by the PSPO would be guilty of an offence if they did not clear up the faeces.

The PSPO would apply unless the person had a reasonable excuse for not complying, or where they had permission from the person in charge of the land.

There would be exemptions for anyone who was registered blind or where they had certain disabilities and the dog was an assistance dog provided by a charity named in the PSPO.

Effectiveness of dog control PSPOs

How effective / ineffective do you feel that the four PSPOs have been in dealing with any irresponsible dog control issues?

	Very effective	Effective	Not very effective	Not effective at all	I don't see this as an issue	No opinion
Dogs exclusion PSPO	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				
Dogs on leads PSPO	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				
Dogs on leads by direction PSPO	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				
Fouling of land by dogs PSPO	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				

Please use this space for any comments about the effectiveness of the current PSPOs and the issues they are designed to tackle

No comments / suggestions

Renewal of dog control PSPOs

How strongly do you agree / disagree that the dog control PSPOs which are due to expire in October 2023 should be renewed for another three years?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	No opinion
Dogs exclusion PSPO	<input type="radio"/>				
Dogs on leads PSPO	<input type="radio"/>				

Dogs on leads by direction
PSPO

Fouling of land by dogs PSPO

Please use this space for any comments about the proposal to extend the PSPOs for another three years, or to suggest any alternatives that we should consider

No comments / suggestions

Your interest

Which of the following describes you / your family's interest in this consultation?

- Live in Bolton borough [Bolton Council area]
- Work in Bolton borough
- Study / have children at school in Bolton borough
- Visitor to Bolton
- Official response from Parish / Bolton borough Councillor / Elected Member
- Official response from a business / organisation / community group. You must have their permission to submit an official response on their behalf
- None of the above{Q7.a}

Please say what your interest is

Please say which ward, business organisation or community group you represent

Please say what your role is - in what official capacity do you represent the business, organisation or community group?

About you

Your answers in this section help us to make sure we are getting views from different types of people. They won't be used to contact or identify you.

**Please give your full
postcode**

Are you...?

Female

Male

Identify in another way

Which age group are you in?

- Under18
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 - 74
- 75 - 84
- 85 or over

What is your ethnic group?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> White British | <input type="radio"/> Asian or Asian British |
| <input type="radio"/> White other | <input type="radio"/> Black, Black British, Caribbean or African |
| <input type="radio"/> Mixed or Multiple ethnic group | <input type="radio"/> Other ethnic group |

Thanks! Please click 'submit' to send your response through to us

Consultation Comments – Dog Control PSPO

1) Councillor response

Good afternoon,

As a dog owner and a dog groomer I welcome these extra powers, thank you for your email.

Kindest regards

Cllr Bamford

2) Resident 1

Hello,

I am writing in respect of the Dog Control PSPO.

I wholly agree with the order and think that people should have their dogs under control and pick up their messes, however the section detailing which dogs are excluded from the restrictions are both discriminatory and excluding of those with invisible disabilities.

My son has an autism assistance dog supplied and trained by Support Dogs UK (registered charity 1088281) an Assistance Dogs UK (ADUK) charity member. Support dogs train assistance dogs for physical disability, epilepsy/seizure alert and autism.

The restrictions in section 3 (1) of the article exclude dogs which are trained to support physical disabilities however non physical/ invisible disabilities such as autism and epilepsy are not included in this and I feel that this is both unfair and discriminatory. These dogs are trained to the exact same high standards, wear jackets which show they are working and have the same levels of public liability insurance as the dogs listed in the exclusions. You are also not including fully trained medical alert dogs. All of these dogs are life saving for their owners, even if their disability is not an outwardly visible one.

I would like to discuss this with someone if possible, and bring this to your attention.

Best wishes, Bolton resident

3) Resident 2

Dear Sir or Madam

Whilst there is a survey to take people opinion to renew the current, 'Dog control public space protection order review 2023', I believe more should be added on the consultation and protection especially when some dog owners allow dog run around without lead including how general public can get help or advise and how to report these issues etc .

Kind regards, Bolton resident