



Media Release

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Updates made to dog control rules in Chichester District

Minor changes to a legal tool which sets how people should control their dogs in public spaces across Chichester District have been approved by leading councillors.

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dog control in Chichester District went out to public consultation in April, with around 1,250 residents, community groups, and businesses taking the opportunity to comment on proposed changes.

Changes around what sort of land the rules apply to, and children's playgrounds were approved by Chichester District Council's Cabinet at their meeting on **Tuesday 6 October**.

As part of the renewed PSPO, it is an offence in public places to fail to remove dog mess immediately and to not put and keep a dog on a lead when instructed by an authorised officer. Owners are also required to immediately remove dog mess and to keep a dog on a lead on public land when directed. As part of the new PSPO these rules will now apply to **all publicly accessible areas in the district**, including privately owned land (where no fee has to be paid to enter and excluding Forestry Commission land).

It continues to be an offence to allow a dog to enter a dog exclusion area, such as a small number of parks and play areas and, during the summer period, a section of Selsey beach. All previous dog exclusion areas will continue under the new PSPO, and these rules have also been extended to include **all privately-owned fenced children's play areas** as year-round exclusion zones.

The new PSPO will run for a further three years, from October 2026 until October 2029.

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is a legal tool that allows local authorities in England and Wales to address specific anti-social behaviour in public areas, ensuring these spaces can be used safely and enjoyably by the community.

“We understand that dog mess and out-of-control dogs can have a negative effect on communities, individuals and our wildlife, as well as spoiling how people enjoy beaches and open spaces,” says Councillor Jonathan Brown, Cabinet Member for Environmental Protection at Chichester District Council. “We know that most dog owners are responsible, but unfortunately some people do not pick up after their dog or do not keep their dog under proper control. A majority of dog-owners support both the existing and the revised rules, recognising that they mean that we can deal with these issues effectively when they arise and I would like to thank everyone who looks after their dog and the environment.”

“We will also continue working in partnership with Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Bird Aware Solent, to explore bird protection measures which will be considered in future revisions of the PSPO, as we know that there concerns around the effect of dogs on the birds and other wildlife within this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).”

People can read the revised PSPO by going to:

www.chichester.gov.uk/dogadviceandinformation