



Northumberland

County Council

Notice of Consultation:

Proposal to make a Public Spaces Protection Order for the control of dogs

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Part 4

TAKE NOTICE that **Northumberland County Council** (*“the Council”*) proposes to make a **Public Space Protection Order** (*“PSPO”*) under section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (*“the 2014 Act”*) for the control of dogs in its area.

The Proposed PSPO:

- 1 The proposed PSPO will be entitled **The Northumberland County Council (Dog Control) Public Spaces Protection Order**, and it is intended that it will come into force on **31st January 2026**.
- 2 The proposed PSPO will replace the current Dog Control PSPO which originally came into force on 31st January 2020 for a period of three years and was subsequently extended to remain in force for a further period of three years until 30th January 2026.
- 3 The proposed PSPO will have substantially the same effect as the current PSPO but with a further restriction.
- 4 The effect of the proposed PSPO will therefore be:
 - (a) **The fouling of land by dogs**

To require a person in charge of a dog which defecates in a public space to remove the faeces from the land forthwith.
 - (b) **The exclusion of dogs from land**

To prohibit a person in charge of a dog from taking or allowing that dog into any area that it is excluded from, namely:
 - (i) all enclosed children’s play areas within the administrative county of Northumberland at any time;
 - (ii) Any multi-use games area or tennis court to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access to;
 - (iii) That part of the beach at Newbiggin-by-the-Sea identified in the PSPO at any time from 1st May to 30th September inclusive;
 - (iv) That part of the beach at Blyth identified in the PSPO at any time from 1st May to 30th September inclusive.
 - (c) **Dogs on leads**

To require a person in charge of a dog to keep it on a lead of not more than 1.5 metres in length at all times on any land which is used as a memorial, burial ground, cemetery or garden of

remembrance together with any associated land; or which is a designated carriageway (A or B classified roads) together with the adjoining footpaths and verges.

(d) **Dogs on leads by direction**

To require a person in charge of a dog to put and keep it on a lead of not more than 1.5 metres in length when directed to do so by an authorised officer of the Council or by a police officer, where that is necessary to prevent a nuisance annoyance or disturbance to any other person or the worrying of any animal or bird.

(e) **Maximum number of dogs**

To restrict the maximum number of dogs to be under the control of any one person in a public place to no more than six, subject to the exemptions set out in the proposed PSPO.

(f) **Requirement to provide name and address**

A person in charge of a dog and suspected to be in breach of the PSPO will be required to confirm their full name, address and date of birth when asked to do so by an authorised officer of the Council or by a Police officer; and it shall be a breach of the PSPO to knowingly make any misstatement to the officer requesting such information.

5 The provisions of the PSPO will not apply:

- (a) where a person in control of a dog has a reasonable excuse for failing to comply with the terms of the PSPO; or
- (b) where the owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land in question has consented (generally or specifically) to the activities which would otherwise be a breach of the PSPO.

6 The requirements of the PSPO insofar as they relate to the fouling of land by dogs, or the exclusion of dogs from land (as the case might be), will not apply to a person who has a disability and is in charge of an Assistance Dog that mitigates that person's disability.

7 Any person found guilty of an offence of failing to comply with the terms of the PSPO will be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000).

8 Alternatively, an opportunity to discharge liability to conviction may be offered by an authorised officer by allowing payment of a fixed penalty of £100 (reduced to £80 if paid within 7 days).

Consultation

9 The full text of the proposed PSPO together with the maps showing the extent of the exclusion areas referred to in paragraphs 4(b)(iii) and (iv)

above will be available for public inspection until **Sunday 21st December 2025** on the Council's website at:

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/notices>

- 10 Any representations or comments on the terms of the proposed PSPO should be made via the website or sent to:
Gemma Tokell
Senior Animal Welfare Officer
Northumberland County Council
Stakeford Depot
East View
Stakeford
Choppington
NE62 5TR
or e-mailed to **gemma.tokell@northumberland.gov.uk**
so that they are received by no later than **Sunday 21st December 2025**.
- 11 The Council will consider all representations and comments received before deciding whether or not to make the PSPO.

Dated this 17th day of November 2025