



**Consultation on proposed renewal of dog control powers (Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order 2016, previously extended as the Public Spaces Protection Order Extension And Variation of 2022 and subsequently varied as Public Spaces Protection Order Variation No.1 2024), with variations to introduce new dog exclusions for enclosed sports and games facilities**

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**Closing date for completion: Friday 13 June 2025**



## **1. Introduction**

Redcar and Cleveland council wants to know your views on its proposal to renew or extend the existing dog control powers in force within the borough for another three years (until 30 June 2028).

## **2. What are the proposed changes?**

The council is proposing to renew the existing dog control powers in force within the borough since 1 July 2016, for a further three years.

The council is also proposing to introduce new dog control powers, including dog exclusion provisions for enclosed sports and games facilities owned and managed by the council.

## **3. The council's current position**

The council is committed to improving the use, accessibility and enjoyment for residents and visitors of our outstanding coast and countryside, encouraging many more people to get outdoors, and to working with more and more people in our local communities to achieve safe and clean neighbourhoods with enhanced open spaces for everyone to enjoy.

According to a 2024 survey, dogs were the most owned pet in UK households. The share of households reporting dog ownership stood at 36 percent. As Redcar & Cleveland has 61,600 households (2021 census), if the national picture applies for the borough, this will equate to 22,176 local households owning a dog.

The council, in the first instance, wants to encourage responsible dog ownership. As part of its joined-up dog fouling strategy (2015 onwards) the council continues to invest in enhanced dog waste infrastructure and signs in key locations not just to assist in tackling dog-fouling, but also to promote responsible dog walking at those locations. The council has also sought to communicate a clear message around the unacceptability of dog fouling to change behaviour through its "pick up the poo" campaign.

The council has invested in bin infrastructure in public spaces in recent years including by rolling out dual use bins across the borough, in support of the concept of 'any bin will do'.

The council has also promoted responsible dog ownership by working with the Dogs trust in recent years including by supporting a programme of community roadshows (2016-19) at which dog owners could access free microchipping and health checks and advice for their pets. These were suspended for public health reasons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since leaving the third national lockdown, the council has supported the piloting of a Dogs' trust initiative providing dog owners with the tools and information around separation anxiety they need to gradually prepare their dogs to be left alone. The Happy Dogs, Happy Homes initiative also provided dog owners with information and guidance how to source and make low-cost enrichment items for their dogs.

Since 2024, the Dogs trust has been organising community hub and pop-up sessions in the borough where owners can access training and behaviour support, information surrounding dog welfare and well-being, and microchip checks and advice to change microchip details. The sessions also provided opportunities for XL Bully owners to access support as appropriate.

The council is also actively considering making greater use of positive messaging, including developing dog etiquette and codes.

The council will continue to build on these approaches.

The council has also been prepared to set rules and strengthen its enforcement approach, so the behaviour of an irresponsible minority doesn't blight the enjoyment of the borough's coast, countryside and open spaces for others.

The council has powers under the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing (2014) Act's (referred to as "the Act" elsewhere within this consultation document) public spaces protection order provisions to place controls on the use of public spaces by dogs and dog walkers.

The council made use of those powers in 2016 to consolidate three historic dog control measures within a new single public spaces protection order, and to introduce two new dog control offences, when it brought the Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2016 into force 1 July 2016. The council subsequently varied the Order in 2022 to introduce new dogs on leads provisions in response to then emerging dog control issues.

The Order allows the council to take enforcement action by issuing on the spot £100 fines (and a maximum court penalty of £1,000) to dog walkers who:

- fail to clean up after their dog (before 2016 an offence under the Fouling of land by dogs' order 2000, under the Dog (Fouling of Land) Act 1996)
- permit their dogs to enter areas of Redcar and Saltburn beaches between 1 May and 30 September (before 2016 an offence under 1991 byelaws made by council under section 82 of Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 & Section 235 of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of the seashore)
- permit their dogs to enter any of the council's nine cemeteries (before 2016 an offence under Dogs exclusion order (cemeteries) 2008)
- permit their dogs to enter any of the 65 fenced-off children's play areas across the borough (new offence brought into force through Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2016; Order varied 11 January 2024 - GEE-24-008 – to add Coatham seafront play area)
- fail to have the means to pick up after their dog new offence brought into force through Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2016)
- fail to put and keep their dog on a lead\* when asked to by an enforcement officer: "leads by order/direction" (new offence introduced July 2022)

- fail to keep their dog on a lead\* (“dogs on leads”) when in any of the following seven formal parks and gardens: Locke Park; Parts of Borough Park; and Zetland Park, Redcar; Marske valley gardens; parts of Saltburn valley gardens and the Marine Parade lower path gardens, Saltburn; and Coronation Park, Loftus (new offence introduced July 2022)

The council can make a public spaces protection order for a maximum period of three years and can extend an order by up to three years at any point before expiry if this is necessary. The council can also vary the restrictions and requirements imposed by an order at any point before expiry and when renewing a public spaces protection order, if this is required to prevent the occurrence, recurrence, or an increase in the frequency or seriousness of the activity being tackled.

Councils are required to carry out a review or evaluation of any public spaces protection order when they are up for renewal. Following its evaluation of the original Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2016 and having secured the support of most consultees for its proposal to extend the Order, and to vary it to introduce new dogs on leads provisions, the council had renewed the Order unchanged for a further three years in July 2022 as the Public Spaces Protection Order Extension And Variation of 2022.

The current Order will end on 1 July 2025 unless the council exercises powers, available under the Act, to extend the PSPO for a further three years in order to continue to be able to tackle dog related antisocial behaviour.

#### **4. What this proposal would mean**

As the retained and new offences being proposed would be breaches of a public spaces protection order, the council may issue a fixed penalty notice offering the person to whom it is issued the opportunity of discharging any liability to conviction for the offence by payment of a fixed penalty. This fixed penalty must not be more than £100. The council set the fine at £100 (£80 if paid within 10 days), in order to maximise the deterrent risk for offenders, when it brought the PSPO into force.

The Order’s provisions are outlined in more detail below.

- **Failure to pick up after their dog:**

The council’s enforcement officers will continue to be able to require any one other than a registered blind person in charge of a dog to remove their dog’s faeces from the land at the time of fouling. The council’s enforcement officers would be able to enforce this anywhere the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission, unless they have a reasonable excuse for failing to do so. The council will not be able to enforce where the landowner, occupier or other person having control of the public space has consented (generally or specifically) to people in charge of dogs failing to do so.

- **Failure to have the means to pick up after a dog:**

The council's enforcement officers will continue to be able to ask dog walkers walking their animals anywhere the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission, unless they have a reasonable excuse for failing to do so to produce the means by which they intend to pick up faeces. Those refusing or unable to do so will be committing an offence.

The council will retain the current exemptions, such as for any person:-

- Who is registered as a blind person in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948, or
- With a disability affecting their mobility, manual dexterity or ability to lift, carry or move everyday objects and who relies on a dog trained by a prescribed charity for assistance.

- **Excluding dogs from entering any of the council's 65 fenced-off children's playgrounds:**

The council's enforcement officers will continue to be able to require a person in charge of a dog which has entered any children's fenced-in play areas (list of fenced-in children's areas attached at **appendix one**) to remove the dog from the play area.

- **Excluding dogs from entering any of the nine designated cemeteries:**

The council's enforcement officers will continue to be able to require a person in charge of a dog which has entered any of the nine cemeteries within the borough to remove the dog from the cemetery:

*Boosbeck cemetery; Brotton cemetery; Eston cemetery; Guisborough cemetery; Loftus cemetery; Redcar cemetery; Saltburn cemetery; Skelton cemetery; St Germain's churchyard*

- **Excluding dogs from entering areas of Redcar and Saltburn beaches between 1 May and 30 September:**

The council's enforcement officers will continue to be able to require a person in charge of a dog which has entered the beach between 1 May and 30 September at the locations depicted at **appendix two**, including any slope or slipway leading to the beach, to remove the dog from the beach.

- **Leads by order/direction**

The council's enforcement officers will continue to be able to be able to direct any person in charge of a dog on land (that is, anywhere the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission) to which this Order applies to put and keep the dog on a lead if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause annoyance or disturbance to any other person, or to a bird or another animal. Those refusing to do so will be committing an offence.

- **Dogs on leads**

The council's enforcement officers will continue to be able to require a person in charge of a dog to keep the dog on a lead when in any of the following designated areas:

Locke Park, Redcar

Parts of Borough Park, Redcar: family community woodland; rose garden; community orchard walkway]

Zetland Park, Redcar

Marske valley gardens

Marine Parade (north) lower path gardens Saltburn-by-the-sea

Saltburn valley gardens: Italian garden and tea rooms; walled garden and woodland centre

Coronation Park, Loftus

(Location maps attached at **appendix three**)

Those failing refusing or unable to do so will be committing an offence.

For the purpose of the dogs on leads provisions of the Order:

*'Lead' is defined as any rope, cord, leash or similar item which is no more than two metres in length and which [is] used to tether, control or restrain a dog, but does not include any such item which is not actively being used as a means of restraint so that the dog remains under a person's control. An extendable lead must not be extended beyond four metres*

The council also proposes to vary the Order by introducing the following new requirements:

- **Excluding dogs from entering any of the council's enclosed sports or games facilities including BMX tracks, grassed kickabout areas, MUGAs, skate parks and tennis courts:**

The council's enforcement officers will continue to be able to require a person in charge of a dog which has entered any children's fenced-in sports or games facilities (list of fenced-in sports and games facilities attached at **appendix four**) to remove the dog from the facility.

**5. Why we are proposing the retention of existing dog control powers, along with the inclusion of enclosed sports and games facilities within the Order's dog exclusion provisions?**

Whilst the council is very keen to welcome dog walkers and dogs to the borough including by publishing details of dog-friendly venues on the council's dedicated tourism [Enjoy](#), and recognises the great majority of dog owners are responsible and respectful of other users of our public spaces, the impacts of irresponsible dog owners have long been a significant issue for many of our residents, and likely continue to be an issue for them.

The council asked respondents to the 2022 consultation exercise concerning the renewal and variation of the Order about their experience of dog control related issues within Redcar & Cleveland during the previous 12 months.

Almost seven-in-ten (69.67%) of the 1,356 respondents to the 2022 dogs PSPO consultation exercise said they had experienced issues around dog fouling or dog control issues within the borough the previous 12 months.

The top five dog control issues reported by the 2022 respondents who said they (66.32%), or a member of their family (14.28%), or someone they knew (12.49%) had experienced issues around dog fouling or dog control issues within the borough in the previous 12 months were as follows:

- Almost nine-in-ten (88.39%) said “dog fouling”
- Almost four-in-ten (38.07%) said “dog running out of control”
- More than two-in-ten (21.04%) said “dog attack on another dog or pet animal”
- Almost two -in-ten (17.79%) said they were “threatened by a dog’s behaviour”

Most 2022 respondents (69.10%) experiencing dog fouling issues had experienced these issues at least once a week during the previous 12 months.

Almost one-in-four (24.92%) 2022 respondents experiencing dog control issues had experienced these issues at least 2-3 times a month during previous 12 months:

The council has received 652 reports of dog fouling during the last three years:

- 1 April 2022-31 March 2023: 282 (-12.42%, Vs 2021/22)
- 1 April 2023-31 March 2024: 188 (-33.33%, Vs 2022/23)
- 1 April 2024-31 March 2025: 182 (-3.19% Vs 2023/24)

This downwards trend continues the good progress made since 2014/15 in reducing dog fouling by almost 70% (182 reports were received 1 April 2024-31 March 2025 Vs 590 received during 1 October 2014-30 September 2015), even despite the web-based customer portal (introduced June 2016) having in general facilitated the reporting of issues to the council by providing members of the public with additional customer contact channels.

This trend is consistent with the national picture. Local authorities and organisations like Keep Britain Tidy (KBT), through changing behaviours and creating solutions, have helped reduce dog-fouling by up to 77% since 2010 (source: [Dog fouling | Keep Britain Tidy](#)). KBT wants to see dog fouling all but eradicated by 2030, an aim the council supports.

Publicity around the introduction of the current Order, together with the large-scale roll-out of new signage alerting members of the public to the provisions of the Order, is believed to have contributed to the Order’s effectiveness.

In addition, related initiatives such as the “pick-up the poo” campaign, which was introduced autumn 2015, have also likely had an impact in highlighting the antisocial



nature of dog fouling (78.59% of viewfinder panellists knew about the campaign when asked autumn 2016).

The council in conjunction with the Dogs' trust had also engaged nearly 1,200 dog owners through 21 dog well-being roadshows organised between April 2016 and March 2019. Dog owners attending the roadshows were offered free micro chipping and health checks for their pets along with advice and support around responsible dog ownership, including messages highlighting the impact of dog fouling on communities.

The council has invested, and continues to invest, in enhanced dog waste infrastructure and signs across many identified hot spot locations.

Nevertheless, dog fouling remains a significant issue having detrimental impacts for local communities and for the council in clean-up costs in relation to dealing with dog fouling and irresponsibly disposed of bags containing dog faeces.

**Dangerous dog issues** have been an emerging issue in recent years.

Reports of "persons in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in public place injuring any person" made to Cleveland police had increased three-fold (+200%) during the three years 2018/19-2021/22, from 22 reports to 66 reports.

Reports of dangerous dogs for Redcar & Cleveland have continued to increase in numbers during the last three years, though the rate of yearly increase has fallen off somewhat and the total appears to have stabilised at around 80 reports yearly:

- 1 April 2022-31 March 2023: 83 reports (+ 25.76%, Vs 2021/22)
- 1 April 2023-31 March 2024: 77 reports (- 7.23%, Vs 2022/23)
- 1 April 2024-31 March 2025: 83 reports (+7.79%, Vs 2023/24)

Reports of dangerous dogs made to the council have increased by a third during the three years the council has been recording these issues: from 24 reports in 2022/23 to 32 reports in 2024/25:

Reporting period	Attack on human	Attack on animal	Acting aggressively in public place	All reports	Percentage change (year-on-year)
1 April 2022-31 March 2023	5	15	4	24	-
1 April 2023-31 March 2024	12	14	11	37	+ 54.17 (Vs 2022/23)
1 April 2024-31 March 2025	7	18	7	32	-13.51 (Vs 2023/24)

As the police are the lead enforcement agency (for Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 offences) and generally it will be the police who instigate proceedings, the council encourages members of the public to report dogs they believe to be dangerous, and the dog is causing an immediate threat to public safety, or any concerns about a dangerous dog, to the police [Dangerous dogs | Redcar and Cleveland](#). Nevertheless, the council will investigate any reports it receives, providing appropriate advice to complainants including signposting them to Cleveland police where it concludes the matter is a section one (banned breeds) or section three (dog “dangerously out of control in a public place”) issue.

The council signposted complainants to Cleveland police on 69 occasions during the three-year period 1 April 2022-31 March 2025, as follows:

**Section one (banned breeds) issues:** five occasions, all in 2024/5

**Section three (dog “dangerously out of control in a public place”) issues:** 64 occasions, including 21 times in 2022/3; 29 times in 2023/4; and 14 times in 2024/5

Extending the Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2016 beyond 30 June 2025 creates the opportunity for the council to introduce new requirements and prohibitions on dogs when using public spaces, by varying the current Order when renewing or extending it to include new dog related offences should the evidence base justify it in doing so.

A desktop review of the published dog control measures currently in place within 76 other local authority areas across England and Wales found the dog control measures most widely adopted elsewhere, but not currently in force within Redcar and Cleveland, are as follows: -

- **Dog exclusion area (enclosed sports facilities, including all weather pitches bowling greens, MUGAs, skate parks or tennis courts):** adopted by 45 local authorities, or 58.44% of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise
- **Maximum number of dogs/handler (typically 4-6):** adopted by 27 (or 35.53%) of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise
- **Dogs on leads (carriageway and adjoining footpath or verge):** 16 (or 21.05%) of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise
- **Dogs on leads (open and enclosed playing fields and sports facilities including football pitches, cricket pitches, skate parks and bowling greens):** 12 (or 15.79%) of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise
- **Dogs on leads (promenades):** adopted by 11 local authorities (or 14.47%) of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise; this represents 40.74% of the 27 coastal authorities included
- **Dogs on leads (car parks):** adopted by 10 local authorities (or 13.36%) of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise

- **Dogs on leads (allotment gardens):** adopted by eight local authorities (or 10.53%) of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise
- **Dogs on leads (nature reserves):** adopted by eight local authorities (or 10.53%) of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise

Whenever the council brings in new PSPO provisions it should consider the capacity of the council to enforce those provisions. The council is also required to maintaining notices and signs on or adjacent to the land affected, such that they are sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public to the order's effect. Doing so for a considerable number of additional locations could represent a very significant cost, which would have to be met within existing resources.

Taking account of these issues would justify the council in continuing to take a cautious approach to the introduction of additional dog control provisions, testing public support beforehand for any proposal it considers to be strongly justified and likely to win the support of the wider public.

Accordingly, the council proposes to bring in additional dog exclusion provisions for 15 council-managed sports and games facilities, including BMX tracks, grassed kickabout areas, MUGAs, skate parks and tennis courts.

The council considered this new dog exclusion provision to be justified for the following reasons:

- Such facilities are solely for the use of individuals to take part participate in sporting activities where dogs are simply without purpose. Individuals, adults as well as children, should be free to play sports and games in these areas without the risk of them coming in to contact with dog faeces and dog urine.
- Many of these facilities are co-located with or near enclosed children's play areas, which are already subject to dog exclusion provisions.
- Including enclosed sports and games facilities managed by the council within the scope of the order dog exclusions provisions could be seen as a justified resolution of an anomalous situation for the council.
- Almost six-in-10 (45 or 58.44%) of those authorities whose published orders were included within the scope of the exercise had brought in such a provision for enclosed sports and games facilities

Should the council succeed in securing public support for doing so, it will consider varying the Order further on a future occasion to extend this dog exclusion provision to enclosed sports and games facilities managed by voluntary sports associations.

When exercising its powers under the public spaces protection provisions of the Act, the council is required to assess the impact of the antisocial activities it seeks to tackle by carrying out the following prescribed tests:

- The renewal of the Order is necessary to prevent:
  - The occurrence or recurrence of the activities identified in the order, or
  - an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities

- The variations proposed meet the following prescribed tests:
  - the activities (of dogs, and the person(s) in charge) are, or are likely to be, unreasonable.
  - the activities being tackled have had, or are likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
  - the activities being tackled are, or are likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature
  - justifies the restrictions and requirements proposed

The council's legal officers are satisfied the council can meet the prescribed tests justifying it in extending the Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 (as previously extended by Public Spaces Protection Order Extension and Variation of 2022), with the proposed variation to exclude dogs from entering council managed enclosed sports and games facilities, for a further three years in order to tackle dog related antisocial behaviour for the following reasons:

- **Dog fouling continues to be a significant problem** requiring a robust enforcement approach:
  - The council received 182 reports of dog fouling during the 12-month period 1 April 2024-31 March 2025, demonstrating that a small minority of irresponsible dog walkers continue, through their actions, to blight green spaces for everyone else.
- **Dog control issues have emerged as a new issue in recent years; and this requires the retention of a robust enforcement approach**, including targeted and general dogs on leads measures, in common with many other local authorities across England & Wales
- **The council has robustly considered the rationale for retaining the existing provisions and concluded they should be retained, not discharged:**

#### **Failure to clean up after their dog:**

- Direct exposure to dog faeces can cause toxocariasis, an infection of the roundworm *toxocara canis*, potentially leading to the visceral syndrome, characterised by fever, hepatosplenomegaly, pallor, respiratory problems and skin lesions; and occasionally convulsions, heart problems and ocular lesions, such as loss of visual acuity.
- This is an entirely preventable health risk and the main reason that dog owners should clean up after their pets. Freshly deposited faeces are not infectious because *toxocara* eggs do not become infectious for at least two-to-three weeks after the faeces have been deposited. Therefore, there is no risk of catching toxocariasis whilst clearing up straight after a dog.
- Treading in dog faeces can also potentially lead to slips, trips and falls, and subsequent injuries.
- The overwhelming majority (94.51%) of the 1,356 respondents to the 2022 consultation exercise supported the retention of the dog fouling offence; the council is confident of securing public support for the retention of this provision

### **Exclude dogs from entering areas of Redcar and Saltburn beaches between 1 May and 30 September:**

- Both Redcar and Saltburn beaches won Keep Britain Tidy's prestigious Seaside awards in 2024, meaning they have met high standards for cleanliness, safety and water quality.
- The council has strong aspirations to progress to Blue Flag award standard. To do so, the council will need to retain these seasonal dogs on beach exclusion zones.
- The great majority of the eight miles of unbroken sands stretching from South Gare to Saltburn-by-the-sea continues to be outside these two seasonal dogs on beaches exclusion zones.
- Dogs are permitted on the beaches at Redcar and Saltburn any time outside the (1 May-30 September) visitor season when these exclusions apply.
- The council believes its operation of seasonal dog exclusions restricted to parts of Redcar and Saltburn beaches ensures it strikes a fair and appropriate balance between the competing rights of dog owners and non-dog owners.
- Almost two-thirds (65.29%) of the 1,356 respondents to the 2022 consultation exercise supported the retention of the seasonal dog exclusion zones at Redcar and Saltburn beaches; the council is confident of securing public support for the retention of this provision

### **Exclude dogs from entering any of the council's eight cemeteries (and St Germain's church yard, Marske):**

- Cemeteries and churchyards are sensitive areas. Were owners able to take their dogs into these locations, including by allowing them to wander freely, this could lead to dogs defecating and urinating on graves. This is unacceptable in settings where peace and respect should be paramount.
- More than six-in-10 (64.98%) of the 1,356 respondents to the 2022 consultation exercise supported the retention of the dog exclusion provisions for the council's nine cemeteries and churchyards; the council is confident of securing public support for the retention of this provision

### **Exclude dogs from entering fenced-off children's play areas:**

- Fenced off children's play areas are areas enclosed on all sides by a fence, gates, walls or other structure that marks a boundary containing play equipment such as swings, slides, climbing frames and other similar apparatus.
- The council believes children should be free to play in these areas without the risk of them coming in to contact with dog faeces and dog urine. Additionally, as with some adults, some children are frightened of dogs whatever their breed and size and should have the opportunity to play free from this fear.
- Almost nine-in-10 (88.41%) of the 1,356 respondents to the 2022 consultation exercise supported the retention of the dogs exclusion

provision imposed for enclosed children's play areas; the council is confident of securing public support for the retention of this provision.

**Failure to have the means to pick up:**

- The council considers it reasonable that a person in charge of a dog whilst out walking should carry sufficient means of collecting any dog faeces produced by the dog in their charge to ensure that any dog faeces is removed from public land straightaway.
- Not to have such a means constitutes irresponsible dog ownership. If a person cannot produce a suitable means of collection, then it can reasonably be presumed that they likely have no intention of removing any faeces deposited by their dog and that any such dog faeces would remain where deposited on the land.
- As dog-fouling is a very difficult offence to detect, the council had introduced this offence of failing to have the means to pick up after a dog to provide it with an additional enforcement option, thereby considerably increasing the risks for dog walkers who continue to offend.
- Around eight-in-10 (80.88%) of the 1,356 respondents to the 2022 consultation exercise was estimated to be in support the retention of the means to pick-up requirement; the council is confident of securing public support for the retention of this provision

**Failure to put and keep their dog on a lead when asked to by an enforcement officer ("leads by order/direction")**

- The council recognises that most dog owners are responsible and keep their dogs under control whilst taking them on public land. However, if they are not properly supervised and kept under control dogs that are allowed off a lead in public areas can cause road traffic accidents and can cause nuisance or injury to members of the public and to other animals.
- Having the power to require someone to place their dog on a lead when it is causing a nuisance provides a flexible, visible tool to tackle any problems when they do occur.
- The council accepts that dog owners need to be able to exercise their dogs off a lead in open spaces for animal welfare reasons. The council believes that this provision strikes a fair and sensible balance - it still allows people to walk their dogs off lead in the great majority of public areas but gives the council the power to deal with any problems as and when they occur, by requiring people to put and keep their dog on a lead.
- More than eight-in-10 (83.47%) of the 1,356 respondents to the 2022 consultation exercise supported the introduction of the "leads by order/direction" provision.
- 93 respondents to the 2022 dogs PSPO consultation exercise highlighted dog control issues they had experienced in public spaces generally as their reason for supporting the general (and targeted) dogs

on leads requirements; the council is confident of securing public support for the retention of this provision

### **Failure to keep their dog on a lead (“dogs on leads”) when in any of the seven named formal parks and gardens**

- The council considered it reasonable to introduce these provisions as dogs being not under proper control within these formal parks and gardens could prevent the use by local people and visitors (dog owners and non-dog owners alike) of these parks and formal gardens for recreation and enjoyment.
- The council secured majority support for its “dogs on leads” for six of the seven locations; and strong plurality support (48.84 % for and 29.96% against) for its “dogs on leads” proposals for Coronation Park, Loftus; the council is confident of securing public support for the retention of these provisions
- 93 respondents to the 2022 dogs PSPO consultation exercise highlighted dog control issues they had experienced in public spaces generally as their reason for supporting the (general and) targeted dogs on leads requirements.
- 10 respondents highlighted dog control issues they had experienced in formal parks and gardens generally as their reason for supporting dogs being kept on leads. This comment was typical:

*“My children are becoming more and more apprehensive in public places because of dog owners who think they know best and believe their dog would never cause harm and so let them run right up to strangers including small children. It has actually stopped us going places. I know dogs need exercise but that should certainly not be anyway near spaces predominantly designed for families.”*

- A further nine respondents highlighted dog control issues they had experienced in Locke Park itself as their reason for supporting the council’s targeted dogs on leads requirements, making Locke Park the single most mentioned location where respondents supporting the council’s targeted dogs on leads requirements had experienced dog control issues
- A further 11 highlighted dog control issues they had experienced in the other six designated (formal park and garden) locations as their reason for supporting the council’s targeted dogs on leads requirements.
- The council, in 2023, undertook a detailed analysis whether these targeted dogs on leads requirements had significantly curtailed off-lead provision within the borough.
- It concluded that the impact of the targeted dogs on leads requirements on overall access to off-lead green spaces had not been significant.
- Overall, the targeted dogs on leads requirements applies to only 3.35% of all green spaces (23.02ha out of all assessed green space totalling 687.55ha), leaving 96.65% (or 664.53ha) unaffected.

- The council remains confident it took sufficient account whether suitable alternatives exist nearby for dogs to be exercised without restriction, where it brought in targeted “dogs on lead” requirements.
- In respect of the seven formal parks and gardens where the council brought in dogs on leads zones, the council still considers that local dog walkers continue to have access to suitable nearby alternatives well able to absorb any potential increase in dog walker numbers.
- **The council has struck an appropriate balance between the need to tackle antisocial behaviour, crime and disorder – namely dog-fouling and uncontrolled dogs – against the desire and entitlement of members of the public to use a public space**
- **The council has also taken account of how the restrictions affect those relying on assistance dogs**
- not renewing the Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 (as previously extended by Public Spaces Protection Order Extension And Variation of 2022) for a further three years, with the proposed variations, in order to tackle dog related antisocial behaviour will likely result in a reversal of the downwards trajectory for dog fouling reports established since 2016; and the upwards trend, established in recent years, in reports of dogs being dangerously out of control in public places, but dampened or stabilised since the Order’s introduction, will likely continue.

The extended Order, with the proposed variations if approved, will be in force until 30 June 2028 unless varied, extended or discharged by further orders.

In summary, although the strengthening of the council’s enforcement approach to dog fouling through the introduction of the Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPPO) 2016, alongside related initiatives, has had a major impact, dog fouling remains a significant issue.

The proposal would mean the council will retain and (by introducing dogs exclusion provisions for enclosed sports and games facilities) further strengthen a robust approach to enforcement as part of a fully rounded dog-fouling (and dog control) strategy, which removes excuses for dog walkers failing to pick up after their dog or keep their dogs under effective control and considerably increases the risks for dog walkers who continue to offend.

It is therefore considered to best assist the council in effectively tackling dog-fouling and dog control issues.

## **7. What are other councils doing?**

Councils across England and Wales have used their powers under the Act to tackle a range of antisocial behaviour, including the control of dogs in public places. Most have done so by means of the transitional arrangements for the Act, which meant all existing dog control orders were automatically converted to public spaces protection orders, with effect from 20 October 2017. Some, like Redcar & Cleveland council, were early adopters, bringing in dog control public spaces protection orders from



2015/16 onwards, and these councils have now brought in several three-year extensions to their dog control public spaces protection orders to enable them to continue to take enforcement action, or have varied their public spaces protection orders to introduce new requirements and prohibitions when extending them.

The following are examples of the typical dog controls in force elsewhere within England and Wales:

- Dog fouling – universally adopted
- Dog exclusion zones, children's play areas – widely adopted (also enclosed sports facilities and playing fields in many cases)
- Dogs on leads by direction – widely adopted
- Dogs on leads, designated areas – widely adopted (typically for highways and public parks etc.)
- Dog exclusion zones, beaches – universally adopted by in coastal authorities at coastal resorts
- Dog exclusion zones – widely adopted for a range of types of open space (specified cemeteries, memorial gardens; parks and gardens; nature reserves, wildlife gardens, sites of scientific interest; bodies of water etc.)
- Means to pick up – a new requirement starting to be adopted by many councils
- Maximum no. dogs/handler – in force in many areas.

## **8. Who are we consulting?**

The council is required to meet consultation, notification, and publicity requirements, in making public spaces protection orders, when extending them (as is the case here), or when varying public spaces protection orders to introduce new requirements and prohibition on people using public spaces.

This consultation complies with the statutory consultation requirements as it seeks to involve all stakeholders who may be affected, including dog-walkers; the general public; Cleveland police; local parish and town councils; schools; veterinary surgeries; kennels; Ramblers' association; Cleveland connect (neighbourhood watch); and housing associations; and neighbouring councils. This document will also be sent to elected members. Anyone can give their views during the six-week consultation period which runs from **Friday 2 May to Friday 13 June 2025**.

## **9. How can I comment on these proposals?**

We would welcome your responses and suggestions about ways we could continue to tackle dog related antisocial behaviour including through enforcement action. We want to hear any comments you may have on any aspect of these proposals.

Please respond using our on-line survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5RJL6V8>

Paper copies are also available from libraries or on request. Please contact:

Julian Feakes, prevention and partnership officer

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Fairway House  
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## **10. What happens next?**

In conjunction with this consultation exercise, the council will also give notice of its intention to extend the Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order 2016, with the proposed variations, for another three years, for a period of four weeks (likely around 19 May-16 June 2025), inviting representations from affected persons whether the order should be extended and varied as proposed.

After the consultation period council executive management team members will consider the outcome of this consultation, around 20 June 2025. They will consider all comments about these proposals received during the consultation and notification periods, before deciding whether to retain the content of the existing Order, incorporating the proposed variations, and extend it for a further three years.

## **11. Where can I get more information?**

During this consultation, we will be collating all the views and comments we receive. Please contact the community safety team based within safer communities and streetscene services.

Copies of this consultation document and other council documents can be found on the council's website [www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk), or by contacting the community safety and compliance team or by emailing [consultation@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk). This consultation document is also available on request in other formats.

## **Appendix one:**

**Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection  
Order (PSPO) 2016, schedule one: play areas**

## SCHEDULE 1 RE: PLAY AREAS

Location	Post Code
Albion Terrace Saltburn	TS12 1
The Avenue Playing Field Brotton	TS12 2
Bankfields playing fields, Oatfields Court, Eston	TS6 0
Borough park Redcar Lane Redcar	TS10 2
Bramble Dykes/Reedsdale Close Mickley Dales Estate Redcar	TS10 2
Brickyard Community Play Area Railway Terrace Brotton	TS12 2
Brompton Avenue Guisborough	TS14 6
Byland Close, Guisborough	TS14 6
Cat Flatt Lane Marske	TS11 6
Cleveland Street Loftus	TS13 4
Cleveland View Skelton Green	TS12 2
The Close Easington	TS13 4
Coatham seafront, Majuba Road, Redcar	TS10 5
Crow Lane South Lackenby	TS6 8
Dixon Street Carlin How	TS13 4
Dormanstown recreation field, Trunk Road Dormanstown	TS10 5
Eastbank Road Ormesby	TS7 9
Flatts Lane Country Park Normanby	TS6 0
Flatts Lane Woodland Country Park Normanby	TS6 0
Golden Boy Green Normanby Road South Bank	TS6 6
Grangetown Neighbourhood Centre Bolckow Road	TS6 7
Grangetown park, Bolckow Road, Grangetown	TS6 7
Greenacres Infant Keilder Close Redcar	TS10 4
Greenacres Junior Keilder Close Redcar	TS10 4
High Street Lingdale	TS12 3
High Street West, Redcar	TS10 1
Hunters Hill playing field, Enfield Chase (off Quorn Close), Guisborough	TS14 7
The Ings Site 2 Seaford Close Redcar	TS10 2
Kennedy Crescent Carlin How	TS13 4
Kilton Lane football playing fields Kilton Lane Lingdale	TS12 3
King George V Playing Field Howbeck Road Guisborough	TS14 6
Kirkham Road, Nunthorpe	TS7 0
Kirkleatham hall museum Kirkleatham village	TS10 5
Lilac Close Saltburn	TS12 1
Locke park, Locke Road Redcar	TS10 1
Margrove Park Margrove Park Village	TS12 3
Marine Parade Saltburn	TS12 1
Marshall Drive Brotton	TS12 2
Marske playing fields playground Mount Pleasant Avenue Marske	TS11 7

Mill Lane Skinningrove	TS13 4
Moorsholm recreation field, Recreation View, Moorsholm	TS13 3
Marske playing fields playground Mount Pleasant Avenue Marske	TS11 7
Off Ironstone Way Liverton Mines TS13 4BU	TS13 4
The Paddling Pool Children's Play Area Coast Road Redcar	TS10 3
Pasture Lane Lazenby Village	TS6 8
Pit Park Queen Street Boosbeck	TS12 3
Pontac Road New Marske	TS11 8
Pym Street South Bank	TS6 6
Railway Cottages Play Park North Skelton	TS12 1
Redcar Road Dunsdale	TS14 6
Scholar's Gate/rear of Gloucester Road Guisborough	TS14 7
School Lane Infant Liverton Mines	TS13 4
School Lane Junior Liverton Mines	TS13 4
South Avenue Infants Dormanstown	TS10 5
South Avenue Junior Dormanstown	TS10 5
Southpark Wood Flatts Lane Normanby	TS6 0
Spencerbeck play area Ainstable Road	TS7 9
Station Lane Skelton	TS12 2
Steele Crescent playground South Bank	TS6 6
Tees Street Loftus	TS13 4
Whale Hill Infant Goathland Road Eston	TS6 8
Whale Hill Junior Goathland Road Eston	TS6 8
Zetland Park Infant The Crescent Redcar	TS10 3
Zetland Park Junior The Crescent Redcar	TS10 3

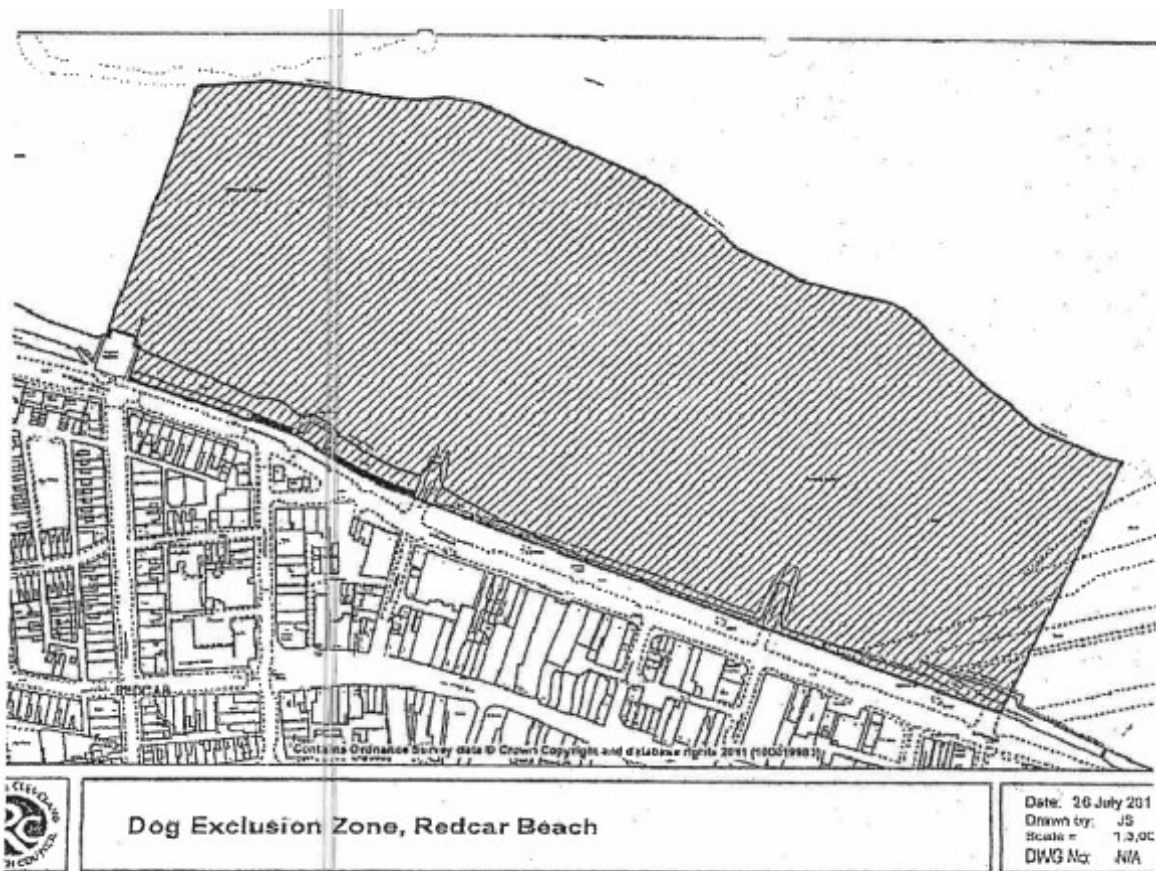
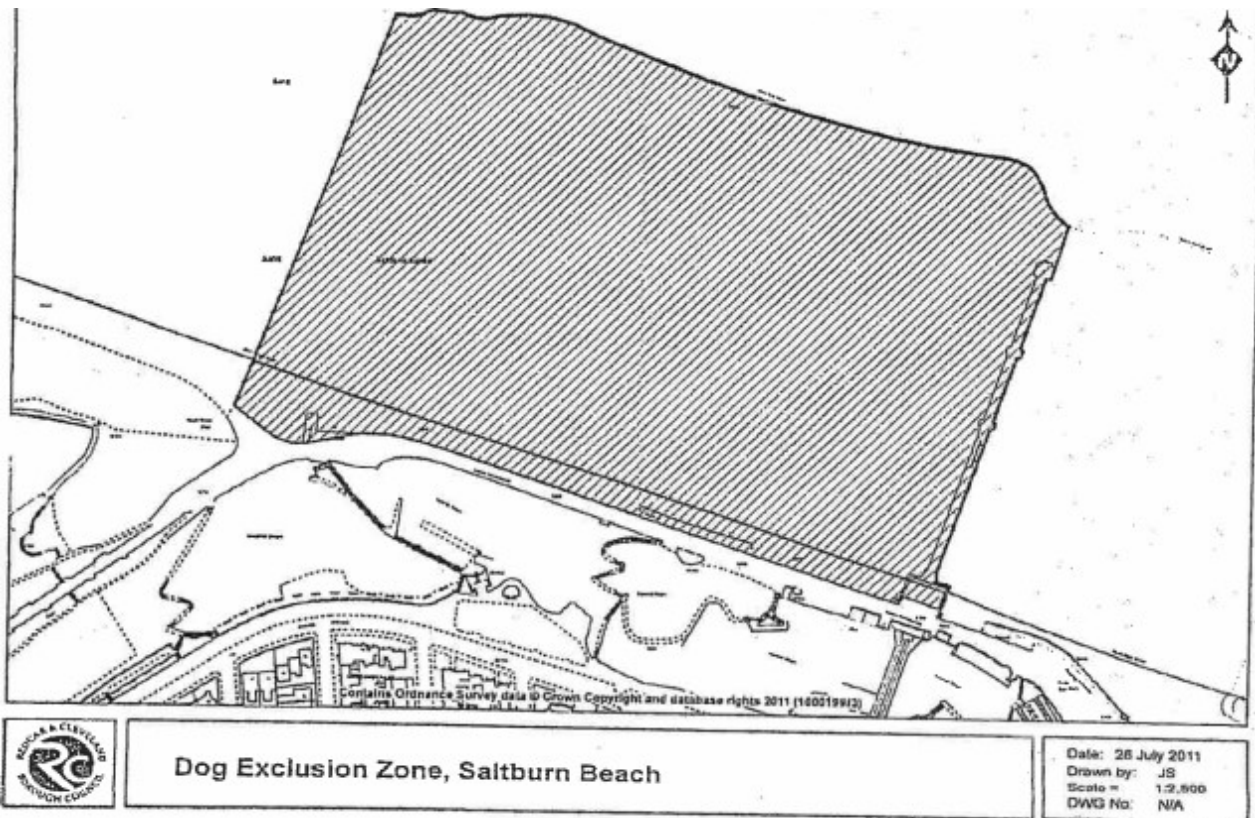
## **Appendix two:**

### **Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2016, schedule three: beaches**

The order relates to:

The part of the beach at Redcar bounded on the west by a line extending from the western corner of the Regent cinema (grid reference NZ601255 in a north-easterly direction along the line of the north-western side of the cinema to the sea and on the east by a line extending from that point on the sea wall to the Esplanade opposite the eastern side of the junction of the Esplanade and Graffernberg Street (grid reference NZ608252) in a north-easterly direction to the sea

The beach at Saltburn bounded on the west by a line from the eastern side of the point of access to the beach from Hazelgrove (grid reference NZ666217) in a northerly direction to the sea and on the east by a line following the eastern side of Saltburn pier (grid reference NZ6632218) and continuing in a northerly direction from the end of the pier to the sea.



## **Appendix three:**

# **Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2016, schedule three: dogs on leads**

**Locke Park :** [Schedule 4A - Locke Park, Redcar - 22.04.25.pdf \(PDF, 767.47KB\)](#)

**Parts of Borough Park:** [Schedule 4B - Borough Park, Redcar - 22.04.25.pdf \(PDF, 667.02KB\)](#)

**Zetland Park:** [Schedule 4C - Zetland Park, Redcar - 22.04.25.pdf \(PDF, 252.06KB\)](#)

**Marske valley gardens:** [Schedule 4D - Marske Valley Gardens - 22.04.25.pdf \(PDF, 259.31KB\)](#)

**Marine Parade lower path gardens :** [Schedule 4E - Marine Parade Lower Path Gardens, Saltburn - 22.04.25.pdf \(PDF, 213.87KB\)](#)

**Parts of Saltburn valley gardens :** [Schedule 4F - Saltburn Valley Gardens, Saltburn - 22.04.25.pdf \(PDF, 211.98KB\)](#)

**Coronation Park, Loftus :** [Schedule 4G - Coronation Park, Loftus - 22.04.25.pdf \(PDF, 327.99KB\)](#)



## Appendix four:

# Redcar & Cleveland Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2016, schedule five: enclosed sports and games facilities

### SCHEDULE 5 RE: ENCLOSED SPORTS AND GAMES FACILITIES

Location	Post Code
Bankfields Playing Field MUGA, Eston	TS6 0
Golden Boy Green MUGA and enclosed Skate Park, South Bank	TS6 6
Grangetown Park MUGA, Grangetown	TS6 7
Lazenby Play Park MUGA, Lazenby TS6 8	TS6 8
Haweswater field enclosed grassed kickabout area, Redcar	TS10 1
Locke Park MUGA, Redcar	TS10 1
Borough Park MUGA Redcar	TS10 2
Zetland Park tennis courts, Redcar	TS10 3
Lakes Recreation Ground MUGA Redcar	TS10 4
Dormanstown Recreation Ground enclosed BMX track, Redcar	TS10 5
Pit Park MUGA and Sports Court Boosbeck	TS12 3
William Street MUGA, North Skelton	TS12 2
Hollybush MUGA and Skate Park, Skelton	TS12 2
Manless Terrace enclosed grassed kickabout area, Skelton Green	TS12 2
Carlin How Park MUGA, Carlin How	TS13 4