

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Control?

A PSPO is an order which aims to stop anti-social behaviour happening in a public place. The failure to comply with the requirements of a PSPO is a criminal offence. In order to introduce a PSPO a council has to be satisfied that two conditions are met:

The first condition is that

- (a) activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or
- (b) it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect.

The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities

- (a) is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
- (b) is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and
- (c) justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

PSPOs can only be introduced by a council after a necessary consultation, notification and publicity. A PSPO can last a maximum of three years, although it can be extended or varied (or discharged) during the course of its life.

Why is the council trying to renew this PSPO?

We want to renew the PSPO to make it easier to tackle problems such as dog fouling, and dogs being in children's play areas. If renewed, it allows a far more expedient means to tackle issues, through the use of fixed penalty notices, as well as prosecutions where required.

How is the PSPO going to be enforced?

Enforcement of the PSPO is currently undertaken in the main by authorised officers of Dacorum Borough Council and our contractors we also have assistance from the police where required. The PSPO is not intended to target any particular person – it will apply to all persons whose behaviour or dogs behaviour is considered unacceptable

What happens if I breach the PSPO?

Where a person breaches the PSPO, an authorised officer will have a number of options open to them and will exercise discretion in how they handle any situation. Depending on the nature of the breach the authorised officer can issue a verbal warning and require an immediate cessation of the behaviour causing the breach of the PSPO. Authorised Officers could issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) either at the time or at a later date or to report that individual for consideration of legal proceedings.

In any case where an individual fails to pay a FPN issued by an authorised officer for a PSPO breach within the specified timescale, Dacorum Borough Council will review the evidence obtained and where appropriate commence legal proceedings for the original breach.

How will the PSPO be advertised/publicised?

If the PSPO is renewed, we will publish it on the council's website, via social media and press releases. Signage will also be used across the borough.

Will it work?

A PSPO is a useful tool to use alongside other initiatives, like education and will encourage longer term behavioural change. We all want to live in a clean borough, which is why we are encouraging everyone in Dacorum to take responsibility for their actions.

Is the proposal a done deal?

Absolutely not! We need to know whether the people of Dacorum generally agree with us that renewing this PSPO will help to tackle these problems.

When will it come into force?

The renewal is due in July 2022

The survey is available on our website www.dacorum.gov.uk/consultation and you can respond by completing the on-line survey, or by sending in your survey response via email to ecp@dacorum.gov.uk or by posting it to the Public Spaces Protection Order consultation, Environmental & Community Protection, The Forum, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1DN