



Committee - Regulatory

Thursday 4th June 2026

Subject: Extension of District Wide Dog Fouling Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Andy Gray – Head of Environmental Services

Executive Summary:

In June 2023 the Council designated its “Dog Fouling Public Space Protection Order”, which is in place until the 6th of June 2026. This PSPO focused on dog fouling and disposal and applied across the whole district. It also included a provision for individuals to carry and have available a means to remove dog fouling. It is now proposed to extend this order until 2029.

Appendices to Report

- Appendix 1 – PSPO FAQs
- Appendix 2 – Public notice advising of extension

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- a) **That Regulatory Committee Approve that the Dog Fouling PSPO, be extended for a three-year period from 7th June 2026 to 6th June 2029.**

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2023 the Council designated its “Dog Fouling Public Space Protection Order”, which is in place until the 6th of June 2026. This PSPO focused on dog fouling and disposal and applied across the whole district. It also included a provision for individuals to carry and have available a means to remove dog fouling.
- 1.2 The impact of dog fouling on both the natural environment and on public health is well known. It is essential for the Council to promote responsible dog ownership and to ensure that where this is not the case there is provision, in law, for addressing it.
- 1.3 This report proposes that the existing PSPO is extended for an additional three years. The existing order and information on dog fouling can be found here:

<https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/communities-safety/community-safety/dog-fouling>

2 Legal Position

- 2.1 PSPOs are made under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Orders can be extended and varied under sections 60 and 61 of the Act.
- 2.2 These Orders can be made on any land open to the air that the public has a right or entitlement of access to
- 2.3 To make an Order, the local authority needs to be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activities carried out, or likely to be carried out, in a public space:
 - Have had, or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality
 - Is, or is likely to be persistent or continuing in nature
 - Is, or is likely to be unreasonable
 - Justifies the restrictions imposed

3 Consultation

- 3.1 The legislation requires that the local authority must carry out the necessary consultation and the necessary publicity, and the necessary notification (if any) before extending the period for which a PSPO has effect.
- 3.2 The necessary consultation means consulting with the chief officer of police, and the local policing body for the police area that includes the restricted area; whatever community representatives the local authority thinks it appropriate to consult; the owner of land within the restricted area.

3.3 Consultation has been sent directly to the Police and to all Parish and Town Councils seeking their views on the matter.

3.4 Public notices have been produced for both the extension and the variation. These have been available to view in the Guildhall, Marshall's Yard and on the Council website.

3.5 A summary of comments received is shown below;

Police – a letter of support has been received from Chief Constable Paul Gibson. Formal support has also been submitted by the Local Police Inspector.

Parish Councils – support in writing received from Kexby.

Town Councils – support in writing received from Market Rasen.

4 Context

4.1 A list of frequently asked questions is shown in appendix 1.

4.2 Dog fouling continues to go relatively unreported to the Council and between 2024 and April 2026 there 30 complaints received. During this period the following activity has occurred:

- 30 complaints received
- 14 dog fouling warning letters issued
- 1 local letter drop
- Weekly patrols at hotspots throughout the district
- 1 verbal warning given
- 1 Fixed Penalty issued

4.3 The Enforcement approach to dog fouling has been a combination of proactive patrols and reactive responses to reported incidents. Officers have targeted known hotspot areas during peak times, using visible presence to deter offending behaviour. Where appropriate, informal engagement/education is given to dog owners. Signage is also placed in hotspot areas to act as a deterrent and educate members of the public on the Public Spaces protection order for Dog Fouling in West Lindsey.

4.4 Enforcing dog fouling offenses continues to present several challenges, primarily due to the difficulty in directly witnessing offenses and obtaining sufficient evidence to take formal action. Members of the public remain reluctant to report offenses or provide enough evidence for formal action.

4.5 Enforcement activity and targeted patrols have contributed to a visible deterrent effect in key hotspot areas, with some locations showing a reduction in reported incidents over time. The combination of community engagement like coffee mornings, proactive patrols, being reactive to reports/complaints and our work with West Lindsey's comms team on new Dog Fouling social media assets have helped us

improve public awareness and encourage more responsible dog ownership.

- 4.6 The dog fouling PSPO is seen as a very effective deterrent across the district and enables the Council to enact formal powers as required to deal with the issue. Whilst there is still a real challenge in regard to catching individuals who are in breach of the PSPO, it is still deemed to be necessary in order to combat the issue given the impact that it has or is likely to have on the quality of life for our residents.

5 Future Work

5.1 The following sets out the future approach to target dog fouling:

- Future activity will focus on maintaining a targeted Enforcement presence in identified hot spot areas, with increased patrols during peak times where resources allow.
- Further emphasis will be placed on public education and engagement to promote responsible dog ownership, PSPO signage and coffee mornings.
- Continuation of work with West Lindsey's Comms team.
- Attend any community groups to educate on our Enforcement activities to help spread awareness and help gain more intelligence.
- Continue to work with Parish Councillor's for intel on problem areas in the district.
- A stronger emphasis on getting members of the public to report incidents with as much information and evidence as possible.

6 Proposed Order

- 6.1 It is proposed that Members approve the extension of the order for a further three-year period. Members must be satisfied that the conditions within the Act are met as referred to in 2.3 above.

- 6.2 There is general acceptance that the Council should take enforcement action in relation to dog fouling, and it is clear that the PSPO acts as a deterrent for this.

- 6.3 The public notice for the proposed extension is shown in Appendix 2. The order will be made available on the Council's website.

7 Enforcement

- 7.1 Officers will continue to patrol the district and respond to reports of dog fouling where they are made to seek to identify the perpetrators.

- 7.2 Signage will be placed in any hotspot areas as necessary. Signage will also be made available to Parish and Town Councils and community groups who may wish to be proactive within their area.

- 7.3 Alongside the PSPO, at Prosperous Communities Committee in March 2023, Councillors approved the Environmental Crime Commitment, which includes dog fouling as one of the key areas to address.

	Option	Rational for not recommending
1	Do nothing	There would then be no provision for enforcement of dog fouling and no ability for the Council to seek to deter the issue.

ASSOCIATED IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

PSPOs are made under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. A minimum 30 day consultation period is required by Legislation. The Council intends to consult for its minimum 6 week period.

The Council can vary, extend or discharge a PSPO in line with section 72 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Breach of a PSPO may be dealt with by a fixed penalty notice or prosecution. Delegated powers are in place for service of fixed penalty notices.

Appeals against the making of a PSPO can be made in the High Court within 5 weeks of the PSPO being made, on the grounds that the process has not been followed, or that the council did not have the authority to make the Order or put certain restrictions in the Order.

Financial: FIN-26-27-MT-JT

No financial implications arising from this report.

Fixed penalty notices (FPN's) for breach of a PSPO are set at £100 with a £75 early payment incentive within fees and charges. Income from fixed penalty notices may be used to support the service issuing the FPN.

Staffing:

The Council already has provision in place to monitor and enforce the PSPOs in place and it is not proposed that any subsequent approval will affect this as it is an extension of an existing order.

LGR implications:

This designation, if approved, will be in place until 2029. Any LGR implications on designations such as this will be considered at the appropriate time and will be commonplace across the Local Authorities involved.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

The proposed extension of this PSPO will not disadvantage any social groups over another, and the process will be applied fairly. The Council's approach to fixed penalties is outlined in its Corporate Enforcement Policy.

Data Protection Implications:

None noted

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

None noted.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

This legislation and approach allows the Council to take enforcement action in the form of a fixed penalty against any persons found to be in breach of the PSPO.

Health Implications:

Dog fouling has a detrimental impact on health, with the main concern being Toxocariasis <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/toxocariasis/prevention/>

Risk Assessment:

Challenge in the High Court – the risk of this is reduced by following process and considering reasonableness throughout the process.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

These are not appendices – you should list here any supporting information used to inform your report – e.g. government guidance –

Call in and Urgency:**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes**No****X****Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes**No**