

Mr S Hearse
Chief Executive
Torrige District Council
Riverbank House
Bideford
Devon
EX39 2QG



DX 53606 BIDEFORD
Tel : Bideford (01237) 428700

Date: 1 April 2022

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

On:	Monday 11 April 2022	At:	6.30 pm
Venue:	Caddstown Business Support Centre, Clovelly Road, Bideford - Bideford		

From the 7 May 2021, the law requires all councils to hold formal meetings in person. The Council is also required to follow Government guidance and ensure that all venues used are Covid secure and that all appropriate measures are put in place. Members of the public will be able to attend the meeting in person if they are registered to speak under public participation. Any members of the public who want to view the meeting will be able to watch through the Councils YouTube Channel <https://tinyurl.com/TorrigeYouTube>

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to the Meeting of the District Council at the aforementioned date and time

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Hearse', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Executive

To:	Councillor D Bushby (Chair) Councillor P Christie (Vice-Chair) Councillors: R Boughton, D Brenton, C Bright, M Brown, R Clarke, C Cottle-Hunkin, R Craigie, A Dart, L Ford, J Gubb, P Hackett, P Hames, S Harding, C Hawkins, K Hepple, R Hicks, C Hodson, D Hurley, J Hutchings, T Inch, K James, D Jones, S Langford, N Laws, C Leather, R Lock, J Manley, D McGeough, J McKenzie, S Newton, P Pennington, P Watson, R Wiseman and C Woodhouse
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Members are requested to turn off their mobile phones for the duration of the meeting

AGENDA

PART I - (OPEN SESSION)

1.	Apologies For Absence To receive apologies for absence from the meeting
2.	Council Minutes (Pages 5 - 24) Confirmation of the Minutes of the Meetings held 31 st January and Budget Special meeting held 21 st February 2022.
3.	Public Contributions 15 minute period for public contributions. The deadline for registering to speak is by 2pm Thursday 7 April 2022. To register please email dem.services@torridge.gov.uk
4.	Declarations of interest Members with interests to declare should refer to the Agenda item and describe the nature of their interest when the item is being discussed.
5.	Agreement of Agenda Items Part I and II
6.	To consider correspondence or other business especially brought forward by the direction of the Chair
7.	To answer questions submitted under Procedural Rule A9
8.	Petitions To receive petitions (if any)
9.	Presentation from Bideford Railway Heritage Centre To receive a presentation from Tim Steer, director of Bideford Railway Heritage Centre.
10.	Presentation from North Devon Biosphere To receive a presentation from Nicola Corrigan from North Devon Biosphere.
11.	Member Budget Options Working Group (Pages 25 - 27) To receive the report of the Leader of Council.
12.	Gym Equipment/Mobilisation Costs - Active Torridge (Pages 28 - 30) To receive the report of the Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer).
13.	Dog PSPO (Pages 31 - 75) To receive the report of the Public Health and Housing Manager.

14.	<p>Armed Forces Covenant (Pages 76 - 84)</p> <p>To receive the report of the Public Health and Housing Manager</p>
15.	<p>Notices of Motion</p>
(a)	<p>Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Inch</p> <p>That a DCC Councillor be invited to attend on a rotating basis, each Full Council meeting to report on their division and to be allocated a slot of 10 minutes.</p>
(b)	<p>Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Hodson</p> <p>Council are requested to support the expansion of the qualifying criteria for applicants to the Member's Council Grant funding for 2022/23. The scheme is not prescribed by legislation but is determined and set in this Council's policy.</p> <p>The current guidance allows for grants to be made for specific projects.</p> <p>With the increasing financial pressures that our community is experiencing the proposal is that any application for funding from any non-commercial constituted organisation to deliver goods or services to alleviate hardship or address health inequalities, becomes eligible for assistance.</p>
(c)	<p>Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Hodson</p> <p>Motion for the Ocean to help this Council play their part in realising a clean, healthy and productive ocean and all of the direct economic, health and wellbeing benefits it will bring.</p> <p>This Council agrees to declare an urgent need for Ocean Recovery and adopts the Motion for the Ocean by committing to:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review within twelve months the actions and projects that have been undertaken to promote ocean recovery for the coast of Torridge District. 2. Consider Ocean recovery in our strategic decisions, plans, budgets and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), 3. Ensure that the North Devon Biosphere Nature Recovery Plan strives to support ocean recovery. 4. Work with partners locally to deliver increased sustainability in marine industries and develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy that delivers ocean recovery and local prosperity. 5. Promotes communication through our social media of actions which are being taken to aid ocean recovery progress, signpost ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges. 6. Writes to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 endorsing the requests for action listed in the circulated documentation.

(d)	<p>Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Ford</p> <p>It is not compulsory for TDC Members to have DBS checks and in light of recent convictions of Councillors from other Authorities, I propose that TDC approach Devon wide Councils in relation to their DBS Policy and with a view to the possibility of joint working to see if we could firm up our Policy on DBS checks for Members.</p>
(e)	<p>Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Craigie</p> <p>In recognition of the housing crisis and the market failure to provide affordable and social housing, TDC should immediately implement an Empty Homes Policy. It is a dereliction of duty for TDC not to be utilising all the powers under the Housing Act 2004, which includes forced sale, compulsory purchase and Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empty Homes Council Tax Premium should be ring fenced to employ an Empty Homes Officer(s). 2. Community Groups should be enabled to do the refurbishment and retrofitting of houses under the Empty Dwelling Management Orders to provide homes for local people. 3. The avoidance of Empty Homes Council Tax premium should be tackled by properly investigating and recording empty dwellings around the district <p>Empty and abandoned buildings are a blight on the area and the local community and have a significant negative impact on our vital tourism industry. We as a council must do all within our power to change the current situation of neglect.</p>
16.	<p>Exclusion of Public</p> <p>The Chair to move:</p> <p>“That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972”</p>
17.	<p>PART II - (CLOSED SESSION)</p> <p>Items which may be taken in the absence of the public and press on the grounds that exempt information may be disclosed.</p>
18.	<p>Temporary Accommodation (Pages 85 - 101)</p> <p>To receive the report of the Public Health and Housing Manager.</p>
	<p>Meeting Organiser: Democratic Services</p>

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Caddsdow Business Support Centre - Bideford

Monday, 31 January 2022 - 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillor D Bushby (Chair)

Councillor P Christie (Vice-Chair)

Councillors R Boughton, D Brenton, C Bright, M Brown, R Clarke, C Cottle-Hunkin, A Dart, L Ford, J Gubb, P Hackett, P Hames, S Harding, C Hawkins, K Hepple, R Hicks, C Hodson, D Hurley, J Hutchings, K James, D Jones, S Langford, N Laws, C Leather, R Lock, J Manley, J McKenzie, S Newton, P Pennington, P Watson, R Wiseman and C Woodhouse

Independent Persons L Bach

ALSO PRESENT

S Hearse	- Chief Executive
S Dorey	- Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
S Kearney	- Head of Communities & Place
D Heyes	- Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer)
J Williams	- Public Health & Housing Manager
T Vanstone	- Senior Electoral & Democratic Services Officer
K Brown	- Democratic Services Officer
K Hewlett	- Electoral and Democratic Services Officer
S Ayres	- HR & Comms Manager
A Beacham	- Programme Manager, One Northern Devon
T Davies	- Superintendent, Devon & Cornwall Police
D Hill	- Chief Executive, Torrington Voluntary Service
Dr T Tinsley	- Director, Alcantara Communications

285. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Before entering the agenda the Chair welcomed Councillor Woodhouse to TDC.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: T Inch and R Craigie.

286. COUNCIL MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded by Councillor Manley and -

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

(Vote: For – 29, Abstentions 4)

287. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Dr Teresa Tinsley, director of Alcantara Communications addressed the Committee on standards in public life. She expressed her concerns regarding the recent behaviours of Members in Central Government and urged TDC Councillors to make a stand.

288. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

289. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

Following on from the public speaker Councillor Cottle-Hunkin addressed the meeting expressing her disappointment that her Notice of Motion had been refused for the agenda and felt a message needed to be sent to central government from TDC expressing profound disappointment and lack of confidence regarding recent events at Number 10.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Hodson and -

Resolved: That agenda item 21 be presented in Part I.

(Vote: For 31, Against 1)

As item 21 concerned Councillor Ford he refrained from taking part in the vote.

290. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER BUSINESS ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

The Chair read a letter received from the 5 group leaders detailing their concern regarding the recent behaviour of Councillor Ford. A copy of the letter was attached with the minutes of the meeting.

291. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE A9

Questions had been submitted by Councillors Cottle-Hunkin and Ford under Procedural Rule A9.

In accordance with the Constitution a written answer to each of the questions had been circulated to Members.

Question from Councillor Cottle-Hunkin

We are told by a resident in Great Torrington that a proposed housing development (on land adjacent to South St car park) will overshadow his solar panels, cutting off his power over the winter months, and as a result will put his current carbon-neutral business into jeopardy.

We are told that just a small change to the design is all that is needed to allow him to keep his solar panels producing energy to the same extent as they do currently (i.e., the placing of single-storey garages next to the solar panels rather than two-storey houses as is currently proposed).

Given this information, and given that the council has declared a Climate Emergency, will TDC be seeking for the developer to make changes to the existing design? And if not, why not?

Answer

This question relates to a live Reserved Matters application (ref: 1/1086/2021/REM), outline planning permission having been granted by Plans Committee in December 2020 for the erection of 9 dwellings.

The only matters currently under consideration are the appearance of the dwellings and landscaping with other matters such as the layout and scale of the development having been agreed at outline. As with all planning applications, the proposal is being considered in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise in accordance with planning law.

A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Cottle-Hunkin where she asked for the council to commission a valid report into it using the correct data before they progress the application forward.

The Chair advised the information was not available at the meeting and a separate response would follow.

The question and response were noted.

Question from Councillor Ford

How much did the Jack Hegarty report cost the Council?

Answer

The cost to the Council of engaging Mr Jack Hegarty was £6,777.

For the benefit of other Councillors who may not be aware of the detail Mr Hegarty was commissioned with the help of the Local Government Association in a capacity of an independent person to investigate complaints made against Cllr Ford.

The cost also includes wider work necessary to produce the report as Mr Hegarty needed to interview all the complainants separately, produce and agree statements from each, liaise with Cllr Ford and then produce a report, which was presented at a hearing.

It was necessary to engage an external investigator as Cllr Ford had made allegations directed at TDC officers, which meant it was not possible to conduct the investigation internally as ordinarily the case in other circumstances.

The Chair read to Members the question submitted by Councillor Ford.

Following a supplementary question by Councillor Ford, asking if the independent investigator had all the evidence required, the Chair advised that a response would be given outside of the meeting.

The question and response were noted.

The Chair confirmed that Councillor Ford's second question was not answered as it was not a matter for TDC to consider and advised Councillor Ford to progress his query with the Police.

Councillor Ford left the meeting at 6.49pm

292. ONE NORTHERN DEVON PRESENTATION

Superintendent, Toby Davies from Devon & Cornwall Police, Andrea Beacham the One Northern Devon (OND) Programme Manager, Northern Devon Healthcare Trust and Darran Hill, Chief Executive of TTVS introduced themselves and jointly presented this item.

Prior to the meeting additional information had been circulated to Members.

The aim was to request that TDC consider a joint investment proposal with One Northern Devon to enhance services already being provided.

A detailed explanation of the One Communities Project was delivered along with how the organisation had grown over the years. Information was provided on the cost of staff to run the project and funds already invested by OND partners.

Toby Davies continued by providing details of how the High Flow project operates locally. It was explained this is a joined-up approach between services, working with people who require high intensity support across several services – the aim

being to pull together a team around the person and address the underlying issues for an individual.

It was confirmed at part of the presentation that partners were being asked to contribute a sum of £12,000.00.

A brief discussion followed, and several Councillors expressed their support for the project.

Following a query regarding monitoring, Andrea Beacham explained that data had been collated for the 12-month period prior to intervention and then during involvement with High Flow – the data was then compared like-for-like. She explained that the wider implications of Covid-19 were unknown currently, though Covid did impact on how the service was delivered during that time.

Darran Hill provided the rationale for the change from One Bideford to One Atlantic. The referral process was explained as well as access to the programmes for rural areas and communities.

There was further discussion regarding the High Flow project referral process, and it was confirmed that it was a consent lead but so far engagement with the project has been very positive.

It was proposed by Councillor Hackett, seconded by Councillor Newton and -

Resolved: That a full report be presented to Community & Resources to consider the proposal of granting £12,000.00 to the scheme.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

293. GAMBLING ACT - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Public Health & Housing Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to present the Authority's revised Statement of Principles published under s.349 of the Gambling Act 2005 for formal adoption.

Councillor McKenzie reminded Members of Licensing training they could attend the following week.

It was proposed by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor James and -

Resolved: That the revised Statement of Principles be formally adopted.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

294. DEVON CARBON PLAN

The Public Health & Housing Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to inform the group of the outcome of the Devon Climate Citizens' Assembly, make members aware of new actions proposed for the Devon Carbon Plan as a result of the Citizens Assembly, to request members agree that these new actions are put forward for inclusion in the next public consultation document and to request members note and endorse the additional comments from the Climate Change Working Group.

Following member discussion in relation to page 75 condition 3.4 and DIY installation. It was suggested that the Councillor Climate Change Working Group could explore the possibility of TDC providing guidance or a signposting service to the public in relation to this resolution.

It was proposed by Councillor Hames, seconded by Councillor McKenzie and -

Resolved:

1. That the results of the Citizens' Assembly be noted.
2. That the proposed actions in Appendix 1 are included in the next public consultation.
3. That the additional comments of the Climate Change working group be endorsed and raised with Devon County Council/ Local Plan Committee.

(Vote: For 29, Against 1, Abstention 2)

295. HOUSING PROVISION - UPDATE REPORT

Chief Executive provided members with the context to this update report, the purpose of which was to update on the Provision of Housing Project and to request match funding to help progress the project further. Members were reminded of the agreed actions from the member workshops, which were set out in section 2 on page 78 of the report.

The Chief Executive provided a summary of the progress on the listed actions and the proposed way forward.

Members were advised that following an unsuccessful bid to the Local Government Association's Housing Advisor Programme the Council had since been successful in the second round and awarded £25k. The recommendation of the report is that match funding from the Council is considered, though the Chief Executive highlighted that this recommendation would be considered alongside 2 other requests that have been made at this morning's Community & Resources Committee.

Cllr James then spoke to members about the progress taking place within the region on housing and there was a member discussion regarding Viability Assessments.

Following a query regarding a schedule of dates for the work, the Chief Executive confirmed that a detailed delivery plan is in development, but the immediate priority is implementation of the Leisure Service.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Christie and

Resolved

That the recommendations be agreed, with a specific request that the request for match funding go directly to Internal Overview & Scrutiny for consideration.

(Vote: For, Unanimous)

296. CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The Head of Legal & Governance presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek Full Council's approval for updates to the Constitution.

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded by Councillor Watson and -

Resolved: That the recommendations in the report be adopted.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

297. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The Finance Manager (S151 Officer) presented the report, the purpose of which was to set out proposals for appointing the external auditor to audit the Authority's annual statement of accounts for a five-year period from 2023/24.

It was advised that the PSAA would require a formal letter if TDC were to adopt the recommendations.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor Hackett and -

Resolved: That the recommendation from Audit & Governance on 18th January - Torridge opts into the PSAA procurement of external audit services - be approved.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

298. APPLEDORE FISH DOCK ICE MACHINE

The Head of Communities & Place presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek approval to add the acquisition and installation of a replacement ice machine for Appledore Fish Dock to the 21/22 capital programme.

It was proposed by Councillor Manley, seconded by Councillor Clarke and -

Resolved: That the sum of £33,000 be added to the Capital Programme (21/22) for the replacement ice machine at Appledore Fish Dock.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

299. PAY POLICY

The Chief Executive, Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer), Head of Communities & Place and Finance Manager (S151 Officer) left the room while this report was presented.

The HR & Communications Manager presented the report, the purpose of which was to invite Members to agree to a Pay Policy statement, in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act. It was confirmed the report did not ask Members to agree to any changes to the Pay Policy or the remuneration of senior officers.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Lock and -

Resolved: That the Pay Policy be approved.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

300. UPDATE - LEAD MEMBER

The Leader presented this report, the purpose of which was to appoint a Lead Member for Legal & Democratic Support.

The Leader praised Councillor Hurley for his time as Lead Member.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Lock and -

Resolved: That the Councillor Newton be elected as the new Lead Member for Legal & Democratic Support.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

301. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

302. NOTICES OF MOTION

There was one notice of motion.

- (a) Written Notice of Motion from Councillor Brenton

NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR D BRENTON

Notice says that TDC produces a report to go to O&S External with answers to the following questions:-

- 1) How many incidents of permitted discharging of sewage into Torridge River have taken place in the last 12 months?
- 2) What has been the response of the E.A?
- 3) What has been the bathing water qualities for the last 12 months?
- 4) What are the stats for shellfish qualities?

Councillor Brenton presented his Notice of Motion voicing concern and giving examples of issues which lead to the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Manley advised this was already on the forward plan as an agenda item at a future External Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting and external bodies would be involved.

It was proposed by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Christie and –

Resolved: That the Notice of Motion be agreed.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

303. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 5TH JANUARY 2022

Following an earlier vote regarding the agenda this item was heard as a Part I item.

The Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) presented the report, the purpose of which was for Members to consider and/or approve the recommendations of the Standards Committee.

This item had originally been kept private in accordance with TDC's constitution and to keep individual complainants' identities confidential, though confidentiality of the complainants was still being observed there was a recommendation to make the details of the Standards Hearing public.

Background information was provided on complaints in relation to Councillor Ford's threatening and abusive behaviour and the complaints process was explained for members. Along with Councillor Ford's involvement in that process.

It was explained that because the Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) and other members of the Senior Management Team had been subject to Councillor Ford's complaints and allegations, an independent investigator was appointed. Further detail was provided regarding how the independent investigator progressed the complaint, and the outcome of the Standards Hearing on the 4th August and the subsequent Standards Committee held in January, where the recommendations to Full Council were made.

Councillor Newton addressed members and explained the reasons why he was requesting an amendment to the proposal, that Councillor Ford's access to his official Council email address should be removed. During discussion it was clarified that this would not impact on Councillor Ford's ability to represent his constituents as he would still have access papers and meeting details via ModGov / his usual IT access. It was also confirmed that members would be able to block email addresses if necessary.

Following a discussion between members it was proposed by Councillor Newton, seconded by Councillor Hodson and –

Resolved: That the draft press release included in the report be publicised along with an amendment that Councillor Ford's Torridge District Council email be removed for 6 months and re-instatement reviewed after this period.

(Vote: For - unanimous)

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.14 pm

Chair:

Date:

Letter to Chair of Full Council Urgent Matters

Councillor Bushby,

We thought as the five Group Leaders of the Council imperative that we write to you as Chair of Council to express our deep concerns that the behaviour of one of the Council's elected Members Councillor Ford is becoming hugely damaging to the reputation and perception of the Council, its elected Members and staff to the outside world.

At the last Full Council meeting on 13 December 2021 Cllr Ford stood up in the public part of the meeting to make several accusations and allegations against fellow Members and Officers in particular Councillor McGeough and Staci Dorey our Head of Legal and Governance (the Council's Monitoring Officer). We need to put on public record that these accusations and allegations are completely unfounded and unsubstantiated.

We cannot continue to condone such intimidating and bullying behaviour towards our staff and Members.

Cllr Ford has been asked on numerous occasions that if he has any factual evidence to back up his stories then allegations can be investigated, but he has failed to do so. Cllr Ford instead chooses to use the opportunity and platform of our Council meeting to continually and publicly abuse Members and staff and it must be stopped.

We have discussed these matters with the Chief Executive and he is deeply concerned the damaging effect this is having on the Council's staff their morale and in particular the health and well-being of those staff being indiscriminately targeted by this unacceptable behaviour.

More widely the reputational impact this will have on the Council if not properly addressed and refuted, which could lead those outside of the Council believing the stories.

The Chief Executive asked that we as the most senior political leaders of the Council take action to address this as a matter of urgency.

As a Council we have achieved a huge amount over the last 2 and half years through the monumental efforts of our hardworking staff and Members, which Councillor Ford seems intent on trying to undermine.

We want to be a Council that is seen to want to achieve and deliver our ambitious plans with senior officers, staff and Members working together side by side with mutual respect.

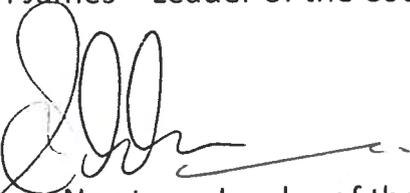
We therefore respectfully ask the Chair to ensure that Councillor Ford is stopped from making such unfounded statements in our Council meeting and if deemed necessary be removed from the meeting.

Signed by:



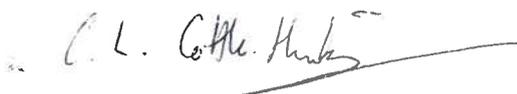
Date: 5/1/2022.

Cllr Ken James – Leader of the Council and Independent Group Leader



Date: 5/1/2022.

Cllr Simon Newton – Leader of the Conservative group



Date: 20/01/2022

Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin – Leader of the Liberal Democrat group



Date: 7/1/2022

Cllr David Brenton – Leader of Labour Group



Date: 10/1/22.

Cllr Peter Christie – Leader of Non-aligned Group

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILFULL COUNCIL (BUDGET SPECIAL) MEETINGCaddsdow Business Support Centre - BidefordMonday, 21 February 2022 - 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillor C Leather (Chair)

Councillors R Boughton, D Brenton, C Bright, R Clarke, C Cottle-Hunkin, R Craigie, J Gubb, P Hackett, P Hames, S Harding, C Hawkins, K Hepple, R Hicks, C Hodson, D Hurley, T Inch, K James, D Jones, S Langford, N Laws, R Lock, J Manley, J McKenzie, S Newton, P Pennington, P Watson, R Wiseman and C Woodhouse

Non-elected Member Louis Bach JP

ALSO PRESENT

S Hearse	- Chief Executive
S Dorey	- Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
S Kearney	- Head of Communities & Place
D Heyes	- Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer)
P Hudson	- Senior Capital Accountant
T Vanstone	- Senior Electoral & Democratic Services Officer
S Cawsey	- Democratic Services Officer

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Chief Executive invited nominations to Chair the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Hodson that Councillor Leather be elected to Chair the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Langford, seconded by Councillor Craigie that Councillor Brenton be elected to Chair the meeting.

A vote was taken on the first motion to elect Councillor Leather.

(Vote: For 24, Against 5)

Resolved:

That Councillor Leather be elected.

304. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Chief Executive invited nominations to Chair the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Hodson that Councillor Leather be elected to Chair the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Langford, seconded by Councillor Craigie that Councillor Brenton be elected to Chair the meeting.

A vote was taken on the first motion to elect Councillor Leather.

(Vote: For 24, Against 5)

Resolved:

That Councillor Leather be elected.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bushby, P Christie, M Brown, L Ford and A Dart.

305. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Robin Glover addressed the meeting and spoke in relation to the deterioration of the play area at Victoria Park. The park, he stated, is a real asset to the town and therefore it is essential that improvements to the facilities are made.

Mr Glover had formed a Victoria Park Community Group who were looking for joint funding and to work in partnership with others. There is a lack of equipment for people with additional needs – this is an issue the Group will be looking into.

Alison Bennett, t/a Kitch'n' Cupboard, spoke regarding renovation works to the Gt. Torrington Pannier Market building. She emphasised how important the building is to the town and how hard traders are working to get the town back on its feet. The market building is in need of repair, and she asked that Members give serious consideration to finance the rectifications that had been planned. There is a need for the building to be brought up to standard.

David Gibbons, Chair of the Trustees at Torrington Market Hall, also spoke in relation to the repairs to the Market Building. He mentioned how supportive TDC had been over the works to Market House and gave credit to Mike Berriman for his help with regard to ingress of water. Reference was made to the deteriorating condition of Market House and to the Bell Tower which he said is rapidly falling into despair. Market House is an important building, Grade II* Listed, and the condition of the building does not reflect well on the town. He referred to the guidance of Historic England and the legal position enforcing corrective works to be carried out.

The Chair informed Mr Gibbons his comments would be taken on board and given full consideration.

306. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

307. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

There was no Part II items.

308. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER BUSINESS ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

There were no matters brought forward.

309. BUDGET 2022 - 23, MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2022/23 - 2026/27

The Finance Manager & S151 Officer introduced the report, the purpose of which was for Members to consider the recommendations from Community & Resources Committee on the 31 January 2022 as scrutinised by Internal Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 8 February 2022, in relation to the draft budget 2022/23 and to approve a budget and level of Council Tax for 2022/23.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) indicates the possible extent of the budget and funding shortfall that the Council will face in the future. It is an aid in identifying the extent of service changes that the Council will need to make to achieve a balanced budget in each financial year up to 2026/27.

Members were informed of an adjustment to the slide presentation, namely that the 2022/23 “provisional” settlement from Central Government be amended to “Final” settlement.

The slide presentation, delivered by the Finance Manager & S151 Officer, highlighted the salient points in the report and the challenges faced by Torridge Council. Members were also provided with reasons and rationale to support the recommendations in the report.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor Manley and –

Resolved:

a) That Torridge’s Band D Council Tax for 2022/23 be increased by £5 (2.90%) from £173.66 to £178.66 per year

a) That Torridge’s Net Revenue Budget 2022/23 be £7.609m

b) That the contributions to the Council’s reserves as outlined in paragraph 11.4 of the report be approved.

d) That a working group be established the membership to be agreed by Full Council to be tasked with reporting back to Community and Resources for options to bring the Council's finances back into balance.

A recorded vote was taken.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
BOUGHTON, R	X		
BRENTON, D G	X		
BRIGHT, C	X		
CLARKE, R	X		
COTTLE-HUNKIN C	X		
CRAIGIE, R	X		
GUBB, J	X		
HACKETT, P J W	X		
HAMES, P	X		
HARDING, S	X		
HAWKINS, C	X		
HEPPLE, K	X		
HICKS, R H	X		
HODSON, C	X		
HURLEY, D	X		
INCH, A T	X		
JAMES, K J	X		
JONES, D	X		
LANGFORD, S	X		
LAWS, N	X		
LEATHER, C	X		
LOCK, R A	X		
McKENZIE, J	X		
MANLEY, J	X		
NEWTON, S	X		
PENNINGTON, P	X		
WATSON, P	X		
WISEMAN, R	X		
WOODHOUSE, C	X		

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

In addition to the above, Members noted the following:

- The Finance Manager & S151 Officer assurance of the robustness of the budget 2022/23 as set out in section 13 of the report.
- The assumptions and forecast applied to develop the MTFs outlined in Section 8 of the report.
- The risks associated with the budget 2022/23 and MTFs outlined in Section 12 of the report.

310. COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2022/23

The purpose of the report, presented by the Finance Manager & S151 Officer, was to enable Members to calculate and approve the Council Tax requirement for 2022/23.

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Lock and –

Resolved:

That the formal Council Tax Resolution for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the report be approved.

A recorded vote was taken.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
BOUGHTON, R	X		
BRENTON, D G	X		
BRIGHT, C	X		
CLARKE, R	X		
COTTLE-HUNKIN C	X		
CRAIGIE, R	X		
GUBB, J	X		
HACKETT, P J W	X		
HAMES, P	X		
HARDING, S	X		
HAWKINS, C	X		
HEPPLE, K	X		
HICKS, R H	X		
HODSON, C	X		
HURLEY, D	X		
INCH, A T	X		

JAMES, K J	X		
JONES, D	X		
LANGFORD, S	X		
LAWS, N	X		
LEATHER, C	X		
LOCK, R A	X		
McKENZIE, J	X		
MANLEY, J	X		
NEWTON, S	X		
PENNINGTON, P	X		
WATSON, P	X		
WISEMAN, R	X		
WOODHOUSE, C	X		

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

311. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 TO 2026/27

The Deputy S151 Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was for Members to consider, formulate and recommend updates to the Capital Programme 2022/23.

The Capital Programme includes authorised projects which require updating due to inflationary pressures, along with new PIDs (Project Initiation Documents) which require authorisation from Members before inclusion.

A detailed and informative slide presentation was given highlighting the salient points in the report.

Councillor Cottle-Hunkin read to the meeting a statement received from Deputy Mayor of Gt Torrington, Councillor Keeley Allin, who urged Members to give their support to the Pannier Market Gt. Torrington as a capital project for this year. She asked that the following be included in the project - renovation of the frontage of the Pannier Market, any cosmetic works inside the Pannier Market and work to the Market House.

Councillor Laws raised a concern in relation to the costs towards the linear defence works at Westward Ho! and asked whether Central Government should accept a bigger responsibility towards this. Members were advised that Officers will be working with the Environment Agency on a scheme and will be looking to get as much funding towards this as possible.

Councillor Hodson who is working with the LGA Special Interest Group on coastal issues, spoke on issues highlighted within the Group and confirmed discussions will continue with the appropriate Agencies.

It was proposed by Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor Newton that the recommendations stated in the report be approved.

A debate then followed during which Members suggested the following changes to the list of recommended PIDs for inclusion in the capital programme:

C200 – Caddstown Disabled Access Pathways and C204 – Sandymere Road to be deleted to release up monies for more urgent items, namely Gt. Torrington Pannier Market and Victoria Park.

Officers explained why Caddstown Pathways was considered to be a priority – to ensure compliancy (at present do not have adequate disabled parking) and to leave would have an effect on Insurance.

Members were reminded that those PIDs that fall below the project score of 65 will be referred back to Officers for further work/refinement and possible future consideration.

Councillor Newton, as a member of the Working Group who had revised the scoring system for the PIDs to ensure the quality and robustness of the projects approved, addressed the meeting, and explained why he was opposed to changes being made.

It was proposed by Councillor Craigie, seconded by Councillor Hames that Caddstown Disabled Access Pathways be removed and Victoria Park to be included.

(Vote: For 5, Against 22, Abstentions 2)

The motion was lost.

It was proposed by Councillor Brenton, seconded by Councillor Cottle-Hunkin that both Caddstown Disabled Access Pathways and Sandymere Road be removed and Gt Torrington Pannier Market and Victoria Park be included.

(Vote: For 7, Against 22)

The motion was lost.

A vote was then taken on the substantive motion to accept the recommendations in the report which had been proposed by Councillor Hodson, seconded by Councillor Newton and –

Resolved:

- c) That the Capital Programme be updated for building cost inflation
- d) That the Vehicle Programme be updated for inflation

- e) That the Vehicle Programme is Balanced long term, by increasing the contributions from revenue.
- f) That the following PIDs that met the minimum recommended project score of 65, be included in the Capital Programme:
- C202 Core Server
 - C200 Caddsdwn Disabled Access Pathways
 - C199 Revs & Bens Digitisation
 - C204 Sandymere Road

With the PIDs that fall below this score being referred back to officers for further work/refinement, and possible future consideration.

(Vote: For 22, Against 7)

The motion was carried.

312. TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT AND CAPITAL STRATEGY

This item was introduced by the Deputy S151 Officer who explained that the purpose of the report was for Members to consider the Treasury Management Strategy, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2020/21.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Manley and –

Resolved:

- That the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy and Counterparty List, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy be approved.
- That the Capital Strategy be approved.

(Vote: For 28, Abstentions 1)

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.10pm.

Agenda Item

REPORT OF **Leader of the Council**

To: **Full Council**

Subject: **Member Budget Options Working Group**

Date: **11th April 2022**

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

Full Council to appoint Members to form a Budget Working Group to report to Community & Resources Committees options for building resilience into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

1. INTRODUCTION

Full Council on the 21 February 2022 approved the Council's 2022-23 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2022-23 to 2026-27.

During the meeting Members heard from the Council's Finance Manager (s151 Officer) about the financial challenges that lie ahead.

One of the recommendations approved by Members was:

- *That a working group be established the membership to be agreed by Full Council to be tasked with reporting back to Community and Resources for options to bring the Council's finances back into balance.*

2. REPORT

Medium to long term Local Government budgets are notoriously difficult to predict and forecast as they are fraught with risk and uncertainty and generally underpinned by single year settlements from Central Government.

However, it is impossible for many of the plans, services and projects delivered by the Council to be based on a single year for example the Council's Strategic Plan objective to improve and deliver increased levels of affordable housing in the District.

Therefore, sitting alongside the annual Budget process, the Council has a MTFS spanning a five year period comprising of estimates and forecast of service / project costs as well as income expected to be generated.

Generally speaking the further ahead we forecast the less reliable the data is to support the estimate. However, more recently things have been changing at a much more rapid pace with inflation and energy costs for example already far greater than when the budget started its progress through the Committee meeting process.

The Council's approved MTFS 2022-27 had already identified financial challenges for the future without the new and emerging difficulties and therefore it is imperative that the Council works to establish a greater degree of financial resilience and sustainability now rather than leave until the risks materialise.



This report seeks the appointment of *** Members to form a Working Group to work alongside senior officers to identify, evaluate and recommend options and measures for long financial sustainability that also aims to provide the resources necessary to deliver the Council's strategic objectives.

The Working Group will report back to Community & Resources, which is the Committee responsible for formulating the Council's Budget and making recommendations to Full Council. Therefore, in line with the Council's constitution Members who sit on the Scrutiny Committees will not be able to sit on the Working group.

I recommend that the working group be made up of 6 Members and will comprise:

- Leader of the Council
- Lead Member for Finance & Audit – Cllr Hodson
- Cllr Brenton
- Cllr Bright
- Cllr Christie
- Cllr Lock

In the event for any reason a Member is no longer part of the working the Leader of the Council is delegated to appoint a replacement.

The Working Group will report back to Community & Resources by October 2022.

A draft set of Working Group terms of reference are attached as appendix 1.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

.N/a

Financial Implications

As highlighted in the report

Human Resources Implications

N/a

Sustainability Implications

N/a

Equality/Diversity

N/a

Risk Management

Financial resilience and sustainability is highlighted as a critical risk in the Council's Corporate Risk Register.

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

Required to support the Council's Strategic Plan and MTFS

Ward Member and Leader Member Views



Na/ - report of the Leader of the Council.

4. CONCLUSIONS

This is critical piece of work the Council needs to embark on to ensure that the Council proactively manages a particularly challenging period ahead for Local Government Finance and the provision of services that Torridge delivers.

The Working Group will consider and evaluate various options available that might deliver cost savings, income generations and or greater efficiency. Doing so on a proactive basis will allow the Council properly consider and determine the impacts of such measures on iur services, residents and communities.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members establish a Budget Working Group made up of a total of 6 Members and will comprise:

- The Leader of the Council
- The Lead Member for Finance & Audit – Cllr Hodson
- Cllr Brenton
- Cllr Bright
- Cllr Christie
- Cllr Lock

In the event for any reason a Member is no longer part of the working the Leader of the Council is delegated to appoint a replacement.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Chief Executive, Finance Manager (s151 Officer), Head of Legal & Governance and Head of Communities & Place
Contact Officer: Steve Hearse
Background Papers: Budget 2022-23 and MTFS 2022-23 to 2026-27 reports to C&R and Full Council



Agenda Item 12

REPORT OF Finance Manager and S.151 Officer
To: Full Council
Subject: Gym Equipment / Mobilisation Costs– Active Torridge
Date: 11th April 2022 **Reference:**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To seek approval to add the acquisition and installation of gym equipment at Torridge Leisure centre to the 2021/22 capital program, and to carry forward the balance on the leisure mobilisation budget.

1. INTRODUCTION

Full Council on the 2nd August 2021 determined that the delivery of leisure services from the 1st April 2022 would be via a wholly owned Local Authority Trading Company Active Torridge. An implementation budget of £250k was also approved.

2. REPORT

Subsequent to the decision made by Full Council on the 2nd August 2021 officers of the Council have been involved in discussions with the current provider of leisure services 1610. One of the items of discussion being the purchase (or otherwise) of gym equipment currently located within the Council's leisure centres.

1610 have informed the Council that the gym equipment currently located within the Northam (Torridge) leisure centre will be removed. The gym equipment currently located at the Holsworthy Leisure Centre will be purchased from 1610 at a cost of £15k.

Consequently it has been necessary for the Council to purchase gym equipment for the Northam (Torridge) leisure centre.

The Leisure Services Manager has reviewed the requirement of the Gym at Northam (Torridge) and after a tender exercise Gym equipment to the value of £93,865 has been ordered.

With Active Torridge due to commence operating the Council's Leisure centres on the 1st April 2022 and with lead in times for the purchase, deliveries and installation of gym equipment being up to six weeks, it has been necessary to place an order for gym equipment prior to formal approval from Full Council.

The Leisure Services Manager after negotiations with 1610 has recommended that the gym equipment currently located at the Holsworthy site be purchased at a cost of £15,175. As the value of this exceeds £10k this purchase will also have to be added to the Council's capital program.

At the time of this report the projected expenditure on leisure mobilisation for the financial year 21-22 is projected to be £186k, (this includes the Gym equipment alluded to in this report) leaving a balance on the budget of £64k.



However further expenditure is planned beyond the 1st April 2022, namely in the following areas:

- New hairdryers
- CCTV
- External cleaning
- Purchase of audio equipment
- Remedial Maintenance

A fuller picture will become clearer from 1st April 2022 onwards when Active Torridge are running the Council's leisure facilities with a Full Report due back to Full Council in October 2022

3. **IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Implications

No specific legal implications

Financial Implications

As outlined in the report

Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None

Equality/Diversity

Not applicable

Risk Management

Not applicable

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

This report is in compliance with the Council's Constitution

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Lead Member View

Councillor Clare Hodson

Members will be more than aware of the significant challenges facing the Council with regards to the future delivery of leisure services.

In order that Active Torridge can deliver an effective service effective from the 1st April 2022 it is necessary that the Gyms at Northam and Holsworthy are operational. The purchase of new gym equipment (after a tender exercise) and the existing gym equipment at Holsworthy prior to formal Full Council approval is appropriate in the circumstances.



It would also be prudent to set aside any unspent balance on the mobilisation budget at the end of the financial year 2021/22 in order to further improve the leisure offering to our residents.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- The sum of £111,040 is added to the Council's capital program funded from the implementation budget of £250k.
- That the unspent balance on the mobilisation budget at the end of the financial year 2021/22 is set aside into reserve to be utilised as outlined in the report post April 2022.

Contact Officer: David Heyes Section 151 Officer



REPORT OF Public Health and Housing Manager

To: Full Council

Subject: Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog control provisions across the District.

Date: 11th April 2022

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

1. To seek designate dog control Public Spaces Protection Orders for defined locations across Torridge under section 59 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

1. Introduction

In 2013 TDC introduced a series of Dog Control Orders (DCOs) under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. This designated offences of failing to pick up faeces, failure to put a dog on a lead (by location or by direction) and exclusion of dogs from specified areas.

The DCO provisions were superseded by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. The provisions available under this Act to tackle dog related issues is by the designation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). These provision must be reviewed every 3 years and so we are seeking to continue with the majority of existing provisions in place across the district. Updates to some of the provisions of the PSPO are highlighted later in this report.

PSPO's are a legal tool that are used to stop individuals or groups committing antisocial behaviour or nuisance in a public space that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life. The test in implementing a PSPO must be that the behaviour being restricted has to:

- Be having, or be likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality;
- Be persistent or continuing in nature; and
- Be unreasonable; and
- Justifies the restrictions imposed.

In implementing a PSPO, restrictions or requirements to address the antisocial behaviour must be set by the council. PSPO's can be enforced by a police officer, police community support officers and authorised council enforcement officers. A breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence and can result in a fixed penalty notice of £100 on breach of an order. Alternatively a fine of up to £1000 can be imposed by the court on conviction for the breach.

A PSPO can be appealed to the High Court by anyone who lives in, or regularly works or visits the area within six weeks of issue or variation of the Order.

2. Consultation process

The process to implement a PSPO's is prescribed and must include a consultation process. This has consisted of the following:

1. Direct notification of the draft provisions and consultation document to all Town and Parish Councils, all District and Torridge County Council members, Police and OPCC, Dogs Trust and RSPCA.
2. Publication of the draft provisions and consultation link on the TDC website and promotion through press releases, social media and local radio.

The consultation took place from the 11th February until the 28th March. A copy of the draft order and coverage of the provisions are given in appendix 1 of this report.

3. Outline of the provisions/ offences proposed:

What	Where	When
Dog Fouling	District Wide	All year
Dogs on lead by direction	District Wide	All year
Beach ban	Westward Ho!	1 st May – 30 th September
Dogs on lead	Westward Ho! Promenade	1 st May – 30 th September
Dog exclusion *	Westward Ho! Park tennis courts	All year
Dogs on lead *	Westward Ho! Park	All year
Dogs on lead	Victoria Park Bideford	All year
Dog exclusion – children's play areas **	District Wide	All year

* New provision

** Modified provision

It is proposed the majority of existing provisions are carried over into the new Order, in particular the well-established Westward Ho! seasonal dog exclusion arrangements which are a requirement to maintain its Blue Flag status.

The inclusion of the Westward Ho! Park mirrors reiterates existing by-laws and clarifies/ supports enforcement of controls at the site.

The revised order also has the following changes:

- Children's play areas: The current order lists children's play areas that are specified as dog exclusion zones. These proposals take a different approach – any enclosed children's play area (as defined) falls under the order. This means that Parish and Town Councils can enact these provisions for a new play area simply by way of their enclosure. If a Town or Parish Council doesn't want it included in the order there's the clause that suspends the exclusion on the basis that: *"The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the restricted areas has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so."*
- The current order specified that the provisions related to 'nuisance to people or other animals'. These provisions expand this to 'people, other animals, *livestock and wildlife*'. This is to make explicit in the order issues around livestock worrying and roost interference.

4. Response to the consultation

The consultation ran from 11th February to 28 March and a total of 214 responses were received. These are given in full in Appendix 2 to this report.

5. Summary of Responses

As expected, the consultation has elicited a range of responses, opinions and comments on the proposed measures. However, with particular regard to the responses to questions 8 to 15 and 18 of the survey, there appears to be clear support for the measures put forward in the draft PSPO. However, members are asked to note all the comments given in the consultation response in order to inform their position on the proposals.

6. Breakdown of complaints to TDC on dog related issues

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team receive direct complaints relating to a range of dog related issues. A breakdown of those are as follows:

	Stray dogs	Fouling	Dangerous dogs
2017	107	69	32
2018	77	58	24
2019	78	70	25
2020	32	39	30
2021	25	73	37
2022 (Q1)	5	22	4

7. Enforcement of PSPO provisions

A number of the consultation comments relate to the enforcement of the provisions should they be enacted. Members are reminded that the need to review the PSPO covering a locality is a legal requirement and that we have had enforceable provisions in place for some time. We do issue warnings and carry out enforcement action as a result; for example, over the period given above, a total of 8 fixed penalty notices have been served for dog fouling. We are currently reviewing our enforcement plans, including in conjunction with our Burrows wardens in relation to specific issues in that area. However, this report only relates to the implementation of the provisions, without which we will be limited in taking any sort of enforcement action for dog related issues.

8. Consideration of the test for implementing a PSPO

1. *Be having, or be likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality*

Consultation responses as well as complaints made to the Council on dog related issues show that irresponsible dog ownership has a detrimental effect on the quality of life across the district.

2. *Be persistent or continuing in nature*

The number of incidents reported have persisted over the 5 years up to this review. Consideration must also be given to those incidents that do not get reported directly but come through other means such as complaints to members, Town and Parish Councils, and on a regular basis, local social media.

3. *Be unreasonable*

The vast majority of dog owners are responsible individuals and no issues arise from their animals. It is a small percentage of irresponsible owners who cause antisocial and potentially dangerous behaviour which has a negative impact on communities. These actions cannot be viewed as reasonable.

4. *Justifies the restrictions imposed.*

Taking into account the above factors, it is proposed that the provisions consulted upon meet the necessary test for implementing a PSPO, and put this forward to committee for approval.

9. Implications

Legal Implications

Imposition of Public Space Protection Orders are available to Local Authorities under section 59 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to address antisocial behaviour and nuisance issues that are having or a likely to have a detrimental effect on the local community. Certain tests must be met in order to impose an order and must be taken into consideration at the final decision stage of the PSPO. This consultation process seeks to determine public need and impacts of imposing such an order.

Financial Implications

N/A

Human Resources Implications

NA

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

N/A

Equality/Diversity

N/A

Risk Management

PSPO provisions are designed to address antisocial behaviour and nuisance issues that are having or are likely to have a detrimental effect on the local community. Failure to implement this or implement them effectively may lead to the continuation of this nuisance or antisocial behaviour.

Conversely, it should be noted that draconian implementation of these provisions has drawn negative, sometimes national, press therefore any provisions must be carefully considered and be a fair and proportionate response to evidenced need.

Without PSPO provisions in place we are limited in enforcement options to deal with dog related issues within Torridge.

It should also be noted that the following is are a requirement of the Blue Flag award status for Westward Ho! beach:

Criterion 23. Access to the beach by dogs and other domestic animals must be strictly controlled.

Dogs or pets, other than assistance dogs are not allowed on a Blue Flag beach or in the Blue Flag area if it is part of a larger beach. If the presence of pets is permitted by the local and national legislation, animals are only allowed in the parking areas, walkways and promenades in the inland beach area and must under control.

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

NA

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

NA

Climate Change

NA

Lead Member Views – Cllr Hackett

I support the approval of this Order

8. CONCLUSIONS

The consultation on the PSPO dog control proposals show the legal test has been met and the need for the provisions to be put in place.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Public Space Protection Order for Dog Control under section 59 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 be approved.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations:	Lead Member for Public Health – Cllr Hackett
Contact Officer:	Jan Williams Public Health and Housing Manager
Background Papers:	None



TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CONTROL OF DOGS

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2022

This Order is made by Torridge District Council ("The Council") under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, Chapter 2 Sections 59-75 inclusive ("The Act").

1. This Order relates to:

a) All land which is in the administrative area of the Council and defined by the line edged in red on the plans attached to this Order and which are open to the air (which includes land that is covered but open to the air on at least one side and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment),

And

b) The restricted areas described in **Schedules 1, 2 & 3** overleaf and defined in each of the plans attached to this Order being public spaces in the Council's administrative area to which the Act applies:

c) Except land that is placed at the disposal of the Forestry Commissioners under Section 39(1) of the Forestry Act 1967.

2. The Council is satisfied that the 2 conditions below have been met, in that:

a) The activities carried on in the restricted areas as described below, have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that these activities will be carried on in the restricted areas and that they will have such an effect. The said activities being:

- Dog(s) fouling
- Dog(s) off lead causing nuisance or harassment, alarm or distress.
- Dog(s) in vulnerable areas such as children's play areas and on a busy Blue Flag beach

b) That the effect, or likely effect of the activities described above is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make activities unreasonable, and therefore justifies the restrictions imposed by the Order.

3. The effect of this Order is to impose the following prohibitions and/or requirements at the times described in **The Schedules** and any person who, whilst in any of the restricted areas does not comply with the following prohibitions and/or requirements commits an offence:

4. **Dog(s) fouling**

If within the administrative area of The Council, as shown in **Schedule 1** a dog defecates at any time on land to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission, and a person who is in

charge of any dog at the time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, then that person shall be guilty of an offence unless:

- a) A person has reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- b) The owner, occupier or any other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

5. Dog(s) on lead by direction

A person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, within the administration area of The Council, as shown in **Schedule 1**, they do not comply with a direction given to them by an authorised officer of The Council or Police to put and keep a dog on a lead unless:

- a) They have a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- b) The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

An authorised officer may only give a direction under this order if such restraint is reasonably necessary to prevent a nuisance or behaviour by the dog that is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to any other person, or to another animal, livestock or wildlife.

6. Dog(s) on leads

This Order applies to the restricted areas, at the times specified in, **Schedule 2**, and any person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if they do not keep their dog on a lead unless;

- a) They have a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- b) The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the restricted areas has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

7. Dog(s) in exclusion areas – Children’s play areas

This order applies to all enclosed children’s play areas within the administration area of the Council. Any person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time, they take a dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain in any enclosed children’s play area unless:

- a) They have a reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- b) The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the restricted areas has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

An enclosed children’s play area is an outdoor area set aside for children to play in, open to the public without payment, and contains play equipment such as swings, slides, climbing frames and similar apparatus that is enclosed on all sides by fences, gates, walls or other structures that mark the boundary of the play area.

8. Dog(s) in exclusion areas – Westward Ho!

This Order applies to the restricted areas, at the times specified in, **Schedule 3**, and any person in charge of a dog shall be guilty of an offence if, at any time within the dates specified, they take a dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land unless:

- a) They have reasonable excuse for failing to do so; or
- b) The owner, occupier or other person or authority having control of the land has consented (generally or specifically) to them failing to do so.

9. Exemptions

Nothing in this order shall apply to:

- a) A person registered as blind in a register compiled under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 shall not be guilty of an offence; or
- b) A person who is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which that person relies for assistance; or
- c) A person with a disability which affects their mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift and who relies for assistance on a dog trained by a prescribed charity shall not be guilty of an offence if they are alone with a dog(s) and unable to remove the faeces. A “prescribed charity” is one recognised as a member of Assistance Dogs UK <https://www.assistancedogs.org.uk/members/>

10. For the purpose of this order:

- a) A person who habitually has a dog in their possession shall be taken to be in charge of the dog at any time unless at that time some other person is in charge of the dog;
- b) Taking the faeces away from the land for correct disposal elsewhere or placing the faeces in a receptacle on the land which is provided for the purpose, shall be sufficient removal from the land;
- c) Being unaware of the defecation (whether by reason of not being in the vicinity or otherwise), or not having a device or other suitable means of removing the faeces shall not be a reasonable excuse for failing to remove the faeces.
- d) A person who is in charge of a dog for the time being employed for purposes in relation to agriculture, hunting, pest control, the Police or rescue services shall not be guilty of an offence.

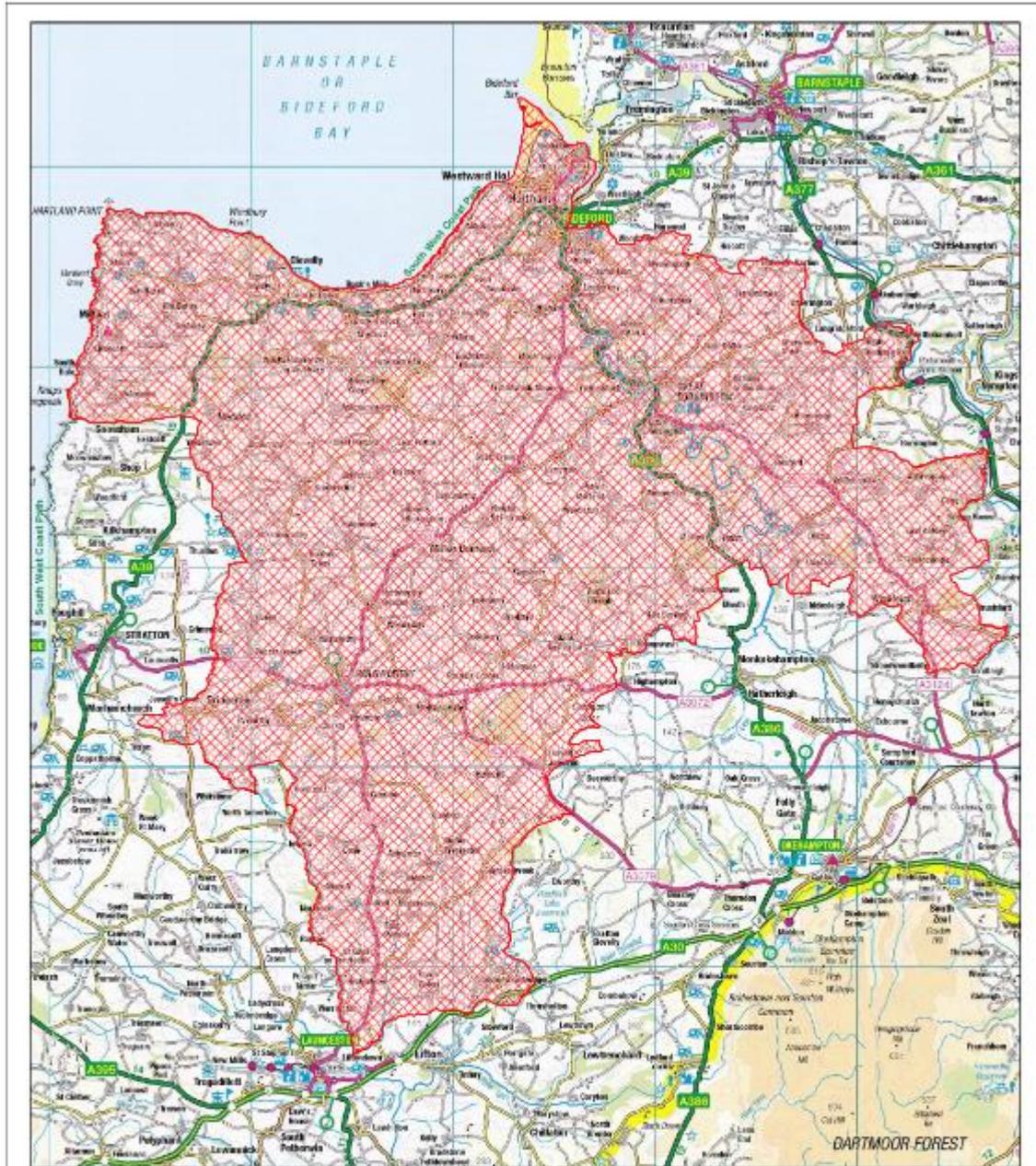
This Order comes into force on xxx 2022 and remains in effect for a period of 3 years from that date, unless extended by further Orders under the Council’s statutory powers.

A person guilty of an offence under this order is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale or a fixed penalty notice of £100, contrary to Section 67 of the Act.

Schedule 1

Dog fouling and dogs on lead by direction

This Order applies to all open land within the administration area to which the public have access:



Location	District of Torrington
Dates Applicable	All Year



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Date Produced : 03/02/2022

Scale 1:280000



Schedule 2

The keeping of dogs on a lead

This Order applies to all land described below and as illustrated in bold edging on the attached maps:

Map no.	Location	Dates when the Order will apply	Ward/Parish
1	Victoria Park, Bideford, Devon	All year	Bideford North
2	Westward Ho! Promenade, Devon	1 st May to 30 th September annually	Westward Ho!
3	Westward Ho! Park (adjacent to Park View Terrace)	All year	Westward Ho!

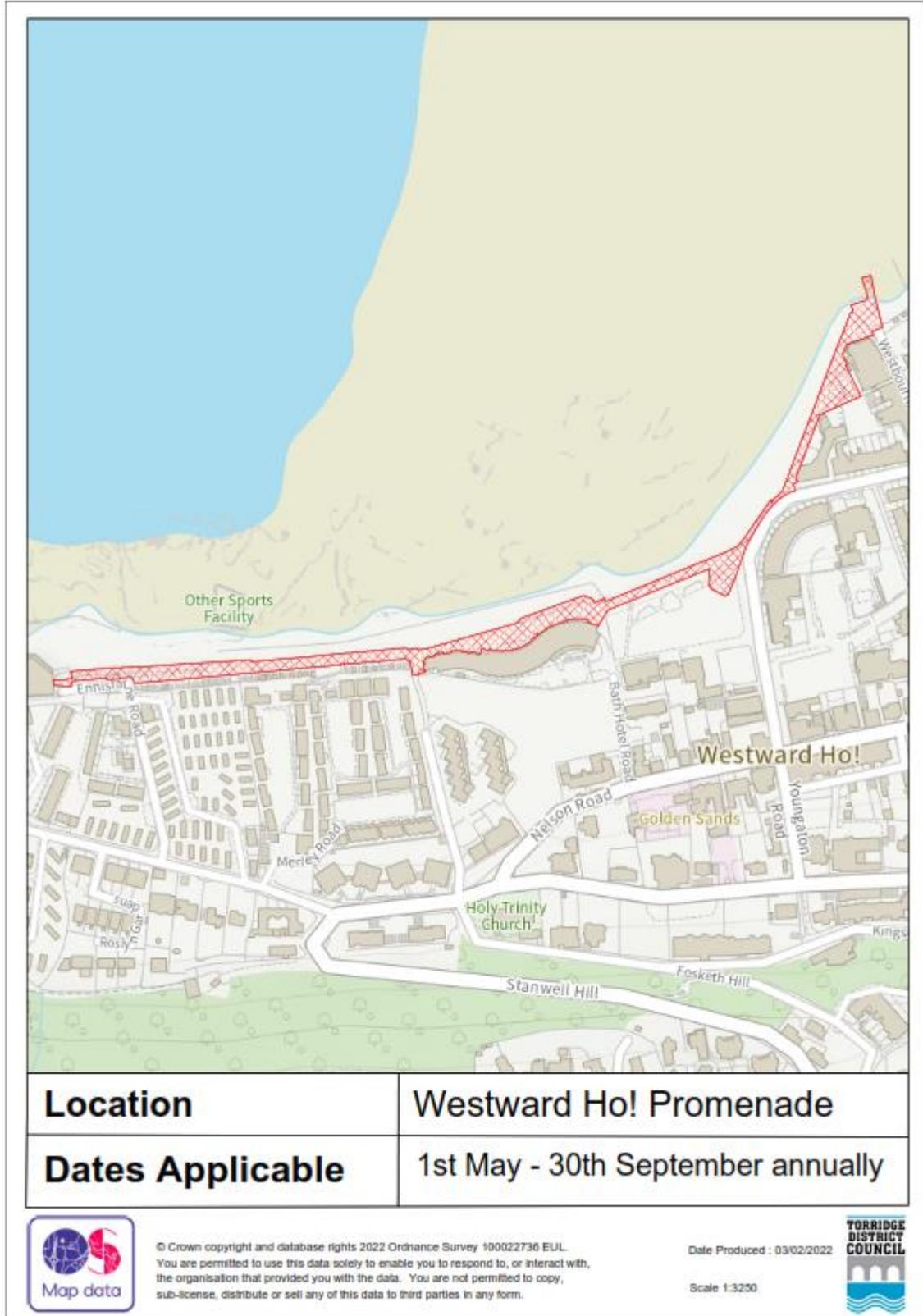
Map 1

Land at Victoria Park, Bideford – Keeping of dogs on a lead



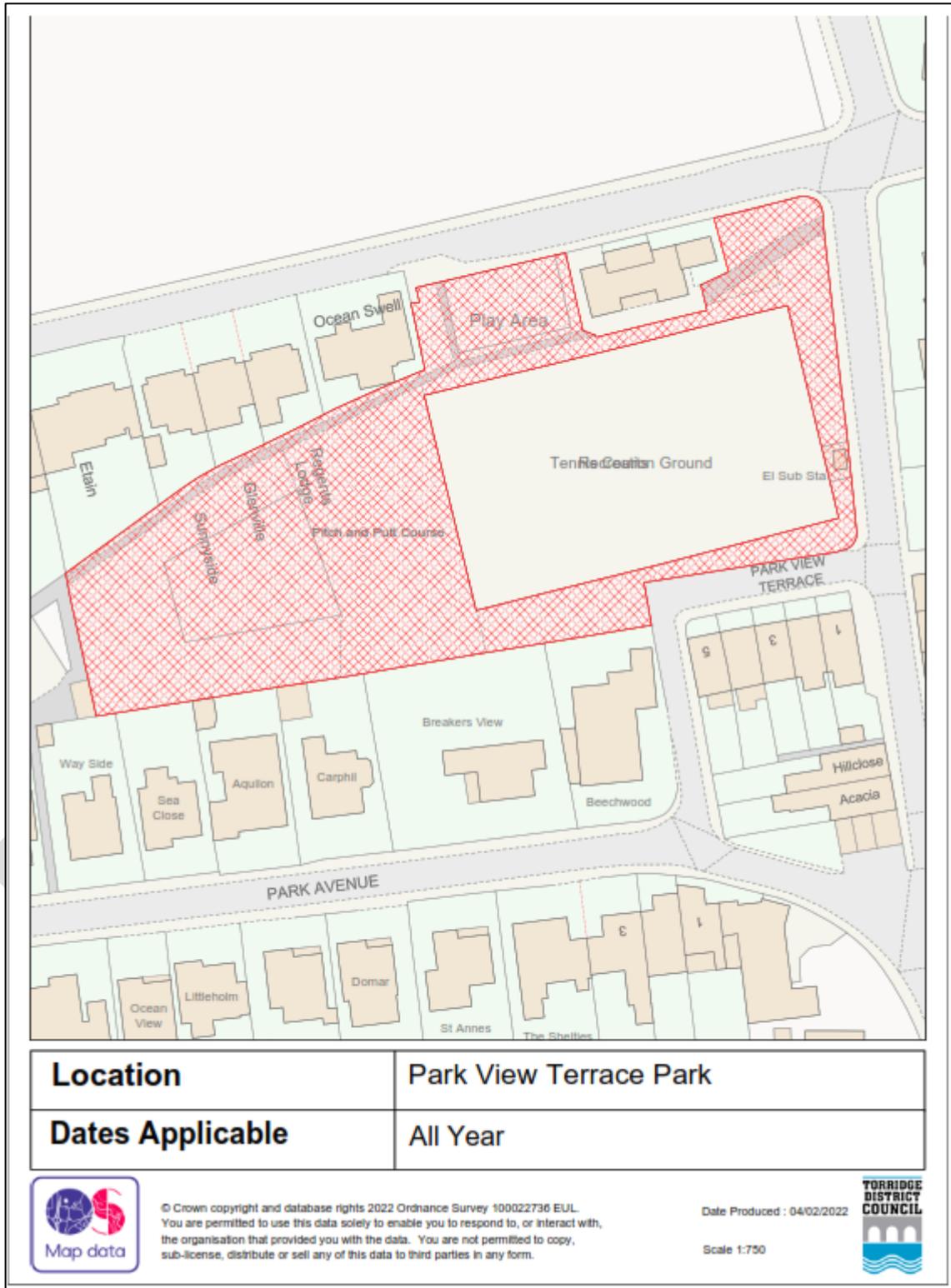
Map 2

Land at Westward Ho! Promenade - Keeping of dogs on a lead



Map 3

Westward Ho! Park – Keeping of dogs on a lead



Schedule 3

Dog exclusion areas

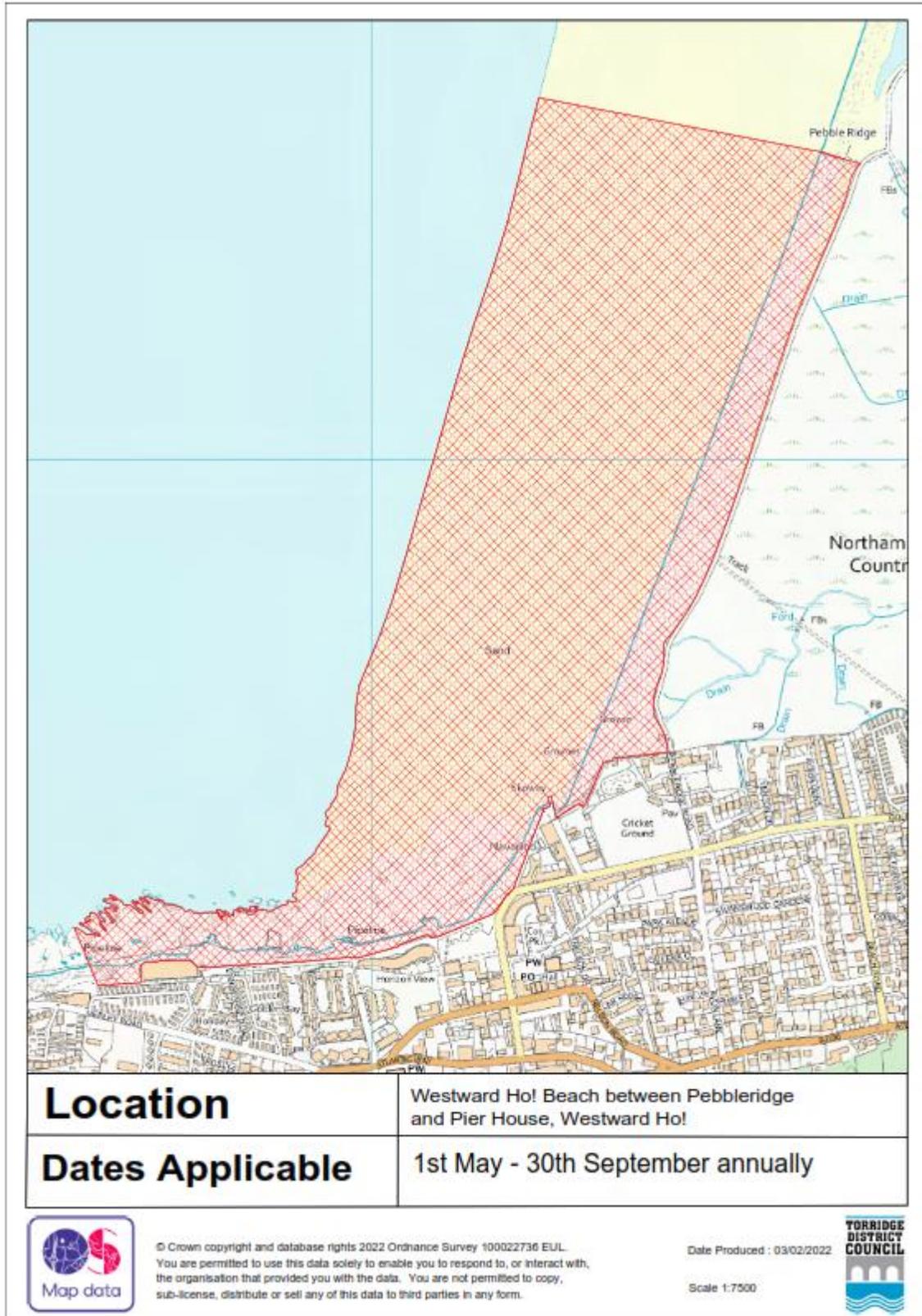
This Order applies to all land described below and as illustrated in bold edging on the attached maps:

Map no.	Location	Dates when the Order will apply	Ward/Parish
4	Designated area of Westward Ho! beach	1 st May to 30 th September annually	Westward Ho!
5	Westward Ho! Park enclosed tennis/ sports area (adjacent to Park View Terrace)	All year	Westward Ho!

DRAFT

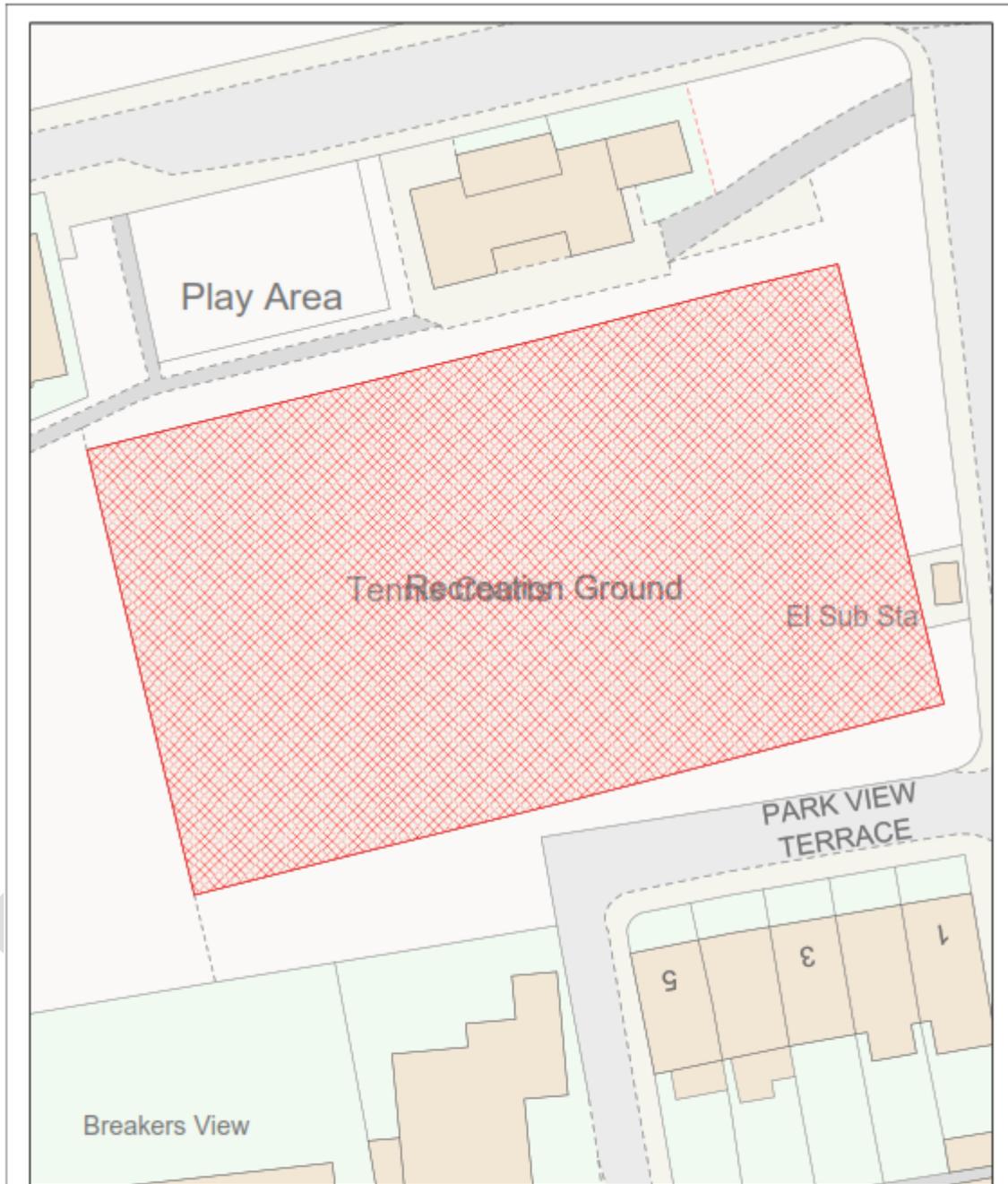
Map 4

Dog Exclusion – Westward Ho! beach



Map 5

Dog Exclusion – Westward Ho! Park



Location	Park View Terrace tennis court
Dates Applicable	All Year



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Date Produced : 04/02/2022

Scale 1:390



APPEALS

In accordance with Section 66 of the Act, any interested person who wishes to challenge the validity of this Order on the grounds that the Council did not have the power to make the Order or that a requirement under the Act has not been complied with may apply to the High Court within 6 weeks from the date upon which this order is made. For the purposes of the Act an interested person is someone who lives in, regularly works in, or visits the restricted area.

THE COMMON SEAL of TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Was here unto affixed in the presence of

Authorised Signatory

Dated.....



Appendix 2

Public Spaces Protection Order – Dog control provisions across the District

Consultation Results March 2022

213
Responses

05:59
Average time to complete

1. Do you live or work in Torrington District?

Yes	203
No	8



2. If yes, do you...

Live	95
Work	4
Both	105



3. Are you a dog owner/ do you regularly walk a dog in Torrington?

Yes	134
No	76



4. How much of a problem do you think dog fouling is in Torrington?

A very big problem	79
A fairly big problem	77
Not a very big problem	42
Not a problem at all	7
Don't know/ no opinion	6



5. If you have answered that dog fouling is a problem could you identify any specific location where you think this is a particular issue.

1	Bideford Town centre and across the old bridge. Also the pannier market area
2	Rack Park, Torrington and the alleyway that runs alongside it. Church Lane, Torrington. South Street, Torrington.
3	Near homes and on the streets.
4	Normally within the first 500yds of any and every public footpath.
5	Northam Burrows
6	Westward Ho! Park, The Burrows, most of the streets around Westward Ho, are dreadful.
7	In the towns mainly - there is no excuse not to pick up after your dog when in town.
8	Appledore on the pavements - really awful and it just isn't holidaymakers. It is locals also who walk their dogs off the lead and don't watch what they are doing.
9	I have found the worst affected areas to be roads around primary schools
10	Tarka Trail
11	Pretty much everywhere! Places I see it daily, (all in Bideford) - Mill St, Cooper St, the Quayside. Also Northam Burrows, Appledore Quayside, Westward Ho! Promenade. I could go on all day.....
12	I'm living in Winkleigh. There is a real problem on the main public right of way leading away from Winkleigh, it's worse now that the path has been fenced off for housing development. The mud and dog muck is so bad that you cannot walk along it for stepping, or slipping into it. I pick up after my dogs and I'm ashamed at the number of people who do not. There are ample poo bins in the village, but still people let their dogs mess near these without picking up. I also have encountered badly behaved dogs who run and jump on you, and their owners do not control them. I've a hip problem and this makes me very nervous. My two collies do not run at people. I am fearful of walking anywhere due to dogs running and jumping. I could go on about dogs with aggression, but little point. I think someone is going to get injured soon.
13	Any location where there is a great distance between dog litter bins. Have noticed some dog bins are over full and necessitate waste either being carried a distance to next bin or taken home.
14	East-the-water school area, this area is covered so often, my son has stepped in dog poo numerous times and he only started in September. Even when some people circle the poos with spray paint it doesn't stand out enough. and also St Marys Church (Bideford) grounds, the paths surrounding there, up Tower street and around the back of the church. It is a heritage walk an the amount of fouling in that area is a disgusting and risk, there are familys that live there aswell as it being a listed area.
15	Westward Ho! Promenade and the Bideford Town Centre
16	Torrington Commons Tarka trail
17	Its a problem in urban areas but really not in rural areas with limited use
18	Along Tarka trail
19	Public footpaths around Westcroft school Clovelly Road, Union Close
20	Areas of Northam, Cross Street, Burrough Road, Windmill Lane Car Park and parts of Bideford town centre
21	Roads around East-the-Water school
22	I walk the Streets in Westward Ho! Bad in Beach Road and Atlantic Way
23	Victoria park old town park Geneva place and old town
24	Too many places to list - it is a mindset of too many owners not to pick up.
25	Just take a walk around town The rugby playing field has been awful for the last 40 years and nothing ever gets done ??

26	Mines Road & Tarka Trail.
27	Along Moreton Park Avenue.
28	The Tarka Trail to Torrington from Bideford, and the play area at Ford Rise (dogs are regularly allowed to run and foul on the enclosed football area).
29	most places - you have to be vigilant to avoid it.
30	Along old Town Clovelly rd Abbotsham rd
31	Everywhere paths parks
32	Most towns
33	most residential roads
34	Around Appledore
35	Everywhere you go in Torrington there is dog poo, the majority of owners are responsible and pick up but it seems to be several repeat offenders, more bins around the town would definitely be helpful as several have been removed over the years
36	Pavements, I live in Hartland and the pavements are often fouled. Footpaths too, and beaches. Most of us clean up after our dogs, or at least move the poo to the undergrowth where it can biodegrade naturally, to avoid using more plastic.
37	The town centre and market area is used by dog owners who seem to think fouling and urinating shop doorways and front doorways of houses that open onto the pavement is acceptable.
38	Tarka Trail, Bideford Pavements and roads
39	Tarka Trail. Not helped by the hunt using it and hounds fouling.
40	Along the Tarka Trail, and on Torrington Commons. Also on various pavements around the district.
41	I have noticed it when walking my son to school along Clovelly road and surrounding area's
42	Victoria Park Bideford
43	Most areas particularly where there are grass verges to a pavement. Also Abbotsham Road, Gunstone and Coldharbour.
44	In Bideford Town and surrounding streets, even though there are plenty of dog bins provided
45	Westward Ho! beaches and Pebble Ridge; pavements around Westward Ho! and Northam.
46	Appledore on the footpaths and dumped doggy poo bags in open areas
47	The pebble ridge area of the the Northam burrows near sandymere carpark. Some owners do clear up which is great but some then leave their full pop bags on the beach!
48	Puffing Billy area
49	Instow beach
50	Around Bideford town centre
51	I live in westward ho! And there's always a lot of poop around even tho there are several bins . People aren't doing the doggie yoga . It's disgusting
52	Holsworthy town
53	Tarka Trail, Generally footpaths around Bideford

54	I live in Westward Ho and my wife and I walk around the town each day - primarily the beach and seafront promenade. We *always* see dog excreta at different points along our walk. Most days there are new deposits, so this appears to be a daily issue. Having said that (and even though we do not currently have a pet), we are *very* pro-dog and take great delight in meeting our friends and neighbours who are out walking their pets. It is true to say that the vast majority of dog owners are highly responsible. In fact, many of our friends pick up after other dogs, not just their own. Some of the incidents are not doubt accidental as no owner can watch their dog 100% of the time, But there clearly is a minority of dog owners who either do not care, or who are not able (for whatever reason) to clear up after their dogs. Much as I hate to say it - one of the only things we can think of to minimize the problem is to mandate that dogs be on leads all the time - on pavements and footpaths. Dogs obviously do need to run freely, so on fields and open spaces, they should be allowed to be off lead - but on primary pedestrian thoroughfares, perhaps they should be mandated to keep on a lead. This is truly a difficult problem - and we don't envy you the task of resolving it. The joy & delight dogs bring to us is immeasurable and we would hate to see draconian measures introduced. We don't think this problem can ever be totally solved, but we just have to keep nudging the irresponsible dog owners to change their ways. Not sure we've helped you any, but thanks for asking!
55	Quayside in Bideford
56	Northam Burrows
57	Lower Cleave, where provision of a dog waste bin would be ideal for people entering and exiting the coastal path.
58	Many locations. People often do not clean up after their dogs.
59	It's everywhere..people are too lazy to pick up after their dog
60	Dog fouling is a serious issue and on the increase in all public areas of the Torridge district and indeed the whole of North Devon
61	Northam burrows, especially in the sand dunes
62	Generally around Bideford
63	College park housing estate, mill street and bridge land street
64	Meddon Street, old town, Victoria grove
65	Over the district.
66	Appledore
67	Everywhere
68	Westward Ho! Beachfront.
69	High Bickington back lanes and playing field.
70	Around Holsworthy, Stanhope park
71	Holsworthy park
72	Holsworthy park
73	Torrington commons
74	Around Car park on the Quay in Bideford and car park alongside Victoria Park Bideford
75	Most places in Torridge Pynes lane also bad
76	Holsworthy woods and park
77	Railway track at Halwill Junction
78	The streets of Torrington and paths on the commons
79	Along most stretches of the Tarka Trail
80	It's mainly outside park areas on grass verges and paths in estates. I have a dog who eats it so I am aware of it. There is a path down the back of Holsworthy where I see it.
81	Forskith Hill, the beach promenade
82	Streets around the town
83	Golf links road, northam burrows

84	Holsworthy viaduct
85	Holsworthy town streets
86	Holsworthy Town and footpaths
87	Derriton Viaduct .Croft Road .Chapel St, walkway from Waitrose to Mole Valley. Waitrose to Coles Mill viaduct
88	Torrington Everywhere
89	All along the prom and surrounding streets of Westward Ho! and at Sandymere bridge and beach, all over the pebble ridge for its entire length, most of Bideford along the quay
90	Devonshire park area walking to Westcroft school
91	Just about everywhere
92	Chudleigh Fort
93	The car park in Holsworthy
94	Torrington
95	Walkway down near new bridge that goes around back of houses along by the river
96	Northam burrows which is where I normally walk
97	Country lanes, footpaths carpark, streets
98	Basically all around Torrington town and commons
99	Victoria Park, nature reserve, around the town, the streets in general, I'm always picking up other people's dog poo!
100	Town centre, Castle Hill, The Common
101	Holsworthy.
102	Around Westward Ho! On the main green and grass areas down Beach Road
103	Clovelly Rd, Geneva Place and Old Town.
104	It is unfortunately a huge problem everywhere in Bideford. On the streets and on the grassy spaces, the park, the woods, the beaches. The worse thing is that with cars parking in the road it casts shadow on the pavements and on North Road/Lime Grove you just have to cross your fingers and hope for the best!
105	Green by swimming pool in Northam Promenade in Westward Ho
106	Everywhere, pavements, outside people's homes. By schools
107	Footpath running from Windmill Lane down to Bloody Corner. Along the path alongside the golf course/sea. Fosketh Hill, Westward Ho! Lane leading to Boat Hyde, Northam.
108	Foot paths around Bideford
109	All over Bideford. The pavements are disgusting, the worst I've ever come across and I've lived in lots of areas all over the UK.
110	Northam
111	Avon Lane, High Street Bideford, W Ho Promenade, the Burrows, the Tors, Tarka Trail
112	Appledore quay particularly bad but pavements all round housing estates and on tarka trail
113	In the town centre
114	Lately my whole route literally from home near Devonshire Park to Bideford and back is awful....all along the Quay dog mess everywhere. Tarka trail and westward ho! beach also. Even my front lawn is used by dog walkers to let their dogs foul there.
115	Westward Ho! And the lanes in and around Northam and Appledore
116	On streets in Appledore. Ample poo bins, just people not picking up all the time
117	Northdown Rd where I live , and the Strand.
118	the prom at W Ho and footpaths along from Seafield house
119	Foskethill
120	East The Water and Victoria Park
121	Around Pynes lane and Abbotsham road
122	Abbotsham and College Park
123	Pavements.

124	The viaduct in holsworthy and lots of pavements around
125	On the streets around Holsworthy town, and around the viaduct walk. Not enough dog poo bins there.
126	I !I've in a very rural area of Torridge (Riddlecombe) and find dog fouling a problem in the surrounding official footpaths, and lane verges..
127	Londonderry farm area scratchy face lane
128	Clovelly road
129	EVERYWHERE!
130	Northam- down from the square towards Morwenna and up from the Square towards the memorial.
131	Tower street Bideford East the water school
132	Tower St, Bideford, Allhalland St, St Mary's Church, Church Walk also around East-The-Water. I've noticed some dog owners specifically walk in to Tower St and leave within 3 minutes - the visit is purely to allow the dogs to relive themselves! Sometimes dogs not on leads around the church too.
133	Tower Street and in St Mary's churchyard. East the water school area.
134	Mainly in Victoria Park, the streets adjacent, and Westward Ho! seafront area, although there is evidence of dog fouling across the district.
135	Tarka trail is disgusting from Bideford station to iron bridge . Northam burrows. Costal path. This is not in holiday season, these are lazy local people!
136	Especially east the water.also actually on westward ho beach/pebbles also alot on northam burrows and along the coastpath from seafield house.altho generally everywhere...
137	Try walking around the streets in Appledore. Loads of fouling. Has anyone ever been fined?
138	North Road in Holsworthy is awful. It's getting worse over last few months. Something needs to be done.
139	I think it is a very general problem across every are
140	Everywhere. Public open space, pavements, beaches. Faeces thrown in hedgerows. All over the region. Very few places escape it
141	Old town cemetery / old town park Along old town road - from the park all the aay to west Croft school.
142	Pollyfeild and chudleigh fort
143	Appledore New St, Myrtle St, Marine Parade and Quay, I walk this route daily and am always dodging round dog poo. I sometimes take a poo bag and pick it up, but I shouldn't have to do that, it's disgusting.
144	Pebble ridge westward Ho
145	Meldon Street, Old Town, northam Road.lane near westcroft school.
146	Appledore, every where.
147	Any street in Torrington
148	We have fouling issues in Bradworthy always in the same areas.
149	Torrington commons, castle Hill, Dickhill Lane, New Street, Tarka Trail, Burwood Lane
150	generally, often around residential streets
151	Most pavements and Tarka trail.
152	Pretty much any street and park area
153	The entire town centre. Public footpaths in fact anywhere you walk you will see dog mess.
154	Most places
155	I would say the more rural areas where there are less bins
156	The majority of responsible dog owners clean up after their dogs. The tarka trail at Puffing Billy is very clean however the tarka trail in Barnstaple is not. Maybe a few more dog bins are needed

157	The question is not is it a big problem. It depends on where you are on the whole I don't think it is a big problem. However there is a minority of dog owners who don't take care of their dog mess particularly on the pavements of Bideford.
158	Northam Burrows all areas. Westward Ho! Promenade, beach, most streets and public areas. Instow promenade and beach. Bideford town centre including Victoria park and the quay.
159	Park Lane
160	Footpaths around Northam and streets occasionally
161	A very small minority of dog owners do not always pick up, or if they do leave the bag. The VAST majority do pick up. The main place this is an issue is on the Tarka trail (a very short stretch) close to Bideford Station. However, it would be draconian to say that dogs should be on a lead on the Tarka trail because of one short stretch close to Bideford, and would be very much resented. The type of people who do not pick up are the same ones who would ignore any PSPO, so no point imposing one. Good signage would help. Like the one at Westward Ho! one year that said - if you can't pick up after your dog, consider not being a dog owner.
162	East the Water.
163	Streets in East-the-Water
164	Cornborough Road and into Gainsborough Drive including open plan private gardens. Also the promenade.
165	pavements, public spaces, playing fields, parks, MUGAs
166	Everywhere!

6. How much of a problem do you think dogs not being kept under control is in Torrington?

● A very big problem	34
● A fairly big problem	58
● Not a very big problem	82
● Not a problem at all	22
● Don't know/ no opinion	13



7. If you have answered that dogs not being kept under control is a problem could you identify any specific location where you think this is a particular issue?

114

Responses

1	Some irresponsible behaviour around livestock on Northam Burrows
2	Rack Park and Church Lane, Torrington. People exercise dogs in the park despite the signage saying that it is illegal. People take their dogs to secluded locations at night e.g. Church Lane and Rack Park Close and do not clean up after them.
3	Bideford town
4	Definitely within woodland areas, where the mentality "well what are you doing here if you haven't got a dog?" exists - as if it were a condition in order to walk peacefully. It's not the dog that is ignorant - it's the untrained owner who is totally inconsiderate!
5	Northam Burrows
6	Even with the new dog control order in place for the Westward Ho Park, there are still a number of local residents, who consider the rules don't apply to them, and let their dogs run loose.
7	Dogs off the lead on the Burrows - this should not be allowed.

8	Tarka Trail - more understanding and enforcement is needed at the time of lambing so that owners are aware of the risk dogs pose to ewes and lambs in adjoining fields. I know of sheep and lambs lost in recent years but i observe no improvement in dog owners' attitudes
9	Northam Burrows, dogs chasing sheep. My dog grew up around the sheep and horses on the burrows, she has very good recall and has no interest in any of the livestock. However it is currently lambing season and so I don't take her there as I wouldn't want to risk distressing the sheep just with her presence. Better, clearer signage at the entrance to the Burrows advising owners about controlling dogs and consequences (fines and possible destruction of their dogs) if they cannot control their dogs would alleviate many of the problems.
10	I have not lived here long,(a matter of months), but on three occasions there have been dog incidents. Again, along the footpath there are some residential lodges (Orchard Lakes Hatherleigh Road, Winkleigh, where two dogs are off lead and run at the flimsy fence between the lodges and the footpath barking and growling. One of these staffy crosses has run at the fence several times trying to get out. I've spoken to other dog walkers and they have recalled similar incidents. The residential lodges area state dogs should be under control but these two dogs are not confined to a garden. I've had 'friendly dogs run into me on the footpath repeatedly jumping up (including an Irish Wolfhound!). The owners are some way off with no control of their dog. I've shouted for help as their young, lively dog is being a pain in the ****. In all the years of enjoying having my dogs I was never fearful of going out, but now I am. If people do not control their dogs on fields, how will they control them around sheep?
11	On Northam Burrows where dog owners have not always got control of their off lead dogs. Even if the owner does have complete control, the dog should be on the lead near livestock.
12	I don't see this too often, but i am aware of it more as i have a dog who is an anxious dog. I understand dogs need exercise and i'd love to let my dog off lead. But i cannot. However, dogs not being on leads then causes issues for my dog. The owners cannot recall them enough for this to not be an issue. Then they look at me like i am the issue because my dog is anxious that they're hounding him (excuse the pun ha). I have only once had 3 dogs come over in an aggressive manner (my dog has never been aggressive might i add, he is just nervous), this happened on Chudleigh Fort (dog poo is a bit of an issue there too to be honest, within the grass area but not as bad as the other areas).
13	Victoria Park and along Tarka Trail
14	Northam Burrows before people access the beach
15	Victoria park my child has been jumped on by dogs food taken out there hands scratched by dog jumping up and bit by a dog
16	The park
17	Instow.
18	Almost any open space where owners let their dogs off the lead.
19	Northam Burrows where there are still some rare birds, and there is livestock.
20	Tarka Trail
21	Northam Burrows especially the Skern area
22	Yes lots of dogs off leads when they should be on
23	Some dog owners do not respect a polite request to put their dog on a lead when bothering our dog who is on a lead.
24	Around Appledore
25	Dogs should be kept on a lead around livestock, unless the owner is 100% sure they are under control.
26	Town Centre and Market Area
27	Tarka Trail - some dog walkers think it's fine for dogs to be off the lead and run up to walkers, runners and cyclists, often jumping up. Dogs should be kept on a lead on the Tarka Trail, and those extendable leads are dangerous as you often can't see them. Victoria Park - there is

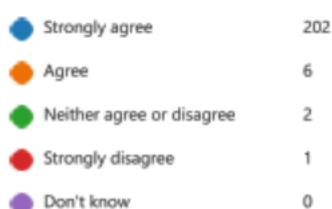
	always dogs being exercised off the lead here. More signs and enforcement needed
28	I am shocked that even when dogs are on the lead owners allow their dogs to stand in the way of others or allow them to approach others.
29	Rolle canal path in Torrington. Tarka trail.
30	I hear awful stories about the burrows and sheep being attached which concerns me, but I haven't witness any dogs not being kept under control
31	Northam Burrows around sheep.
32	Victoria Park Bideford
33	Victoria Park particularly the area nearer the rugby ground where dogs are regularly run off the lead and left to foul or approach other dogs and walkers who may not want that attention!
34	In town
35	As a runner in Northam Burrows and on Westward Ho! beach I am often chased by dogs that are off the lead and not responding to owners' calls
36	Northam Burrows
37	I often walk along the beach from sandymere carpark along to westward Ho and also around to the Appledore side of the burrows. As a family we like to spend a lot of our leisure time on the beach. Dogs often come bounding over not on leads and jump up and us including my young son. A large husky jumped up on my son last week and he was terrified. The owners did apologise but didn't put him back on the lead. I have also had several occasions where when we have been building castles and moats on the beach with my son, unleashed dogs have come over and actually defecated and/or weed on the castle whilst we have been building or my son has been playing in the moat! The owners are often too far away to do anything, to see what is happening or just don't care. This is why dogs should be on a lead whilst on the beach. Dog owners can't control when their dogs are going to do their business and are unable to keep their eyes on their dogs the whole time. The slipway at sandymere has always got dog dirt on it as does the pebble ridge. What seems to happen is that when dogs do their business on the pebble ridge it is either very difficult to clean up. Or as a friend of mine has discovered, their "presents" can not always be found within the pebbles if the owners are not close enough and then go and attempt to find it to clean up. I have also seen dogs running into the shallows of the sea, defecate and then run off whilst the owners are unable to clean up after them. There are people swimming in the sea whilst the poo is floating past them!!! This is why I think dogs should be kept on their leads in this area. These restrictions should be all year round not just when we are trying to keep it safe and clean for tourists. This should be in place for locals to enjoy being clean all year around. Not just summer season tourists.
38	Tarka trail
39	Instow beach
40	I always keep my dog on a lead but she feels threatened by loose dogs bounding towards her. I see them jump up to people jogging on the beach and cycling thru the village . It scares me to see dogs without leads especially on the burrows in the poor sheep's home.
41	I walk daily on the Traka trail and through Ford Woods. It a common for dogs to off a lead an jump up at me. I say to owners I do want your dog jumping up at me. They think I'm being unreasonable!
42	Northam Burrows & Westward Ho! beach
43	Northam Burrows - uncontrolled dogs chase the sheep on a regular basis
44	Westward Ho! Beach in all areas, Northam burrows (sheep worrying) in all areas.
45	I am a dog walker and very rarely have any problems.
46	Northam burrows, westward Ho beach
47	Think lack of education through lots of family's getting dogs in lockdowns. Let their dogs off lead with no recall and let them approach every dog in sight bower not every dog is friendly. If

	my dogs on the lead, he is for a reason..!!
48	Victoria park, tarka trail
49	Public spaces
50	Westward Ho! Beach
51	Constant dogs not being kept on a lead In Stanhope park
52	Torrington commons
53	Dog field's needed. Fenced off. Safe places to exercise them. You will find most dog owners would be happy to use these.
54	On the beach at Westward Ho! Victoria Park, Bideford
55	Along most stretches of the Tarka Trail. Most pathways throughout Torrington and the commons.
56	I have only seen one or two occasions. And I walk my dog on his lead everyday. What I read online all the time is not the reality I see. Mainly one bad owner every now and again.
57	Often see dogs off the lead in Victoria park
58	Northam burrows
59	Stanhope park, Holsworthy and local foot parhs
60	Stanhope Park .Derriton Viaduct
61	Everywhere
62	Westward Ho prom and the beach, Sandymere car park and all the parks. Especially Northam Burrows where owners refuse to put their dogs on a lead despite there being livestock at the location that their dogs keep attacking.
63	Beach
64	Tarka Trail
65	footpaths countryside moorland areas.
66	The Old Bowling Green in Torrington where dog owners allow their dogs (off the lead) to charge up to owners whose dogs are on a lead (probably for a reason!)
67	People regularly ignore the "dogs on lead" rule at Victoria Park
68	I have a reactive dog which I keep on lead and I have been bitten twice by him trying to keep him away from other dogs because other people let their dogs run up to us off lead, especially in Victoria Park.
69	On Westward Ho! Beach, the green and the promenade
70	Instow beach can be rammed with dogs, I have one reactive dog who I can no longer take to beaches due to other dogs running up to him, my other dog however loves everyone so it is great for her to socialise.
71	Some dogs let off lead on housing estates that then run into peoples gardens and could also run in to road and get hit by a car
72	Green by Torridge swimming pool
73	Dogs not on leads or under control, dogs come running up to you and small children
74	The Burrows both Appledore and Sandymere end, particularly close to sheep! Don't think the warning signs are big enough!
75	Northam burrows
76	There are a minority of people who are not responsible with their dogs
77	The Burrows and W Ho! beach - dogs chasing sheep, many times when I've been jogging I've had dogs chase me and 2 occasions the dogs were snappy and growling. I've had dogs jumping up at me playfully and I tried to avoid them and have wrong footed myself and tripped, I've called to owners to call back their dogs and have received abuse on 2 occasions. Dog owners are usually polite but do not seem to realise the dog advances are unwanted, or that there may be people with have pet hair allergies.

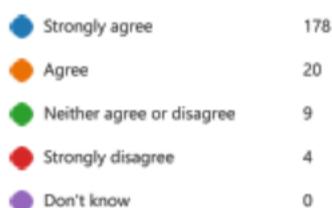
78	Again dogs off leads jumping up people on beach parks etc...I have had this happen twice with big dogs. The burrows in particular. I'm not against dogs and do think they need some places to enjoy walks etc...need active dog wardens
79	Victoria Park Tarka Trail
80	Devonshire Park woods, tarka trail, beaches...far too many irresponsible dog owners lately.
81	the number of uncontrolled dogs on the beach is increasing - not everyone wants someone's dog rushing up to them. He's just saying hello doesn't wash I'm afraid. Last year, even down the Skern end of the burrows we came across an aggressive dog on the footpath. The owners wouldn't call him back when asked because they said ' dogs are allowed off lead down here'. All dogs should be under control at all times and if they are not reliable they should be on a lead - no excuses
82	Northam burrows
83	Not all dogs are kept on a lead on our local park where children play, also some dog fouling not picked up.
84	This is not a problem in our hamlet, dogs are kept under control because of localised livestock
85	Walking in woods were there off lead .westward go beach
86	The burrows. Personally watched out of control dog chase and bite sheep up there more than once!
87	People who have dangerous dogs, do not always keep them under control, dog attacks to other dogs and livestock is a growing problem.
88	Tower street Bideford East the water school
89	St Mary's Church and Tower St. Dogs are often free to enter the gardens of the gate is open etc.
90	Tower Street as this is on the heritage walk and is very unsightly as well as being a health risk with people walking it into their houses.
91	On the beach at Westward Ho!
92	Anywhere outside of town.me and my 3 yr old cant walk anywhere without being jumped on by dogs.she is now terrified.rude owners too.whilst walking on northam burrows a small dog went for her ankles.westward ho beach is now a no-go for us for the amount of dogs and poo.also coastpath is bad from seafield.i actually fear that one day my toddler will actually be attacked.it should be law all dogs on leads.people can take to private land for excercise.if not poss then shouldnt have a dog.westward ho beach never used to be so busy with dogs.we cant go anywhere now without dogs around.
93	Chasing sheep on the burrows and biting people when not controlled in the car park
94	On the burrows
95	In parks or on beaches with children. Dogs running up to them, pushing them over, potential to cause harm. All open spaces where dogs approach adults often jumping up covering people in mud, interrupting their activity. Also wherever there is wildlife. Uncontrolled dogs constantly flush birds and other wildlife making it hard for them to feed and burning up valuable calories, especially in winter. Anywhere that there is livestock!
96	I think where children are it should be compliant to keep dogs leashed. At all times
97	Northam Burrows
98	Northam burrows. Dogs are almost daily chasing and attacking sheep and horses
99	Northam Burrows
100	Dogs being walked in lanes off the lead
101	On the Tarka trail and on the commons
102	Beaches
103	Parks, Tarka trail.
104	Churchyards and farming areas with sheep
105	Dogs should be kept on leads in the park. Which currently is not the case.

106	Around livestock. We have never had negative encounters with dog owners but see resorts of them chasing sheet etc. i think dogs should be on a lead near livestock and busy roads regardless of how obedient they are. The only exception to this is working dogs
107	Westward Ho! Promenade, beach. Northam Burrows all areas.
108	Bideford park Westward Ho Town centre area of bideford
109	All areas
110	In my opinion all dogs should be kept on a lead at all times. I get fed up with people allowing their dog to run up to mine and scare her whilst saying “he/she is only being friendly “
111	Victoria Park.
112	As previous answer.
113	in public
114	Lower Gunstone, but all over really

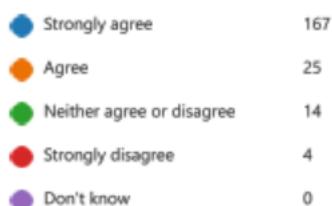
8. A person in charge of a dog must clean up after their dog when it fouls



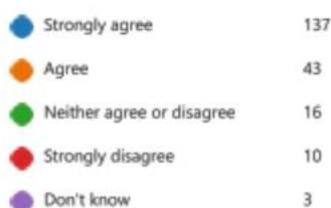
9. A person in charge of a dog must put the dog on a lead if asked to do so by an authorised officer



10. Dogs should be excluded from all enclosed children's play areas



11. Dogs should be excluded from the enclosed tennis/ sports area in Westward Ho! Park



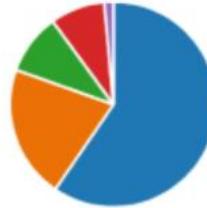
12. Dogs should be excluded from the designated area of Westward Ho! Beach between 1st May – 30th September (Note, this is a requirement of the Blue Flag Scheme)

● Strongly agree	128
● Agree	44
● Neither agree or disagree	16
● Strongly disagree	22
● Don't know	1



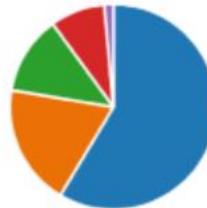
13. Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times in the designated area of Victoria Park in Bideford

● Strongly agree	125
● Agree	44
● Neither agree or disagree	20
● Strongly disagree	18
● Don't know	3



14. Dogs should be kept on a lead at all times in Westward Ho! Park

● Strongly agree	123
● Agree	40
● Neither agree or disagree	26
● Strongly disagree	18
● Don't know	3



15. Dogs should be kept on a lead between 1st May – 30th September on Westward Ho! Promenade

● Strongly agree	129
● Agree	46
● Neither agree or disagree	22
● Strongly disagree	12
● Don't know	1



16. Have you in the past 12 months experienced any issues of a dog being out of control/ causing a nuisance while on a long lead? (a long lead being one over 6 feet)

● Yes	58
● No	153



17. If yes, please give details

1	Dogs - sometimes more than one - running freely in Rack Park, Torrington.
2	Inconsiderate owner who seemed to find it amusing that their beloved pooch should run up to you, paws up on your clothes, and think the canine was "only being friendly - he/she won't hurt you".
3	Routinely you see dog owners using unnecessary long leads, potentially causing problems for pedestrians, and other dog users, that may have nervous dogs, that need space.
4	Your questions are focused on Westward Ho! presumably as this is the honeypot/tourist area.
5	People should just use common sense and retract the lead when people are near, but it appears not all have common sense haha
6	Regularly within Victoria Park and Tarka Trail. My dog is on a lead at all times and yet others believe their dog can run up to mine and bother her because they "only want to play". My dog is old, blind and deaf with joint issues and cannot afford other dogs bounding up to her and jumping on/around her!
7	Westward Ho! Promenade - more than one dog from different owners getting tangled, taking up the pavement and generally causing conflation.
8	cycling on Tarka Trail - very difficult to gauge where the dog is!
9	all over the prom at westward ho!
10	People like letting their dogs wander up to yours on or off leads to socialise, annoying mine if not known. In Appledore along quay
11	I've had a couple experiences where people have allowed dogs on extendable leads to walk into the road by accident, I think the use of a long line training lead in open spaces is sensible and smart at teaching recall but extendable leads should be banned as they are dangerous
12	Blocking pavements and other areas
13	Frequently when using the Tarka Trail, the width of the trail is too narrow for these types of leads. The leads across the path can also be hard to see. Owners don't understand the danger they propose
14	My dog is worried by other dogs but often people using retractable leads do not shorten, or put the break on, their leads and allow their dogs to run up to mine. Often the lead seems to be viewed only as a method of preventing their dog running off and not as a means of control.
15	Victoria Park Bideford Dogs constantly off the lead damaging turf and shrub areas, dog poo on sports pitches and disturbing birds and wildlife
16	Walking on narrow paths where the dog owner thinks it's someone else's problem and they should move. Most often near the park, cycle path and other footpaths near Westward Ho. I have nearly always had to step into the road or turn my back on the dog so they don't jump up and have on several occasions had to step over the lead.
17	I've had dogs on long leads run out at me on the road while riding my motorcycle on more than one occasion. I've lost count of the times a dog on a long lead has jumped up at me muddying my trousers.
18	Numerous people walking dogs off leads next to roads
19	They chase my dog and the people say don't worry he's friendly! Doesn't matter to them that my dog is having a nervous breakdown
20	Its a common problem. Dog owners have no concept of what non dog owner feels - I do want a dog near me. I live near the park on Ford Rise - I cannot understand how dogs are allowed on the bottom part but not by the play area - There is no barrier between two areas - dogs wonder between the two - Owners think its fine. I don't, its a children's play area. Victoria Park - Dogs I see most time not on a lead - Its children's area. How many have been fined for having a

	dog off a lead? If it is not enforced then they will carry on not having a dog on a lead.
21	Dogs chasing sheep on Northam Burrows - many owners are holidaymakers and are abusive when it is pointed out that their dog(s) are worrying the sheep. I have on more than one occasion pointed this out to the person collecting parking charges at the gate and have received no support.
22	The only issues have been dogs on flexi leads, where owners do not control the dog. Not the animal's fault.
23	Dogs allowed to walk and run freely on long leads causing obstructions particularly on the promenade, running at people and young children and fouling out of sight of owners.
24	Going into children's park area on beachfront and fouling.
25	Causing obstruction to pedestrians and running up to other dogs.
26	Stanhope Park
27	Worrying other dogs Worrying and aggressive towards sheep in field
28	Constantly at Westward Ho prom dogs are on long leads and owners allow them to jump up at people. Not everyone likes dogs but ignorant owners don't seem to care. I've also seen a dog trying to attack a horse and rider on Westward ho beach because the owner couldn't control it.
29	Tarka Trail while I'm cycling. It's difficult to judge where the dog is as I approach. And sometimes there's more than one dog, so while keeping an eye on the first dog, another takes me out from another direction. Bad for me and the dog.
30	I have a medical assistance dog who is always on a short lead, but dogs on long extended leads have tried to fight or, play with her, which causes her great distress
31	Beaches.... they can be very dangerous
32	Nearly tripped over a lead going out my front door because the owner was about 10 feet behind the dog!
33	As stated above, I have a reactive dog and when in Victoria Park the first time and the market car park the second time, dogs which were off lead ran up to us and my dog went for them, I ended up getting bitten by my own dog trying to keep him away from the dog(s) running wild that owners have no control over.
34	Not personally but it has been happening locally in Holsworthy
35	A dog/puppy was in a long lead on the promenade but the owner had a small child with them and wasn't paying attention and their dog attacked mine who was on a short lead and by my side
36	Getting tangled up in a lead, dogs running into roads nearly causing a crash
37	Dog out of control chasing sheep over in Appledore Burrows, with owner yelling and giving chase - as were others!
38	Yes, whilst cycling through Watertown Appledore past the bottom of Broad Lane heading towards Watertown Garage, the dog owner was on the right hand side of the road and the dog had wandered over to the left side, I rang my bell and called out 'bike coming' and narrowly missed the dog, it gave me a fright, the owner shouted an apology. The same thing happened again (different dog) when cycling from Torridge Road Appledore towards Watertown Garage, the owner was on the pavement just before Pollywell and the dog was on an extendable lead and wandered out across the road. This also happened again with a dog on an extendable lead as I cycled up Avon Lane, I'd just turned left into Avon Lane from Golf Links Rd W Ho! as i turned a dog was across the road on an extendable lead whilst it's owner was on the pavement, again I had to alert the owner as I cycled up behind them.
39	Off lead only

40	it happens on the prom at W Ho all the time - the owners are usually oblivious. Long leads should be banned full stop, they just allow dog owners to be lazy and not train their dogs. At the very least they should be banned on the prom and streets in W Ho.
41	I've had dogs run into the road whilst the owners have been playing on their phone. A long lead is also a danger as it is a tripping hazard. Dogs approach my daughter in a friendly way but my daughter is petrified. It would be nice if dog owners understood that not all people like dogs.
42	Extendable wire lead wrapped around my legs causing pain on 2 separate occasions. I strongly believe that these should be banned.
43	Barking dog approached my timid dog on a long lead and owner didn't have control. Quite intimidating as it was big!
44	Tower street where I live, very small street. Often come out of the house to dogs getting in my childrens face. Also leaving their dog poo basically on my front door.
45	Dog walkers around St Mary's Church allowing the dog on the maximum Flexi lead, the owner can be almost by the church and the dog up on the steps towards Buttgarden St. The lead is stretched across doorways and gates and presents a serious hazard.
46	This was actually at Woolacombe. Dogs are not allowed on certain areas of Parkin Estate beaches but dogs mainly belonging to tourists often let their dogs off leads and they run everywhere. Dog owners like to let their pets off leads, but this freedom leads to them running amok.
47	We found a dog on a long lead that bites can't be controlled quick enough . Long leads are dangerous and other dogs run into them and the cut their skin. Long leads should be banned .
48	Dog jumped up at me on beach. Wasn't vicious but should not have happened
49	On the Tarka trail, running in front of our family's push bikes. On pavements where the lead would get caught up if you didn't do a large detour. Near roads where the dog has enough lead to move into highways.
50	Instow ...throwing a ball for a dog on a 20ft lead is stupid ,,,, especially when another dog runs into it . 6ft is long enough . Unless it a working police dog there is no need for extending leads
51	Nearly fell over long leads several times on Appledore Quay because people weren't keeping their dog in close.
52	When I was walking in Victoria Park I got tangled in a long lead.
53	Large dog jumped up on me in Winkleigh ... just being over friendly, but was not under control
54	The owner had the lead extended and I had to step over it. No apologies.
55	Dog should be under control either on a short lead or no lead.
56	Westward Ho! beach and promenade. Northam Burrows all areas.
57	Owner let dogs wonder in my space instead of pulling back lead to short
58	Owners just let dogs wonder around as if off leads - complete nuisance
59	To restrict access to enclosed areas and to designated areas at peak season times is not unreasonable or unusual. To restrict access to a whole
60	Fouling our garden and adjoining public foitpath
61	intimidating owner

18. Do you think the proposed order is justified/do you agree with the proposals in the draft PSPO?



19. Do you have any other comments on these proposals?

121
Responses

1	Have higher fines for non-compliance and remove dogs from owners for serious or persistent breaches - 3 strikes and your out type rule might be useful
2	The signage appears to be ineffective in prohibiting dog walkers. Efforts in Torrington to reduce dog fouling have been half-hearted, lack consistency of application and have not drawn on research into how antisocial behaviour can be discouraged. On the stick side of the equation, in the ten years we have lived in Torridge, I have not heard of one prosecution for dog fouling or any attempts to name and shame perpetrators.
3	It is not the dogs that are the problem themselves but having responsible and respectful owners would definitely help.
4	Dogs should be WALKED, not left to run free to annoy other members of the public or even, attack livestock, possibly causing death or forced labour.
5	Sheep on Northam Burrows need year round protection from irresponsible dog owners, as do other dogs.
6	Agree with most suggestions and think you have the restrictions in the right places. However, a "long" or extendable lead means that a dog can be allowed to roam more than a dog on a short lead and these leads are often used instead of letting a dog off so there is no discipline. I would not oppose a short lead option in places such as Westward Ho! Promenade.
7	I am a dog owner and live in Westward Ho!, and frequently see a local lady that allows her dog to foul public places, such as pavements, grass verges, and the local park. I have challenged her about this, and her response is to tell me to mind my own business, using quite horrid language. She is known to other local residents and dog owners. I am aware of where she lives. I would also like to mention the question of dog owners who use the Burrows to exercise their dogs, including myself. In my opinion the issues regarding dogs worrying sheep, is predominantly during the holiday season, when visitors use this area with dogs off leads, who have never been trained to walk by and ignore the sheep. Local people including myself frequent the Burrows with their dogs on a regular basis off lead, that have trained their dogs to behave appropriately.
8	The proposed restrictions are proportionate and sensible. What I would hate to see is restrictions become disproportionate or overly strict, as North Devon is known as a dog friendly place, attracting visitors on that basis. Especially with designated access to the beaches all year round, unlike some coastal areas where whole beaches become out of bounds in season.
9	Anywhere where there is livestock all dogs should be on a lead.

10	I would actually like to see “authorised” people who can fine people whilst I am out walking my dog, I have been walking my dog for 4 years now and am yet to see anyone actually told to put their dog on a lead/ pick up poo. Do these authorised people have enough time during their working day to pursue offenders? Or are they too busy with other activities?
11	This is not about Torridge but about one percent of it
12	I fully support the measures. They may face opposition but they are proportionate and it is a matter of courtesy and hygiene that they are respected
13	There is no point to these proposals if there is no enforcement. Most dog fouling occurs late at night or early in the morning when the streets are quiet and irresponsible owners think they can get away with it. I know this because I have a shop in Bideford and have captured dog walkers on cctv in the early hours not picking up after their dogs. If the proposals are put into force then there has to be 24th coverage or at least Officers that can check and act on town cctv footage.
14	Areas for dogs to exercise should be provided, or perhaps zones, where other dog walkers can help 'police' the areas and educate the dog walking community about dog problems. Dogs could be socialised with other dogs and then aggression issues be avoided. Dogs bought in lockdown have had little interaction with other dogs or people and have some 'issues' as a consequence. I appreciate you can't warden rural areas, but wish there was something that could be done to raise dog owner's awareness generally about dog fouling/bad behaviour.
15	More questions, how will this be monitored, how can this actually prevent these things from happening. Also, Instow beach, i think the left side (behind where Johns coffee hut was in Summer) should be lead dogs, and a lot further to the right of the beach (near the car park) should be dogs off lead
16	There should be a dog licence to fund more controls, areas for exercise and dog bins etc
17	There is a need to differentiate between eg rural limited use footpaths and urban areas or rural areas with heavy use. A global requirement to collect doesn't do this, do I have to follow my dog into the wood to collect his poo or just collect from footpath. The problem in rural areas is not the poo but people who bag it and then fling it or fail to collect. Poo breaks down if left exposed, but not in a plastic bag and none is going to litter pick a used dog bag.
18	If rules are applied with common sense but all too often councils view them as a money making venture
19	Owning a dog has positive health benefits both mentally and physically. More people now own a dog after Covid and we shouldn't be overlooked when planning things. I feel an area should be designated for dogs to be able to run free. With Westward Ho! Beach I feel that as you walk down the Slipway the area to the left and the area to the left where you go down the steps below Fairway Buoy should be allowed for Dog owners in the peak Summer months close to the amenities. Not the main section though.
20	All dog shouldn't be a loud in the park at all there is dogs mess every were both sides
21	I though these proposals were already in practice ? Another waste of time and someone's getting paid for this ... who's been fined in the last twelve months ??
22	I like wildlife and dogs are a big issue for this as well as hygiene/children.
23	I have seen quite a few dogs in Victoria Park not on leads (not on the rugby field) despite notices clearly saying they will be a fine! I like to take my dog there to make him feel safe and that is not the case if a dog is off lead and running around on the football pitch.
24	It's about time that the council represented the large number of dog owners who form a significant part of the electorate rather than waste money and resources responding to loud minorities

25	should include horses being banned on the beach and being made to wear nappies - they are a disgrace in westward ho! and poo all over the slipway
26	Have we the officials to police this. A few owners just don't care. Think too many pets are bought on holiday now anyway.
27	I think the proposed order is acceptable, as long as dogs can go off lead on beaches, fields, the tarka trail and other safe places then that's fair, everyone should be able to enjoy places safely, dog fouling is the biggest issue we are currently facing in torrington and I would like to see it resolved
28	Just target the problem dog owners and let the rest of us responsible ones enjoy our dogs and the exercise. Focus on the trouble makers, witnesses can take photos and report them. Don't tar us all with the same brush. Dogs help with mental health and loneliness, and my adopted sprocker has saved me during lock down. Please just tighten up on the abusers.
29	Northam burrows, I think more larger signage needed, dogs must be kept on leads near livestock. Lambing season is upon us once again. Some nasty footage of dog attacks on sheep last year.
30	Most dog owners are respectful of the town and the local area but some have no regard for other peoples property. If a member of public urinates in a shop doorway they would be fined or arrested, yet owners seem to think it is perfectly acceptable for their dogs to do it.
31	As the UK's largest dog welfare charity, we would like to make some comments for consideration. Dogs Trust's Comments 1. Re; Fouling of Land by Dogs Order: • Dogs Trust consider 'scooping the poop' to be an integral element of responsible dog ownership and would fully support a well-implemented order on fouling. We urge the Council to enforce any such order rigorously. In order to maximise compliance we urge the Council to consider whether an adequate number of disposal points have been provided for responsible owners to use, to consider providing free disposal bags and to ensure that there is sufficient signage in place. • We question the effectiveness of issuing on-the-spot fines for not being in possession of a poo bag and whether this is practical to enforce. 2. Re; Dog Exclusion Order: • Dogs Trust accepts that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be excluded, such as children's play areas, however we would recommend that exclusion areas are kept to a minimum and that, for enforcement reasons, they are restricted to enclosed areas. We would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries. • Dogs Trust would highlight the need to provide plenty of signage to direct owners to alternative areas nearby in which to exercise dogs. 3. Re; Dog Exclusion Order and beaches: • With phone calls often being made to the RSPCA and Police alerting to dogs being left in hot cars in coastal areas, we would urge you to consider the danger animals may be put in, and the difficult decisions owners have to make, by not being allowed to take their dogs onto the beach. • If the Council does choose to implement this order, Dogs Trust would encourage looking into a compromise between beach goers and dog owners, e.g. allowing dogs onto the beach in the evenings or early mornings, or having dog friendly sections on the beaches. • Strict dog exclusion restrictions can also lead to a decrease in dog friendly tourism for businesses along the coast, which in turn could have a negative impact on the local economy. 4. Re; Dog Exclusion and sport pitches • Excluding dogs from areas that are not enclosed could pose enforcement problems - we would consider it more difficult to enforce an exclusion order in areas that lack clear boundaries. • We feel that exclusion zones should be kept to a minimum, and that excluding dogs from all sports pitches for long stretches of the year is unnecessary. In some cases sports pitches may account for a large part of the open space available in a public park, and therefore excluding dogs could significantly reduce available dog

	<p>walking space for owners. • We would urge the Council to consider focusing its efforts on reducing dog fouling in these areas, rather than excluding dogs entirely, with adequate provision of bins and provision of free disposal bags</p> <p>5. Re; Dogs on Leads Order: • Dogs Trust accept that there are some areas where it is desirable that dogs should be kept on a lead. • Dogs Trust would urge the Council to consider the Animal Welfare Act 2006 section 9 requirements (the 'duty of care') that include the dog's need to exhibit normal behaviour patterns – this includes the need for sufficient exercise including the need to run off lead in appropriate areas. Dog Control Orders should not restrict the ability of dog keepers to comply with the requirements of this Act. • The Council should ensure that there is an adequate number, and a variety of, well sign-posted areas locally for owners to exercise their dog off-lead.</p> <p>6. Re; Dogs on Lead by Direction Order: • Dogs Trust enthusiastically support Dogs on Leads by Direction orders (for dogs that are considered to be out of control or causing alarm or distress to members of the public to be put on and kept on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised official) • We consider that this order is by far the most useful, other than the fouling order.</p>
32	<p>I agree with the overall proposals, but think that in many instances they will be ignored by either visitors (who don't know the regulations) or by those who deliberately ignore regulations / common courtesy. One of the main issues I have are the people who bag up their dog mess and then dump it on the side of the road / on the beach / hang it from a branch in a hedgerow or on a branch of a tree.</p>
33	<p>As a dog owner I would be happy if I had to keep my dog on a lead on Northam Burrows. if it helped keep the sheep safe. So many people do not realise that it is not just injury to the sheep, but the terror they are put through if they are chased. Sadly I have also had to ask some children to stop chasing the sheep too!</p>
34	<p>More patrols need to be made to police these proposals properly including early in the morning to late at night. I find this is when most of the fouling occurs. When the owners think no one will see!</p>
35	<p>No perfectly clear to us</p>
36	<p>Thank you for taking this problem seriously. As a parent there are few things more unpleasant than having to clear dog faeces off the wheels of children's scooters or pushchairs, or from their shoes.</p>
37	<p>I would go further and suggest that: All dogs should be kept on a lead at all times in all public places, especially Northam Burrows. It's almost a weekly occurrence that the sheep and horses there suffer from dog attacks, sometimes fatally.</p>
38	<p>I think dogs should be kept on a lead on the sandymere part of the WH beach as well as the area closer to WH.</p>

39	I believe there should be an area of Victoria Park where dog owners can exercise well behaved dogs off lead. Unfortunately town dogs still need a space to run off lead and let off steam when owners do not have gardens of a size to allow that.
40	Be consistent in your enforcement - never seen anyone with their dog off the lead being challenged in Victoria Park. It would be good to have an area where you can actively let your dog off the lead to run around.
41	Absolute waste of money. I have never seen a person leave dog poo on a pavement or park. If I did I would give the person a poo bag. Yet again westward Ho wanting to waste tax payers money. There are more important things to spend money on such as crime deterrents eg CCTV. Westward Ho had Covid wardens and they were useless
42	Dogs should be on a lead at all times on the burrows or anywhere where there is livestock
43	If these things would be in place how would you enforce them? You may have the power but not the resources to implement it. I Live near Ford Rise - I strongly feel there should be a physical barrier in place between the dog area and the Children's play park area
44	With respect, your survey is not appropriately structured. You have the option to just 'Agree', but you do not offer the option to just 'Disagree'. By only offering the choices to either 'Neither agree or disagree' or 'Strongly disagree' - you are artificially stacking the survey toward the 'Agree' responses.
45	Although I don't have a dog at present I owned dogs for 30 years & fully support proposals. I am reluctant to take on another dog because of big numbers of irresponsible dog owners currently in the district causing safety/hygiene issues.
46	No
47	Proposal seems fine, enforcement remains a big question for me.
48	The proposal doesn't actually go anywhere near far enough. There has been an explosion in dog ownership in the Torridge area since the pandemic started and fouling has increase massively. Dogs should be excluded from the beach all year round. Dogs should be kept on short leads at all other times of the year and in all public places. Extendable leads should be banned outright. A dog off a lead is considered to be out of control, in law, therefore a criminal offence. This should be enforced by dedicated Dog wardens who's issuing of FPN's would easily pay for themselves. Owners need to be educated about the problems their animals are causing and dogs should all be licensed and chipped. This could also form part of the proposal.
49	I do not agree with dogs being banned from the tennis courts in Westward Ho! Especially out of season. Priority should be given to those wishing to play tennis but as the courts are rarely used I don't see why it is a problem for dogs to be exercised there. I also agree with a beach ban during the tourist season and understand it's importance in maintaining a blue flag BUT access further up needs to seriously be looked at because those with mobility issues still need to walk their dog and the walkway at Sandymere is not easy to navigate. I would welcome a dog on lead area on westward ho! as at Woolacombe, with just the far end (greysands) being for off lead dogs. I also think Instow should be advertised as a dog beach to deter people from bathing in the unsafe waters. Businesses in Instow are dog friendly and most of the issues occur with non dog people encountering dogs. If there was adequate signage identifying it as a dog beach, I believe this would reduce the issue.
50	They must be enforced, there were a lot of dogs on the beach in westward Ho last summer. If the rules are not enforced they will be ignored. I also think dogs should be kept on a lead on the promenade and that end of the beach all year round. My grandchildren have been knocked over on the beach by out of control dogs during the months they are allowed on the beach, we don't just use the beach in the summer.

51	Concerns over limiting the use of parks to dog owners. I use Victoria park on a daily basis and know many other dog owners do too. Only issues I've had is gypsies last summer with loose out of control dogs trying to attack my dog when they took up pitch on the rugby field. If there's going to be so many new limits on where we can walk our dogs I feel Torridge needs some areas created by the council to walk our dogs in a safe manor such as a secure dog field
52	There is a lot of dog shit everywhere.
53	We need a dog warden in Appledore. In 3 years I have never seen one and there is so much dog mess left on the streets and coast path. There is no point in these proposals unless you can enforce them
54	Responsible dog owners already do what is expected
55	I have seen a dog vomiting into the water pools that gather at the bottom of the slipway where children like to play, in fact children were in there at the time and most parents unaware of what was happening. I walk from the Pier House down to the beach regularly and see dog faeces at regular intervals. It is simply unacceptable. My daughter was knocked over by a dog running at her on the beach. I would like to understand why the health & safety of children seems to now come second to dogs being able to roam and toilet wherever they like. It's a shame because there are a lot of responsible dog owners out there but as usual our lives are blighted by the few whose dog is brighter than they are. There needs to be strong enforcement of these rules.
56	Tighter control of dog walking and pet sitting businesses.
57	Dogs should be allowed on the beach before 10am and after 5pm during the high season and in parks too. Also be considerate of families who want to take children to an enclosed play area but walk the dog on the way there. Ideally a dog should be allowed in on a lead and under control at all times so it can stay with the family.
58	I will be glad if the PSPO on dog fouling continues to be in place. In practice, however, I have seen very little evidence of it being enforced.
59	Please allocate secure safe areas for dog owners to exercise their pets. We will use them!
60	Rather than banning dogs from areas and making stricter rules there should be more open areas for dogs to run around and let off energy. People who leave dog poo on the ground will do so regardless of whether the dog is on a lead or not.
61	Long leads are not the problem. Dogs off leads, often with no recall are the problem. Should be harsher penalties for dog fouling and more dog waste bins.
62	You need to create run areas for dogs in parks. Currently I have to get in my car to take the dog for a run which is not good for the environment. I see older people with mobility issues with dogs that need to be able to run. I live in Holsworthy.
63	Irresponsible dog owners are ruining it for us responsible ones unfortunately
64	All owners should have control of their dog when out and about and keep the area free of dog poo. Would also like to see fewer squashed dead decomposing pigeons in Butt Garden Street.
65	Fed up with dogs off the lead running up to my dog on a lead. Not all dogs like dogs bouncing up to them even though they may be well trained
66	No just stronger rules on picking up after your dog
67	Forestry walks are full of dog mess no longer go there
68	A lot of visitors come to Torridge because it is a great place to bring a dog. Don't deter them or the money they spend here.

69	Dogs should be on a lead at all times unless they are on the beach or in a designated park area. They should be on a short lead at all times when on any public footpath as this would also encourage owners to pick up their dog mess rather than denying it's theirs. Dogs should have to be on a short lead AT ALL TIMES when on Northam burrows to stop them worrying the sheep and attacking them. Enough is enough - this needs sorting out sooner or later as people are sick of entitled dog owners who thinks everyone else's world revolves around someone else's dog.
70	I think medical assistance dogs and guide dogs should be exempt from beach bans. If not, you are banning a lot of disabled people from our beautiful beaches as well as dogs.
71	I don't think dogs should be restricted to be able to exercise freely if they don't cause problems to other dogs or the public
72	Being allergic to let hair I try not to touch pets. However, that's not good enough when dogs run & jump up on me. Owners usually say "He/she won't hurt you". Not the point. Have also witnessed children being very scared by loose dogs & dogs on leads being attacked by loose dogs in Victoria Park
73	The irresponsible dog owners, there are not many, do not see the results of and sanctions for fouling or dogs out of control. Therefore they believe nothing will happen to them. If fines etc were published (not necessarily with names etc) it may have an effect.
74	Make sure it is upheld. So many dogs not on leads and on the beach and no one to stop them
75	The few bad dog owners ruin things for the many good and responsible dog owners.
76	Dogs should be on leads at all times, need more dog wardens
77	Please, please put really large signs up at all entrances to the Burrows telling dog owners to keep their dog under control (on leads) on the Burrows and warn them that sheep graze all over the area!
78	There are very limited places as it is in Bideford to walk your dog that aren't parks etc. To ask people to keep dogs on a lead around Bideford at all times is prosperous when there are enough parks with space for owners and dogs to enjoy. If the dog has good recall and the owner is in control then this should not be a problem. It's a few bad, inexperienced and nonchalant owners that are ruining it for the majority.
79	There need to be people enforcing the rules otherwise they are pointless as responsible owners would continue to be responsible and others would continue to ignore any measures
80	Please raise awareness about the dangers for cyclists encountering dogs on extended leads, my Uncle has also experienced this problem too whilst cycling between Northam, Limers Lane to the Quay and on the Tarka Trail. By saying dogs must be on leads doesn't seem to be enough for owners to be in control of their dogs on extended leads. On the Burrows it's very hit and miss with the rule of dogs on leads, please make it compulsory to be on a lead, just because the sheep haven't run off does not mean that they may not be distressed and whilst jogging on the Burrows it would be less stressful not having dogs running at or behind me jumping up. More specific dog walking fields or areas perhaps may help, there are lots of poo bags on the Tors and on Tarka Trail where they've been discarded in the trees/hedge, maybe more dog poo bins please on these routes. Thank you for listening.
81	Serious work needs to be done. Support good dog owners but take to task irresponsible ones

82	I love dogs and used to have two of my own. I've become so frustrated with people allowing their dogs to foul on my front lawn, so many pavements in Bideford being disgusting and dogs out of control in parks and on beaches that I think the council need to do something about the irresponsible dog owners. I don't want other peoples dogs jumping over me and my family when having a nice day at the beach or park with a picnic. I've even had my blanket and items urinated on at the beach. So welcome the proposals.
83	I agree with the proposals but think in respect of the beach ban between 1st May and 30th Sept that dogs should be allowed on this part also but after 7pm. This is implemented on beaches in Cornwall and works well
84	Would be no ce to have an enclosed area for dogs off lead.
85	Can dogs be banned from food outlets/ cafes and their owners be persuaded not to bring them into shopping areas. Far too many in Mill St nowadays. And they also take up pedestrian space when we are all trying to stay safe
86	These proposals are all good but is the money there to enforce them?
87	Devonshire park has a fantastic play are for kids and open space for dogs however they have no fence to keep the two separate, this would make a great improvement
88	We need more poo bins on College Park ideally on the Redrow side as they often get full to overflowing
89	I don't believe dogs should be excluded from parts of Westward Ho! beach, the sewage dumped into the rivers/sea affect the water quality & make this policy a joke.
90	Better warnings of fines and how to report irresponsible owners.
91	This is a good way forward .I like dogs but not when they come runing over and jumping up .There is lots of places to take them without being around play area .
92	We need more dog wardens. I have never seen one where i live! On a plus note. East The Water has loads of dog bins.....its a pity people can't bend over and pick their mess up! More signs needed more patrols needed perhaps cctv in areas of high dog pollution.
93	This must be enforced; there's no point doing it unless it's enforced. Dogs should be on a lead on the highway anyway.
94	I am interested in this survey because I live in Ilfracombe. North Devon Council held a similar consultation last year in which opinions were sought on dogs being disallowed from certain beaches, such as Instow. The consultation was, I believe, withdrawn, and no action was taken. Ilfracombe suffers badly from dog fouling and noise, and it is getting worse. I do visit Bideford very often and I can understand why there have been demands to impose restrictions on dog owners, many of whom are quite vociferous. I would suggest that a special field be set aside for dog walkers.
95	What do the dog wardens do?? I've never seen one at westward Ho , I've never seen one on the tarka trail . , there are not enough signs up to pick up on the tarka trail. Dummy cameras would encourage people to clean up. There are not enough bins at northam . Not enough bins on the trail. But enough bins on the costal path . The response my post got on Bideford community was overwhelming, people feel very strongly that something needs to be done , it's disgusting. Dog wardens need to be out and be seen to be active . The fine is not high enough.
96	It says about currently dogs should be on leads in victoria park which is a joke hundreds of dogs are walked there every day off the lead.and whoever things its ok to let their dog foul on the football pitch or rugby field needs their head looking at.whether its picked up or not it still leaves a mess on grass.crazy.
97	They don't go far enough. Has torridge issued fines or taken any action against offenders. Seem that by having this PSPO you feel you have done enough. Ticked the required boxes.

98	Dogs with good recall should not be penalised because a few owners don't control their dogs in the park. I agree with no dogs in the children's fenced play areas but the green areas should be open for all to enjoy.
99	Dog ownership is on the rise. Dog owners feel that they have the right to carry out antisocial activity 'because it's a dog!' There are too many dogs now for it to be safe or for them not to interfere with others enjoyment of outdoor spaces! There needs to be much more control and regulation. Dog owners have shown consistently that they are not capable of staying within guidelines or preventing their dogs having a negative impact on others.
100	Fine !!!! People must be fined for dog foaling . A few short sharp fines will send shock waves through the dog owning community and ul soon see a cleaner torridgetop tip.....even if it's not true the rumours of such an act will go some to make people think twice and common sense should prevail . If it gets bad again more rumours of finesthe loch Ness monster rumours have made millions.for that area ??
101	I think they should go further. Dogs should be on leads whenever they are out of the house, unless it is a people and wildlife free dog run area.
102	Can we lift the ban on horses on the beach during tourist season or extend the hours during which they're allowed on. Why should locals be always placed second to tourists?
103	Dogs do need areas to be off lead
104	Other areas/general areas might be included for requiring dogs to be on a lead, eg graveyards (matter of respect as well as antifouling measure).
105	Once in place the rules should be enforced rigorously.
106	I think it is a shame these orders have to be put in place, it illustrates how poorly people and animals live together - please note I mean by that that there are poorly qualified dog owners and poorly behaved dogs, as well as overly sensitive non-dog owners who have lost any connection with an animal and need to see it "controlled". Being greeted and sniffed by a dog should bring joy and not anguish. Anyway, my proposal is that if those orders have to be installed, please make them depending on the time of day - for instance open the beach to dogs again after 5pm and before 10am. Thank you!
107	Cornwall ban dogs on the beach in certain hours that still allow dog walkers to enjoy the space. I believe dogs need to be able to be free but stronger fines if your dog is out of control. Don't punish all dogs for a few irresponsible owner.
108	Dogs are not the problem. Good owners and their dogs are penalised by a few irresponsible owners. Introduce heavier penalties for people who do not clean up after their dog or do not keep them under control if they are aggressive/problematic. Please allow well-behaved dogs to enjoy a like as part of a family and be able to participate. Much better than a distressed dog barking/howling at home and disturbing neighbours because their owners have not been allowed to take them with them, when, if well-behaved they bring joy to the people that see them
109	As long as rules are administered appropriately with respect for dog owners who do their best to comply and keep their dogs to the best of their ability. Understanding that dogs are animals and do have a mind of their own at times
110	Why can you agree and strongly agree but not disagree only strongly disagree ? If it goes ahead I will no longer be visiting or holidaying in area my dog would need to be with me. I agree with sensible ownership but if you are going to take away make sure you welcome elsewhere or lose out on visitors and locals with dogs.

111	The draft PSPO doesn't go far enough. Dogs should be excluded from all areas of the beaches all year round. Long leads should be banned and dog wardens should be employed to issue on the spot fines. Bigger better and clearer signage is need a cross the Torridge district to make it clear to dog owners where they can and cannot go and the penalties for ignoring these orders. Dog ownership has increased massively during the pandemic and evidence of dog fouling is everywhere in the district. Where I live dog owners seem to think it's acceptable to allow their animals to foul private gardens which is completely unacceptable. When I have challenged owners about this I have been met with abuse and threats of violence. A PSPO will only be effective if it's rules are enforced that's why dog wardens are needed. They would pay for themselves with the number of fines they would issue on a daily basis.
112	Dogs should be kept in lead in any public area
113	To restrict access to enclosed areas and to designated areas at peak season times isn't unusual. There is a lot of exclusion and restriction, but rarely anything proposed for inclusion - dog parks, dog zones, etc. It would be nice to see a balance for once.
114	We have a 9 month old dog not our first but it is trained and well behaved I agree with proposals as long as there are places a well behaved dog can run free. I know livestock worrying is an issue on the burrows but not all owners are so irresponsible. I also believe fines for fouling should be increased it is upsetting to be a responsible owner and have to look out for the minority who think it's ok to leave excrement in the street where young children live or anyone else come to that.
115	I feel dogs could be allowed on beaches in the evenings or in designated areas. This could also apply in parks. Maybe meet dog owners half way, they are a high percentage of the population and many tourists go on holiday with dogs so go to places dogs are allowed now.
116	As they are not Draconian they will be accepted. If the anti dog 'brigade' try for anything more there would be some very nasty confrontations as they would effect the majority of dog owners who do keep their dogs under control and pick up.
117	It's a shame the council do not represent the the thousands of responsible dog owners and provide better facilities rather than use a sledge hammer to crack a nut - once again the council prove what a waste of money they are by representing the loud minority, very disappointing ??
118	I am a dog owner my dog is very well trained when of the lead has a instant recall. I have noticed that on Westwood Ho! Beach that dogs off the lead especially from residents are normally well behaved. I respect the laws and keep my dog on the lead where required. I do not use long leads as these don't give full control. We a easy to blame dogs for bad behaviour but it's not the dog's fault. I don't these new rules should be aimed at dogs but the poor behaviour of the owners.
119	There needs to be more strict enforcement of any directives to make any effect. Just having the rules doesn't appear to work as many are just ignored..

120	The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a local access forum under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act). Its statutory remit is to give independent advice “as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area...” The Forum currently has fifteen members who represent the interests of landowners/managers, access users and other relevant areas of expertise such as conservation and tourism. The Devon Countryside Access Forum responded to the previous PSPO consultation in 2018. It would have been helpful if the Forum had been notified of the current consultation as it was only by chance and late in the day that it was identified. The comments made by the Forum in 2018 still stand and are below. The Devon Countryside Access Forum welcomes a Public Spaces Protection Order to control dog fouling and measures to require dogs to be put on leads by direction across the whole district. These measures would accord with the Forum’s remit to improve public enjoyment of land. The dog exclusion areas for children’s play spaces all year round and parts of Westward Ho! beach (seasonal) are welcomed. The requirement for dogs to be on leads in Victoria Park and Westward Ho! promenade (seasonal) are also welcomed. These appear to be a good balance to ensure health and safety in children’s play areas and enjoyment by the wider public, particularly in the summer months when tourism is at its peak. The Forum is aware that not all children’s play areas are fully enclosed and advises the District Council to ensure such areas are fenced, or otherwise protected, so that the dog exclusion zones can be fully effective.
121	Would love to see it enforced properly but almost impossible

In addition to the above, we also received one written response:

As a cyclist, I would like to comment on your the article in the North Devon Gazette.

I have experienced numerous incidents with dogs whilst cycling along the Tarka Trail from Bideford towards both Barnstaple and Torrington. I always slow down when passing a dog as their behaviour is unpredictable. The owner may have the dog on a lead but more than once the dog has shot across the path just as I approached. Often the dog has been let off the lead but what it does when the owner "calls" it back cannot be guessed. However, the worst occurrence that I experienced happened only a few weeks ago. Travelling towards Barnstaple I had passed the road bridge when I noticed a lady walking in the same direction and her dog more than 100 yards away in front. I rang my bell but as she took no notice, I honked my horn (yes I have both bell and horn) and she turned and saw me. She quickly turned back and called the dog (I don't know the type but it was about as large as a sheep dog). The animal stopped and looked at the owner. Slowing down on passing the lady and realising that she had little control of the dog I slowed down even more. Approaching the dog, still in the same position, I passed slowly by beginning to accelerate away. However, breathing loudly and baring it's teeth it was running to the right of my rear wheel. Not wishing to get entangled with it's teeth, I slowly moved to the right thinking that it would stop as it left the road surface. A few seconds later I could still hear the dog but this time it was on my left. Increasing my speed and but moving to the left to force it off the tarmac again, it then shifted back to my right. This time I swerved sharply to the right and after a few seconds realised that it was no longer following, allowing me to stop and get my breath back.

So my suggestion is that, except at designated areas, dogs should ALWAYS be on a lead. I trust you noted that I have both a bell and horn to warn people when necessary and I also believe that it should be a legal requirement for those that hire cycles to fit warning devices.

Agenda Item 14

REPORT OF **Public Health and Housing Manager**

To: **Full Council**

Subject: **Armed Forces Covenant**

Date: **April 11th 2022**

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

1. To approve our recommitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and signing of the same.
2. To approve development this commitment through a range of actions proposed within this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

The United Kingdom's Armed Forces Covenant is the country's commitment to its armed forces. It's a pledge that those who serve, or who have served, in the armed forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy and society they serve. It is backed by an annual allocation of funding of £10 million from central Government, as well as by additional funding for specific projects arising from the UK's covenant. In addition, the Armed Forces Act 2011 requires the Secretary of State for Defence to prepare and present to Parliament an annual report on progress in delivering the covenant's commitments.

Torridge District Council are past signatories to the Covenant and have already established measures to support our armed forces personnel and their families. However, we are seeking to refresh this commitment and expand the response and support available within Torridge in line with current guidance.

The adoption of the Covenant is recognised in TDC's Strategic Plan for 2020-2023.

2. CURRENT SUPPORT TO SERVICE PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES

Due to our previous commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, we already have in place/ carry out the following:

- Recognition of Armed Forces events and days. Torridge councillors and staff honour and mark a number of occasions throughout the year including Remembrance Sunday and Armed Forces Day, including a flag raising ceremonies at Riverbank House.
- We currently offer multiple housing support measures to former armed forces personnel as detailed here - <https://www.torridge.gov.uk/article/17673/Former-Armed-Forces>
- We support former armed forces personnel by disregarding War Disability Pensions and War Widows Pensions when calculating income for Council Tax reduction [Council Tax Support | Torridge District Council](#)
- We provide paid leave for training duties for staff in the reserved forces.



- We have appointed a Lead Member for the Armed forces (Cllr Clarke) and an officer point of contact at TDC (Jan Williams).
- We are part of a Devon Districts AFC champions group hosted by Devon County Council who regularly meet to update on armed forces issues and share best practice.

2. FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PROPOSALS

[Guidance to local authorities on delivering the Covenant](#) sets out measures that can be taken to develop and embed the Covenant in their areas. A number of measures are proposed:

- Seek accreditation with the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) - this encourages employers to support defence by promoting being armed forces-friendly open and to employing reservists, armed forces veterans, cadet instructors and military spouses/partners and promote others to do the same. The scheme is only available to organisations that are signatories to the AFC.
- Development of a web page to support the delivery of the Covenant with key information and links for members of the armed forces community.
- Development of an Action plan to promote the commitment to the Covenant and set direction for its progress.
- We have had initial discussions with North Devon District Council around the setting up of a Northern Devon AFC stakeholder forum to include local military liaison, the voluntary sector and local business groups to promote and develop the Covenant and its aims across Northern Devon.
- Seek to promote the Covenant with Town and Parish Councils across Torridge

A copy of the proposed draft Covenant for TDC is appended to this report.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

Participation in the scheme is currently voluntary.

Financial Implications

None, other than commitment of staff time. Covenant grant funding is available for supporting specific projects <https://www.armedforcescovenant.gov.uk/get-involved/can-i-get-covenant-funding/>

Human Resources Implications

It is proposed that this be met within existing resources.

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

None



Equality/Diversity

None

Risk Management

None

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

None – although the development of support within council services will need to be taken forward through existing policies.

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

None

Climate Change

None

Ward Member and Lead Member Views

Cllr Clarke is supportive of this measure and will be supporting the development of the local forum.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The Armed Forces Covenant seeks to engage organisations and communities in support of the Armed Forces. In doing so it recognises the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Armed Forces Covenant be signed.
2. That the proposals given in this report in developing the Covenant within Torridge District and wider Northern Devon areas be noted and approved.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Lead Member for Housing (and Armed Forces Lead)

Contact Officer: Jan Williams Public Health and Housing Manager

Background Papers: [Armed Forces Covenant Local Authority Guide](#)







TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

We, the undersigned, commit to honour the Armed Forces Covenant and support the Armed Forces Community. We recognise the value Serving Personnel, both Regular and Reservists, Veterans and military families contribute to our business and our country.

Signed on behalf of:

Ministry of Defence

Signed on behalf of:

Torrige District Council

Signed on behalf of:

Torrige District Council

Name:

Position:

Date:

Name:

Position:

Date:

Name:

Position:

Date:



The Armed Forces Covenant

An Enduring Covenant Between

The People of the United Kingdom

Her Majesty's Government

- and -

All those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown and
their Families

The first duty of Government is the defence of the realm. Our Armed Forces fulfil that responsibility on behalf of the Government, sacrificing some civilian freedoms, facing danger and, sometimes, suffering serious injury or death as a result of their duty. Families also play a vital role in supporting the operational effectiveness of our Armed Forces. In return, the whole nation has a moral obligation to the members of the Naval Service, the Army and the Royal Air Force, together with their families. They deserve our respect and support, and fair treatment.

Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services. Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

This obligation involves the whole of society: it includes voluntary and charitable bodies, private organisations, and the actions of individuals in supporting the Armed Forces. Recognising those who have performed military duty unites the country and demonstrates the value of their contribution. This has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant.

1.1 This Armed Forces Covenant is made between:

The serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families working and residing in the District of Torridge.

And

Torridge District Council

SECTION 2: PRINCIPLES OF THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. This Covenant encompasses the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level.

2.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is based upon two key principles:

- The Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.
- Special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.

2.3 The purpose of this Covenant is to encourage support for the Armed Forces Community working and residing in Torridge and to recognise and remember the sacrifices made by members of this Armed Forces Community, particularly those who have given the most. This includes in-Service and ex-Service personnel their families and widow(er)s in Torridge.

2.4 For Torridge District Council and partner organisations, the Community Covenant presents an opportunity to bring their knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. It also presents an opportunity to build upon existing good work on other initiatives such as the Welfare Pathway.

2.5 For the Armed Forces community, the Covenant encourages the integration of Service life into civilian life and encourages members of the Armed Forces community to help their local community.

SECTION 3: OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL INTENTIONS

Aims of the Covenant

3.1 The Armed Forces Covenant defines the enduring, general principles that should govern the relationship between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces community

3.2 It aims to encourage all parties within a community to offer support to the local Armed Forces community and make it easier for Service personnel, families and veterans to access the help and support available from the MOD, from statutory providers and from the Charitable and Voluntary Sector. These organisations already work together in partnership at local level.

3.3 The scheme is intended to be a two-way arrangement and the Armed Forces community are encouraged to do as much as they can to support their community and promote activity which integrates the Service community into civilian life.

SECTION 4: Measures - Demonstrating our Commitment

4.1 Torridge District Council will seek to uphold the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant by:

- Promoting Torridge District Council as an armed forces friendly organisation.
- Recognising and celebrating Armed Forces Day and other remembrance events.
- Providing easily accessible support and information to our armed forces community and their families.
- Recognising our armed forces personnel in our HR, Housing and Council Tax policies.
- We will promote the principles of this Covenant with wider stakeholders and encourage local communities to pledge their support.
- We will create an action plan to promote our commitment to the Covenant and set direction for its development.
- We will measure our success and report periodically on this through our governance arrangements.

4.2 We will publicise these commitments through our website, setting out the support and resources available to armed forces personnel, veterans and their families and will invite feedback from the Service community and our customers on how we are doing.

CONTACT PERSONNEL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

MOD Armed Forces Covenant Team

Email address: covenant-mailbox@mod.gov.uk
Address: Armed Forces Covenant Team
Zone A, 6th Floor
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

In-Service representative(s)

Contact Name:
Title:
Telephone:
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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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