

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE
1 JUNE 2026**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

DOG PSPO

1. Purpose of Report

- (i) To update members on the current Dog PSPO
- (ii) To consider how the Town Council might support the Education, Encouragement & Enforcement of the PSPO

2. Background

On 1st June 2024, Shropshire Council introduced county-wide Public Space Protection Orders under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to address dog-related anti-social behaviour, including:

- Dog fouling;
- Failure to remove dog faeces;
- Dogs being excluded from certain areas;
- Dogs being required to be kept on leads in specified locations;
- Failure to comply with directions from authorised officers.

The Town Council manages a significant number of parks, open spaces, recreation grounds, cemeteries, and play areas which are included in the PSPO.

Whilst the PSPO framework provides legal powers to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) and prosecute offenders, enforcement capacity across the county is limited due to resource pressures. There is only one Dog Warden. It is not known whether formal arrangements have been put in place to allow enforcement. This includes signage.

There are a lots of examples of dog issues in the town including dog fouling and directions for dogs on lead that could be addressed by the PSPO.

The Town Council already employs Park Rangers who already have powers to issue FPNs for the Town Centre PSPO and they are well-positioned to support local enforcement activity if appropriate powers were delegated.

In the same way the only a small number of PCNs are issued under the Town Centre PSPO, it would only need to issue a few Fixed Penalty Notices to proceeded through the courts to change the public attitude to dog related issues.

There is potential to expand the Ranger patrol locations and the public were aware that they have the powers for enforcement, that will begin to address the problem.

The simplest and most legally robust approach would be for Shropshire Council to formally authorise named Town Council Park Rangers as “authorised persons” under the PSPO, in the same way they have done for the Town Centre PSPO.

This would likely require:

- A formal Service Level Agreement (SLA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), similar to the existing Town Centre PSPO agreement;
- Individual written authorisations;
- Defined geographical scope;
- Defined enforcement powers;
- Training requirements;
- Agreed reporting and governance arrangements.

Park Rangers would require Dog Control specific PSPO enforcement training covering:

- PSPO legislation;
- Evidence gathering;
- Interview techniques;
- Conflict management;
- Issuing Fixed Penalty Notices;
- Equality and proportionality;
- Data protection;
- Court procedures and witness statements.

Training would need to be consistent with Shropshire Council enforcement standards.

Rangers already carry formal authorisation cards for the Town Centre PSPO, they already wear identifiable uniforms and they have body-worn cameras where appropriate and are experienced in enforcement action. In the Town Centre there are clear evidence protocols; contemporaneous notebook records; photographic or video evidence where appropriate; standardised reporting templates.

Any prosecution would have to remain under the authority of Shropshire Council’s legal services.

There are a number of benefits of this kind of delegated enforcement:

A visible Ranger presence with enforcement powers would:

- Improve deterrence;
- Reduce repeat offending;
- Improve public confidence.

Enhanced enforcement could contribute to cleaner parks and open spaces including:

- Reduced dog fouling;
- Improved hygiene;
- Safer play areas;
- Improved visitor experience

Town Council Rangers are:

- Locally based;
- Able to familiarise themselves with hotspots;
- Regularly present on sites;
- Able to engage directly with residents.

This supports a more responsive enforcement approach than county-wide services alone.

There is likely to be cost involved in the Town Council seeking greater enforcement powers including additional Ranger Hours, PSPO Signage and the purchase of PCN books.

Additional Hours	£5000
Signage	£1750
PCN Books	£500
Training & Preparation	£1000
Total	£8250

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the report be noted**
- (ii) That Officers pursue delegation arrangements with Shropshire Council**