

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee - 31
January 2018

Subject: Public Spaces Protection Orders - Dogs

Report of: Director of Neighbourhoods

Summary

This report provides the Committee with the outcomes of the recent consultation exercise in respect of Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to the control of dogs.

The consultation proposed the following:

- Broadly continue the monitoring and enforcement of the regulations contained within the current PSPOs.
- Introduce a new condition allowing officers to enforce where, upon the request of an authorised officer, those in control of a dog are unable to demonstrate that they have the means to pick up any faeces from that dog.
- Review and update the geographical areas in which dogs are restricted and where dogs must be kept on a lead.

As a result of the responses received to the consultation it is proposed that the orders be amended and that a further consultation exercise is undertaken on the proposed new orders.

The Director of Neighbourhoods is the officer named in the Council's Constitution as responsible for making Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO)

Recommendations

That committee note the outcomes of the consultation to date, note that further consultation is proposed on the amended orders and provide any comments.

Wards Affected: All

Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	

A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The control of dogs in the city contributes to Manchester being a place where people choose to live visit and work. The proposed orders contribute to the safety of residents within the city through limiting the risk of infection, attacks or road traffic accidents should owners fail to control their dogs. Furthermore, the proposed regulations relating to dog fouling contribute towards the overall cleanliness and attractiveness of Manchester's streets
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Reform of anti-social behaviour powers – Statutory guidance for frontline professionals
- Current Public Spaces Protection Orders for the City of Manchester (automatically reverted from previous Dog Control Orders, made in 2008)
- Manchester City Council Corporate Enforcement Policy
- Animal Welfare Act 2006

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the outcomes of the recent consultation exercise in respect of Public Spaces Protection Orders relating to the control of dogs.

2.0 Background

2.1 Since February 2008 the Council has had Dog Control Orders (DCO) in place to regulate the control of dogs in public open spaces. These laws came from the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, and gave Councils the power to make orders regarding dogs in their area. Only five offences could be prescribed in a DCO and in Manchester there were orders relating to all five:

- Dogs on Leads –applies to all roads/pavements and some park areas within the city.
- Dogs on Lead by direction – applies to all land open to air to which the public has access without payment.
- Dog Fouling (failure to pick up) – applies to all land open to air to which the public has access without payment.
- Dog Exclusion Zones – applies to all cemeteries and in specific locations across the city, predominantly sports areas, picnic areas and children’s play areas.
- Dogs specified maximum number (no more than 4) – applies to all land open to air, to which the public has access, without payment.

The penalty for an offence was a fine of up to £1,000 or a fixed penalty of £80.

2.2 The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 came into force on 20 October 2014 and introduced the Public Spaces Protection Order. Following the introduction of these regulations, Local Authorities can no longer apply for Dog Control Orders. Furthermore, the City Council’s existing Dog Control Orders automatically reverted to become PSPOs on 20 October 2017. Under the legislation, a PSPO remains in place for 3 years, after which point it must be reviewed and if appropriate, extended.

A breach of a PSPO carries a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 and if prosecuted the maximum fine is £1,000.

2.3 Under a PSPO a Council is no longer limited to the 5 different types of Dog Control Orders, as long as they can justify the restriction being proposed.

3.0 Consultation

3.1 As Dog Control Orders automatically converted to PSPOs in October 2017 and the Council was no longer limited to just the 5 offences prescribed by Dog Control Orders it was considered an appropriate time to review the orders to check they were still relevant and to consider other areas that may need to be controlled .

3.2 Between 14 August and 11 September 2017 a public consultation was held in which Manchester residents and other stakeholders were asked their opinions on a range of issues from the existing dog control orders to proposed offences and the amount that fines incurred should be.

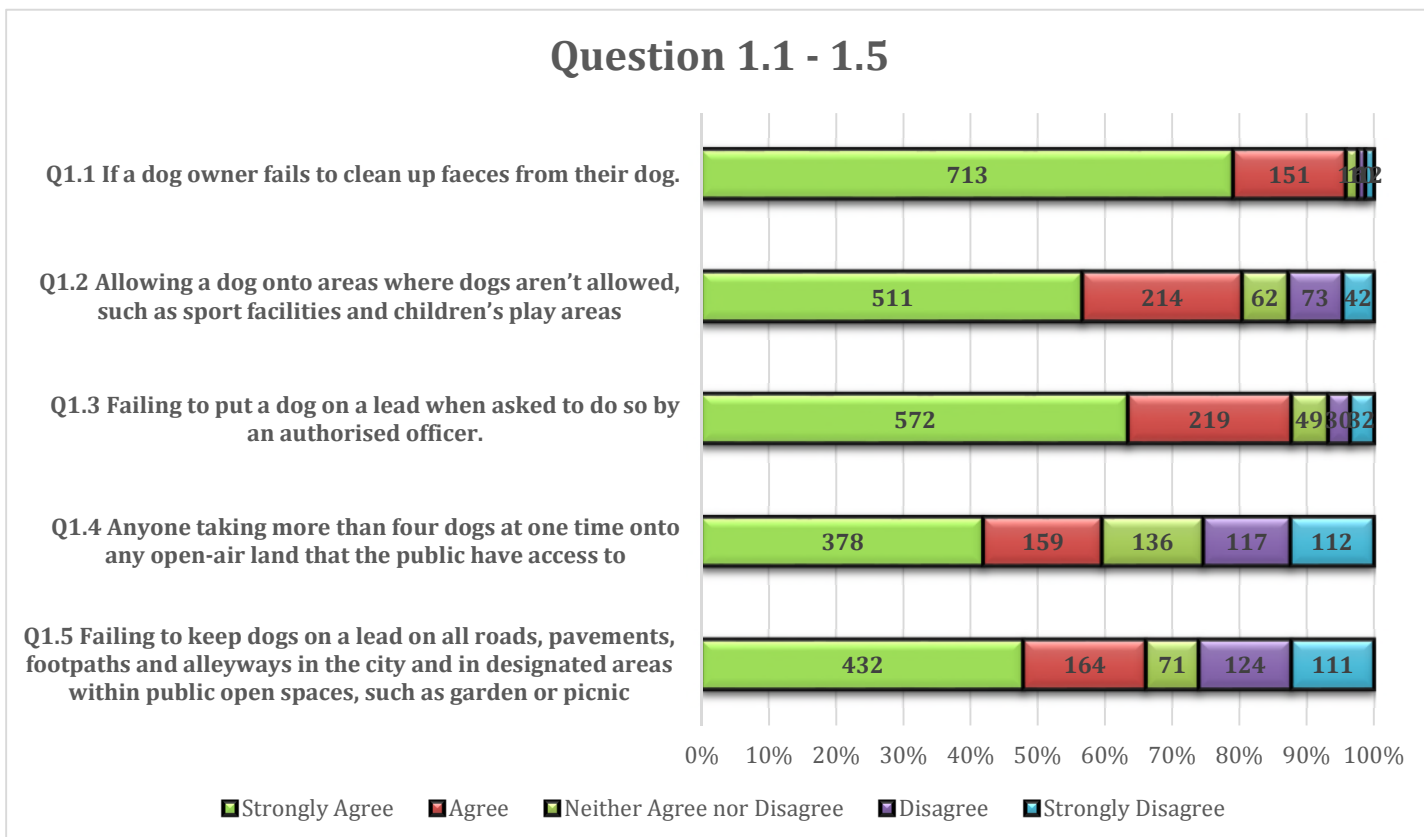
In addition, the following parties were consulted

- Chief Constable, Greater Manchester Police
- Assistance Dogs (UK)
- Blue Cross
- Dogs Trust
- PDSA
- RSPCA
- Friends of the Parks

All elected members were also e-mailed the consultation.

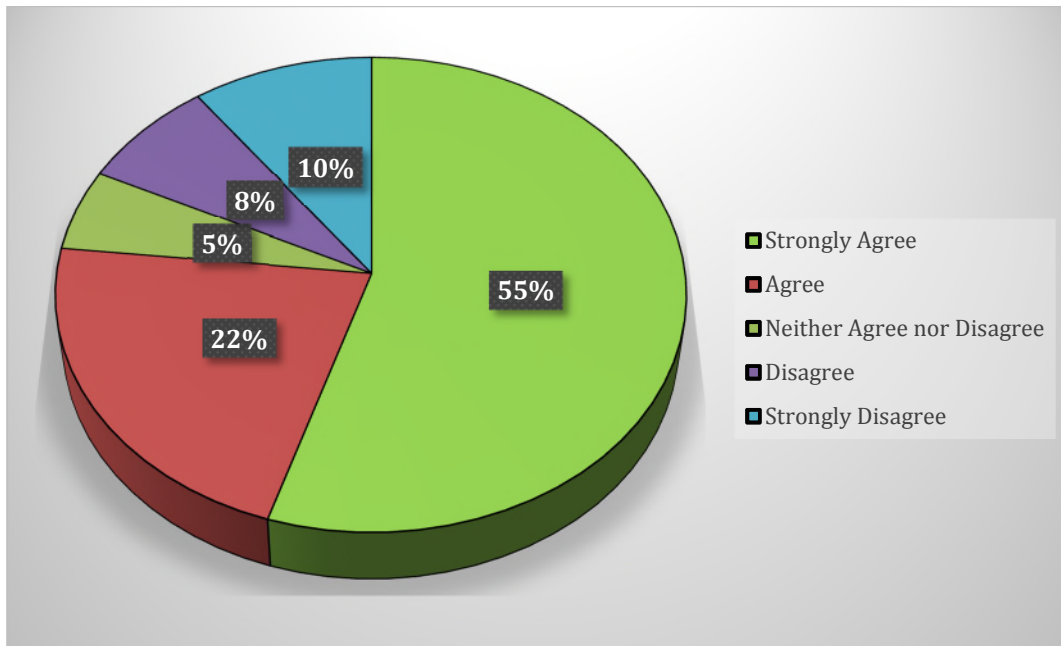
During the consultation period, the proposal was publicised and received coverage in the local media including the Manchester Evening News, BBC Radio Manchester and on the local television network.

3.3 The questions asked and the public consultation responses are set out in the tables below:

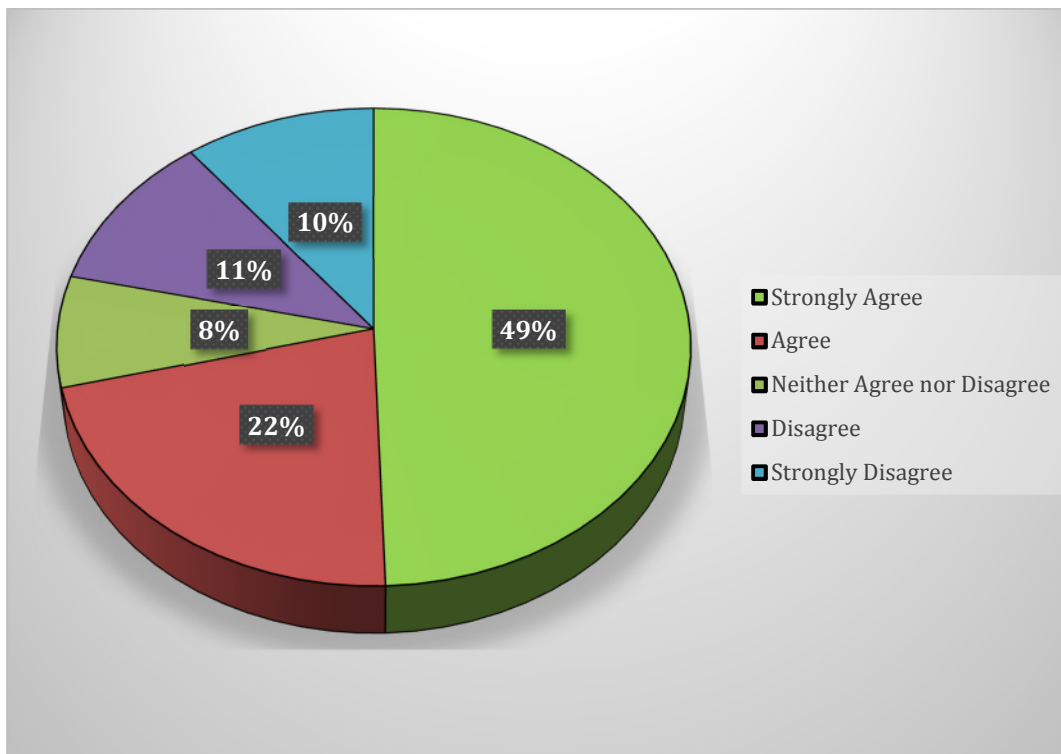


Q1.1 - 1.5 Existing Offences – We want to keep these as offences. Do you agree or disagree with our proposals?

Q.2 We want it to be an offence if those in control of a dog can't show us that they have the means to pick up and dispose of the faeces from that dog. This applies on any open-air land that the public has access to. Do you agree or disagree with our proposal?



Q.3 We want to introduce a fine of £100 for any offenders (payable within 14 days). Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?



3.4 A total of 902 responses were received to the public consultation and of these, 571 (63%) owned a dog, 72 (8%) worked with dogs and 525 (58%) were Manchester residents. 579 (64%) of the 902 responses contained additional comments which ranged from concerns regarding how the new proposals would be enforced to suggestions regarding specific parks and areas. The full list of public responses is contained at Appendix 1.

3.5 Additionally 5 responses were received from elected members, 4 from interested parties and 4 from friends of parks groups.

These are contained at Appendices 2 – elected Members, 3 interested parties and 4 Friends of Parks

3.6 As can be seen from the above tables the responses to each question indicate support for the proposals and, for each question, the majority of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposals. There were, however, a number of general comments in the free-text section towards the conclusion of the survey, ranging from general thoughts or views to specific comments concerning individual orders or sites. A summary of the main categories is set out below. Careful consideration has been given to the consultation responses which has resulted in changes being proposed to the orders and on which it is felt further consultation is required. These are set out below:

3.6.1 **Site specific feedback**

(i) Beech Road Park Chorlton. A number of respondents raised concerns regarding the proposal to designate Beech Road as an on lead park. This has been given further consideration and it is proposed that this be removed from the on lead order.

(ii) Nutbank Common Higher Blackley. The children's play area no longer exists so Nutbank Common play area will be removed from the exclusion zones.

(iii) Heaton Park – bowling complex and greens. The bowling club, and other respondents have suggested the restriction is reduced from excluded to 'on lead' so that those with dogs are encouraged to engage with the sport. Access to the area is restricted by gates, which are unlocked when the greens are in use. It is proposed that the order is changed to on lead.

(iv) Alexandra Park, Whalley Range - A number of respondents have raised concerns over the exclusion to sports pitches with walk on access as this results in a significant area of the park being excluded. This is an area on which it is felt further consultation is required.

(v) Fog Lane Park, A number of respondents have raised concerns that the walk on pitches offer the safest and most well-lit area of the parks, particularly during the winter months. Respondents feel that during these times, dog walkers will be forced to walk their dogs to the periphery of the pitches, which is dimly lit and there is an increased risk of crime/attack. This is an area on which it is felt further consultation is required.

(vi) Marie Louise Gardens, Didsbury West. A number of respondents raised concerns regarding the proposal to designate the gardens as an on lead park. This has been given further consideration and it is proposed that this be removed from the on lead order.

3.6.2. Maximum number of dogs under control whilst in a public area

The current proposals would make it an offence for an individual to take 5 or more dogs onto a public space at any one time. This is a continuation of the restrictions within the current Dog Control Orders (now reverted to PSPOs) and is aimed to remove the risk of dogs behaving with a 'pack mentality'. Furthermore, it is considered that an individual taking more than 4 dogs into a public place would have difficulties in complying with other PSPO requirements (for example the dog fouling order). As such, a maximum of 4 dogs under the control of any 1 person is deemed reasonable.

Whilst 537 of the 902 respondents agreed or strongly agreed with this restriction, many respondents commented upon this proposal in the 'additional comments'. This feedback can be summarised as follows:

- Professional dog walkers and dog trainers feel that the proposed order is overly-restrictive and will stop them carrying out their duties/running their business
- Orders in some other GM authorities and insurance policies stipulate a maximum number of 6 dogs at any one time and Manchester should follow suit
- Some felt that the specification of a maximum number is arbitrary and pointed out that each dog's behaviour can vary, depending on its training etc.
- A number of respondents felt that 4 was too many and suggested that the maximum number should be decreased.
- Blue Cross were opposed to this order being introduced and instead suggested a dog-walkers licensing scheme is implemented and enforced through the conditions of the PSPO.
- The Dogs Trust raised that the competency of the handler should be taken into account in considering this order but added that 95% of dog owners were in possession of 3 or fewer dogs.
- PDSA suggested this order may not have the desired effect due to the varying capabilities of the handlers and suggested that the authority look to enforce other orders in order to address issues arising from irresponsible dog ownership

It is proposed that the stipulated maximum of 4 dogs, which was the number permitted under the old dog control order, is appropriate and reasonable. Whilst it is accepted that there are varying viewpoints regarding this particular point it is proposed that this restriction is retained. The introduction of a licensing scheme for dog walkers is outside of the scope of this consultation exercise and is not a current consideration.

3.6.3 Sports pitches with 'walk on' access

In addition to the feedback specifically relating to Alexandra and Fog Lane parks a number of respondents felt strongly that it was unreasonable that dogs are excluded from pitches where there is unrestricted 'walk-on' access and no physical barrier between the general park area and the sports pitches. Such respondents felt that the order should stipulate that these pitches should be restricted only when in use. This

issue was also raised in consultation responses from the PDSA, Blue Cross and Dogs Trust, who all felt that the number of areas from which dogs are excluded should be kept to a minimum.

The reason for the inclusion of these areas is to avoid issues with fouling on the pitches which could affect use of the pitches and increase the risk of diseases such as toxocarasis. It is however, accepted that the lack of any natural barrier increases the risk of 'accidental' non-compliance if a dog wanders from an unrestricted area onto a sports pitch when it is not in use. This is an area on which it is felt further consultation is required.

3.6.4 Means to pick up' requirement

The order which makes it an offence where those in control of a dog cannot demonstrate they have the means to pick up were the subject of some debate within the additional comments. Again, the survey replies indicate support for the scheme, with 77% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with this proposal. Objections within the additional comments included:

- Dog walkers may have used their last bag when approached by an authorised officer and would therefore be in breach of the order.
- Other nearby items such as leaves or litter (e.g. crisp packets) could be used to pick up faeces if a person had run out of bags
- The new powers were parallel to Council officers being given 'stop and search' powers and that the tone of the order had a presumption of guilt / wrongdoing on the part of dog owners/walkers
- The Local Authority could encourage non-compliance as dog walkers could choose not to use their last bag in order to remain compliant rather than using it to pick up the faeces from their dog
- There were claims from some respondents that their dog was 'regular' and so they know how many bags to take out.

Whilst these comments are noted, authorised officers are not authorised to 'stop and search' dog walkers and will be reasonable and proportionate in enforcing the regulations at all times in accordance with the Council's Corporate Enforcement Policy. Furthermore, the Council will enforce these regulations in a targeted manner, focussing where there are reported issues with dog fouling as opposed to questioning dog walkers on an arbitrary basis. The overall aim of the order is to ensure that those in control of a dog carry more bags than they would require to ensure they can cater for all eventualities. Regardless as to whether they have used their last bag or the dog's usual habits, dog walkers cannot guarantee their dog will not defecate again if they are in a public place. There is provision within the draft order as to what would constitute means to pick up (e.g. a poo bag). No change is proposed to the draft order.

3.6.5 Enforcement

Many of the comments mentioned the importance of enforcing the orders. The Orders can be enforced by council officers and others authorised by the council to do so. It is anticipated that the majority of enforcement will be undertaken by City Council Enforcement Officers with delegation being assigned to other agencies as required.

All enforcement action will be carried out in accordance with the corporate enforcement policy and will be targeted to where intelligence received from the community, Members, partners and council staff indicates there are problems. The ultimate aim is to achieve compliance with the orders and often this may be able to be achieved through advice. However the orders are necessary for when formal enforcement action needs to be taken.

3.6.6 Wording of the exemptions to the orders

Concerns were raised regarding the nature and wording of the exemptions within the proposed orders specifically with reference to the fact that prescribed charities who train assistance dogs were listed within the draft orders. It was highlighted that there are a number of other charities and organisations responsible for the training of assistance dogs, which is not reflected within the wording of the draft orders. As such, the current orders may be too restrictive in defining the relevant charities. Furthermore, it was suggested that the wording is not consistent with the Equality Act 2010. It is proposed that the wording of the order be amended to:

Nothing in this Order shall apply to a disabled person (within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010) whose disability restricts his ability to comply with the Order and the dog is their guide dog or assistance dog.

Whilst there is no legal definition of an assistance dog, within the order, the following broad description of an assistance dog would also be provided: an assistance dog, in general, is one that is trained to aid or assist a disabled person.

Some respondents questioned the exemption to the order which restricts the number of dogs taken into a public place at once. As the exemption relates to disabled persons (within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010) whose disability restricts their ability to comply with the Order and the dog is their guide dog or assistance dog the exemption is not relevant as the individual would not have more than 4 assistance dogs. It is proposed that the exemption is removed from this order. The defence of 'reasonable excuse' will remain.

3.6.7 Clarity of restricted areas

Some respondents have questioned the definition of the restricted/excluded areas listed within the draft orders. There are no plans attached to the orders to demarcate the restricted areas, however, due to the volume of restricted areas, including all cemeteries as well as the park areas, the inclusion of location plans would present a significant resource demand for the City Council. The current orders, in place since 2008, do not include location plans. No change is proposed to the draft order although signage will be reviewed to ensure restricted or excluded areas are identified.

3.6.8 Reported lack of bins

A number of respondents raised that there was a lack of litter/dog fouling bins, both generally and within the city's parks.

There are no current plans to increase the number of litter bins across the city however consideration will be given to creating stickers to be placed on the general litter bins to inform dog walkers that bagged fouling can be disposed of within.

3.6.9 Lack of dog exercise areas

A number of respondents have referred to specified fenced-off dog exercise areas within parks and suggested these be introduced in Manchester. In part, this appears to be the result of a misunderstanding amongst some respondents that the City Council is proposing to stipulate that all dogs must be kept on a lead in all areas of the city's parks, which is not the case. No change is proposed to the draft order but the introductory web-page will provide a plain English summary of all the restrictions within.

3.6.10 Dog-owners and dog walkers licence requirement

A number of respondents requested that a license should be needed to own a dog and/or operate as a professional dog walker in the United Kingdom.

Dog licenses have not been a legal requirement in the UK since 1987 and their reintroduction is out of the scope of this consultation. Licensing Professional Dog walkers is also out of the scope of this consultation.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 The consultation generated a significant amount of feedback which has been considered and it is now proposed that as a result of the consultation responses the proposed orders be amended and that a further consultation exercise is undertaken on the proposed new orders.

4.2 Following analysis of the responses to this further consultation the Public Spaces Protection Orders which take account of this additional feedback will be made by the Director of Neighbourhoods

4.3 An interested person may apply to the high court to question the validity of a Public Spaces Protection Order or the variation of a PSPO.

Interested person means an individual who lives in the restricted area or who regularly works in or visits that area.

The grounds under which an application under this section may be made are:

- 1 That the local authority did not have the power to make the order or variation, or to include particular prohibitions or requirements imposed by the order (or by the order as varied);
- 2 That a requirement under the legislation was not complied with in relation to the order or variation.

An application of this nature must be made within six weeks, beginning on the day the Order is made or varied. On an application the High Court may by order suspend the operation of the order or variation, or any of the prohibitions or requirements imposed by the order (or by the order as varied) until the final determination of the proceedings.

4.3 If no application is made to the High Court the Public Space Protection Orders take effect from 6 weeks after the orders were made.

Appendix 1
Response to Dogs PSPO – Public Consultation
Reduce dogs in control by one person to three
I would like to request that consideration is given to making Heaton Park Bowls Complex and Greens Dogs on Leads, rather than Exclusion - the reason for this is that access to the facility for public is only when the facility is in operation and the gates are open - the aim is to encourage public to come into the facility and watch the bowling competition and promote the sport and membership of the Club.
Not enough staff are available to check these places and people. We also need tougher regulations on litter in parks.
Some limit to the maximum length of lead should be considered as extended dog leads do not allow proper control.
These rules, and the existing rules, need to be properly enforced. I was a member of a parks group, and one the biggest issues we had, was in having the rules about Dog Fouling enforced. There need to be more enforcement officers to make sure these rules are adhered to, or they are a waste of time.
The offenders could be given a warning first. - What happens to disabled or an elderly person who is physically able to bend to pick up the dog faeces
I live on a regular dog walking route [near Chorlton Meadows] and on an almost daily basis dogs have fouled the pavement or tree pit outside my house. Because I very rarely actually see this happening it seems very difficult to challenge so I am strongly in favour of any steps that can be taken to reduce this happening. Also, at my local park, Beech Rd park, there are frequently dogs not on leads. The the dog control signs have been defaced, making the signs unreadable.
I have always been concerned that even when owners pick up their dog's excrement there will be traces of it left on the grass, often where children are playing and the general public are maybe sitting. This to me seems highly unpleasant and even dangerous and feel public places are not an appropriate place to toilet your dog.
Yes I strongly feel that the proliferation of dogs which are off the lead, poorly trained, barking, fouling etc and other such antisocial behaviour needs to be controlled by measures against the owners. There needs to be more public information awareness about the nuisance factor regarding domestic pets. I feel that there should be some sort of licensing for pet owners and/or they should pay a 'pet rate' towards public cleansing utilities.
should be £1000 fine
Dogs on leads should be allowed to be with owners in outside sports areas such as the bowls club @ Heaton Park. They must be on leads at all times though.!
I am a dog owner and notice that there is a large amount of faeces on my regular walks, even with signage. I am guessing that the owners either can't be bothered picking up or don't have their dogs on a lead and so are unaware of their dogs' actions. All this is pretty obvious, I know. And revisiting the dog control orders is a good thing, definitely. However, it's all very well having these rules and fines, but they need enforcing, and enforcement if them needs to be very obvious and blatant for them to have any effect at all. - - On a separate note, I suspect that since the control orders were introduced, there are now many more people employed as dog walkers. I also suspect that not all of them are official and are licensed with the council. This may result in some walking more than the number if dogs they are supposed to. I have witnessed someone walking seven dogs, for example. So, should there be some specific points in the dog control orders which are specific for dog walkers?
People should be allowed to take their dogs off the lead to play with other dogs. The council should establish safe, fenced off dog parks specifically for the purpose of exercising dogs with other dogs and socialising them. The council should provide more bins for dog waste and should allow dog owners to place waste in their own bins without the double bagging requirement. The council should take steps to allow all dogs on teams proving that they are on a lead. The council should use CCTV to fine owners who fail to keep their dogs on a lead on footpaths next to roads and for dogs without visible collars and tags.

<p>Of course everyone should be in control of their dog, but the more places dogs are banned or inhibited the further this will go. - Every situation should depend on the dog in question.</p>
<p>I fully support greater control of dogs in manchester. My daughter is petrified after being chased by a dog on 2 separate occasions in didsbury park. And my children cycle to school through didsbury park and along the path between there and school lane, they constantly get dog poo on their wheels, I am fed up of having to clean their wheels day after day. - - I'm just concerned about how you're going to police this, there's no point putting all this in place if dog owners know it can't be policed.</p>
<p>I am often forced to complain to members of the public on Chorlton Meadows when they do not control their dogs. They fail to respond on most occasions. Most of the dog-walking businesses take out more than 4 dogs at a time - I see this every time I go out. (I survey birds for the BTO and butterflies & moths for Butterfly Conservation.)</p>
<p>I own more than 4 dogs. I'm a dog trainer I have excellent control The number is 6 dogs for insurance purposes. It's very easy to control 6 dogs, we own a dog walking business. It's giving out the wrong message. You need to either relax the number for commercial walkers or increase it for everyone. Having or not having poop bags is a tough one. I've always got them, in every vehicle etc. BUT if you've just had a walk with a dog who has diarrhoea, you might just have run out and be 10ft away from your vehicle when you get asked and then fined for not having a bag. It's too arbitrary a rule. I understand the sentiments behind it but totally disagree. It would cost more in monetary terms if people opposed it via the council system of appeals, than it would gain. I completely understand the current rulings but in the real world they need tweaking. I'd be far happier if someone was actually checking up on commercial dog walkers like myself and reporting those who walk more than they are insured for. As I think in reality it is the commercial walkers you're after.</p>
<p>Whilst I agreed with the majority of these proposals I feel both as a dog owner and dog walking business owner that whilst these things are great to have in place they are useless unless they are imposed...in the 5 years I have been walking in a business capacity around the didsbury area I have yet to meet or even see any of you officials imposing these restrictions....</p>
<p>Members of the public that use the children's playground that do not shut gates should take some responsibility if a dog enters the playground. Dogs do not understand gates.</p>
<p>But how will these be enforced? There are rules now which some dog owners break all the time but they do so knowing that nothing will happen to them.</p>
<p>Fundamentally wrong and an intrusion on our civil liberties, rights and freedoms to stop a person walking their dog and demand to see proof that they have the means to pick up after their dog. Stop and search for dog walkers? Crazy, just crazy. Orson Welles would be so proud of you. Nanny state gone mad.</p>
<p>Dog poo in public spaces is a real nightmare. With young children / pushing a buggy, getting dog poo on wheels / shoes etc becomes an added difficulty. - - Dog poo can obviously cause harm to children and as such, treading it through the house etc is not only unpleasant but dangerous.</p>
<p>Great idea, am sick of dodging dog poo with my little boy. I wouldn't go out without nappies so dog owners should carry bags and pick up the mess!</p>

Fog Lane Park - Dog exclusion on the playing fields. This is fine over the summer, however during winter when the park is pitch black this is the lightest and most open area of the park because of the main road next to it. - - I use the playing fields at fog lane park in the dark winter mornings as it's where I feel safest. If you put an exclusion on this area you are putting me and other dog walkers in real danger. It would mean I would have to walk my dog in the darkest areas of the park (walking next to thick bushes and away from any street lights). I'm 5ft and around 8st, if I was to be grabbed in that park I would have no chance of escape. If you want to cordon off this part of the park then you would need to provide some form of lighting in the areas we can walk dogs in. - - There was a rape in this park 2 years ago and having to venture into the back of the park in the dark would be terrifying for me. Please please don't take this area of the park away from me. I am a responsible dog owner who picks up dog mess and has trained her dog properly, I don't see why I should be placed in danger because of irresponsible dog owners. Surely the other measures being put in place will ensure that dog owners pick up after their dogs. - - I really think putting myself and other dog walkers in danger in order to stop the few who leave mess is an awful solution and I'm really concerned about what you are suggesting.

Enforce dog owners to keep dogs on lead outside and around grass areas near multi storeys I live in a tower block we can't have dogs and cats but everyone drives their dogs to the grassed areas between our blocks and then releases their animals. This seems unfair and nothing is ever enforced despite the fact we don't have animals ourselves but we have to put up with dogs roaming around

In my view all dogs and cats should be licenced and should have to have a DNA test so that dog and cat faeces from gardens and public places can be tested and have fines automatically issued to their owners. I believe this happens in some parts of Canada and USA with the fines funding them employment of tidy-up crews. - Some dog walkers pick up the faeces but then throw the bags into nearby trees or bushes; come autumn when the trees are bare there are often bags of faeces hanging off the bare branches revealing the disgusting laziness of some owners. The Chorlton Meadows Conservation group has volunteers who go out periodically and clean this foul mess up. - Regarding cats, my wife is constantly having to tidy up cat faeces from our garden which is frequented by numerous cats on our street. Because we do not have cats ourselves they find this a useful convenience - literally. - While I am at it, there should be at least one room in every pub where dogs are not allowed and breach of this rule should lead to a loss of licence. - You may have concluded from this that I do not like animals but, on the contrary, I am a subscribing member of several animal conservation societies. My complaints refer to selfish pet owners.

If these proposals go ahead it's vital that additional designated dog waste bins are placed around the city. The bins in Castlefield particularly are always full, and there is frequently no where to put dog waste. We desperately need a specific dog waste bin along the canal towpaths where there's a high number of dog owners walking as it's not on a road.

I am not sure it should be an issue to have more than 4 dogs on land. I have two dogs and my mum has two dogs and we often look after each other's. My dogs are well behaved and it should be an issue

Are you going to go up to a dog walker and ask them to empty their pockets to see if they have a bag, you could just as well go to anybody eating, smoking, and say have they the means to dispose of their rubbish and then give them a fine for not carrying a bin, what about people who spit on the street, by the way I am not a dog owner, but to propose to search dog owners is horrendous even the police need grounds for a stop and search.

<p>I believe that the fine is not high enough to be a deterrent and is less than a good night out. It should be at least £200 for a first offence, with strong measures to enforce payment. Also the number of dogs allowed should be reduced to two, four is too many to handle when a problem arises with either other dogs or individuals. All dog walkers with more than one dog, should have them all on leads at all times to reduce conflict. The term officer appears to be weak as I understand that we only have 2 for the whole of MCC and they would not be on site to address any issues at a crucial time. Surely the public have the right to request that a single dog should be put on a lead where a dog appears to be creating a problem especially if it is harassing children.</p>
<p>Are you saying that you are going to go up to a dog walker and ask them to empty their pockets to see if they have bags, you might as well go up to someone who's eating or smoking and search them fine them for not carrying a bin, what about people who spit, giving yourself this power of stop and searches horrendous where will it stop. I am not a dog owner.. -</p>
<p>I disagree with the area proposals at Fog Lane park. During the winter months before 8am and after 4pm it is extremely dark and unsafe in the park. The football pitches are the lightest and safest area in these hours. We now have to organise group walks in the winter because nobody feels safe in the park, even more so if we are restricted to the darkest parts of the park. As an example, a gang of kids were shooting fireworks at me and my dog while walking in the park last winter. Incidents of anti social behaviour (such as fires and intimidation) have been reported and authorities are unable to respond due to lack of resources. There are not enough patrols, or lighting in the areas of the park that dog walkers will be restricted to. This needs to be seriously considered before enforcing any new restrictions.</p>
<p>It's ok having these offences but how are the people who commit them going to be caught and fined? Council staff are not around to witness the offences. There is already a fine in place for fouling but I have never heard of anyone being charged! - - More dog waste bins should be provided because even those that pick up after their dogs don't always dispose of it responsibly, we see full doggy bags everywhere, hanging from hedges etc.</p>
<p>The amount of dog faeces left in public places is disgusting and unhygienic</p>
<p>I think 4 dogs is too many, people should be limited to one. Professional dog walkers should have a licence for a maximum of 4 dogs. Otherwise it should be one dog per adult.</p>
<p>It is very severe to fine someone for not having a poop bag with them. I don't own dogs, but have in the past. On occasion, just grabbing the wrong coat leaving the house could make someone an offender, which seems a bit much. On any occasion in the past where I found myself caught short in the past fortunately (or unfortunately) there was always some piece of litter hanging around that could be used to clear up the job. There are also owners who successfully train their dogs just to go at a designated spot at home - penalising these seems extreme too.</p>
<p>I'm really supportive of responsible dog owners but there are way too many who aren't responsible. As well as the new PSPOs please invest in Enforcement Officers to actually ensure that these laws are enforced.</p>
<p>Please consider fines for careless owners who let their dogs roam the streets freely.</p>
<p>Can this be extended to the streets where people live as it is an issue beyond parks and play areas</p>
<p>This is definitely needed. I live in higher blackley next to a public footpath used by many dog walkers and lots just let their dogs do their business at our gate and leave it. I don't own any pets but end up cleaning it to prevent it being walked all over the path which then will end up in my home. The same should also apply to people's gardens. My neighbour's garden is disgusting particularly on warm days when the smell of dog poo can be so unbearable that we can't sit in our garden.</p>
<p>if it can be enforced i would be a great</p>
<p>What a load of cobblers</p>
<p>Dog fouling is awful particularly by New Islington Free School. It's such a shame little children risk stepping in it every time they go to and from school.</p>

I'm slightly concerned that an owner may have taken bags but have used them all and be about to leave the park and go home when they are stopped
Rule on means to pick up faeces need to be clarified
As both a dog owner and a parent of young children I strongly agree it should be enforced when people don't clean up after their dogs, and don't adhere to safety guidelines and requests to put dogs on leads. I'm on the fence about people not being allowed to walk more than 4 dogs at a time - as long as the dogs are on a lead and the person has the means (and Intension) to pick up their mess this is fine by me.
Responsible dog walkers always have pockets full of bags. The ones who don't pick up anytime or pretend they haven't seen their dog never have any bags. Great idea. -
How will you enforce these regulations. How will you enforce the regulation on maximum number of dogs? On Chorlton Meadows professional dog walkers frequently have more than 4 dogs per person. What will you do about dogs owners who leave poo bags hanging on bushes for the dog poo fairy to dispose of?
The Council are targeting dog owners with pettiness. This is whole process is a waste of money.
It's all very well making up new offences but where will the enforcement come from, particularly in residential areas?
A dog should not have to be on a lead in a big area, such as Heston park.
personally id make the fine £500
its a disgrace to see on public footpaths etc. catching them is an issue.people need to be held responsible for there pets actions.Lets keep and update the laws for this offence
New signs should say minimum fine not maximum. And if not paid should be attachment of earnings or added to council tax if they are responsible for the bill
Dog fouling is a huge problem committed by a small minority it would just take a few penalties to be enforced to hopefully make a difference
I think this fine is not high enough. Also it should be over the whole area of Greater Manchester not just the City Centre. There are so many dog poops on our streets and people just dont care. Also what about a foot path cleaner not just a road sweeper, the paths have not been cleaned for a very long time.
Too much dog poo in public places and irresponsible dog owners!!
My only worry is the power to enforce , sadly repeat offenders will most likely not care , if they are in social housing they should accumulate points if they fail to abide which could lead to the confiscation/rehoming of the animal .
To enforce these orders it will be necessary to have staff to carry this out, possible hot spots would be roads/streets on the lead up to a park or fields known to dog walkers as a lot of dog fouling in Moston tends to be on the streets leading to the fields. The collection of fines is also an issue, payments not being paid . More staff needed to follow up the non payment. Staffing may be an issue
In and around Chadderton are signs saying we love Chadderton, please pick up your dogs poo and bin it,, Manchester Council should done the same
It is the dog owners responsibility to care for the dogs and to clean up after them - no excuses
Owners are the problem
The fines should be higher and means tested
Fines should be means tested.
about time - 4 dogs is too high. - - Also my reading of this a blind/deaf person can be in charge of more than 4 dogs why?
Good, strong proposals, but how will they be monitored?
Something needs to be done about people "depositing" the bags not in bins. Fletcher Moss is a disgrace, for example.
Fine should be higher

<p>I am a resident of Levenshulme, where dog faeces is in abundance on the pavements (one, outside the gate to my house) and grassy areas, i.e. Highfield Park, near St. Andrews School (where I was once told by a guy with hyperactive Rottweilers without leashes that I shouldn't be stood at the park gates if I was scared of dogs). - - Obviously this- along with the gratuitous amount of fly-tipping- is a discredit to those who truly care about making the streets better and who are in control of their dogs. However, as a daily user of the cycle path, I find I am frequently annoyed by people who do not leash their dogs, as they frequently walk into the line where I am cycling. - - I believe that if these laws were brought in, it would be imperative to employ more numbers of regularly patrolling community support officers who would impose them.</p>
<p>What would happen if you have used all your poo bags, dog done his business already several times, or you had given spare bags to other walkers and someone asked you to prove you had the means to clean up after your dog, even though you know you wouldn't need more on way home. Would you expect dog owners to carry many more bags than necessary.</p>
<p>I am a dog owner. I think we should bring back Dog Licenses. I wish penalties for animal cruelty were far more severe.</p>
<p>As a lover of Heaton Park & keen BMF'er (boot camp) we constantly step in dog pop thst has been left- it's disgusting. People who do not pick up their poop are being Lazy & rude. In favour of a fine</p>
<p>There should be more wardens to inforce this. Where I live is a strip of green and I see dog walkers who don't pick up the poop</p>
<p>I would suggest any one person with three or more dogs cannot control them all at once. This can cause a pack mentality and cuase more distress to other dog walkers and non dog walkers. - - The fine should be greater than £100 and multiply if they are repeat offenders.</p>
<p>The problem with dog poo bags is if someone is on the way home, say, from a dog walk & has already used their bags.They have cleaned up after their dog, disposed of the poo correctly yet will still be fined under these proposals - because they haven't got a spare bag-knowing they won't need one!Most dog owners do have multiple bags but the fines should be for owners who let their dogs foul without cleaning it up not someone who might be calling into the shop later to buy some more! Come down hard on the evidence not the intent.</p>
<p>Occasionally I forget to take a bag, but will find some other way to pick up the poop - there are normally plenty of discarded carrier bags, bits of paper, cups etc. lying around Ancoats. I would be deeply upset to be fined £100 for simply not having a bag if no poop had been left on the ground. I fail to see how a civil enforcement officer can actually require me to show I have a bag about my person anyway. It would make sense to better enforce the existing rules.</p>
<p>Being a dog owner myself,I'm verymuch in agreement with the new proposals, - So sick of lazy individual's who don't think it's their duty to pick up after their pets.</p>
<p>Adequate number of bins available to stop people who use the bags from hanging them on trees etc.</p>
<p>The fine should be greater than £100, increase to £1,000. - - I knew a thief who always carried the amount of money on him for the item he stole just in case he was caught and said the theft was a mistake. In other words dog owner will have black bag but will not use it and say it was a mistake they did not pick up dog poo. - - You are asking dog owners to pick up the dog poo in a black bag. Where I live the pavements and country walkways are covered with black bag full of dog poo. Your draft proposal has nothing re dog owner taking the black bag home with them or putting in bins provided. - - The council should have the means to store dog DNA from dog poo found in dog poo bags found in street or country paths to enable the council to prosecute dog owners at a later date.</p>
<p>I agree regarding people not having bags etc to collect dog waste, but carrying a bag does not mean sadly all people will use it. Having small children monitoring play areas etc would be excellent news - and dogs on leads etc, near children. More waste bins are also required.</p>

I confronted a serial offender only yesterday and was swore at. He did have bags but chose to walk away. The biggest culprits of letting their dogs foul are the early morning walkers. They don't pick up after their dog foul, as no one is around to see. I'd like to suggest the Compliance Officers could target specific hotspot areas in the early morning to show that Manchester City Council workers are flexible and target not just in core hours. All areas could be targeted every 2 months for example, until compliance is working and improvement is made. - Also can the community have support from the officers, a contact number or email address to report offenders, and send video evidence?? - Could leaflets be letterboxed warning of the penalties and hazardous risks associated with dog fouling as well as the other areas raised. Social media and media outlets are a fantastic tool to communicate the changes but backing it up with a hard copy through the door and advertising in libraries, leisure centres, parks etc.. Would drive the message home. Martin Reilly.

As much as I agree that failing to pick up dog mess is disgusting, I think that money could be well spent on providing free dog poo bags (like parts of France and Spain) and installing more bins in problem areas. - As a dog owner myself, I am never without bags, but have been approached multiple times by dog owners who have either run out or forgotten theirs. - In my opinion, making sure there is no excuse to not pick up dog mess will reduce the amount of fouling and give the council a stronger stance if/when it comes to prosecution.

We need to see fines for those who do not dispose of bagged dog feces properly. - We also need to see more prosecutions for those using "dogs as weapons".

Human faeces is a bigger problem in Northern Quarter and Angel Meadow

Beech Road park in Chorlton is becoming difficult to walk through without a dog jumping at you. The owners in general take the park to be for them, not for general use. I think that all dogs should be on a lead in this park, the area is small and you can't get away.

I have noticed an increase in dog fouling incidents around Whalley Range.

I would also like more signs along the outside of people's houses saying no fouling, I am sick and tired of opening my gate to have dog poo all over the floor !!! My street is a mess at times you have to dodge where you walk

Manchester is one of the dirtiest cities I have ever lived in and any attempt to make it cleaner should be welcome.

Dog mess doesn't seem to be everywhere like it was when I was a child but I would still like to see it totally eradicated.

It just beggars belief, it's like a 'pre-emptive strike' on dog owners.

A responsible dog owner like myself has taken poop bags with them on walks and picked up numerous poos only for the dog to do another one when all the bags are used up. In this case I usually pick it up with whatever rubbish I find on the street or a leaf. I think it's a bad idea. Best to look for scallies walking big pit bull style dogs, following them and catching them not picking up the poop when they inevitably leave it on the floor.

I always pick my dog's poo up but I don't carry a whole pack of dog poo bags with me. I always take a couple in my bag but why should I be penalised if I've already picked up my dog's poo?? How would the council know if my dog has already done her business and I've already picked it up. If I run out of poo bags (always take two or three with me so hardly ever happens), I'll still always pick the mess up using a leaf or a piece of paper from my bag. - - Why don't you concentrate on people who are letting their HUGE illegal dogs run around off lead? I have a tiny timid dog who is constantly being pestered by huge dogs running around the street off lead. I've told owners to put their dogs on leads and been shouted at - these are the dogs that are creating a mess because they aren't controlling their dogs

If a bag(s) has already been used to pick up poop and the owner has none left, this shouldn't be a crime. It's either an accident (or the bags have been lost) or the dog has had more bowel movements than expected. It's not irresponsible dog ownership, it's an error.

This proposal for a new offence is a great idea. There is so much dog mess around these days AGAIN. I ALWAYS carry and use bags. It's only right to do so.

<p>As a dog owner myself I agree that tighter controls are required, many times I have seen owner letting dogs of there leads to do there poo in church properties, I have even offered poo bags to other owners who have taken offence at my offer, I am also a great believer that dogs should be on leads in parks or other venues where children or sporting facilities are, but I have also noticed that horses used by the police don't have equipment to remove their waste, and yet I've seen horse collecting poo bags on horses even camels so if there is a law regarding animal waste collection it should be for all animal lovers even the police, also if fines are to be handed out, time to pay should be added because not every one has the means to pay,</p>
<p>I have 2 dogs and agree with all of the above statements. - I always keep my dogs on leads in public spaces and always clean up behind them.</p>
<p>If you dont follow through with these sensible and vital controls then public health will continue to be jeapourdised by toxicaria and dog to dog viruses.Sadly only regulations with any force behind them will have any positive impact on the irresponsible behaviour of the few but disproportionately impactful dog owners. Manchester needs to stay in the forefront of world class cities for public safety and enjoyable public environments.Precautions like the ones proposed are the only way to stay on the right side.</p>
<p>Dog owners need to take responsibility and be held account when they don't pick up their dog feaces as it's a health risks to young children particularly. Also it's disgusting!</p>
<p>Under your proposals for M9 there will be no access to allow my dog off lead. As a single woman it is not possible to use Alkrington woods (rochdale) on my own due to safety. Cooper lane park, nutbank common (where there is NO Play facilities and is used daily by dirt bikes and quads... also earmarked for housing under the proposed GMSF) and plant hill park are the only local places I can allow my well trained dog off lead! Also it is the dog walkers that pick up litter in the parks, report fly tipping and anti social behaviour. I will absolutely take this to Westminster if you ban dogs from our local parks. You will create unhappy residents and a welfare issue for dogs and people especially elderly residents who are not so mobile & enjoy these parks with their dogs (when the youths are not setting fire to things)</p>
<p>I believe we should be working to make it an offence to have any dog off the lead in a public place. We should also be making it an offence that all owners carry bags and people shouldn't have more than two dogs at any one time.</p>
<p>I think those who don't pick up will just carry a bag with them and those who do usually pick up will be penalised for their forgetfulness (if caught out responsible owners would ask other dog walkers for a spare)</p>
<p>I live in Northenden where all rules regarding faeces are frequently ignored and never policed. The streets are strewn with animal faeces and on a regular school run of less than 0.3 miles ir is normal to pass 8-14 individual poos. Likewise, the parks we frequent have even bigger problems. Marie Louise Garden being a particular troubled spot where dog owners frequently leave dog faeces- my children and I witness this on almost every visit. Again, this is never policed and poses a substantial health risk. Your rules are irrelevant if never enforced. The riverside in Northenden is one big dog toilet. Nobody cares because they know they will remain unpunished.</p>
<p>Instead of taking parks away from dogs how about you concentrate on the gangs of youths terrorising our parks. I'm sure that would be more welcome than anything.</p>
<p>To create parks only for dogs and to fine the ones that allow dogs to enter in the playground. Also, all the playgrounds should have a fence (eg. Chorlton Water Park playground doesn't have a fence and this is dangerous).</p>
<p>Dog fowling has been on a incline in and around the city something needs to be cracked down to deter irresponsible selfish owners. Possible more dog fowl bins around too though.</p>
<p>I think the idea of being able to harass people to see if they have the means to pick up after a dog if the dog hasn't actually done anything is tantamount to totalitarianist fascism. How can you persecute citizens for a "non crime" it's ludicrous and tyrannical</p>
<p>Don't agree with a blanket ban on dogs without leads in the non-childrens play area of Beech Road Park or similar areas which should not be designated as such.</p>
<p>Anyone who doesn't evidence a bag for picking up dog fouling should be given a fine</p>

<p>Education, not fining people is the way forward. We don't need a new generation of Little Hitlers slapping fines on people. - Failure to pick up dog faeces should not be an offence in all circumstances - common sense should be used instead. Please bear in mind that so-called bio-degradable poo bags will take many months, if not over a year to degrade, whereas if left dog faeces will bio-degrade in a few weeks. I am strongly of the opinion that if dogs defecate in locations extremely unlikely to be frequented by the public, their faeces should be allowed to degrade naturally.</p>
<p>Fines only work if they are enforced. Plus a lot of people know they won't pay (for example, because they are on benefits or already have too many court payments been taken) and will not care. All up for fines but we will need more officers out and about. Maybe it would be cheaper to have people cleaning the streets? Also. While dog fouling is terrible, so is littering. I feel absolutely disgusted by some of our streets. Some areas are swept once a year only! Please improve that as well or maybe fines should be extended to include littering which I see daily.</p>
<p>Probably a waste of time completing the survey because Manchester Council will do what it wants anyway, as it always does.</p>
<p>You need to increase the enforcement officers ten fold. I have never seen any in Brookdale Park, and often see faeces on paths and grass. I belong to the majority of dog walkers in Brookdale Park that picks up our dog's faeces 100%, but there is no way to stop the "don't care less" owner who just wanders along not interested in their dog's whereabouts, or toilet habits.</p>
<p>There is confusion about what are exclusion zones. For example the River Mersey riverbank walks in Didsbury, Chorlton and Heaton Mersey. Marie Louise Gardens. Fletcher Moss Gardens.</p>
<p>Ideally extend these proposals to cover the whole of Greater Manchester not just the centre or specific public parks. This could reduce confusion over when laws apply or when they don't. - - Also anyone (members of the public) could have the right to ask a dog to be put on a lead and if the dog owner doesn't and it can be proven then charges could be brought. - - Being told that the Yappy dog around my baby in a pushchair is just being friendly lacks respect and consideration and possibly safety. It also restricts children playing out due to fear of being bitten or balls eaten (this has happened several times just outside my house so I'm sure it's a general issue worthy of consideration). - - All dogs to be microchipped with owners details. With Police, Community officers and other similar officers having access to chip readers. This may also improve prosecution outcomes.</p>
<p>Most owners are fine but have some odd ones who break the rules.</p>
<p>Licenses for dogs should be considered.</p>
<p>All open spaces and parks should have control orders with instructions of where and when dogs can be let of the leads.</p>
<p>I always bring one plastic bag when I walk my dog. After she has poo'd and I've picked it up and disposed of it, I would not be able to demonstrate that I had means of disposing of more poo - but she only EVER poos once per walk. Obviously I could start bringing two bags, but many people will not be aware of this new rule and could possibly find themselves similarly without a bag after their dog has done its business.</p>
<p>We have a dog in our family. I think you have also find a way of rewarding good dog owners. - Finding ways of positive reinforcement, not just sticks but carrots too - On a recent trip to the Isle of Wight, it is very obvious how they have marketed the Island as the most dog friendly place in the country. Dog friendly cafes, pubs, walks, beaches, places etc - People have then responded positively to this better than, 'you can't do this, that or the other' - -</p>
<p>You need to go a lot further to eliminate this menace</p>
<p>You can't go to a park or public space especially with children and feel safe. Dogs are out of control in this city.</p>
<p>£100.00 may not be the most appropriate punishment, due to low income families. Maybe community work around the issue of maintaining a safe and clean city would be more appropriate and a learning tool for the community and offenders. Some people with high income may not see the fine as a punishment - inconveniencing them and taking up their personal time would be more of a punishment and again a learning tool.</p>

Some of the streets around our city are a disgrace due to the selfishness of some dog owners. Parkfield Road North and Belgrave Road in New Moston are particularly bad for dog mess on the pavements. People walk their dogs at night and don't clean up after them so homeowners are forced to clean this up the following morning. I would like to see more dog patrol wardens but they need to work rotas to catch people at night.

- I agree to stricter controls, as long as the one who is punished is the owner and not the dog. - -
The dog is innocent.

Fine should be lower, £50 more suitable

We take our 10 month old puppy to fog lane park in Burnage. We keep him on the lead in most places where there will be children or members of the public e.g the playing fields, for his own safety more than anything, and I agree that there should be fines and consequences for irresponsible dog owners who let their dogs off the lead or who allow them to go to the toilet in public spaces. I would like to ask that the Council considers putting in place designated/zoned-off 'off-lead' areas for dogs. A significant number of people who use parks like ours are dog walkers (I walk my dog twice a day in our park and it is not often I see someone walking without one), particularly in colder months when they are not being used for sports etc, and I think this would encourage dog walkers to still take their dogs to the park.

I am a member of Heaton Park Bowling Club, there are a few number of members who are responsible dog owners who have entered the facility with their dogs on a lead and have never been left unaccompanied. I would strongly agree that we permit members along with members of the public who would like to enter the bowls facility with their dogs on a lead so they can participate in the sport or just sit and watch a game of bowls.

£100 is too much. Also, many dog owners pick up poo but then throw the poo bag onto the ground.

It doesn't seem right that a blind/ deaf disabled person should be exempt from the dogs on leads/ 4 dogs rules. Or that a deaf person shouldn't have to pick up poo! - otherwise, as a dog walker, I'm for all these rules. I get very angry with non-poo pickers as people think we all are as bad.

More enforcement needed, otherwise the consultation is just words.

It is clear that there are still a lot of irresponsible dog owners. For instance, they may have the means of clearing up after their dog, but then leave the bags by the side of the paths or hung in trees!

As a dog owner, my dog sometimes does multiple poos! Sometimes i run out of bags, go and find something else to pick it up with and come back, if i am stopped but at the end of my walk i may have picked up all the faeces but have no bags left, is it fair to fine someone for that?

The dog may have already done lots of poos and the owner has run out of bags, is nearly home and gets stopped by a dog warden and ordered to produce poo bags - they can't comply and get slapped with £100 fine. This doesn't seem fair and I think there should be some context - it isn't a straight black and white rule. What if they have fallen out of your pocket, you gave your last one to another dog owner in need, there are lots of reasons why a responsible dog owner would be, on occasion not be carrying poo bags.

In the draft it says " (c) has a disability which affects his mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects and who relies upon a dog trained by a prescribed charity for assistance." - - There are a number of people who have dogs and who are unable to do this easily or at all. Many have dogs, but few have assistance dogs. I feel there should be leeway for them. - - Clearing Up - Quote "The obligation is complied with if, after a request from an authorised officer or constable, the person in charge of the dog produces an appropriate means to pick up dog faeces." - I can support these proposals only if there are no "spot checks" i.e. you can be asked to produce a bag, only if the dog has defaecated. - - Otherwise, these seem reasonable amendments

<p>That fine of £100 is way too high in comparison to other fines, e.g. a parking ticket. I strongly agree that it should be an offence to not pick up after your dog, but that is too big a fine. An officer having the power to issue a fine to someone for not putting a lead on their dog when asked is also risky and giving them too much power, for example, some dog walkers simply drive their dog to the park, park up and let them out straight off the lead. That officer can now potentially punish that person for simply not having their lead with them, which is wrong and unfair.</p>
<p>It is a pity that these are not necessarily enforceable. I see people in Fletcher Moss waiting till someone has gone past, then not clearing their mess. Also know people who seem to feel these rules do not apply to them in Stsner Woods, but these are all very public places where children roam. I am a dog lover but when I see the difference in places where these rules are observed, I must agree with the benefit from having dog owners behave responsibly.</p>
<p>I am concerned as there will not be enforcement and only responsible owners will comply.</p>
<p>Only problem with fines are that many elderly, vulnerable and homeless people have dogs for company and/or warmth and they would not have the means to pay such fines. - There is a risk of making dog-owning affordable only by 'the rich', which would be a great pity.</p>
<p>The same rules should apply to cat fouling</p>
<p>On sport field people take the dog along to watch children as dog part of family and these events could be all day so the welfare of the dog is being met. I agree that dog should be allowed around the perimeter on a lead and dog owner should clean up after their pet.</p>
<p>I very strongly agree that all dogs should be under the control of whoever is exercising them. I walk regularly around the River Mersey and its environs with a Health Walk group and am fed up with having to dodge around dog mess. More power to your elbow!</p>
<p>All of this is very commendable, but who is going to enforce these rules? How many people does the council employ to do this and who are they? Are there enough of them to enforce these rules and if not, is this just another box-ticking exercise?</p>
<p>How will these rulings be enforced?</p>
<p>Not only should the before mentioned be an offence, if a person is unable to control, keep on a lead and clean up after the dog, then the dog should be taken from them and they should not be allowed to have another dog in the future. Staffies off leads are a menace, two staffies savaged our dog causing £1000 worth of vets bills and 4 months under vets care, and one staffie in Nuturst Park play area, not on a lead, caused children to leave that play area. The owners refused to remove the dog when requested</p>
<p>Dogs should be kept on a lead in parks garden areas. Notices should be in place to inform dog owners not to allow their animals to - leave their faeces in the borders . Volunteers and council staff have to work in these areas. It is very unpleasant to be gardening in a dogs' toileting area. - Notices should also advise re disposal of bags with faeces in. People should be strongly advised not to hang these on trees or throw in the borders.</p>
<p>Consider reintroduction of dog licence and possibility of DNA data base to facilitate identification.</p>
<p>Fine too high. £50 plenty to be a deterrent</p>
<p>Fine should be higher</p>
<p>If this is introduced I expect it to be implemented and include areas close to open ground and forests I live in Blackley New Road and we do not benefit from the same services as other areas- such as Didsbury</p>
<p>Fantastic news! Clean up our city's streets</p>
<p>The fine should be more. Sick of seeing people walking a dog and it defecates in the street and they leave it</p>
<p>I think community service would be better than a fine. By making people pick up rubbish etc you'd save funds/ resources and not punish people who are likely going to be in the lower socioeconomic class already.</p>
<p>Even if they bag it, they must bin it. But, I feel more bins need to be provided. Small estates have only 1 bin or no bins at all. Place more bins and more people will use them.</p>

I've had trouble with the council acting in my complaint in regards to dog muck in the past. A local resident was allow
I'm sick of people using public parks/fields etc as dog toilets I'm fuming every time the inevitable happens and have to clean trainers/clothes the latest trick is to use poo bags then throw them in bushes they are more disgusting than there animals
The area I live in this is big problem lot of owners with dogs on leads don't pick up i have 3 different dog messes outside my house at the moment
Any enforcement needs to be alongside suitable & plentiful dog waste bins; using common sense where dogs are off lead e.g. Old dogs who aren't running around; having suitable spaces for dog walkers if you are restricting public spaces e.g. Dogs welcome around the outside of playing fields, but need to be on lead. Dogs need their exercise too and shouldn't be treated as a nuisance.
Stronger fines should be given to owners who allow their dogs to foul outside schools, nurseries etc
I have reported dog walkers on numerous occasions. People walk dogs in my area as it's very quiet,dogs not on leads, dogs walking onto private property. I've had a couple of heated exchanges due to the above.
Offence if dog escapes from property and leaves a mess which the owner does not clean up.
It'd be great to have fenced off areas in public parks to let your dog off without having to worry about runners or cyclists etc. I don't think it should passed that dogs have to be kept on leads in public parks. There's nowhere else we can take our dogs and let them run.
Dispite trying to check Rugby Pitches at Houghend ahead of each game, for the past few seasons we have to clear dog excrement off children which is unacceptable and also dangerous.
I strongly agree with the proposals. I have young children and use several parks. The numbers of irresponsible dog owners who leave dog mess and and let dogs run up to my kids really bothers me. Clearly a stick is required for some owners to be less antisocial.
Dog poo is presently too prevalent in the city. -
If anything the fine should be higher. Please ensure this proposal is extended to Bolton. I am currently a witness in a case against someone who didn't pick up after his dog twice, and who has failed to pay the fixed penalty. Need more dog wardens.
I'd also love it if you made people keep dogs on leads in Heaton park. I run there everyday and often have to run from dogs out of control. When walking my young son often have to shield him from dogs running at him. And I'm a dog lover, always have been.
I coach a local grassroots junior football team, every session I have 7-10 year olds trying to avoid dog faeces, then removing it myself. This is on a field with clearly marked out junior football pitches. There are signs warning people to clear up but obviously not enough is being done to enforce this.
We have a problem with dog fouling outside our house. We've contacted the council about it several times. Thank you for proposing to do something about it.
Dog poo is a major issue and needs to be dealt with.
Have seen some dog owners purposely not cleaning up after their dog in park and on pavements - how would these offenders be caught
Sometime you forgot your poo bags and can't pick up
I think the fine should be higher (250) - And if caught three times (1000) -
Well done for this initiative, I hope you manage to get it sorted
I don't own a dog but fining people £100 for not carrying a doggy bag is yet another money grabbing scheme by MCC. if you must fine it should be a nominal £10!

This is just another ill thought out way to create revenue for the council mainly from honest law abiding residents yet again. - I have had dogs all my life and have never once failed to clean up the dog mess when out on a walk. I have however used all my poop bags by the time I am on my way home on many occasions, does this make me an irresponsible owner? How do I prove that I have cleaned up after my dog already? Why should I pay? How many bags do I need to carry on me at all times then? - How exactly are you proposing to enforce this ludicrous idea? Even the police don't have the right to see what is in our pockets without adhering to strict protocol so how do you expect a council worker to carry this out? How then will they fine someone for not complying? "Here's a ticket please be honest and pay it"? Ridiculous. Yet again someone over paid suit wearer has come up with a great way to generate more money from us that will in fact affect the honest and hard working rather than tackle the real problem dog owners directly. Why don't you employ more wardens to patrol specifically problem areas/owners? Create more jobs and stop targeting honest people. - When this proposal goes through, which it will because it's a licence to print money and we as the service user don't have a vote or have our opinions listened to, I propose you donate all revenue from this "tax" to local dog charities. Show us that this is genuinely to tackle dog fouling problems and not to fill the coffers!

As a responsible dog owner I agree with these proposals however am very concerned that these proposals may be extended in the future to banning dogs from all public places, such as parks, as is happening in London. Dog owners pay their rates and taxes which contribute towards the upkeep of parks and open areas the same as everyone else so should be allowed to enjoy these areas with their pets the same as every other citizen of GM. Making certain areas designated solely for dogs is not an option, as in my experience, these areas are unpleasant, overcrowded and not nice for dogs or their owners to be in! Part of the joys of dog ownership is to be able to enjoy parks, open spaces and the countryside with our pets as others do with their children - we do not wish to be relegated to being able to visit certain areas only like second class citizens so please do not make this happen !

I'm really pleased you are doing something constructive to stop dog fouling

I don't see why you have included guide/help dogs in the exceptions for maximum number of dogs. There is no reason why anyone requiring a "help dog" needs to have more than 4 dogs with them, so no need for these exemptions.

You should also install more dog poo bins along well known dog walking areas. In particular simosway Wythenshawe, where there are none.

We use the field at the back of Fog Lane Park as this is a very well used area for dog lovers, we do not have any problems here as there are lots of bins for waste and the area is away from the football pitches and the play area.

- very important to improve the environment , should be implemented across the whole of Greater Manchester

In addition to these offences it should also be an offence to leave dog dirt in bags anywhere other than in dedicated bins or to be taken home, the extent of dirt left in bags is a disgrace, All dogs should be licenced

on one hand as a responsible dog owner i agree that if you're taking a dog out you should have poo bags etc - strongly so. - - i also have friends who are dog walkers who regularly take dogs onto public land (in a responsible manner) and are in charge of up to 4 dogs, I can't see the benefit in criminalising that? - - Half the problem is the dogs bought out without leads who are used as weapons and set on other dogs being walked by irresponsible owners causing criminal damage who know they are in little danger of being prosecuted. Are there sufficient powers to prosecute criminally minded dog owners who flout the laws at times when enforcement officials aren't going to be around.

You can not make it an offence if they cannot show that they have the means to pick up dogs poo as they may have already done so and disposed of it and therefore would not have a bag to show you. Surely it's better to have no bags due to already disposing rather than not picking it up as u only have one bag left and may have to show someone that you have a bag

<p>If introducing more fines which will generate more money there needs to be investment into more dog waste bins across the city. - Also issuing fines for someone who cant show an officer that they have the means to pick up is ridiculous. You are creating a job for no purpose. Someone may have just used their last baggie! And why would you have someone going round asking this!? What a waste of resources.</p>
<p>All dogs with strong jaws should be muzzled in public places and kept on a lead at all times. If an owner cannot control a dog for example, does not come when the owner calls it, the dog should be removed from the owner's care. Any owner found not being able to control dog should also not be allowed to keep a dog in the future without training. Any person wanting to own a dog with strong jaws should require a licence. Reasons for this are, whenever a dog does something dangerous the owner always says, 'the dog has never done anything like that before'. That is the exactly the reason owners should require a licence because they don't seem to understand that have a massive potential to be dangerous. There are many dog bites each year, Labradors and Jack Russells are some of the greatest offenders in this but their bites tend not to be fatal but are still dangerous dogs.</p>
<p>Please continue with enforcing these regulations</p>
<p>As a dog owner I always pick up after my dog when out walking. There has been a rare occasion where I have forgotten poo bags or have run out whilst on a walk. Fortunately there were other dog walkers around who were able to assist, it appears unfair that in this example I may be penalised if asked to prove I have sufficient means to clean up after my dog. As an alternative solution was found, of course there are people who blatantly don't clean up and have no plan to and these are the people that should be penalised.</p>
<p>clear signage to make the public aware of hte offences and penalties</p>
<p>This would be great as im sick of people not cleaning up especially in parks like hollyhedge park. Also the pavement in front crossacre primary is filled with dog poo.</p>
<p>I hope you have the staff and resources to police the proposal</p>
<p>Some dog owners are very responsible. The irresponsible one's spoil our neighbourhoods and risk peoples safety from uncollected faeces.</p>
<p>Failure to prove the ability to control / show control of a dog should also be an offence if not already</p>
<p>The arrogant people who don't bother picking up after their animals will just carry the bags but not use them. People who take bags with them and do use them (and then have none left) will be fined under your ill-conceived rules. Spend some money enforcing the 'fouling' rules instead of spending money fighting the 'carrying bags' rule in court. I always pick up and often don't have any bags left by the end of my walk. And where I live, some people pick up and then dump the full bag on the pavement.</p>
<p>The fine is large enough to be a deterrent. No reduction of the fine should occur whether it is paid promptly or not. The payment period should be mandatory for the full fixed amount!</p>
<p>I walk my 2 dogs and always take bags out but I dispose of them in litter bins, what if I've disposed of them already ? - Am I expected to take extra bags out just in case I am stopped ? that's ludicrous !</p>
<p>I support any measures, existing or additional, to encourage irresponsible dog owners to clean up after their pet. Dog fouling is a blight on our city and a health hazard. Exercising dogs on public playing fields should be an offence. - The proposed £100 fine for not having the means to clean up after your dog is insufficient, I believe, to act as a deterrent; make it £500 or £1000. Sadly I think these proposals will ultimately have little effect as they will not be enforced.</p>
<p>How can you check if a person has bags or not. You have to take their word. As you can't stop them and look in their pockets or bags. V</p>
<p>Do you want addresses of known offenders?</p>
<p>Punish them to the point where they are scared to reoffend and others are scared of offending</p>
<p>I agree that it's an offence to clear up but wonder how it can be policed</p>

<p>Dog owners make up a huge proportion of residents who use our public spaces including parks. Not all dogs are good with people or other dogs and in some Manchester parks there are designated secure dog areas. These are a fantastic idea looking after both the wellbeing of the dog and other park users. Is it possible to have more of these areas in our parks? An example of these are in Crumpsall park.</p>
<p>The existing legislation on dog fouling should be enforced rather than bringing in more legislation to be enforced.</p>
<p>Please think about ways to reduce use of plastic bags whilst reducing the amount of dog faeces left in public places. I.e. The national trust is trialing a Stick and flick campaign.</p>
<p>I don't feel that this issue is an issue worthy of this sort of attention, it certainly would not be in my top ten issues I would want my council to give time and extra attention to. I see people sleeping in doorways & immigrants being given council houses. Please sort this out before exaggerating the problems with dogshit.</p>
<p>I feel the current legislation is not being enforced in my local area and dog walkers do not clean up the dog mess. So we need more stronger legislation and for it to be enforced</p>
<p>Maybe provide bags at disposal bins so if you have used one you can get access to another one, seen these in Spain</p>
<p>Keep up the great work. We rely on these logical rules to keep Manchester a clean place to live in and enjoy!</p>
<p>There should also be measures for dogs at home. For example, a howling dog that is kept in a yard for extended periods of time..</p>
<p>As a responsible dog owner I strongly agree to the proposals you intend to put in place. But will they be enforced?</p>
<p>You should also legislate / enforce where there is an increasing presence of dogs in cafes, restaurants and places where food is prepared, served or sold. Especially in light of the increasing number of serving staff / food workers petting customers dogs and then returning to working with food, utensils, etc. without washing their hands.</p>
<p>People run dog walking businesses and use parks and green spaces. They should be required to register with the council and be required to pay a licence fee. Areas for dog walking should be clearly defined, and any breach attract a fine - - , -</p>
<p>Is there any regulations in place for muzzles on dogs?</p>
<p>I am not a dog owner but.....Think it is unreasonable to expect dog owners to be responsible on all grounds with public access eg wasteland as other rubbish can be there with little redress. Parks and other maintained land is reasonable. - Concerned that council officers at risk if not fully trained to deal with aggressive dog owners. Why not have handheld machines to take cards - or pay by phone as most walkers will have a phone compared to a card if only walking dog. collecting cash will probably only turn into a long debt collection exercise with little reward. Will cost outweigh perceived benefit?</p>
<p>We think that dogs owners should not let their dogs foul on the pavements at all, as they cannot clean every bit up. Instead place the dog off the pavement. I have been out numerous times to people who look into your property while allowing their dog's to foul on the pavement. Also why is it OK for dogs to urinate on your garden walls and gates, as they leave undesirable smell's, of dog wee. We visit our local park and see lots of dogs off leads and lots of owners Not picking up mess, if they think no one is watching them. We have also noticed the increase of dog walking business, with dog walkers with up to six dogs attached to their waistband. I hope you do not think we are obsessively against dogs, we have had dogs in the past, it's just that we have been having quite a bit of trouble with this problem and it seems to be increasing each year. - Regards - Stephen&Aileen</p>
<p>Living near Heaton Park dog fouling outside and on route to the park is extremely noticeable, whilst a fine may seem appropriate perhaps something more stringent such as a Court Order, or name and shame could be considered as additional measures.</p>
<p>The more people are fined the more others will make sure they pick up. I think that there should be a fine for having a dog in the children's playground in a park too.</p>

Extendable leads should be retracted on footways, footpaths and shared cycle ways.
Feels like the costs and processes to set up the new proposal could outweigh any tiny benefit. Not sure this would be the biggest priority.
The schedule lists very specific public spaces but only the dogs on leads order applies to all pavements, side streets etc. Why do the other orders regarding fouling for example not apply to ALL public spaces? People frequently leave dog mess on the pavement on my street (Yew Tree Road, Withington) and the surrounding streets.
Excellent! - Long overdue for Dog walkers to make sure they have the means to pick up fouling, especially at late evenings and nights. - Very welcomed - Should be enforced immediately!
I strongly agree with all of the above. I have 2 dogs & always carry poop bags on their leads. However I believe that dog poop bins should be put up for people to dispose of such things. It's difficult to manage 2 dogs when out on a lead on the main road and also carry their poops around. Regards.
Peel Hall Park in Wythenshawe has a huge problem with dog mess not being cleaned up, people taking dogs into playground area and sports area. We even have a couple who bring their dogs onto the Park, tie up the Park gates and let their dogs off their leads. Gates are tied up so their dogs can't escape - can't believe it!! Woman when confronted becomes verbally abusive..... Anything that can be done would be greatly appreciated.
The council needs more money for public services. There is dog mess everywhere. Efficient fining would solve both problems.
We need to have more officers to monitor on this situation and also fine the people who violate those rules.
Dog mess is a real problem in my area. It needs to be tackled as it really pulls down the status of the area. It makes me feel ashamed of where I live.
Raising awareness and education dog owners about their responsibilities
I live near Heaton Park and walk there several times a week. I would like to see enforcement of existing rules, such as no dogs in designated areas. It is a rare occasion when I do not see dogs running freely on the sports pitches and in the area in front of the Lakeside Café and Stables café. It would be great if there were designated areas for off-lead dogs, with the general rule that they should be on short leads. I wrote to you last year following a dog bite in the park, but your response did not address any of my concerns. I visit other parks, such as Regents Park in London which is divided into 'no-dog' and 'dog Ok' areas. In order to police this, dog owners could be charged to enter the park, in the way that motorists are charged.
Most of the questions put forward are flawed. The already responsible dog owners already do as the laws ask. The irresponsible owners will carry on as normal, a fine won't deter them. What would be the cost to the council to chase fines?, Staff cost to catch these owners. - People should be able to have more than 4 dogs if controlled. Having 7 well behaved dogs is still better than 1 out of control one. - You also need to check the places these orders would be implemented as one place in the consultation no longer exists, so I feel if you can't get that right you can't be trusted to get these rules right.
The fine is not much of a deterrent. It should be increased to at least £500. Here in Chorlton there have been several dog attacks on other dogs recently and a couple on people. I have also seen dog mess in local parks. There are existing fines yet these make little difference because they are not enforced. If the council is serious about tackling this there need to be patrols and people need to see owners being fined.
As I hope being a responsible dog owner who keeps his dog under control and cleans up after them I would like everyone to do the same
It's very hard to implement these rules when the owners don't care

<p>I have heard a number of people comment on social media that they do not carry dog bags but use gloves and tissue paper for example. Your proposal covers that adequately but I would like to see dog owners having to have dog bags because anyone can pull an old plastic bag out of their pocket and say they were going to use it. - In future I would also like to see legislation ensuring that all dog bags were bio degradable especially for when they are hung in trees or dumped on streets, but that is for Parliament unless it can be introduced at a city level to lead by example. - Thank you for taking action.</p>
<p>I live near a park and regularly find dog mess on the street - it is also on the way to school so I have to constantly keep a look out in case my children step in it.</p>
<p>I would like to see Chorlton Water Park subject to dog control orders. Dogs are just allowed to run free here as there currently isn't one and as someone who spends a lot of time there I see a lot of problems. - - - There are often fights between dogs which can be scary. - - I have had to warn owners on several occasions that I will defend myself if their dog comes any closer when I or my children have felt threatened by a dog acting aggressively. - - I have seen cyclists attacked and my daughter has even been chased on her bike by a free running dog. - - There is often dog mess on the grass where people sit, at the entrance and even near the kids playground. - - Dogs often run into the water around people fishing, getting tangled in line and ruining peoples fishing. - - They chase the wildlife. There has been occasions where my children have been feeding the ducks and dogs have chased all the ducks away causing distress to the ducks and my children. - - The park is far too busy with joggers, cyclists, picnics, children and people in general for dogs to just be able to tear around with no control. There are also plenty of meadows and woods in the area where dogs could run free without causing these issues. - - If they wanted to swim in the lake there could be designated dog bathing areas to avoid conflict with other park users. -</p>
<p>In the Cringle Park, Levenshulme, near us, we often noticed people cutting/removing hair of their dogs in the park. Further consideration be given to the facts when the dogs, running in the park, moved freely into the food stuff of other people while their owners are always far behind from them, spoiled the food and left the psychological effects on kids . Better to spare some parks for the dogs only, if appropriate.</p>
<p>When on a lake where wild life are and dogs just roam free</p>
<p>In some instances, the dog owner may have genuinely forgotten to take some poo bags with him/ her, before setting out; therefor, it would seem fairer to give a warning, take down the owner's details, and only impose a fine if there is a second offence. - In public parks, where it is stipulated that dogs must be on the lead, I believe it is particularly important for the Council to enforce compliance, since many elderly people who do comply with the by-law often feel threatened by dogs off the lead.</p>
<p>The offence should include the scenario of dog mess being bagged up but the bags left as litter, hung on convenient branches or thrown into private gardens. Thanks for looking into this problem.</p>
<p>Dog mess is a disgusting problem caused by a minority of dog owners. Targeting these effectively and punishing the irresponsible ones is the only way</p>
<p>Also leaving litter, such as a wet wipe the owner has used to wipe their hands, after picking up. Also smearing faeces onto pavement as they are pretending to pick up. Use DNA services to check on dogs. Also ability to control where dog deficates i.e. not in house gateways.</p>
<p>As a dog owner and living close to Mersey Bank Playing Fields I do oppose to dog walkers not being allowed to walk their dogs on the fields. I litter pick twice daily on these fields and have campaigned to have new bins installed to combat the litter and dog fouling issues. I liaise on a regular basis with the local Councillors and raise any issues via the contact center. There has also been a noticeable improvement in the area since our litter picking group West Didsbury Wombles have been active in improving our community. I would ask that you consider dog walkers access on Mersey Bank Playing fields as I know that the fields will not be maintained to the standards that they are currently. Also they main issue on these fields are with Fletcher Moss football team and the supporters who do not pick up their litter which I have raised on many occasions with the team manager Dave Horrocks.</p>
<p>I think professional dog walkers should be limited to less than 4 dogs</p>

<p>this is a good idea if common sense is used by issuing officers. If the dog escapes from the garden, house etc and the owners are trying to get it back in they will obviously not have bags on them</p>
<p>I am a local resident to Mersey Bank playing fields and am horrified at the suggestion that dogs should not be allowed. Local residents keep the playing fields free of litter and we have started a "Wombles" group to keep our area clean and litter free, we have actively campaigned for larger multi use bins which dog walkers actively use, there is little if not any dog faeces that is not picked up. If it were not for dog walkers the playing fields would be a sea of plastic bottles, Co-op and MacDonald wrappers left on or by the football pitches by the young footballers and their parents who drive to the playing fields and drive away again, with the consequent danger to the health and well being of wildlife eating inappropriate food and the wrappers. Thus leaving dog walking residents to clean up the mess they have left, in fact we often time our walks to coincide with the end of the football practice so we can clean up afterwards. This is because we care about and appreciate our environment.</p>
<p>I think the proposals are fine but how are the areas going to be monitored? How many officers will be covering saying all the parks in Didsbury. It's all very well saying people are going to be fined but if there aren't enough officers on patrol, then the proposals will be ineffective. It's the same with the litter problems. I've not seen any litter wardens out in Didsbury, yet there are notices saying £80 fines will be issued. Are you expecting members of the public to confront dog owners who flout the regulations? I think the proposal to limit the number of dogs Dog walkers are allowed to be in charge of is very necessary. I was involved in a incident whereby a dog minder who had at least 6 or 8 dogs with her - one of the dogs (a large staffie / bulldog type) came up to me and planted its paws on my thighs. I was scared and the woman who was supposedly in control called this dog, which took no notice. My friend went to "shoo" the dog away - but did not touch the animal. A shouting match ensued, there were a numbers of other witnesses who verified our case.(I was on a group walk). The woman maintained she was in Trafford and it was permitted. We were on the Trafford /Chorlton borders by the river Mersey. The dog walker was clearly not in control. The dog did not attack me but I was shaken. I am citing this as an example of dogs walkers / walkers being in control. None were on leads.</p>
<p>Please be clearer on when dogs must be On a leash. I am petrified of dogs and nobody has them on a leash in parks anymore</p>
<p>This is a poorly worded survey, with terribly leading questions and insufficient information on the existing position to inform the public what your surveying them on</p>
<p>It would also help if the council would put more bins for the poo bags to be disposed of properly, hopefully stopping people hanging them in trees.</p>
<p>If only there was a 'common sense' clause in these offenses - rather than funding some one with a target to bite people in the wallet in the case of a genuine nistake or as an educational exercise.</p>
<p>More bins would really help</p>
<p>I feel that the number of dogs one can be "in control of" should be increased to 6, as in other MBC areas of Gtr Mcr. The phrase "in control of" is the key , as in walking a dog in the countryside - as long as a dog is "under control" with the emphasis being on the ability of the walker to ensure that the dog does not cause any issues in it's environment.</p>
<p>Discretion needs to be used. The areas you propose to include are unacceptable in a dog friendly area, it's a disgrace. And the fact this is flying "under the radar" shows you have no confidence in this being the right course of action!</p>
<p>As a professional dog walker its high time these rules were applied</p>

The focus should be on those owners who are irresponsible. In the case of using leads in public areas, there should be common courtesy between dog owners and non dog owners. A responsible owner will know when to put their dog on a lead. And if someone is afraid a short request to place the dog on a lead whilst they go past is not unreasonable. People should work together and responsible dog owners (and dogs) shouldn't be punished. Having many dogs on retractable leads is more dangerous, which is what will happen if an off-lead ban is brought in. A version of the dog license should be brought back so that responsible owners can be rewarded, and irresponsible owners brought into line. Equally children should be taught to ask if they can stroke a dog before doing so.

The proposed areas are ridiculous, and do not represent the wishes of the community!!!!

Dogs should always be on leads near or around playgrounds and areas there may be children. Many dog owners are responsible but for the few who are not even the most compliant of dogs can become dangerous at any given moment and safety should always come first! I think this should include areas of a park that is not a playground but I believe open fields should be ok to be unleashed.

You wont get real details off people who dont have poo bags, they will give you false details! Who is going to enforce this??? I'd rather see real enforcement of fly tipping and other anti social behaviour. - - Are dogs really causing that much disruption/nuisance in public areas? I doubt it! Yes I see the issue in terms of dog fouling but restricted areas is punishing everyone! Plenty of people are responsible dog owners. - - If you want to restrict areas then you MUST provide alternative secure areas for dogs only. Where they can run freely in a secure area where there's no children etc. - - This needs more thought so dog owners are not being punished.

It is not uncommon to start a dog walk with a pocket full of 5 bags and have used then all by the end. At that point you stupid be liable to a £100 fine, which seems unreasonable. A dog walker might be tempted to get away with not cleaning up the poo that used the last bag rather than be caught with no bags.

Dogs off leads should be allowed. We have children that don't behave, putting all kids in chains for bad parents is a similar proposal. Dogs that can't behave are already subject to dog laws.

Dogs get upset stomachs very badly at times. You could have simply run out due to this. Even after 6 poop bags/dog.

Sometimes your dog(s) may deficate more times than expected, meaning a lack of reasonable disposal options. Case in point: I walked a dog for a friend, brought 10 poo bags thinking that would be enough. It wasn't, it really wasn't.

Please do not penalise responsible dog owners for the failings of others. Dogs are generally well behaved. It's their owners that let them down. - - Some times children also cause nuisance in open public areas and drop litter, but their parents are not fined.

I think Dogwalkers should have licenses plus be allowed to walk up to 6 max but must have training in dog behaviour and this must be part of the licence that has to be approved and recognised

Insisting that dog owners keep their dogs entirely off unfenced sports pitches even when not in use and even if they pick up faeces is unreasonable as it misunderstands the relationship when e.g. training a dog, a dog responding naturally to other dogs, fear, sudden noise. It is not possible to control a dog 100% in all circumstances even for a responsible owner. Your plans would make all my local parks into no-go areas for dog owners wanting to provide appropriate exercise to meet the needs of the animals as is necessary under existing laws. The minimum reasonable additional arrangement would be to have a substantial enclosed area in each affected park for exercising dogs, at enormous expense and no doubt affecting the look of and enjoyment of these 'open' spaces. Excluding dog owners would have a massive impact on some owners in particular, the elderly and those with poor mental or physical health, increasing social isolation. It is also unclear where the enforcement officers will come from. I have never encountered an officer to enforce existing arrangements in 12 years of walking a dog in several of the named parks and other spaces. Perhaps this is where the council should focus its energy and resources, including ensuring there are enough bins to put the waste bags in and that they are emptied sufficiently frequently! The council could also address the spate of dog poisonings in local parks in various areas, which is a serious criminal offence and poses a risk to children and wildlife as well as dogs. This initiative reeks of an opportunity for a private company to come in and make money by harassing dog owning residents in the way that has been highlighted with unreasonable fines for accidental littering and spurious offences. Please think again and undertake proper consultation with dog owners and other park users. And think about running pilot schemes before rolling anything out across the city.

Dogs like pitbulls should be kept on a lead in all parks that have childrens play areas.

The proposals are a mess because they contradict each other. You're going to make it illegal to let a dog exercise on football pitches on Chorlton Park?! That's most of the park. All you need to do is to properly enforce existing laws.

Please don't spoil the joy of having a dog!

i live on a walk used by mothers with young children who run on a small grass area which dog owners use for their dogs toilet, they don't pick up their dog dirt and when challenged aggressively give a string of abuse

A warning should be given first

Where parks or land have different zones that aren't separated by fences or gates then it can be difficult to keep dogs away from areas that you may want to designate as areas where dogs should be on a lead. Dogs need to be off lead to exercise but if an open space where this is permissible is right next to a space that is not fenced off where people may be playing and having picnics then it is not fair to penalise dog walkers if dogs stray into that area. I'd like to understand more about what constitutes 'sports land' - there are various areas that have poorly used football and rugby pitches that are not fenced off - could we not categorise sports land actively in use as a space where dogs should be on leads, rather than areas that have pitches that are not in use - it would limit available space for dogs to get exercise if you implement the suggestion as all sports land.

My only concern is that just because someone carries a bag it doesn't mean they will use it - in fact if using their last bag means they will be left without means you are incentivising them to NOT pick up! I think persistent offenders won't care about this change as they will just keep a bag on them...they are required to pick up now anyway so what has really changed.

as a reasonable dog owner my self and vice chairman of the local tenants assoc i am for ever trying to avoid walking in dog poo we have been fighting to get dog poo bins and notices put up on the estate due to redeployment i.e. new est being built councils response was we no longer supply poo bins or notices no wonder no body around here can be bother to clean up after there dogs

Some dog owners need to be taken to task for failing to conform to sensible rules

Target true antisocial behaviour not majority of responsible dog owners

<p>People can and do run out of poo bags. Responsible ones will find other means to remove the mess. When your DCO originally came in to effect they were poorly enforced in Heston park particularly and the press had a field day with officers trying to enforce no poo bags. Think that out carefully. If they don't pick up is one thing but what if they have already used their bags ?</p>
<p>I don't think they is any thing wrong with walking group of dogs off the lead. as long as they have a good dog to person ratio and the dogs are under control. Dogs need to be off the lead to be exercised correctly and also love to play in groups.</p>
<p>Litter is a problem not dogs</p>
<p>A dog walker may have used up all the poop bags whilst on the walk with their dog. Who can predict how often a dog will want to go? - Also, how will this be monitored ? Could be an invasion of privacy / harassment. Are you planning to employ somebody purely for this? Waste of taxpayers money, that could be better spent elsewhere.</p>
<p>How will you enforce this? Do you have enough officers?</p>
<p>It is understood that there are certain people who do not have the capacity and means to control their dogs this is true , however there are more of us who are sensible dog owners , who care for , and can handle dogs in a safe and secure way for everyone concerned . Some people own more than 4 dogs and need to be able to walk them all this would cause hardship for dog owners .</p>
<p>I know dogs are already banned from children's play areas and sports courts but I strongly disagree with them not being allowed on football pitches.</p>
<p>I think people should be made to spend the day picking up dog faeces/Litter picking as part of community service as an alternative option to the £100 fine.</p>
<p>A lot more dog bins in open spaces, and more signs,stating these laws, so ppl have no excuses.</p>
<p>It seems that as many football or cricket pitches in local parks are used sporadically if at all, so the enforcement should be reworded to keeping dogs off the field WHEN IN USE. - May i also draw attention to the dumping of food waste and the poisoning of animals either deliberately or otherwise, with special attention given to repeat offenders, a warden or officer is needed as efforts by locals ie printed signs and speaking to offenders has had no effect.</p>
<p>I ALWAYS clean up after my dog but have on occasion used the last bag on a roll after cleaning up after my dog and -quite often- after someone else's dog. It would seem umreasonable to fine such a person in these circumstances. - - Also, the large fields in Alexandra park contain football and cricket pitches . Like the other dog walkers I meet in the park I always respect organised activities on these pitches and keep my dog away. However, most of the time these pitches are NOT in use. I think it is unreasonable to prevent dog walkers from allowing their dogs to play , run and chase balls at times when the pitches are not in use- especially as there are large areas around the edge. Dog owners are also responsible for the well being of their dogs. Healthy, socialised and well-adjusted dogs need to RUN to be adequately exercised. -</p>
<p>Carrying a bag is no guarantee that faeces will be picked up or removed. The lack of a bag might only indicate that the dog has passed faeces and the last bag has therefore been used. Far better to enforce the current regulations.</p>
<p>£100 is too much. - This fails to address by biggest concern. Out of control dogs attacking my dogs (who I always have on a lead). There is never anyone around to tell them to put the dogs on a lead so that law is useless. All dogs should be on leads in public spaces unless the owner can demonstrate complete control over them. Thats the law we need.</p>
<p>I agree with the proposals so far but have no idea how they will be policed. I use our local park twice a day to walk our dog and cannot remember the last time I saw any one in any official capacity.</p>
<p>Ban non-biodegradable bags as people will bag the poo and then chuck the bag on the floor. Worse than not picking it up in the first place.</p>
<p>Fine should be less say £25</p>

<p>I disagree with the set fine as, while I strongly agree with the proposals, I think personal circumstances need to be taken into account - ability to pay, and suchlike. Where dog owners are homeless I would be very concerned if a blanket fine or blanket policies impacted on their ability to keep dogs. I am a dog owner and am responsible in the care and management of my dog, whether on- or off-lead. I'm more concerned about people who do not care for their dogs or who cannot or will not control them than I am about blanket policies or bans that may be enforced without consideration of circumstances.</p>
<p>Do you have the staff to Police these ideas? If not, it's really only a PR exercise!</p>
<p>I think the penalties for not picking up after your dog should be higher, along with imposing penalties for people who are not in control of their dogs</p>
<p>As a dog owner I still would like to be able to walk my dog near my house and for her to be able to run around and have some freedom from being locked up during the daytime. I understand that this may not be practical near children and playgrounds. I don't think this is the main issue though, I think dog poo is the biggest issue where I live (m16) as lots of the people who own large status breeds don't tend to care about picking up after themselves. The second biggest issue is dangerous dogs! Alexandra park is rife with dogs who are off their leads but out of control and dangerous to other dogs and children. I think you should introduce a dog registration system, or a dog licensing system, to keep track of breeds and owners. This would help to keep an eye on dangerous incidents, and make it easier for you to enforce fines or removal of dogs from irresponsible owners. People should carry dog licenses with them so they can prove they are a responsible and caring owner, as I have met SO many dangerous dogs and individuals in Alexandra park in particular. My dog has also been attacked a couple of times in Alex park so I really feel this is an area that needs more monitoring by council staff!</p>
<p>Concerned about the exclusions and prescribed charities listed in 5c. What does this mean? What about dogs trained by other charities?</p>
<p>I do not see why dogs need to be on a lead in open spaces and pathways. This is healthy exercise for them and the general public is protected by laws already in place as to how dogs should behave. The area I live (Chorlton) has a dog friendly atmosphere and I believe this would be a major detriment to this. Chorlton Water park has seen a major decrease in the level of standard the park is being looked after since the council put this into private hands, surely this needs addressing if you want to make public spaces more enjoyable</p>
<p>Too many people out there don't seem to know about these offences,so would like to see posters etc out there.</p>
<p>Chorlton Park football pitches - that is most of the park and rarely used for football. So why say no dogs there?</p>
<p>I agree that dogs should be kept on a lead on all pavements and paths but not public parks and open space</p>
<p>No excuse not to pick up after your dog. Lots of bins around.</p>
<p>Although we always carry bags (plus extra for people who don't !) there could be an occasion when someone has honestly forgotten/run out of bags I feel a lesser fine of £30 -£50 better.</p>

Dog owners know how their dog poos. Once they've used their bags and scooped it up they might not have extra ones and then you might come along? You need to get dog walkers on your/our side to police this themselves unless austerity is over and park wardens return in bigger numbers. Do not mess with the current arrangements for Beech Rd Park or we will lose active Friends of the Park and the building of co-operation cohesion of all users. - For Beech Road Park, the draft MCC proposal to make local dog walkers keep ALL dogs on a lead in ALL areas would lead us into a range of problems. The current arrangement of a dog free play area and sports pitch generally works very well. It is the dog walkers who tend to keep the park safe as they visit at all times and in all weather. For certain, it is mainly the regular dog walkers who volunteer their time everyday picking up litter which includes all sorts of 'paraphernalia' from the night before, which if left could be dangerous to children and others. Only today, the Chair of the Friends, had to put out a smouldering fire in the bug bin, spotted as he was walking his dog whilst litter picking. There aren't enough park workers/wardens to do the job that dog walkers do in trying to keep the park from deteriorating further because of austere cuts. Most of the active Friends of the Park are dog walkers who include the park as part of their dog walking routine. If they/we had to take dogs elsewhere for all their walks (as most dogs have to be off the lead sometimes to play and exercise) we wouldn't be using the park in the same way and it realistically would deteriorate. Others without dogs might step up to look after it in the way the dog walkers do but in the last 30 years, we haven't seen evidence of this in that everyday, longterm, consistent way. The 'dog walking community' in BRP is very friendly, people have made friendships which in turn has led to people getting more involved in the community in a positive way. It is the dog walkers who talk to each other and who have tried to guide the teens using the park (because they are often there when they are there). The dog walkers help to make the park more safely accessible, leading generally to a cohesive park community. They are not anonymous like they might be in larger public spaces and generally they 'police' themselves challenging inappropriate dog owner behaviour. It would be a retrograde step in the development of the park and we hope MCC will recognise this. The Friends of the Park would like to ask our elected Councillors John Hacking Matt Strong and Sheila Newman to assist us in expressing this view and we appreciate any assistance they can offer.

There needs to be more waste bins as they can be few and far between which doesn't help people who aren't inclined to pick up after their dogs

Thought the initial fine was a tad too high but should definitely increase with subsequent fines.

Whilst I agree broadly with the proposals being put forward, I would highlight an issue with regards the Dog Exclusion document. This document effectively suggests owners are barred from letting their dogs off the lead in any part of any park in Manchester. This would presumably mean that areas in parks that are set aside for owners to run their dogs off the lead, such as in Beech Road Park and Chorlton Park, would be abolished. If this is not the case then it needs to be made clearer in the draft document. If this is the case, then it needs to be reconsidered, as these designated areas are popular with owners, and are a low-risk opportunity to have the dog off the lead for a brief period of time.

The idea that a person with a dog can be detained and searched just for having a dog is sickening. A decent solution would be to increase the fines for failing to clean up and employ more people to police it.

rather than fining if a memeber of public can not prove they have doggy poop bags maybe a better idea to trail giving out some bags. Also putting more dog poo bins in public areas may help solve the problem.

Quite a high fine while other offensive behaviours do not get fined high enough

Those of us who walk dogs use the parks more than any other people...at least once a day, if not 2 or 3 times for those who have no outdoor space of their own. Many of the dog walkers also voluntarily clean up the park after other people. Yesterday I picked up the remains and packaging of a macdonalds meal for 4 in Chorlton parks football field and put them in the bin. I use this field for playing frisbee with my well behaved border collie and for long distance training. Can't do that on a lead. - I understand the importance of putting a lead on when the football field is in use, some dogs may try to join in. By my understanding, I shall be banned from using this field even if I am the only person there!?! Why? I feel that dog walkers are being picked out and penalised for no reason.

How are the new offences going to be policed? Do we send relevant footage to the council and act as a community warden? Why ban all dogs from football pitches when it is a small minority who leave dog mess? For Fog Lane park there has been a long campaign for a secure dog area. There is space - the filled in pond for one or the recently reseeded area that was used for equipment storage when the railway bridge was being replaced? All the orders are irrelevant if the enforcement is not carried out rigorously and consistently. From the mess already evident in parks and on pavements enforcement is not happening.

MOST DOG WALKERS I SEE DO COMPLY TO PICKING UP THE DOGS FAECES HOWEVER ON OCCASSION YOU DO SEE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE TAKE THEIR DOG BAGS HOME AS THE BINS BECOME FULL OF EXCREMENT AND WHEN A BIN IS FULL IT CAN BE OVERFLOWING WHICH I THINK IS NOT NICE

£100 fine for dog pooh is too much and should be income compatible, especially as sometimes disputes happen when my female dog has urinated by another dogs pooh - - Some dogs are so old and/or so well trained they do not need leads or are driven to open dog friendly spaces and so the owner does not have leads on their person. - - Dogs who bite (who are reported and registered as a dangerous animal) should be preferably re-homed or kept on a lead with muzzle at all times with their owner registered as the keeper of a dangerous animal. This kind of animal should wear a red lead and tag by law, stating caution, as shown and explained in the links about colour coding leads below, which is an excellent idea that could be adopted by Mcr city council, especially for the benefit of parents and children who do not know if a dog is safe.
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3182612/The-rainbow-guide-dog-s-softie-Company-produces-different-coloured-collars-pet-s-temperament.html> - -
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Approach-Personalised-Accidents-Incidents-GUARANTEE/dp/B00MNCROQ6>

Whilst I support the rule to pick up faeces, I don't see how you could enforce a rule that says you have to have the means to pick up the faeces. Could you have already picked it up and used your bag

Some national organisations are now recommending a 'stick and flick' approach in certain areas such as woodland - this entails moving the dog mess with a stick to ensure it is not on or near paths. It is considered more environmentally friendly as does not require plastic bags. It would be nice to see this considered.

There are plenty of orders in place - enforce them.

Solutions will have to be considered for disabled people who may rely on their dog and love them.

If my dog has already done it's business I may have already binned the poo bag. I therefore wouldn't be able to prove I had the means to pick up after them. How about making more bins available I often have to carry a full poo bag for over an hour as there are no bins available. This would encourage more people to pick up after their dogs. - Going down the route of excluding dogs from public spaces or making them remain on a lead means it will be difficult to exercise dogs properly which is dangerous in itself. -

<p>Hi, as a responsible dog owner I agree with the vast majority of this. However, I do not understand why beech road park in M218af would now require dogs on leads in the whole park, when half of it is already fenced off for children's play. This is a significant change. What is the rationale for this? I understand chorlton meadows is close but this is impossible to use in the dark and as a woman alone with a small dog in a high crime area I really value the safety of beech road park to walk my dog in the dark. This is not an option on chorlton meadows, and lead-walks only do not give energetic dogs enough exercise. This really risks alienating reasonable dog owners and putting them at risk, going out into chorlton meadows in the pitch black on their own. (I would never dream of not picking up after my dog or risking it hurting anyone!)</p>
<p>Depends if the dog is a nuisance to be ordered on a lead..</p>
<p>This survey is poorly constructed - there is no explanation, context or background to this - - Is the council proposing that all dogs must be on leads at all times in Manchester open spaces? - If that is the case it's ludicrous and completely unacceptable - - It's not clear - - And I'm an experienced digital professional.</p>
<p>I wish Manchester City Council spent as much as attention on the food flytippers in the parks of south Manchester. They are poisoning dogs yet MCC ignore reports of this.</p>
<p>How do you intend to police this?</p>
<p>There needs to be an amendment, dogs are not allowed to be on sports fields when they are being used for sport. In Alex Park, Whalley Range, I play ball with my dog when there are no matches, this is more often than not. I never allow my dog to foul the field. It is reasonable to ban dogs from the fields when people are practising or having a match, I have no issue with this. I think overall the council needs to recognise that responsible dog walkers do a lot to keep parks safe by being there. We don't have park keepers really any more. The more parks are used by ordinary people, the safer they are. Being heavy on responsible dog owners will drive dog owners out of parks, I think you will see more anti-social behaviour within parks as a major user of parks goes elsewhere as a result. Irresponsible dog owners will continue to be so, regardless of fines. Who is going to enforce the fines anyway? And at what cost? My dog will run happily onto the sports field if there is no match and we play there, always without leaving dog mess. Kids watch her, clap when she jumps for balls, laugh and come to see her. She is part of the community too. It is wrong and cruel to expect that a dog will never be off lead (unless there is a medical/social reason related to that dog for this to be so), the Dogs Trust charity have expressed serious concerns about this too. Instead of fines, put the money into a park keeper again. Who can identify responsible dog owners. Who knows their patch. Give someone a job. The courts have enough to do and enforcement for these penalties is expensive and not very successful. Don't alienate responsible dog owners, major users of parks, all big issues. Just an amendment would do for now, so we don't risk fines if we play ball with a friendly dog on an empty sports field.</p>
<p>I strongly oppose the proposal for not letting dogs off their leads in beech road park. Dog owners are a key part in the park community here, making it safer through supervision and tidying up rubbish.</p>
<p>As a responsible dog owner, I feel it would be detrimental to enforce the need for dogs to be kept on a lead in Beech Road Park. Dog owners are key in ensuring safety within this park and detract from antisocial behaviour. I have no issue with ensuring dog owners are responsible, however the proposal to ban dogs or keep them on leads is unfair to people in the area.</p>
<p>A few negligent dog owners/walkers give the majority a bad name. Not only do the owners not clean up but they also allow badly trained/ untrained dogs to run loose and annoy other owners and their dogs.</p>
<p>As a regular user of the Marie Louise Gardens, I strongly object to the proposal to force dog owners to keep their pets on leads.</p>
<p>This is survey is dog shit</p>
<p>Playing fields are not in use full time so the order should be amended to say 'when playing field is not in use'</p>
<p>All dogs should be muzzled when out in public. This gets rid of the difficulty of the dangerous dog definition. All dogs should be muzzled</p>

<p>I think people need to be given warning on a two strike basis. Fines won't solve the problem.</p>
<p>I would like to see these laws enforced more rigorously. My children's way to school is usually littered with dog faeces (m16)! We have even had dog faeces left on our drive! People will only change if they are held accountable and made to pay.</p>
<p>Warnings should be given first. Ability to pay should be assessed. There is danger or panalising responsible dog owners because of ones who do not care.</p>
<p>I have owned dogs for over 25 years. I always pick up dog poo but will confess that over the years I have run out of bags. On these rare occasions I have used a leaf to remove it. Don't penalise responsible dog owners for the rare occasion that they have run out of dog poo bags. Have a little look at the chronic litter droppers first. Are we not a nation of animal lovers? Put this enforcement money into animal welfare or looking into owners who have dangerous dogs which the Police won't pursue. And stop removing dog poo bins.</p>
<p>I generally agree but as a sensible and respectful dog owner I also know that occasionally dogs may misbehave despite an owner's best efforts so I think these rules should be applied pragmatically. I would argue more focus should be put on crimes against dogs. There are poisonings and dog deaths in Whalley range and I see no effort to deal with this. Likewise, the excessive amount of dumped food in public parks. This is more dangerous than dog faeces.</p>
<p>No point having these rules unless they're enforced.</p>
<p>Dogs which are not kept under control are an almost continuous nuisance to me as I walk around the city (I mainly travel on foot). I would appreciate more frequent and strict enforcement of the dog control laws that already exist.</p>
<p>Whilst I agree with the intentions in respect of dog fouling, I also think each case needs to be taken on individual circumstances. i.e. if the owner has forgotten or run out of out a means to pick up after their dog but intends to come back and clean up after. Also, in instances where it is near impossible to pick up what the dog has done (if it has the runs), what is acceptable? Please be clear.</p>
<p>I think dogs should be allowed off a lead on ares such as Mersey bank fields if there are no matches being played</p>
<p>£100 is more of a fine than speeding, shoplifting, etc. Don't be ridiculous</p>
<p>Depends on the area. People wrapping up dog waste then leaving the bag on the path is as much as a problem as those ignoring it. Failure to dispose of it properly is the issues, the bags sometimes just add to the problem.</p>
<p>I believe strongly in dog owners being responsible for their dogs and being mindful of the impact on the wider community. This is why I support the proposals for fines for fouling or not having the tools to dispose it. I beleieve that if there is a cordoned off childrens's area this should be off limits. There are some difficulties with certain sports areas because they often merge into other areas without barriers but agree with the principle. I do have some difficulty with the desire to keep dogs on leads in Beech Road Park. Exercise reinforces good behaviour in dogs and in winter.... walking in darkness at Chorlton Eems is unsettling. There are no people, there is limited lighting and this can be an unnerving position. As such I see this as a step too far as I think the wider outcome to look for is ensuring that dogs are well behaved.</p>
<p>the gated area of parks should be for dogs and not kids</p>
<p>This is a ridiculous and very upsetting. Chorlton is a very dog friendly place with most establishments allowing dogs. All the green space encourages dog owners to live here & to start putting restrictions and fines in place instead of finding a way to enable dog lovers & dog haters to live in peace will only detract from the area. - Instead of fining people who don't have a poo bag to hand, why don't you provide some poo bags next to the dog bins? This is what the do in Australia & it works well. Putting some dog bins around Chorlton Water Park would help encourage people to pick it up too! And instead of a no off lead rule, why don't we considering adding a fenced area to Chorlton Park for dogs to run safely off lead and fence off the children's play park at the water park , it used to have fences but these were removed for some reason. These are just 2 other solutions to treating dog owners and their pets negatively and unfairly. -</p>

<p>Do not penalise responsible dog owners. All of us who clean up and then run out of bags should not be victimised. Leave Merseybank Fields to those who love it and turn your attention to those who drop litter.</p>
<p>I see adults and kids every day spitting out chewing gum on the streets, throwing rubbish away on foot or in cars. Cig butts everywhere, not to mention that the homeless use public streets as a toilet. Who is holding them responsible? And fining them? Not to mention most public phone boxes and car parks stink due to people using them as toilets! Also, cats, foxes and other wildlife will still be doing so!</p>
<p>£100 is a lot to a poor person which could mean they and the dog would go without food or heat. A dog is a valued companion for ALL people not just those who can afford your fines. Also an older person might not see so well and spot where the dog had messed.</p>
<p>It would be useful if there were more information regarding dog control in the local areas as I am unsure of my laws and restrictions. I am unsure where I can walk my dog off lead.</p>
<p>I was a dog warden and was told people did not need to carry bags at all time. - It's about time</p>
<p>Most of the problem in Whalley Range is faeces that's been bagged but then discarded on pavements- so enforcement is clearly essential if you want to reduce dog fouling.</p>
<p>It is a mistake to make Beech road park dogs on leads only. Responsible dog owners need a place to exercise their dogs off lead. Dog owners make up the vast majority of park users, and help to create a safe and welcoming place for others park users such as teenagers. Dog owners value and respect the park, and help to look after it and keep it clean and tidy.</p>
<p>i think there needs to be a policy about barking dogs and aggressive dogs (breaking fencing and owner is not doing anything about it)</p>
<p>CCTV cameras are the only way to actually find offenders regarding dog fouling and enforce the fine. Warnings alone won't change anything.</p>
<p>I agree that dog owners should pick up all their dog's mess and always have the means to do so - but that a £20 on the spot fine would be more appropriate - I most strongly object to the proposal to ban off lead exercising of dogs (in particular in Beech Rd Park, Chorlton) The majority of the dog owning local community who use the park are responsible people who have well trained dogs. The park provides an important area where dogs can be exercised off lead, can play and socialise together - this is a vital part of owning a well behaved and obedient dog (i.e. being well socialised and trained to recall) The majority of regular dog owners who use the park help to tidy litter and act as unofficial security/wardens for the park- if they were forced to go elsewhere to exercise dogs off lead, the park could lose some of its most valuable visitors. I think that the current dog control orders should remain as they are and would strongly object to the proposal to introduce an offlead ban</p>
<p>I have mixed feelings about fining people for not having means to pick up in certain areas eg the water park abandoned filled poo bags take longer to degrade than the dog faeces - I and many people walk our dogs responsibly off the leads in the designated dog zone and have done for many years It is the only safe area where my daughter and disabled husband can let off our dog off lead. Walk safely It would be a real shame if there was no facility for that near our house Maybe there could be a compromise with designated times for dogs to be off leads off peak such as mornings when only dog walkers appear to use the park and week day day times day time evenings for dogs off lead and maybe some restricted peak times i.e. When schools finish at 3pm til 5 pm busy times in the summer months especially afternoons in Summer 1 til 5 in Beach road park in Chorlton where dogs on the lead Interestingly most dogs are better off the lead with other dogs</p>
<p>This will be totally unenforceable as anything can be used to pick up faeces including a sock!</p>
<p>I struggle to understand why is there a proposal to keep dogs on the lead in parks-especially where there is a clear division of space for playground and dog walking. I am also amazed that we focus on dogs and no mention of cats running free. We have cats continually leaving faeces in our communal garden although no one owns the cat! If it's going to be an offence to have your dog on the street without a lead it should be a rule for cats too!</p>

The proposal to ban dogs off leads in Beech Road park is unnecessary and not the view of Friends of Beech Road Park. Chorlton is known as a dog-friendly area and in BRP responsible dog owners often play a part in keeping the park clean and safe by litter picking and generally being present early morning and late evening when taking their dog for a quick exercise session. Dogs do not get proper exercise on the lead. They need to run. - - I have never witnessed any significant dog-related problems in BRP. Furthermore, this proposal appeared in the draft order in 2007 but was withdrawn after public comment so why is it appearing again? The committee report in late 2016 that mentioned these orders showed there were very few dog-related complaints. - - I am also concerned that the - very active - BRP friends group appears not to have been consulted in advance. (See https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1461951213873370&id=826471757421322) - - The work this group and the local business community have done to improve the park is a prime example of Our Manchester in action. And was going on many years before Our Manchester was invented. They deserve an apology.

As a tax payer I think it is outrageous to insist that dogs be kept on lead in parks and other open spaces. I contribute to their upkeep and I should be allowed to exercise my dog in them. Dog owners are easy targets for this council what about all the litter that is dropped. I don't see you pursuing the people who create this mess. Dog provide a wealth of health benefits to society both to the people they live with and those trained to help others. Your constant attack on this animal will only come back on you when you have to pay for more social care because people aren't getting out or have mental issues.

Fully agree regarding cleaning up after the dogs. But strongly disagree about the number of dogs in allowed in a public area. It's should be increased!

i feel dogs on leads at all times in parks is a smart move,as dog owners would feel safer,as dog attacks are almost a daily occurrence,and dog on dog attacks are never taken seriously enough,plus public parks where young children run around should be safe without fear of loose dogs able to attack.

It is absolutely reasonable to spot check dog owners to see if they have enough bags on them. I always grab a huge handful on my way out to ensure I have enough for my dog, and enough to give to someone else if they needed one. There's never an excuse for not having bags on you and if people were potentially going to be asked to show that they had bags on them, it would encourage people to be more prepared!

Could you clarify please where you propose to not allow dogs off the lead in Beech Road park, M21? One document says the children's play area and football pitch and another seems to imply the whole park. - I think it is essential that outside of the fenced off area for children that dogs should be given the freedom to run. This is healthy for them physical and mentally and means a less aggressive dog in the long term. This small park is a centre of the community for people and their dogs and despite a minority of irresponsible owners, is a safe environment to let dogs off the lead for socialising and exercise. - Please do not impose a dogs on lead rule outside of the children's play area. - I would be grateful to hear back from you via email - showmemanchester@yahoo.co.uk. - Thank you - Emma Fox

I can see the fairness of making certain areas of big parks such as Wythenshawe and Heating compulsory lead areas however it is punitive to do it in smaller parks such as Beech Road, where it would be a long walk to an alternative park and some elderly dog owners would struggle to exercise their dog. Beech Road Park is in an affluent area where dogs have been trained and owners are responsible. The dogs play in the areas of the park away from the children's play area which is fenced off and dogs already not allowed. If this must be enforced please provide a fenced area to delineate where dogs may or may not be off lead as with bigger parks.

Disagree with dogs on leads at all times in Beech Rd park M21. The majority of dog owners exercise common sense when exercising their dogs in the park. There are already fenced off areas for no dogs. The remainder of the park should be a common area for all with space for dogs to run and play with supervision. If there were more dog wardens/police, bad behaviour by the few could be challenged and dealt with. There is more litter and damage caused by unruly youth than dogs. In fact I regularly pick up litter as do others in the morning in the park left by youth the previous evening. The park is used to smoke/take drugs/drink alcohol and no one at the council seems bothered about doing anything about that. Tackle the youth problem and the few bad dog owners who don't control their dogs. Don't demonise all dog owners who actually are good citizens and care about their environment and community.

I disagree with the proposal to make Beech Road Park "lead only". The children's play area is fenced off and dogs are not allowed, which is fine. The rest of the park is used by many local dog owners, the vast majority of whom are responsible and some of whom are elderly and may struggle to get to other parks. The minority of irresponsible owners can be dealt with via reporting/wardens, rather than this blanket ruling.

Totally agree with proposed changes BUT laws themselves will not solve the problem when MCC does not have adequate means to enforce the laws. One dog warden for the whole of a great city like Manchester is a joke and MCC should be ashamed at allowing this situation to develop.

It appears to me that the proposed dog control orders are an easy way to penalise good, responsible dog owners without targeting the owners who allow their dogs to cause trouble & foul where they please. - - You propose to ban dogs from the children's play area located on Nutbank Common, Higher Blackley. The children's play area was vandalised so badly that it was removed many years ago! So, you see, your proposals seem sloppy and ill conceived from the off! - - I don't object to dogs being banned from children's play areas, bowling greens, football pitches etc at all, however they should be allowed in parks, woodland, commons etc as long as they are under control. - - Again, you want to limit the amount of dogs allowed to be walked by one person! A ridiculous suggestion! Would you rather walk past an old lady with her 5 well behaved chihuahuas or a thug with one, out of control pit bull terrier? - - I believe that I will have to prove that I am carrying equipment that enables me to pick up dog mess (I always do) but this seems to me very much like 'stop and search' powers and I object greatly to those! What criteria do you use in order to decide who to stop & search? A group of thugs and their bull terrier or a lone woman, such as myself with a well behaved Labrador & a pocket full of plastic bags? I feel I am an easy target. - - Returning to the subject of Nutbank Common, if you had bother to visit it recently, you would see an excessive amount of litter, a dumped safe, dumped burned out motorbikes and many antisocial trial bikes being ridden on the Common and up and down the roads. I have reported these things many times, over the phone & through the website. I was told that the objects wouldn't be cleared as they lay in Rochdale, not Manchester, a lie! If Nutbank Common is indeed in Rochdale then why are your dog control proposals concerned with it? - -

I absolutely support the proposals, particularly those requiring dogs to be on leads in certain public park areas: These spaces are for all to enjoy, and are not devoted to the exercise of free-running dogs; there are other areas available for that.

Too many dog owners seem to think the rest of us don't deserve any choice but to 'enjoy' their pets unrestrained in public places. Rules need clarification and enforcement, particularly being on leads and therefore under control.

if cutsto spending continue, I do not understand how these bye laws are going to be enforced.

What if you have used your poop bags when asked. I have a roll and sometimes use the last 2. Also 4 dogs and more may be walked by professional dog walker.

I take a bag out for my dog, and use it and put it in the bin. He is ten and I have never not picked up his poo. So now I will have to carry a spare bag? Or get fined? No. Too heavy handed when I've done nothing wrong.

People would find it difficult to pay £100 fine...look at council tax arrears and other fines etc. Just would add to more debt. Spot fines of £10-20 would be better

If it's an offence to fail to pick up, seems overkill to fine for not having a bag

<p>I have dog and like most things I life it's my responsibility to take care and clean up after my dog .</p>
<p>As a responsible dog owner who always clears up the mess, it would also be helpful for the council to provide poo bags on public spaces for those people who genuinely might have forgot to pack a bag , I know that when I have changed clothes occasionally i have realised I do not have dog bags, but fortunately keep spare in the car. Also it would be good if their was just Dog friendly places you could let them off the lead without Kids running up to stroke them, you want dogs banned from playgrounds, but ban children who have not been educated by their parents that they can't run up to dogs as they get scared too!!!!</p>
<p>The dog mess left on the street and parks in Prestwich area is an absolute disgrace.</p>
<p>I have a dog, I always have lots of bags with me to pick up anything she does, it's not difficult. I don't like dog poo, I don't like seeing it or standing in it. People who let their dogs do it anywhere without cleaning up are selfish and irresponsible and should be fined.</p>
<p>As a dog owner I regularly pick up empty poo bags that fall out of people's pockets ... it has happened to me too. Also I know the number of poos my dog will have on a walk so take that number out. I have never left a mess as there is always a way to sort it! - - How are you going to police this??? - - In the parks I walk in, the bins aren't kept on top of and nor is the litter. My dog regularly gobbles down rubbish that is not good for her or the wildlife that lives in the park- I see this more of an issue than dog poo.</p>
<p>I have a right to silence and am presumed innocent until proven guilty so how would you know if I have bags? - - I presently have 3 dogs and also breed so I would not be allowed to take any pups out with their mum, which is how dogs learn by copying mum. - I think this is just another way to extort money to pay for councillors golden pension pots. - - If you wish to raise money start taking the correct amount of tax fro multinational companies like google, amazon, Starbucks etc. - -</p>
<p>I would like to object to the dogs on leads proposal in all areas of Beech Road Park. I am not able to express this through the survey as there is no question specifically relating to entire parks being designated to dogs on leads. The survey is very brief and uses one question for both streets and open spaces which are very different in relation to dogs on leads. - I live on Cross Road and have a family dog which we take to Beech Road park. The park currently has dog free play and picnic areas which are fenced and gated. A large number of people use the remainder of the park throughout the day to exercise their dogs. The park having a safe area for dogs to be off lead and exercise is good for the community and especially those who struggle with health issues as it gets both dogs and owners out of their homes and interacting. A dogs on leads policy in the area where dogs are allowed would mean many older or unwell owners would not be able to give their pet the exercise required. The park currently works well for the local community, the dog owners using the park are respectful of the dog free areas and there is seating and picnic tables in both areas of the park. I strongly disagree that it is necessary for dogs to be kept on leads in a park which has a specific dog free area for sport and play activities. The areas of the park where dogs are currently allowed should not become dogs on leads only areas. This would take away an invaluable facility to many local dog owners.</p>
<p>Sometimes if a dog has an upset tummy, then it can be difficult to clean the whole faeces up if very runny. So some leniency should be down to common sense.</p>
<p>How can you fine dog owners with no bags on them when they may have used all the bags they had brought with them to clean up after their dog. How would you explain this to an officer if they try to fine you for having no bags on you.</p>
<p>This proposal would be more acceptable if the various councils had the decency to provide bins in relevant locations rather than convenient for them locations. - Who has the authority to say 4 dogs is too many ? If the Dogs are under control of a responsible and able keeper and a person with No experiances of dog ownership but has the authority to issue fines gets involved (jobsworth) who would you believe ?</p>
<p>Please define a suitable receptacle for the carrying of faeces. The suggestion that a dog walker should show a 'plastic bag is rather stupid.</p>
<p>I am a dog owner and always have poop bags.</p>

<p>I agree to all proposals, However like speeding, use of mobiles and eating/drinking at the wheel. How will all of these be policed. I've had confrontations with neighbours over this and they continue to either foul or wander into private drives/gardens.</p>
<p>If dog owners were required to have a dog license this may help to fund more wardens to patrol areas and make sure irresponsible thoughtless owners cleaned up after their pets!!!!</p>
<p>Wankers</p>
<p>This would be hard to enforce- I have 3 dogs and take poo bags on each walk knowing each only goes once in morning and once in evening. If I was stopped after all had been to the toilet I may have used all my bags.</p>
<p>Don't get me wrong, I agree with the idea in principle but £100 is too much, £50 would be more than enough deterrent. Also if I run out of bags whilst out, what do I do ? - this has happened to me on a couple of occasions and being a responsible owner, I have returned home and got a bag then returned to clean the mess up but how would i prove this was my intention if happened to be caught? please don't say that staff will use discretion, they will have targets to meet and more than likely be little jobsworths.</p>
<p>Sick and tired of walking round public places having to constantly look for dog fouling, dog owners should be made aware that they MUST clean up after their dogs. - Having been out for a walk you must look on the bottom of your shoes to see that they are clean before you enter your home!!! NOT Acceptable. - Bring back dog licenses, compulsory insurance and more effort from local councils to stop this disgusting and thoughtless behaviour.</p>
<p>Dogs should always be on a lead this would stop children and dogs being attacked. There should be fenced off areas in parks where people could let their dogs off the lead for a run.</p>
<p>Ref Beech Road park.. I think implementing a rule that stops people walking their dog off the lead in the park would be detrimental to the community and potentially make the park less safe as it would become a hotspot for teenagers at night (which to some extent happens already). - - Dogs that are always on the lead can often become problem through anxiety. As a dog owner this was the first thing we learnt which is why we allowed him off the lead. He is consequently a well balanced dog (through training as well). - Driving dog owners to put their dog on the lead all the time will breed more anxious and less sociable dogs. This would likely cause more attacks. - - I do think there are some irresponsible dog owners out there that need stronger punishment but there is no mention of this on the consultation. - - I also think better education to non dog owners and especially children would help.</p>
<p>I believe all dogs should be put on a lead regardless of where they are and shouldnt be allowed to roam free with out a lead and invade others personal space. Not everyone is in love with dogs and to be honest i am terrified of dogs. I believe its their unpredictable movement which gets to me and then i think they are going to bite as i hear about dogs mauling children all the time. I believe all dogs should wear a muzzle too. They shouldnt be allowed in parks where there are kids play areas and yes you should hand out even heftier fines if people do not have the means to clean up their dogs mess.</p>
<p>I think the public should be allowed to provide evidence of people who allow a dog to be out of control, a danger to other dogs and owners or defecating without removing it. As a responsible owner I can't bear people who spoil it for the rest of us. - I disagree with enforcing dogs to be on a lead at all times, if you are able to recall your dog at any distance then you should be able to let it roam but if they have a dog that will not obey simple demands then it should not be let off.</p>
<p>Fine people who let their dogs out in communal areas to do their pooping and don't pick it up just because they can't be bothered to take dog out</p>
<p>Most responsible dog owners will have their animals under control. Some are well trained and could be off lead at all times. Why penalise these owners? Most owners clear up after their animals. Irresponsible owners will not clear up or control their dogs. The number of dogs walked is irrelevant. 4 or 5 small dogs can be walked on lead. 4 large dogs in most cases would be physically impossible unless on a long lead, you'd be tripping over them. Dogs need exercise and should have open space to run in. Restrict numbers of dogs walked as a business but not as your own pets.</p>

<p>I agree in principal but if a dog owner has just the last bag and is on their way back to their car etc then why should they be punished. I always clear up my dogs mess and carry more than enough bags but I know from in the past a dog can use five bags in one walk.</p>
<p>Actually enforce it or it's a pointless waste of everyone's times and money like the 20mph zones! - Sick of dog mess everywhere.</p>
<p>More money getting of the poor people and dog lovers. Some yes but not all should be done and it's not fair on the dogs owners. Some kids are more bad then the dogs maybe we should look at that as well oh wait you won't you just want money from people nothing more just money</p>
<p>The proposal that a maximum of 4 dogs can be taken out at a time. Does that take into account people who own canine daycares that offer walking facilities around Manchester.</p>
<p>I am a dog owner of two dogs, and it really annoys me when people leave there dog mess all over. I constantly confront dog owners about it. And it's normally people with small dogs that think it's ok as there waste is small.</p>
<p>Consider requiring dog owners to clean up any droppings they pass whilst walking a dog, with penalties for failing to do so. This would encourage good behaviour by all dog owners, and aid self policing of this.</p>
<p>Imposing colour tags/collar/harness/leads to warn of dogs temperament, green for friendly to all, amber to specific aggression" triggers, red for do not approach</p>
<p>It's a ridiculous suggestion and not enforceable. Just because you are carrying a bag does not guarantee that you'll use it. I think you are using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.</p>
<p>what concerns me is how this is to be enforced, for while i agree not cleaning up after ones animal should be punishable in some way, i take offence at the idea of some sort of stop & search</p>
<p>I understand that assistance dogs are exempt from proposals and whilst I fully agree that these dogs are a fabulous service their faeces should still be cleaned away</p>
<p>As a dog owner I believe the dog should be allowed to run freely in public spaces but that a fine should be applied if I have no means of cleaning up after the dog</p>
<p>Concerned as to how this will be enforced as owners not picking up after dogs is a big, unenforced problem already due to cuts</p>
<p>How will this be policed? Using officers which are otherwise stretched? Where will the money from the fines go to? What about the people who genuinely pick up after their dogs, however have used the last of bags, owners are aware of their own dogs habits so there is no need to carry around a hundred bags for one poo? Manchester should be more dog friendly majority of owners are very responsible there shouldnt be restrictions on outside space!</p>
<p>children should not walk dogs without supervision from adult</p>
<p>As a dog owner council public places are of no use to me.. so as far as I am concerned bulldoze them and build houses.</p>
<p>I own 3 dogs and look after my friends 2 .. that's 5 dogs.. I would have to seperate the group for walks and do 2 walks ok I have fibromyalga and wouldn't be able to do that at all!.. or if my husband walks with me does it mean we can have 4 each... We walk on the nature trails at low traffic times and rarely cross paths with others but I feel this ruling will affect dog walkers and all sorts! I really don't agree with this one but back the others 100% would like to see more poo bins though as walks with bags of poo in summer gets smelly!</p>
<p>I think this is over the top and a bit too big brother - how would it be upheld by challenging dog owners to provide proof they are carrying bags? Far better to focus on the few irresponsible owners who don't clean up after their dog rather than opening up some new offense which is open to abuse and misinterpretation.</p>
<p>if people are caught 3 times the dog should be taken from them,plus £100.00 is not enough £500.00 would be a better penalty</p>

This is ridiculous. - I know my dogs and their habits, I will leave the house with 2-3 bags as that is all I need. - - If I am stopped on the way home having been responsible and used my bags then I will be punished for being a responsible owner. - - That is unacceptable. - - A fine should only be issued where you have witnessed someone knowingly abandon mess and show no intention of cleaning up. - - You can't go around punishing people for "what if" situations. - - It's clearly a money making scheme to punish people based on what if's - -

Dogs on leads at all times! My children and I are so scared to go to any park and are nervous wrecks walking to the shops since 2 dogs knocked them to the floor in January at our park Alderman Rogers (Wythenshawe). Luckily they weren't bit. It's a sorry state of affairs and makes me so angry. Please make this an offence so we can all feel safe. If people want to walk their dogs they can get extracable leads and take them to the local countryside. Thank you.

Could it not be made part of a council workers job, To report or inforce a penalty. For example ground keepers and parking attendants, they already spend there working days patrolling most public spaces.

For far too long have dog owner lacked the responsibility. Fine them yes. And if they still can't look after their animal it should be taken away.

You want to punish dog owners and yet the jobs walk the streets and get off with slapped wrists from the courts- GET YOU PRIORITIES IN ORDER - TOTALLY RIDICULOUS, GIVE OUT £100 FINES AND JAIL FLY TIPPERS, but you won't do that because it means hard work catching them a dog walker like a driver is an easy nick! Get the jobs, get the mad head cyclists, get the muggers, get the muslim terrorist supporters off the streets then worry about dog mess- on and empty your bloody bins WEEKLY NOT FORTNIGHTLY! AND MAKE YOUR OWN BIN MEN PICK UP THE RUBBISH THEY DROP TOO!

The 'means to pick up' rule - other places that have implemented it have difficulty dealing with what happens when the owner uses their last bag; e.g. if a dog owner takes a dog out with a bag to handle waste and uses it, are they then liable for the rest of the walk? It seems a bit harsh. - Other points: - a) Someone walking a dog off-lead should be capable of dealing with the consequences; I've been chased in heaton park by an off-lead dog that was owned by someone with walking difficulties. They obviously had no way of controlling it, while agreeing they need to be able to walk it, there has to be some protection for the rest of us. - b) Section 5c in the section on exemptions in the orders is probably a bit specifiic in it's definitions of reasons; since you already list the prescribed charities then it's probably best to avoid listing the specific ailments involved since it's bound to leave someone out. Leave the judgement down to the charities and if they can't judge then take them off your list. - c) Entry 47 in the list of places for exclusion is Heaton park and that lists 'Brick Hill' and 'Hill 60' - as someone who knows the park well I've not got a clue where those are; I'm guessing very few other people do either.

I am wary of the use of a piece of legislation that was designed to deal with antisocial behaviour being used for dog controls. Yes where anti social behaviour is involved, like not cleaning up dog mess, but not eg having a dog off a lead in Whitworth Park. - - I don't think there should be a requirement for dogs to be on leads on pavements where these are wide enough and not busy. It should be adequate that dogs are under close control. - - I dont think it's necessary for dogs to be kept on a lead in any of the small parks listed for similar reasons. - - There is certainly no reason for such a rule in parks as large as Whitworth Park or even Ardwick Green. - - I agree to keeping dogs out of children's play areas, etc. Sports fields I'd say, yes, obviously when in use. Probably a distinction here between fields part of a larger green area, eg Painswick Park, and enclosed fenced fields. - - I agree with the proposal regarding failure to carry a bag or scoop to pick up dog mess. Maybe the exemptions need looking at as people with disabilities that make bending difficult and wheelchair users might, even with a scoop, have some difficulty successfully removing faeces - I'd suggest wider consultation with a broad range of disability charities on this point. - - I'm not sure about requiring a dog to be put on a lead in direction of an official - how often, and in what circumstances, does this happen now? - - I

There are too many dog owners who can't keep control of their dogs and make no effort to stop their dogs jumping up at people. There should be designated areas where they can let dogs off leads, as they do in Vancouver.

<p>Registered dog walkers should be able to walk more than 4 dogs, since it's their business and they have good control of the dogs on their care.</p>
<p>Just as bad or worse than leaving dog poo in situ are the people who use pooh bags and then leave the poo bags either in situ or even worse hanging from trees and bushes. These bags don't appear to be bio degradable and litter our streets and countryside. If a dog walker uses the same route, their bags line up - disgusting and offensive. What do Manchester Council propose to do about this as dog walkers will have complied with the law of carrying a pooh bag and cleared up their dogs pooh!!!! - As with all rules, regulations and laws, how are you going to police it???</p>
<p>You want to make Beech Road Park in Chorlton a lead-only park. This would be a disaster for local dog walkers. It's a small and well used park that dogs can run around in freely with a separate area for children. This works well and dogs cannot be exercised properly whilst on leads. Dogs walkers here are very conscientious, many of us even pick up litter as we walk our dogs and always pick up after our dogs. As the evenings and mornings get darker, this park is used mainly by dog walkers exercising their dogs. This cannot be done on leads. A blanket rule for everywhere doesn't work.</p>
<p>Large parks should have sectioned off areas (like childrens play areas) solely for use by dogs and their owners. They should be a minimum of 100 metres by 100 metres in size. There should be fines for people without dogs who encroach in these areas.</p>
<p>As a responsible dog owner and walker I agree strongly that owners should carry suitable bags to remove dog waste. I even pick up others mess if I see it.</p>
<p>Whereas I think it extremely important to pick up after your dog in the street or playing fields, if the dog defaecates in the undergrowth (where it can't be seen and won't be trodden in) it's more environmentally-friendly to leave it to the slugs than put it into a plastic bag, deposit it in a not frequently enough emptied bin where it stinks until someone eventually takes it to be incinerated. - - Also, some people seem to think that bagging your dog's faeces is enough but it should be made clear that the same fine applies to leaving the bag. Once filled the bag should be carried until it can be deposited in a bin.</p>
<p>Why as a person who does pick up his dog mess should I be stopped by persons who wish to disturb my right to go about my private business. I go for walks to get away from daily life and to relax. How would this be possible if we have wardens hounding us innocent people that are simply trying to enjoy lives limited pleasures! - I for one would refuse to be approached by such persons if no offence has been committed in the first place. - Maybe a better idea would be to take the dogs DNA so samples of poop could be taken if found left lying around.</p>
<p>I am one of many dog owners who walk in Beech Road Park Chorlton three or four times a day, most of us regularly pick up and dispose of litter and drug paraphernalia. In fifteen years of doing this I have witnessed very little trouble and non ever involving persons. It is a very sociable park where dozens of people know each other just because of dog ownership, we care for the park and we look after it.</p>
<p>I don't agree that dogs should be either banned or forced to be on a lead in park areas (other than on the children's playing areas as they already are) when there is a limitation on the open space available to exercise dogs on as it is. I agree dog owners should have a means to clear up after their pet but the penalties are excessive. I also think this would be less of an issue with more public waste bins but that is not being addressed. There are already laws that cover dogs being dangerously out of control in a public place so there is no necessity to restrict the number of dogs a person has, more than 4 is manageable depending on the dog so a blanket ban is ridiculous.</p>
<p>The council should make sucure offlead areas for dogs to have a run and make parks and open areas free of glass and rubbish detrimental to a dogs welfare</p>
<p>More time to allow payment of fine. -</p>

I understand that there will be a move to keep dogs on leads in beech road park . I would be totally against this as there is already a large dog free play area which is respected by all dog walkers at present, so families and children have enough space to play /picnic etc . - It is crucial to dog development and training that they socialise and play off lead . We visit Beech road park most days and there are no issues with dogs being exercised off lead and there is little issue with dog poo not being picked up .Most of the dog walkers will pick up an extra poo if spotted and has not been dealt with . - Some more elderly residents use beech road park to exercise their dogs as they are unable , due to mobility issues to walk to the water park etc , and it is important that they are able to walk their dogs off lead . - We should be encouraging pet ownership not trying to make it more difficult . I am a local GP as well as Manchester resident . All the current evidence states dog owners have better physical health / walk more and have less issues with obesity which surely the council should be supporting. Also the evidence suggests that dog /pet owners have improved mental health as well .

This is outrageous, why is Manchester becoming a nanny city? Dogs should be on leads, I agree with that, however issuing fines because someone does not have a doggy poop bag is outrageous, and banning people walking more than four dogs. What is wrong with walking ten dogs? If the owner is responsible and they are on leads!!!!

Some of the proposals maintain extensive exclusionary powers which are detrimental to those people who wish to enjoy outdoor spaces with well behaved dogs, and people endeavouring to train dogs to behave well in public spaces. To have a dog restrained on a lead is not a guarantee of good behaviour and I strongly believe that the wording of some proposals should be reviewed to consider use of the term 'under control'. Much of these proposals will rely upon the discretionary action of authorised enforcement officers and I strongly recommend that these individuals are given training on how to improve animal behaviour as well as how to spot potentially dangerous animal behaviour. While dog mess is a public health issue, the matter of restraint is a behavioural concern and relies on education of the general public as well as dog owners. Many homeless people keep dogs and are just as likely to be excluded from spaces - I feel that it is important these policies do not cause further harm to the city's homeless population by excluding them from parks.

Peel Hall Park needs to have Multisports and Junior Multisports areas added to Children's playground as areas where dogs are not allowed.

How do you propose to enforce these rules.? - Also i think there are ares where dogs can be off lead safely. If not allowed then i think this could be considered cruelty to some active dogs .

I am a dog owner myself and I strongly agree with the proposals that are hopefully going to be put into place.

As councillors we regularly receive reports and complaints from members of the public about this. It is so frustrating to see all the good work that was done to reduce the levels of dog fouling up until 2010 and the cuts hit, being undone. The only thing is that I am concerned that it is potentially overcooked not being able to have a dog off the lead on a public footpath. Many dogs are perfectly safe like this, it is of course essential that they are accompanied and under control and i would always have my on a lead as she is not 100% reliable. Otherwise I am strongly in favour of all of the proposals

who is going to enforce this

I agree that dog owners should take responsibility for picking up their dog faeces, however I vehemently believe that there are many benefits to letting the dogs run freely in the designated area of Beech Road Park and I strongly disagree with the proposal to keep them on leads. Firstly, in such a built-up area, it is important to have a free space to let the dogs socialise and run freely. As there are frequently dog owners in the park, I feel it keeps the park safe so my children can use it, and dog owners help to discourage the opportunity for anti-social behaviour. It provides a good opportunity for dog owners to socialise/exercise and this is good for adult mental health in our ever more stressful day to day lives. The park is there to serve the many not the few and functions perfectly as it is at present, by providing designated dog-free and dog permitted areas. Dog owners should not be discriminated against. The dog- owners that currently use Beech Road Park act responsibly and as there is not an ongoing issue or problem, I see no valid reason why dogs should be kept on leads. Finally, we do not own a dog, but my eldest daughter has always been nervous of dogs, and as a regular park-goer, at 13 years of age, she has never had a negative incident with any dog in Beech Road Park.

think the fine is to high, if someone genuinely doesn't see is dog in the act or if they have perhaps forgot the poop bags left in the car think it should be 40 to 100 depending on the circumstances, my dog had surgery on his hip he had constipation couldn't poop but i had a hard time convincing someone that the dog had actually crouched but done nothing had by bags to they assumed i was lying

Some places are seen as being just for dog owners. You can't walk run or cycle through parks with out being ambushed by an array of people's precious pets. Keep them on leads at all times anywhere that the public have access to. Make the fines bigger and bring back dog licensing.

i always clean up after my dog its a pity nigel murphy does not sort the rubbished dumped and reported more than once told who dumped it still council do nothing the rubbish piles around our city are a bigger concern than dog mess (apart from center of manchester thats always clean) you have not got enough staff to cut down weeds in parks and fields but you can find staff to harass dog walkers most of them are decent rate payers get in the real world

Council just trying to take as much money from people as possible.

I always clean up after my dog and agree there should be rules in place to make other do the same. The problem with this proposal is that the dog may have already been to the bathroom on the walk and the owner, who had the proper equipment (bag) to clean up after their dog, may have already used it. I only carry one or two bags with me because my dog will never go more than that. But if I was found bagless when confronted, because I had already used it on the walk, I would get a fine? That seems extremely unfair. I think it makes more sense to fine people for not cleaning up after their dogs, not for not carrying the right equipment to do so.

Would you need stop and search powers for evidence of plastic bags as some people may feel angry at lack of trust when asked and replying they have one. Treating like common criminal by asking them to turn out their pockets May not go down very well. Bags in pockets and off to walk your dog ,then to keep running into officialdom May just lead to a very bad experience when just trying to relax. Eventually you stay indoors ,put on weight , get more depressed cost Nhs more money for your related ailments then finally you abandon the dog. Big brother gone mad . Or just another money making excersise , probably the latter. Perhaps we could ask people to wear masks with meters fitted so we can check if they are using more of their fare share of oxygen. Where will all these sick laws end. God help us all ,assuming of course I'm allowed to mention which god I'm talking about or wear the appropriate symbol.

Stop persecuting dog owners. What about control orders for children

It's dogs off leads walking behind owners that poo and the owners just keep walking as they are oblivious to what it's doing. That's what I have seen in my road, mainly early morning and late evening

I don't think the rule about having the means to pick up dog poo is fair. One may have just picked up and deposited the poo in a bin and have no bags left. This could happen if you have two dogs as in my case. I would never leave the poo and would use a tissue and carry it home if necessary. -

<p>Increasing nanny state high handed attitudes. Erosion bit by bit of public freedom. An easy source of income and an easy target. In effect stop and search. Suggest more funds should be given to police to deal with real crime.</p>
<p>Who is going to do this? People can be very abusive when spoken to about not picking up their dog poo, even when one politely offers them a poo bag. Early morning walkers are more prone to leaving dog poo on the ground. People talk away on their mobiles, watching their dog poo, then just walk off. I live right next to a park in Bury and can see what goes on. Being a dog owner myself and using this park several times a day, it amazes me just how much dog poo is left on the ground. I also think that children's play areas should have a more extensive, "no dogs allowed zone" surrounding that play area.</p>
<p>I do hope you will take into consideration those filthy cats and owners cat phoo all over my garden under soil come on do something about this also</p>
<p>I would like my dog to be allowed to crap wherever he wants.....and leave it there.</p>
<p>Councils should not be using psp's to criminalise behavior that is otherwise lawful. Councils should be working with legislation already in place.</p>
<p>This should app,y countrywide, all councils</p>
<p>How can you enforce this, you have no powers to stop and search so when I refuse to show my dog bag what are you going to do about it? You are not the police so how can it be enforced without serious assaults of council officers increasing?</p>
<p>Really needs to stop it's a disgrace around our circle constantly having to avoid it think the fine should be a lot more than £100 and would even consider having spotter as a job with a kit to collect evidence and follow these people to there address</p>
<p>I am a dog owner but I find it frustrating when other dog owners let their dogs fowl and make no attempt to pick it up. However I do not agree with making ALL dog owners keep their dogs on leads in all public parks and spaces</p>
<p>I walk my dog every day and always take poo bags with me. He has on occasion used them all during the walk which I will place into a bin. So if stopped on the way back home I would therefore mean I have no more on me .. would this mean j would be fined? I'm a responsible dog owner with a very well trained dog and feel like you're punishing me for others.</p>
<p>I hope that it is realised that a dog which is not it off the lead is likely to become bad-tempered; appropriate facilities to exercise dogs is essential. - - Secondly, I do accept do-exclusion zones; there may be a case for times of day in certain parks, or parts of parks where dogs should be kept on a lead - eg close to primary schools around picking up time.</p>
<p>I Live in London and we are inteligent enough to work out that if people are of the type that dont clear up after their dogs then it is likely to make no difference whatever if they carry bags or not. - We can take our Dogs on any public transport in London and dont need to be treated like idiots</p>
<p>Exceptions should be made if the dog is ill and proof can be shown that all reasonable measures have been taken to clear the mess or it will be done a short time later.</p>
<p>The problem with dogs and the dirty street that there are two goups thay create issues. The irresponsible owners who clearly dont care and the total dog haters who would like to see all dogs eradicated. Sadly those in the middle that are caring responsible dg owners are caught in the middle. I clean up after my dog however she is excercised off lead in suitable areas as this is a neccessary part of her health and well being. I think what we need is stricter control and regulations on dog ownership so that they arenot bought as puppies on a whim or as a status symbol and are kept for the wrong reasons by the wrong people. Sad for the dog and a nuisance for the public</p>
<p>Feces left in bags cause more problems than those not in bags in open spaces and woodland. Bags do not decompose as quickly and then litter areas and get left in hedges etc.</p>
<p>Issuing fines to people for all things the Council do not like is not the answer, people do not have bottomless pockets. Most people already abide by these rules, how can you seriously want to fine people for not having bags with them. The council want to take the joy out of everything, people can barely do anything in local parks now. Why don't you spend more time and money cleaning the rubbish off the streets, Manchester streets are filthy due to your ridiculous policies.</p>

<p>If people have a dog then they should know to clean up the poo it can be harmful to children. Why they should take the risk is beyond me. I don't think the number of dogs makes much difference</p>
<p>Rather than punish people who might genuinely have forgotten to bring poop bags with them, why not get a business eg "Pets at home" to sponsor the provision of 2 poop bags on request from an authorised person? - - I get the idea of deterring persistent offenders but I absolutely reject the idea of a council worker demanding to see my poop bags when I take my dog into the park and potentially fining me if I fail to show them</p>
<p>I have been caught out without poop bags myself when I have forgotten or unknowingly used my last one, but I will always use a tissue or something to pick up after my dog if necessary (I've even picked up a discarded crisp packet in the past to use). I can imagine a situation where I would not be believed by a warden, or this wouldn't be considered adequate, and I would be fined anyway. I'm sure others would be in the same situation from time to time. If a warden sees someone walking away from their dog's mess without picking it up, that's fair enough. - - I also think it's over the top to demand dogs be on the lead in all areas of Beech Road park, and the other parks listed. I completely agree that they should be kept out of the children's play area and sports pitches in all parks, and possibly food areas/cafes, but to prohibit people from playing fetch with their dog or letting dogs have a run anywhere in the park at all seems ridiculous to me. In winter there are very few safe, well-lit areas in Chorlton to let dogs off the lead in the early morning or evening. I would not go into the Meadows in the dark and I avoid Chorlton Park due to the reputation it has for antisocial behaviour even in broad daylight. For those of us that work it will mean our dogs don't get proper exercise until the weekend.</p>
<p>It seems that dog walkers / owners are being punished for a few mindless and irresponsible people .The general dog owner / walkers have more than one dog and thus would make it impossible to exercise them properly understandably designated children's play areas are to be protected but other green areas need to be available these proposals are absurd and these spaces should be available to all dog walkers / Owners for use</p>
<p>its a disgrace the amount of dirt on the pavements. some dog owners just dont care. its a health hazard and if you step in it and dont realise then its in your carpets.</p>
<p>Think the fine is too high. - Think the limit of dogs should be 6 like that of a professional dog walker is insured for. - Officer requesting to put dog on leash must have specific reasons ie dog is being a nuisance, in or causing a danger.</p>
<p>I feel that dogs should not be restricted from being off leash in parks (excluding childrens play areas) and public land if they are under control. Many people enjoy walking their pets and are responsible in cleaning up after them. If letting your dog off leash is prohibited across manchester parks, this could have an adverse effect on dogs who require daily exercise and may result in poor behaviour. Responsible owners and their pets should be just as entitled to safe places to exercise as walkers, cyclists and runners. If the council wishes to restrict dogs being off leash in manchester parks, as suggested by signs in Beech Rd park, then designated enclosed areas should be provided where dogs can be exercised and socialised. Dogs who are not exercised and socialised with other people and animals tend to be the ones who display poor behaviour putting others at risk. I would be completely opposed to any order that prevented dogs being off leash at any time in manchester parks, unless suitable safe alternative areas were provided.</p>
<p>This should also be the same for people who drop litter</p>
<p>There's are too many inconsiderate dog owners, some dogs are very scary to children and adults, and there is so much dog poo left in parks and streets for folks to step in. Totally agree with stringent rules to reduce down offensive dog owner behaviour.</p>
<p>I suggest that you restrict and fine accordingly people that allow their offspring to play in public areas wearing only nappies. - ESPECIALLY public swimming pools.</p>
<p>Beech Road Park in Chorlton is already partitioned with a large dog-free space. Our children love playing with free dogs in the other part and it would be an unnecessary loss to bring an end to this.</p>

<p>Dogs should be restrained by leash if they are designated as dangerous dogs. Parks should places where dogs can be off the leash. There is currently no change in incidents of dogs attacking humans or other animals. Can't think why this is a matter now after 100 years of dog walking in parks in Chorlton and Manchester. There is no upsurge in dog attacks to justify restriction.</p>
<p>where is the money to police this? Enforce existing rules. Don't create new unenforceable ones. Rule on carrying bag impossible to enforce & a waste of time: prove they haven't use bag / didn't have bags at start of walk. Ridiculous idea. Punish for committing offence not for being unable to prevent offence. Fines for not cleaning up, absolutely! Ban on walking +4 dogs stupid. Punish owners for having out of control dog. Number. Is irrelevant.</p>
<p>Dogs should be kept on a lead in all public parks and recreation areas (such as Chorlton Meadows etc)</p>
<p>I think it's extreme to charge someone £100 for not having the means to pick up their dog faeces. For example I took five poo bags out with me last week and used them all which is highly unusual!!! And then got caught short, as he went again and I had none left!! So I would have been charged £100 when I had been out of control of that scenario and had been attempting to be a responsible dog owner?!</p>
<p>Dogs should be on leads in all parks, perhaps one area of one park in each city to allow off lead.</p>
<p>Beech Road Park: As a resident who lives on nearby Neale Road I am totally opposed to any proposal banning dogs not on leads from the park. One of the joys at the end of a long day is watching dogs running free and chasing balls and each other. I regularly walk past and through the park and have NEVER witnessed any problems with this. Any such restriction would ruin the enjoyment so many dogs, dog owners and non-dog owners derive from this natural use of the lovely park.</p>
<p>It is completely unfair to penalise dogs and decent dog owners to enable you to be able to punish bad dog owners. As a responsible owner of 3 dogs, largely I have no issues of ensuring that the owner has the means to pick dog poo and be in control of there dog at all times. However discussing ideas on how and where a dog can be exercised and making restrictions of these because of those few bad owners not in control of their dogs is completely unfair. I would be more in favour of ensuing that a dog owner would have to be vetted/some kind of licence before ownership of a dog than allowing irresponsible people to own dog a in the first place. Additionally, 2 out of my 3 dogs are rescues - dogs who have been abandoned by irresponsible owners. Your proposal for banning the walking of 4 dogs or more - is a fine idea for "dog walkers" who take too many dogs out at once and not being able to control them all - however it does stop me from being able to adopt or foster another dog that needs care - should I choose too, however you will be taking that choice away from me....</p>
<p>Parks are a problem area. There should be clear notices about control of dogs. Unfortunately there is some ambiguity about "Dogs must be under control", whereas "Dogs should be on a lead" is more unambiguous (for certain areas - eg picnic areas, play areas). - Alan Hill - Chair: Friends of Fletcher Moss Park and Parsonage Gardens</p>
<p>Having the means to pick up dog faeces doesn't mean that it will be either picked up or disposed of in a proper manner. Secondly, there must be sufficient waste bins available-and emptied regularly.</p>
<p>I strongly disagree with the proposal for dogs to not be allowed off the lead in Beech Road park in Chorlton. The park is specifically designed for the purpose of taking your dog off the lead to exercise them. There is a separate no dogs allowed area so I fail to see why this proposal is even being debated.</p>
<p>As long as there will always be open spaces available to exercise dogs off lead.</p>
<p>I think if you're going to fine someone for not having the means to pick up dog poo it means you are defining appropriate means to pick it up. Someone COULD take off their t-shirt and use that but I'm guessing under your rules you wouldn't accept that. So you need to CLEARLY and LOUDLY define what you consider an acceptable way to pick up faeces. Crisp packet for small dogs?</p>

While I strongly agree with the new proposals and fine, I think it would be a good idea to have some kind of strike system because (for us forgetful people) it does happen and I have had to ask fellow dog owners for a bag on a couple of occasions.

It has been brought to my attention that certain people in the council are trying to underhandedly, in my view, pass laws that will stop people from letting their dogs off the lead in parks, not just my local parks in Chorlton, but all over the city. I must strongly disagree with this proposal. Dogs need to be exercised somewhere, and keeping them on a lead at all times is absolutely inhumane and ridiculous. By all means section off parts of the park for dog free areas, as in Beech road, which the council did not even pay for, fundraising from friends of beech road park funded this, and by all means fine people who do not pick up after their dogs or who do not adhere to dog wardens orders, but a complete ban on letting dogs have a little freedom is just wrong.

My neighbour next door to me has 3 big dogs her back garden is always full of dog poo and it's not a good thing to look at when I look out my bedroom window am also worried we will get mice from this and it also got good for people's health

The rules we currently have are adequate, but they are not enforced - how many prosecutions has MCC made for dog fouling in the last 3 years? - Dogs and dog owners should have places to walk off the lead too and there is a woeful lack of dog poop bins and bins in general. Most dog walkers are actually the most frequent users and protectors of parks and public spaces. Please encourage rather than punish, but those that do abuse rules/laws also need to be prosecuted - not just allowed to get away with offences as they currently are with little to no reinforcement of policy. Thanks.

The council need to make sure that there are plenty of bins in parks and open spaces and that they are emptied regularly. It's a health hazard to have overflowing bins full of filled plastic bags, or even have the filled bags lying on the ground or hanging from trees/bushes. The waste will degrade naturally if covered up in an area away from paths, unlike a plastic bag

Dogs should still be allowed off lead in certain area of the parks

£100 is too much. There have been instances when I've run out of bags to pick up after my dog even though I've had 4/5 bags! I'd support a £50 fine for first offence, increasing if reoffending.

I have seen posters up that suggest that you plan to make it an offence to have a dog off a lead in public parks at all. I don't think this is true, given this survey doesn't mention it. However, I would oppose such a proposal. Dogs should be excluded from areas such as children's areas, and owners should be responsible, but I think it is important that a well trained dog is allowed to run free from time to time, and areas designated to allow this. Sharing the space is important to me - I have a toddler who I want safe in the children's areas, but people with dogs should also be allowed some free space.

it is not possible when going out walking a dog what amount and frequency of faeces will occur. - Also in many Manchester parks the dog waste bins are overflowing for days on end

It is not clear to me what a designated area is as it does not seem to be defined the notices. I think dogs should be allowed to be let off their leads in public parks and public areas if they are well behaved but clearly if they are not well behaved they should be on a lead. I do not understand the purpose for restricting dog owners to having their dogs on a lead at all times in public areas which are not restricted. My definition of restricted areas is areas where children play (usually fenced off) and games areas such as tennis courts. Speaking about Chorlton Park and Beach Road Park, these are areas where people of all ages and backgrounds come with their dogs to enjoy the amenity of the park atmosphere. People talk to each other, dogs meet and learn to be social - there are so many benefits. If I were forced to put a lead on my dog in such a park, she will not do her business which has to be part of the process of exercising a dog (and myself) as any dog owner knows, including the picking up of faeces afterwards. Such exclusion would mean that I would not be able to go to the park and would have to find some other area for me to exercise my dog. Does the council really want to exclude a large section of park users i.e. dog owners? Is there some ulterior motive for such an exclusion? Just how much does the council value these parks, or are they just an expensive nuisance to them?

<p>Try introducing more bins and maybe free poop bags. - I am a dog walker and I can walk 4-5 dogs whilst keeping them under control off lead, I use my judgement whether to put them on lead if the need arises in the park but I stay away from children's play areas at all times</p>
<p>Dont think dogs should be kept on a lead all the time. Fines should be higher for people who allow there dogs to run riot or trouble other people or onther dogs. Most dog owners inc myself have well behaved dogs that shouldnt have to suffer for the few owners who camt control their dogs!</p>
<p>It should not be an offence to allow a dog off a lead in sports areas when sports are not taking place, as this largely reduces the usability of the land.</p>
<p>Fully agree with all fines, dog waste on pavements in chorlton and kids areas in chorlton has got a lot worse, i have to clean my childrens shoes or buggy wheels once a week now because of it, its dangerous for my toddler. Please go ahead with dealing with dog owners more seriously.</p>
<p>Please don't make it mandatory for dogs to be on the lead in parks. 95% of dogs are well behaved and dog owners responsible. This just punishes responsible dog owners</p>
<p>I am writing to you to oppose the above piece of draft council legislation regarding restriction son dogs being 'Off Lead' in our parks. - - I oppose it for three reasons - - • It detrimental to the well being of dogs and owners, and an infringement of a long existing legal freedom to walk a dog 'off lead' in our parks. - - • Legislation already exists to deal with dangerous dogs and irresponsible owners rendering these proposals unnecessary. - - • Having consulted with my three elected council representatives they have pointed out that this restriction of freedoms dose not, and should not fall within the operational mandate of unelected council officials as it directly effects the freedom of the people of Manchester. - - More over Councilors' Matt Strong and John Hacking have been extremely annoyed that this legislation was not presented in the open council chamber and have said that they believe the way it has been 'sneaked out' past them is highly undemocratic. - - Councilor Strong will be seeking to call the officials concerned to account in the council chamber at the earliest opportunity. - - - I'm a Chorlton resident and I'm sure that you're very aware of the pleasant and tolerant atmosphere that makes this part of Manchester such a lovely place to live. I believe that one of the things that contributes to this is that Chorlton is a very dog friendly area and we see a large number of well behaved dogs and owners on our streets. - - Indeed many of the businesses in the area, such as The Beech, The Horse & Jockey, Man Bites Frog Etc are very welcoming to owners who wish to bring their furry friends into the premises. Many others such as The Lead Station, San Juan, The Library, and Elk are happy to have dogs present in their pavement areas. - - Its is therefore amazing that Manchester City Council is seeking to restrict dogs and owners free, off lead, access to parks around the area. - - As I sure you are aware our canine friends require exercise and stimulation and our local parks offer them just such an opportunity. Dogs need time 'off-lead' to be healthy and get the stimulation they require. In an area such as this, with a large number apartment dwellings without garden facilities, access to a park for a runabout is essential for the health and welfare of our dogs. - - I can understand that people may have concerns about out of control dogs however I believe that legislation already exists to discourage and penalize the tiny minority of owners who allow this to happen. Therefore the legislation above is completely unnecessary and simply serves to punish responsible owners and their dogs. - - I hope that you can find it in your heart to see the unfairness of this draft proposal and will it will cease here saving much distress to the dog loving residents of Chorlton. - - Kind regards - - Richard Fountain, Elle, and Monty the dog. -</p>
<p>Dog walkers should not be allowed to walk their dogs off lead if they are walking with more than two dogs at any place and any given time.</p>
<p>Not sure how these things are actually monitored? I have stopped jogging in local park due to dogs off leads. I have no idea how repeat offenders can be reported?</p>
<p>I am concerned that you are considering a ban on dogs from some public parks. I live near Beech Road park and there is an adequately fenced area (children's playground, picnic) where dogs are rightly not permitted. All the dog owners I've met in the rest of the park have been friendly and considerate, and I've also not noticed a problem with faeces. Why ban dogs from there?</p>
<p>So long as dog owners are responsible why penalise all for the minority of bad dog owners?</p>

<p>How will this be enforced? What happens to the fines collected? Any revenue raised should go towards the upkeep of our parks especially emptying bins and dealing with litter. It should not be just dog walkers who are targeted, Manchester's parks are filthy due to littering and fly-tipping.</p>
<p>As a dog owner i do agree that a penalty should be in place for those who fail to clean up after their dog. However I also think there should be stronger laws and penalties for people who litter aswell, as there is a serious litter and fly tipping problem in manchester. Some kind of overall public cleanliness laws to cover all types of fouling and littering in public spaces.</p>
<p>I think your proposals are very vague and not enough information.</p>
<p>£100 is too much. I have 3 dogs and on occasion I have gone out and forgotten poo bags, especially when it's warm and I've forgotten my coat. I have improvised and used rubbish I have found such as crisp packets, paper etc. I have even knocked on doors and asked for a couple of bags as I ALWAYS pick up my dogs' poo. I would accept a fine if I forgot to bring poo bags, but £100 is too steep.</p>
<p>Dogs need exercise. In appropriate quiet areas with little traffic they should be able to roam or you will start seeing more cases of animal cruelty and obesity. England is supposed to be a dog loving country, these laws seem like they are taking us backwards and I'd rather tax payers money go on other things. What would you have, doggy patrol officers? Do you even have the forces to enforce these laws given how hard it is to even get in touch with the police in my local area? Priorities!</p>
<p>The fine needs to be the same as littering. To impose anything higher is completely unfair.</p>
<p>Most playing playing fields & football areas in parks are only used for sport on an intermittent basis. When not so used -which is most of the time- the public are free to walk in these areas. It is invidious to attempt to exclude dogs when these areas are not in active use for sport since informal pitches comprise large areas of many parks and are otherwise largely under-utilised. Most dog owners do carry poo bags but it is also draconian to attempt to enforce fiscal penalties on someone who might have already used their bags, might indeed have give one to someone else for their dogs use and is then penalised. What would be far more effective would be to re-employ park keepers who could keep order in the parks, issue fixed penalty notices if someone did not clear up after their animal and be a visible and effective deterrent. That costs s money though and MCC would rather devolve the problem onto dog owners. instead of making our open spaces safe for all to enjoy.</p>
<p>Dogs shuld be allowed to run free in areas where they cannot interfere with or harm anyone, But do need to have freedom in some open spaces. All owners should be liable to pick up the dog mess that there animal makes and it should be a large fine if they do not. I love dogs have three but always pck up after them and only walk in areas where they cannot come to harm or harm anyone else</p>
<p>I would like to take issue with the proposal to ban the exercising of dogs off leads in Beech Road Park, Chorlton. There is already a designated play and picnic area where dogs are banned. As the main park area is secured on all sides, it is one of the few places within walking distance of our home that we can exercise our dog safely and I object to having to keep her on a lead in this park. Please re-consider this ill-thought proposal!</p>
<p>Perhaps you should think of fining parents who throw dirty nappies all over the parks instead of always persecuting dog owners. How about fining idiots who throw and break glass bottles in parks and pavements. Or drug addicts who leave needles all over the place, but no you choose not to target these, you target dog owners 90% of whom are responsible. Shame on you.</p>
<p>I am more worried about the proposals to insist dogs are on a lead in more public places than just public gardens or children's play areas. Dogs need to exercise off-lead and making dog-walker go elsewhere will drastically reduce the number of people using the public areas such as parks, plus removing the free policing role that dog walkers contribute (at all hours of the day).</p>

<p>I think there is a problem with this survey. Obviously we don't want lots of dog poo around, especially on children's playgrounds and sports fields. But picking up your dogs poo all the time isn't possible. For example, when its runny, then you have to cover it with soil, or dropped through ivy, cannot be found, or in a spiky bush or in a daffodil (I would have had to pull out the daffodil to get at the poo). I'm pretty sure the dog does this deliberately so I can't pick it up. Also, I carry a roll of dog poo bags but on occasion (twice) I have forgotten it and once run out (rare but happens, then I borrow one off a dog owner, but it means there's a time without it). So a series of warnings first to allow for people who are momentarily without a bag as a opposed to people who have no intention of picking up their dog poo. You need more specificity about where isn't okay, eg. anywhere there is cut grass, pavements (no excuse for not picking it up on short grass or the pavements). Amongst my dog walking friends, if your dog does a poo and you can't find it, you have to pick up a penalty poo (any poo lying around - I sometimes do this anyway if I think its somewhere a child could step on it). There are plenty of dogs who are well trained enough to be off lead in public, I have seen them (mine isn't, as it happens). I think resources would be better spent following up reports of dog on dog attacks and dog on human attacks. 4 dogs makes it impossible for dog walkers to make a living and doesn't address the issue of dangerous dogs. Again use the resources to follow up on dog on dog attacks and dog on human attacks. And if you must have this rule, grant a license to dog walkers to walk more than 4 dogs providing they are properly trained or something.</p>
<p>Provide more bins. People just leave poo bags behind because there are not enough bins around. Strongly agree with fines being issued for not picking up after your dog. - - If dogs will be banned from all the parks or have to be on lead in all the parks/ areas you listed, give alternatives. Dogs need space to run to get rid off energy. Open dog parks/ designated fenced in areas for dogs to run free. Works in other countries.</p>
<p>What would happen if you take your dog out, use your bags and then get stopped? What if you know your dog has just done its business and just need to nip out? Also, having a bag in your pocket doesn't mean you'll use it.</p>
<p>Twice within the last 12 months 2 different dogs have sank their teeth into footballs that my children are playing with at fletcher moss fields in didsbury because their owners cannot control their dogs. More restrictions on dogs are needed not less</p>
<p>It is very hard to enforce. What constitutes appropriate means? Sometime dogs have messy faeces that just cannot be picked up by a bag. What are we supposed to do, go out with a bucket of water and brush? I would pick up with my hands if it meant avoiding a £100 pound fine. My coat is worth less than that., ill probably use that if needed.</p>
<p>I want to comment on the proposal to enforce dogs on leads in all public places. I think this is completely unjust. AS someone who lives in the manchester area where open spaces are limited it is only fair that a dog has a place that they can go where they can exercise freely without the constrains of a lead. How would be play simple games like fetch with a dog if they have to be on the lead all of he time. Illadvised proposal and bad for dogs.</p>
<p>Beech Road Park is already segregated into an area where dogs are not allowed and an area where they are, introducing a regulation whereby dogs are not allowed off lead means many dog owners will be unable to enjoy the park. This is unfair arks are for everyone and if owners are in control of and clean up after their dogs , they should be allowed to have them off lead in the half of the park which they are not already excluded from.</p>
<p>I do not agree that dogs should be kept on a lead in Beech Rd park. Half the park is already dog free. I witness good behaviour from dog owners and never had any issues walking my dog</p>
<p>I think dog owners should have rights like any other group of people and these rules discriminate against them. I think that sports areas should be available to dog owners when not actually in use for sport. I do not understand why they should be left empty for most of the week. - I notice that these dog control orders have only just been made widely available to the public although the consultation date started at the beginning of August.</p>
<p>Don't limit the places that dogs can be off lead. - Not having poo bags can happen to anyone, you change your coat, or use up all the ones you take out.</p>

Dogs should be registered to their owner including their DNA sample in the registry documents. Should a dog foul found on the pavement/steer/park etc. the owner of the dog would be able identified via a simple sampling. It may seem an expensive process but the cost can be recovered from the owner in my view.

When dogs are excluded from a significant amount of a park, it seems rather unreasonable that they should be made to be on a lead in the part in which they are permitted. The half of Beech road park that has dogs allowed is well used for exercising dogs, and I think they should be allowed off the lead in there. - - Similarly, the playing fields in Chorlton park are valuable to dog owners for exercising their pets when not in use for football, and I think dogs appropriately under control (not necessarily on leads) should be permitted to enjoy these areas.

These proposals are fine but how will they be enforced? There is so little money for essential services - are you planning to employ dog wardens throughout the city?

We need these rule implemented on all public areas, i.e. Footpaths, streets and roads and greened areas .

I would like to see more dog free areas in Chorlton Park, particularly around the football pitches.

I live in Chorlton Park ward. There are a significant number of English Bull Terriers walked on the pavements/roads near here without leads, possibly due to our proximity to the Water Park. In light of incidents in the Water Park where such dogs where are not on leads have killed smaller animals this makes me extremely nervous for mine and other children. The Chorlton Water Park was not mentioned on the list of public spaces with exclusion areas. Also what would the fine be for dogs off the lead in a restricted area and how would this be enforced?

£150 or £200 would be more appropriate.

Restrictions on dogs and having places to be off lead limits their rights (which are given under law) to the five F's.

Friends of Marie Louise Gardens:response to dog control consultation. - - I am responding on behalf of the Friends of Marie Louise Gardens, in my capacity as chair. We discussed this at our monthly meeting three days ago. Our agreed policy is summarised as follows: - - - The main concern of the Friends is that the Marie Louise Gardens are inappropriately included on the list of "Restricted Areas" in which dogs must be kept on leads at all times. Such areas tend to formal gardens with flower beds etc., like Parsonage Gardens close by, or limited areas within larger parks like children's play areas, bowling greens or whatever, where dogs of the lead are clearly inappropriate. Despite its name, the Marie Louise Gardens is not a garden in that sense – it consists of trees and grass and paths essentially, like many other parks. It is several decades since it contained a flower bed and there are no children's playgrounds or sports facilities – it is in the main a park for walking and sitting in. - - At present, dogs are allowed both on and off the lead, by agreement with the Council. This has worked very well and we do not have any significant problems with stray dogs or with dog fouling. (On the very rare occasions when we find excreta, it gets cleaned up as part of our regular litter picking.) Indeed, responsible dog walkers are among the most frequent users of the gardens and during the week are the main users, making a useful contribution to the security of the park - - We would like this happy situation to continue and therefore request that Marie Louise Gardens be removed from the list of "Restricted Areas."

Have more dog friendly areas rather than just areas that are dog free. Fenced off areas where dogs can play and socialise safely will mean less fighting when a dog off-lead runs over to an aggressive dog on-lead. People with aggressive dogs (ie. Rescue dogs) will then know the areas to avoid. Giving people places to socialise their dogs will help lower aggression and will give a sense of community and people are much more likely to pick up faeces with other dog walkers around. Provide more bins in popular walking spots. - - Try treating the cause of the problems that some areas have with dog control and dog faeces rather than the symptoms. Parks should be accessible for everyone including dog walkers and not just families.

It is unfair to be able to stop dog owners & ask for proof of dog poo bags & so on. It will just encourage more people to walk their dogs late in the evening & act as an incentive for dog owners to avoid police. More bins in parks and bins regularly emptied better than they currently are would be a better incentive. I walk my dog every day at Chorlton park & I always clean up after him. But this often means walking round for 10-15 mins with a full poo bag or getting to bins that are completely overflowing with rubbish and having to place mine on top.

I agree with cleaning up after dogs, keeping them away from restricted areas and keeping them on leads in public places that are busy. Where dogs are under control and behaved I do not see a need to restrict the number being walked or having a dog on a lead at all times. In quiet areas they should be allowed to run otherwise how do they exercise. If there is legislation to prevent this fines will no doubt be issued where there is no need. We need to put more emphasis on responsible dog ownership and proper training.

The proposals appear to include a new rule requiring dogs to be kept on a lead at all times in all parts of Beech Road Park. I oppose this. I use to walk my dog there. Faeces are picked up by myself and other dog owners. The park is clean. There is no problem with dogs being off their leads. There is a part of the park where no dogs are allowed at all. There is no need for this greater restriction. I am unaware if there have been any issues as between dogs and other dogs or as between dogs and people. Please be strict on the issue of dog faeces but please continue to allow dogs to enjoy Beech Road Park off the lead.

Dogs are one of the best ways to teach children care and respect. They need to be encouraged everywhere. - The only new additional offences you need to consider are failing to control a dog, neglect of dogs and cruelty to dogs. - European countries happily allow dogs to co-exist on public transport and in public areas. The benefits are overwhelming.

There has to be discretion where people have needs such as dementia or physically cannot bend to pick up poo

Well behaved dogs are better than bratty beech road rd kids

I am a professional dog walker and not allowing four dogs to be walked off lead would have serious financial repercussions for me.

Common sense needs to be applied but encouraging more responsible dog ownership is a good idea. There is too much dog faeces around despite a lot of responsible owners. It's most likely a minority of persistent offenders.

Consider the thought that dog owners already used up bags owners has with them whilst out on walks. These people should not be fined. The fine is also too large. Should be in line with parking tickets and litter fine etc.

All dogs should be on leads in parks. The majority of dogs are under the control of their owners however there are those that's are not. I live near beech road park in chorlton, there are too many dogs off leads and fouling a small area. Even when dog poo is picked up it leaves smears and harmful bacteria. The dog area in beech road park is disgusting. . My child was chased by a dog off a lead there the other day and the owners were unable to control it!

My personal opinion of enforcing the 'must have means to pick up after your dog(s)' shouldn't be given an opt out as you are. There is no reason why a person walking their dog or anyone else's should not have a poo bag or other means to pick up. We are multi dog owners (currently have 5 dogs) and think if you give people the option they will always come up with an excuse. I also do not agree with the new proposed rule of not being able to walk more than 4 dogs at one time. This would cause an issue for us. There are many people around like myself and my partner who are capable of walking multiple dogs. We train our dogs to a high standard to be under control in the company of other people and dogs, we would also be very vigilant about watching them to pick up poo. All our dogs go down on command while we pick up, allowing us to ensure we do not miss a poo. I understand there are a lot of people who do not train their dogs or act as responsibly as ourselves but this rule will penalise the good people once again. Perhaps you should consider licensing all the people who have taken on dog walking as an 'easy business' not having any dog knowledge or skill to control the animals they walk or being responsible in the way they transport or walk them either. This is definitely a place where I feel you could tighten up the rules and be more specific with the people you need to pin point as a problem. As a matter of interest I am not a resident of Manchester but once these rules are set and accepted in one area other councils will follow suit.

Good to see this strong action. Still hard to catch people who exercise their dogs at night, or to confront people who respond aggressively.

I think even four dogs is too many to control for one person

Limit dogs to 6 not 4.

Dogs should have allocated playing spaces within parks to allow them to be off the lead in a safe manor. This way they can socialise and be exercised without risk of coming into contact with dogs that may be aggressive and kept on their leads. Emphasis should be the the thick dog owners

Whilst I agree that dog owners should have to pick up after their dogs, the proposal to make it an offence to not carry bags is a nonsense. Consider these two scenarios: - 1. a dog owner carries bags, picks up after their dog, disposes of the waste in bins along the walk, they use their last bag then are stopped by enforcement officer. Under the proposed order, this person would be subject to enforcement because they do not have a bag even though they have picked up after their dog. - 2. a dog owner carries bags but does not pick up after their dog. They are stopped by an enforcement officer but are not subject to enforcement because they have a bag, even though they did not pick up after their dog. - - Given that current dog control orders are not enforced, I very much doubt that these orders will be enforced either. Similar orders in other local authority areas have never been enforced. it is a disgrace that Manchester City Council is wasting resources consulting on measures which will never be enforced. - - I regularly walk my dogs in Heaton Park and although I am a responsible dog owner - my dogs are obedience trained, always under control and I always pick up after them - I am regularly subject to anti-dog sentiment from non dog owners, particularly those of certain minority faiths. The current dog exclusion areas and dog on-lead areas are poorly signposted. If the exclusion and on-lead areas in Heaton Park are to proceed, these MUST be clearly signposted. Likewise, it would be sensible to display signs in other areas of the park indicating that those areas are suitable for off lead dogs, as there are some people who seem to think that dogs should never be allowed to run off lead, or indeed that dogs should be allowed to exist at all. - - Some of the areas listed as proposed exclusion/on-lead areas for Heaton Park are unknown to me (and indeed to several friends I have asked) - Kennel Fields, Brick Hill, Hill 60 - where are these areas? They are not signposted within the Park (or on Park notice boards) nor on any maps I can find. - - The proposed orders seem to rely heavily on the notion that a dog on lead is a dog under control, when in reality this is very often not the case. I regularly see dogs on lead which are not under control, particularly those on extendable flexi leads. These leads still allow dogs to run into traffic,, approach people and cause serious injuries for both people and dogs. Likewise I regularly see people struggling to control their dogs on lead, and people with reactive dogs who have no idea as to how to manage them. - - The proposed order to limit dog walkers to 4 dogs per person is arbitrary, unfair and impractical. Instead it should be a matter of discretion for enforcement officers to decide if a person is walking too many dogs. It means that people with more than 4 dogs will not be able to walk them together even if the dogs are always under control and perfectly behaved. Compare this to a person walking one dog which is out of control yet under this proposal, perfectly legal. -

many owners clean up after their dogs then toss the little bags into the bushes

dogs should be allowed off leads in public parks and gardens

Fine should be higher.

In parks with football pitches in the open with no fences - where can dogs go? - - Are you creating dog friendly areas? - - What benefits are you giving responsible dog owners who walk their dogs off the lead all year round?

I disagree with dogs having to be on a lead in the non-designated areas of our parks, as it stymies exercise opportunity that dogs need - as part of a responsible approach to dog ownership in terms of the dogs' wellbeing. -

Dog ownership in 'walk up' flats in Hulme was forbidden during the Hulme regeneration 20 years ago but social landlords are not implementing it... It needs re-asserting by the council. We held a tenants meeting at Greenheys Lane in 2014 about this. People very upset and divided - most have forgotten about the feral dogs and dogshit mess on the 'decks' that was evrywhere in this neighbourhood. Keep up dog control in the city! I am a tenant of Adactus.

Why does the Dogs on Leads Draft state that Dogs would have to be kept on leads in "All areas" in Beech Road Park? We already have a longstanding arrangement where the football & children's play areas have been separated by fencing to be a dog free zone, while the rest of the park is an area that dog owners can allow their dogs off leads, to exercise, interact, socialise - to be dogs. - I walk our dog once or more most days in Beech Road Park. I use the time I'm dog walking to also litterpick & generally check things are as they should be. Last week I found a bin with contents smouldering & used a bucket full of water from our home to extinguish it just as it began to burn. - I know a lot of other dog owners also 'do their bit' for the park. Having dog walkers use the Park means that there are mature, responsible adults in the park at all hours in all weathers. If they can't let their dogs off their leads in the park what is the point of going into the Park? A drop in the number of dog walkers using the park could have a negative impact on the upkeep of the Park. To give just one example, would I have been there to spot & extinguish the bin fire if I couldn't let my dog off the lead in the park, or would I just have been walking it on the lead in the streets instead? As for any dog owner who doesn't clean up after their dog, control their dog, etc., will they take a rule to keep their dogs on a lead any more seriously than current rules, such as cleaning up after their dog? Banning dogs being off leads in the park would probably just lower peer pressure from other more responsible dog owners as they go elsewhere to exercise their dogs off the leads or walk them on leads in the streets..

In my experience people are in good control of their dogs. I thought the current number of dogs per person was 5. Seems ok currently. They need to run about, shouldn't need to be on leads all the time

Marie Lousie Gardens and Beech Rd Park (excluding the areas fenced off have always been in the 'dogs on a lead by order of an officer' category and should continue to be so (in error they have been put down on the 'dogs on lead schedule) - - Responsible dog owners will always have enough poo sacks at hand (and can borrow off other owners in the event of an emergency) so fining them for not being able to produce packet of poo bags seems ludicrous (at the end of a walk they will have use them up) it just seems like a sneaky additional tax and because it is unfair will cause resentment by the majority of dog owners who pick up .. - - A much more sensible approach for the few that don't pick up would be to copy the 'Poo fairy' campaign in Didsbury Park

I am a dog owner and always have poo bags with me. It's infuriating the few people you see that don't pick up after their dog who give dogs a bad name. - The only concern I have is that those who don't pick up, might just put a bag in their pocket and never actually use it! So they'll be the ones who don't get fined...

Please allow dogs off lead in Beech Road park, Chorlton.

There needs to be high profile enforcement as well as undercover enforcement, offenders identities should be published on council social media. In addition council should use dog poo DNA identification schemes to link a particular animal to multiple offences when the owner is caught. People could sign up to the DNA scheme initially voluntarily but this could become compulsory with dog chipping. This is a really serious issue dog poo can cause blindness.

More areas need to dog friendly including parks, more bins needed for dog waste. Maybe person should be given a bag by officer if they have run out so they can pick up the mess before a fine is issued. It is possible to run out of bags as a dog owner or misplace the bags.

I find 99.9% of dog owners are responsible, so should not be punished for a very small minority.

I think this is an excellent idea, dog fouling is a major problem in my area

Numbers of dogs with walkers should definitely be restricted to 4 in all public areas. Turn Moss and Chorlton woods full of gangs of professional walkers with 8 or 9 dogs. This causes problems with out of control behaviour and defecation left uncleared. If challenged about their dog's behaviour some become abusive. Regular spot checks by wardens would be appreciated by others in the dog walking community who are tired of it.

I fully agree with penalties for people not cleaning up after their dog or allowing a dog off the lead that they cannot control. I also agree that dogs should not be allowed in children's play areas. However, I completely disagree with proposals to ban dogs from certain areas of parks, e.g. Most of Alexandra Park and the proposal that dogs should be kept on leads at all times in certain parks e.g. Beech Road Park. As a responsible dog owner living in an urban area, these proposals would mean that my dog would not be properly exercised which can lead to all sorts of behavioural issues. In order to allow my dog to have a proper run around it would involve driving outside of Manchester which is bad for the environment given that most places I take him to are within walking distance of my house. By all means impose penalties on those who don't clean up after their dogs or aren't in control of their dogs but it seems grossly unfair to impose sanctions that spoil it for the large majority of dog owners who are responsible.

The proposals effectively banned dogs from all of the open spaces in parks such as Alexandra Park and Beech Road, which I strongly disagree with. The open spaces are for all and without them, there is nowhere feasible for local residents to exercise their dogs properly. - Similarly, the proposal for all dogs to be kept permanently on a lead is disgraceful. It effectively demonises all dogs, many of whom can be let off the lead in a completely safe way. It is unfair on the dogs, who cannot be exercised properly and unfairly penalises those residents who are unable to travel to a location deemed "suitable" to allow a dog off the lead, if indeed any would exist following the criticised proposal above.

Appendix 2

Elected Members Responses to the Dogs PSPO consultation

1 Two Councillors wrote in support of the Friends of Marie Louise Gardens. They supported their request that Marie Louise Gardens be removed from the requirement to keep dogs on lead at all times.

2 A Councillor wrote in support of the proposed additional power to take action against a dog walker who has no means to pick up after the dog has fouled but expressed concerns regarding its enforceability.

3 A Councillor wrote in support of cracking down on dog fouling, The Councillor also expressed concern at the proposal to include Beech Road Park in the on lead at all times Order advising that many of their constituents had written expressing their concern at the proposal.

4 A Councillor wrote regarding their concern about the dog exclusion orders relating to some football pitches in the Didsbury area, particularly in Fog Lane Park.

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Appendix 3

Consultation Responses from Interested Parties

1 The Dogs Trust

I have just received your letter today regarding PSPOs. Please accept my apologies for not responding sooner. We did initially send a letter to the council offices with our comments before you wrote to us but from the looks of it, this seems to have not reached you/gone missing!

Below are our comments regarding your PSPO consultation:

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.

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; 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.

4. 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, because it allows enforcement officers to target the owners of

dogs that are allowing them to cause a nuisance without restricting the responsible owner and their dog. As none of the other orders, less fouling, are likely to be effective without proper enforcement we would be content if the others were dropped in favour of this order.

5. Re; Taking more than a specified number of dogs onto a land:

□ The behaviour of the dogs and the competency of the handler need to be taken into consideration if considering this order. Research from 2010 shows that 95% of dog owners have up to 3 dogs. Therefore the number of dogs taken out on to land by one individual would not normally be expected to exceed four dogs.

We believe that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible, and that the vast majority of dogs are well behaved. In recognition of this, we would encourage local authorities to exercise its power to issue Community Protection Notices, targeting irresponsible owners and proactively addressing anti-social behaviours.

We work with Councils across the UK in a variety of ways to help them to promote Responsible Dog Ownership. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this matter.

We would also be very grateful if you could inform us of the outcome of the consultation process and of subsequent decisions made in relation to the PSPO.

2 PDSA's response to the proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders for Dog Control

We absolutely agree that those in charge of dogs should act responsibly in public places by picking up after them and ensuring they're under control. We're also keen to emphasise that regular exercise is key to ensuring both physical and mental health and wellbeing of dogs and offers the same benefits for their owners too. Easily accessible areas for off-lead exercise of dogs are essential for this. We believe the vast majority of dog owners are very responsible, and would like to ensure that the negative actions of a small minority do not cause controls to be put in place that could be detrimental to all.

Those who are responsible for dogs have a legal duty of care under the Animal Welfare Act (2006) to provide for their dogs' welfare needs including enabling them to "exhibit normal behaviour patterns" (see [section 9](#) of this Act). Normal behaviour patterns include the need for regular exercise and regular opportunities to walk and run (as stipulated in Section 3 of the [Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs](#) which supports this Act) and exercise off the lead is the best way for dogs to do this.

Research has shown that lower levels of exercise have been associated with an increase in behavioural problems in dogs such as aggression and fear (Lofgren et al 2014), and also that dog walking has a positive effect on owners' mental and physical health (Westgarth et al 2017). Dogs, as well as humans, can be overweight and suffer with obesity through lack of exercise and incorrect diet. In our PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report, obesity has consistently been identified by the veterinary

profession as one of the top three issues relating to dogs' wellbeing and ownership that needs to be addressed (PAW Report 2016). Recent studies have discussed how a One Health approach to tackling obesity can be used to improve the wellbeing of both owners and their dogs (Bartges et al 2017) and access to areas for exercise is critical for this.

In response to the specific drafted orders:

1. Dog Exclusion

- We agree that restrictions to some public areas would be necessary (such as for children's play areas) but feel that these should be kept to a minimum and only applied to enclosed areas to ensure that there are still an adequate number and variety of areas available for owners to exercise their dogs.
- Where areas are restricted, signposts should be installed to clearly guide owners to alternative locations that are reasonably close to allow them to adequately exercise their dog off-lead.

2. Dogs on Lead by Order of an Officer and Dogs on Leads

- Where it is deemed necessary that dogs are kept on leads we would strongly prefer to see the Dogs on Lead by Order of an Officer Order implemented in preference to the Dogs on Leads Order to ensure that individual irresponsible owners can be targeted without affecting the majority of dog owners who would be acting responsibly.
- By targeting individuals, this also gives an opportunity to assist them in dealing with any issues, e.g. by referring them to a suitably qualified dog behaviourist.

3. Dog Fouling

- The vast majority of owners act responsibly when picking up after their dog.
- Where dog fouling is a problem, we feel that targeted measures should be put in place to deal with those who fail to pick up, in preference to excluding all dogs from an area.
- To assist owners with responsibly disposing of poo bags, Councils should provide plenty of bins that are regularly emptied.
- Monitoring the number of poo bags being carried by an owner would be challenging to enforce and could unfairly penalise someone who has just used their poo bags to pick up after their dog.

4. Maximum number of dogs – open air public land

- We feel that this order may not have the desired effect because owners' abilities can vary. One owner have comfortably look after multiple dogs, yet another may struggle with one. We think that it is more important to

enforce the Dog Fouling order and Dogs on Lead by Order of an Officer order as these will have more of an impact.

References:

- Bartges J, Jushner RF, Michel KE, Sallis R, Day MJ (2017) One Health Solutions to Obesity in People and Their Pets. *Journal of Comparative Pathology* 156, issue 4, pp 326-333.
- Lofgren SE, Wiener P, Blott SC, Sanchez-Molano E, Woolliams JA, Clementsa DN, Haskell MJ (2014) Management and personality in Labrador Retriever dogs. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* (156) pp 44–53.
- PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report 2011, 2016, 2017.
www.pdsa.org.uk/pawreport.

3 Blue Cross response to Manchester City Council consultation

Blue Cross is an animal welfare charity that finds new families for homeless pets, provides free veterinary treatment to pets belonging to those who cannot afford private fees, and gives education talks to children and young people about animal welfare and responsible dog ownership. We also run a free and confidential pet bereavement helpline for those struggling to cope with the loss of a pet.

Please find our response below.

Dog exclusion

Public spaces are for all to enjoy and we recognise that there are some spaces where it may not be appropriate for dogs to be.

Under the Animal Welfare Act (2006), pet owners have a legal duty to ensure their pets are able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns. For dogs, this should include suitable exercise to keep them both physically and mentally fit. Regular exercise keeps dogs physically fit and prevents behaviour problems from developing. The opportunity to interact with others of their species off-lead also helps keep dogs sociable, meaning they are less likely to develop behaviour problems towards other dogs and cause issues within the community.

We encourage the council to ensure there are sufficient areas available to residents and visitors to provide off-lead running for their dogs.

We note the council intends to exclude dogs from many sports areas. We would encourage the council to consider whether these restrictions could be time-sensitive in relation to when the areas are being used for sports. Outside of times when they are being used by others for sports, some sports fields can make excellent exercise areas for dogs; particularly in winter if they are well-lit, as areas with good lighting are safer for both owners and dogs.

Public Spaces Protection Orders do allow for time-sensitive restrictions and Blue Cross encourages the council to consider these for appropriate areas.

Dog fouling

Blue Cross believes that picking up and disposing of dog faeces is part of being a responsible dog owner and has no objection to requiring owners to do so. We encourage the council to ensure the necessary bins are provided to allow owners to do this.

We are concerned however that a rule requiring owners to show the appropriate means to pick up after their dog when asked may have an unintended consequence. If a dog defecates more times than expected on a walk, an owner may find they get through more poo bags than they realised. If an owner with one remaining poo bag fears they will be fined later in the walk by an enforcement officer who asks for evidence of the means to pick up, the owner may not pick up after their dog; leading to fouling.

Maximum number of dogs

Blue Cross is opposed to a blanket ban on owners from walking more than four dogs at one time and instead recommends the council uses one of the other restrictions available to local authorities under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that applies to individuals.

This is because we do not believe that responsible dog owners should be penalised for the actions of irresponsible owners. Some owners will be perfectly capable of walking more than four dogs without this having a negative impact on others.

As a rehoming charity we are aware that a sudden ban on the number of dogs that can be walked may lead to owners having to find new homes for their dogs, which would cause great upset.

We recommend the council considers Defra's guidance on this on page 43 of the 'Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership: Practitioner's manual', October 2014, which sets out an example of how Wandsworth Borough Council have approached managing the number of dogs walked by one person.

Dogs on lead by order of an officer

As mentioned above under the dog exclusion section, we recognise that some public spaces may be inappropriate for dogs. As long as enforcement officers take a common sense approach to asking owners to keep their dog on a lead, for example if helping to control irresponsible ownership, we have no objection.

Dogs on leads

As mentioned above under the dog exclusion and dogs on lead by order sections, we recognise that some public spaces may be inappropriate for dogs.

We have already noted a dog owner's responsibilities as regards a dog's needs under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Allowing dogs suitable areas to exercise is crucial to keeping them physically and mentally fit. A well exercised and sociable dog is less likely to cause problems in the community.

We ask the council to ensure that residents and visitors have sufficient space to exercise their dogs off-lead in the local area if on-lead restrictions are to be imposed in some public spaces.

4 Notes from a Telephone conversation with a representative of Assistance Dogs UK

The main points of the conversation were:

- The authority has referred to a section of the Equalities Act (s12), which he feels is incorrect as it refers specifically to private hire taxis
- He acknowledges that there are difficulties in providing the specific definition of an 'assistance dog' and the law does not specifically provide this, however, s20 provides the closest definition
- He believes that the Council will need to refer to dogs which are required to assist those with a disability as defined under the Equalities Act, ie. a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities
- He recognises that this may be open to abuse due to the number of residents to whom the protected characteristics apply however, it would be for a court of law to decide whether the disability would necessitate an assistance dog and therefore if the exemption would apply

Re: the specific drafted exemptions he commented as followed:

- He generally agreed that there would be no need for an exemption in the Dogs on Lead by Direction order
- He agreed that the prescribed maximum number of dogs order need not apply to assistance dogs since there would be no circumstances where 5 or more assistance dogs would be taken out at a time
- Discussed the on lead regulations and whilst he agreed that there would be no circumstances whereby the dog would need to be off lead on a public highway he advised that he would look into whether this would also apply to all public areas
- Discussed the exclusion areas and that the exemption should apply so that those with assistance dogs are allowed to access facilities such as playgrounds, cemeteries etc.
- Also discussed the exemption drafted into the fouling order – He advised that all assistance dogs are trained not to defecate 'on demand' where possible however, there are circumstances where they may not be able to do so.

Appendix 4

Response to Dogs PSPO from Friends of Parks

1 Friends of Beech Road Park

5 September 2017

To whom it may concern
Manchester City Council

Re Consultation - Proposal for control of dogs.
M/C City Council (Dog Fouling) Public Spaces Protection Order 2017
Sadly the Friends of Beech Rd Park (Horton M21
were not made aware of this consultation.

We found out about it by chance on Thursday
31 August. Since then we have tried to inform
and get the views of members of the public,
our councillors, park officials and dog owners.

The Draft proposals that I have been able to see
state that a person in charge of a dog on land
specified in the Schedule to this Order must keep
the dog on a lead - in our case Beech
Road Park M21 All areas. We already have
prominent notices of the current Dog Control
Orders which do not require dogs to be
on leads unless requested/asked for by an
authorised person and we are very happy
to continue with this arrangement.

At present a very large (almost half) of
the park is fenced off as a designated
children's play area & games area - the
fences & gates were originally provided and
maintained by the Friends Group and Beech
Road Traders, and the Friends have put
notices reminding parents & child carers
to keep the gates to this area closed.

The Beech Rd Traders & Rotary Club
have provided 'dog waste' containers at all

2

comes of the park and the Council/contractors collect the bags regularly with other litter bags from bins. The dog owners have 'litter patrols' too

The vast majority of dog owners are very good at picking up & carefully depositing dog faeces appropriately, and I and many others would pick up any dog faeces that had been left - which happily is rare. As dogs are allowed to run freely at present, we keep check on them and also call other owners' attention to any 'squatting' dog

that they might have missed. We nearly all have rolls of 'dog poo bags' for our own dogs' use but sometimes a dog goes more often than once or expected and most folk are very happy to offer a spare if needed.

We have a very happy atmosphere and community spirit in Beech Rd Park and most dogs are very happy to play and exercise together - some dogs are more defensive if kept on leads.

Several years ago this 'dogs on leads' question arose - then laminated notices were put by the council on park gates re this. I was able to speak at a Council Scrutiny Group meeting to explain the situation in Beech Rd Park & was very happy to receive the ruling that dogs could be 'off lead' except in the child play area and the appropriate dog control orders re fouling/no more than 4 dogs per person etc applied to our Park. Any one is welcome to visit & observe us! We hope this happy status will continue.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted], Secretary, Friends of Beech Rd Park



Dog control survey

14%

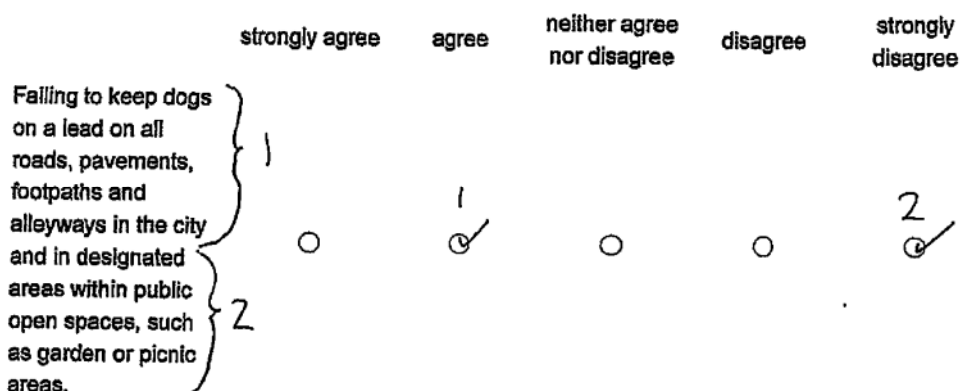
Proposals to keep existing offences

1. We want to keep these as offences. Do you agree or disagree with our proposals? *

	strongly agree	agree	neither agree nor disagree	disagree	strongly disagree
If a dog owner fails to clean up faeces from their dog.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allowing a dog onto areas where dogs aren't allowed, such as sport facilities and children's play areas *	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Failing to put a dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised officer.	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Anyone taking more than four dogs at one time onto any open-air land that the public have access to	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* If someone has left a gate open (children's area) or if there are no signs of demarcation (sports facilities) as at Chorlton Park, or fencing (undesirable) dogs may innocently get into these areas, and the owners attempt to get them out, if this happens.
* You could have gone out with four dogs & picked up a stray, using a spare lead or string.

Dog control survey



This is a badly constructed statement - the 'designated Previous Next areas' should be a separate choice and clarified. eg if (2) plants are delicate - not to be trodden on!

In Beech Rd Park, we have flower areas across the park and picnic tables have been provided across the area, to the Friends group etc, and individuals can picnic anywhere they choose, in or out of the 'childrens' area. People are aware that they share the area outside this with dogs. We have had problems with people using portable barbeques & scorching the ground or burning wood structures or paintwork on picnic benches.



Dog control survey

29%

Proposals for a new offence

2. We want it to be an offence if those in control of a dog can't show us that they have the means to pick up and dispose of the faeces from that dog. This applies on any open-air land that the public have access to.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposals? *

- strongly agree
- agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Previous Next

There is no way of proving this - dog owners could have come out with bags and used them all up (eg even picking up other dog's faeces as we do in Beech Rd Park if we come across any) - or if a dog 'goes' more often than expected.

Most dog owners here carry 'spares' and are happy to give them to other owners, if needed. Friends & the Rotary Group provided 'dog poo' containers & notices at each corner of the park.

These are emptied regularly by Council contractors with other litter. I understand it is all collected together now so litter bins could be used as well.

Dog control survey

Page 1 of 1



Dog control survey

43%

Proposals for a new fine

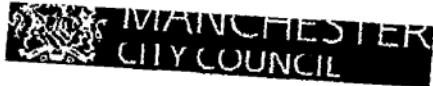
3. We want to introduce a fine of £100 for any offenders (payable within 14 days). Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? * ?

- strongly agree
- agree (not my signage)
- neither agree nor disagree
- disagree
- strongly disagree

Previous Next

As stated before, proof of 'offending' could be difficult or impossible - or proof of innocence.

Would an imposed fine mean a recorded offence? Would the cost of processing this be more than £100?



Dog control survey

57%

Comments

4. Give us any other comments

Friends of Beech Rd Park and all the other dog owners & residents I have spoken to are very happy to continue with the current Dog Control Orders as were agreed after the last Council Scrutiny group meeting that I spoke at putting forward our case that dogs should be allowed 'off lead' in Beech Rd Park, but on if required.

Many houses around the park & in this suburb have small gardens or yards. We have the Meadows near by & the Water Pans but many owners (such as myself now) are older or infirm & cannot get to these. Dog Control Orders stand on the Meadows too & we are happy with those. People who work would not have time to take their dogs a far as the before work necessarily so the park is ideal for the exercise dogs need. Dogs can be more defensive or apparently aggressive towards other dogs if they are on leads, instead of being able to run freely for a time

[//www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/dogcontrolsurvey/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/dogcontrolsurvey/)

04/09/2017

2 Friends of Debdale Park

Email content – 14/08/17

Great Idea, It's enforcing it. But if it helps the park I'm all for it

Email content (14/08/17)

REDACTED

14/08/20
17

to , **REDACTED**

Thanks for the email and info.

The Friends are happy to cooperate in any way necessary over any issues for the improvement of the park.

Regards,

REDACTED

Secretary to the Friends of Debdale Park

3 Friends Of Marie Louise Gardens

Thank you for contacting me on this matter, presumably in my capacity as Chair of the Friends of Marie Louise Gardens.

The Friends wanted to make a collective response and we have waited until our monthly meeting a couple of days ago to formally agree it.

The agreed response is contained in the attached document, which gives brief reasons why we think MLG should be removed from the list of Restricted Areas. This is the most important matter for us.

I should add that there was universal support for maintaining the current regulations ie the first of your points below.

On the second point re the new regulation about poop scoops and its enforcement, opinions varied. Obviously no-one has any sympathy for dog fouling., but in Marie Louise Gardens, we prefer a softly softly approach to enforcement because we find it works well and helps to make MLG a welcoming place. On the other hand, we are aware that it can be a big problem in other cases, and something more forceful may be required. So no clear conclusion.

I have incorporated this in a response to the web consultation, but as this is designed for individuals and we want to respond as a group, it was a little awkward.

Yours sincerely

REDACTED

Attachment:

Friends of Marie Louise Gardens

Response to Consultation on Dog Control Orders

The main concern of the Friends is that the Marie Louise Gardens are inappropriately included on the list of “Restricted Areas” in which dogs must be kept on leads at all times. Such areas tend to formal gardens with flower beds etc., like Parsonage Gardens close by, or limited areas within larger parks like children’s play areas, bowling greens or whatever, where dogs of the lead are clearly inappropriate. Despite its name, the Marie Louise Gardens is not a garden in that sense – it consists of trees and grass and paths essentially, like many other parks. It is several decades since it contained a flower bed and there are no children’s playgrounds or sports facilities – it is in the main a park for walking and sitting in.

At present, dogs are allowed both on and off the lead, by agreement with the Council. This has worked very well and we do not have any significant problems with stray dogs or with dog fouling. (On the very rare occasions when we find excreta, it gets cleaned up as part of our regular litter picking.) Indeed, responsible dog walkers are among the most frequent users of the gardens and during the week are the main users, making a useful contribution to the security of the park

We would like this happy situation to continue and therefore request that Marie Louise Gardens be removed from the list of “Restricted Areas.”