

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Manda Rigby, Cabinet Member for Communications & Community	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 13 th December 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3677
TITLE:	Public Spaces Protection Orders for dogs on leads within Bath & North East Somerset Council owned cemeteries	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
<p>List of attachments to this report:</p> <p>Please list all the appendices here, clearly indicating any which are exempt and the reasons for exemption:</p> <p>Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment</p>		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 Cemeteries are places of remembrance and reflection, and it is essential to maintain their sanctity. However, issues with uncontrolled dogs off leads, fouling, and disturbances have been reported, causing distress to visitors, Council staff and undermining the dignity of these spaces. These situations create significant Health & Safety implications and risks particularly for the Council staff working within these areas along with cemetery visitors. Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) provide local authorities with the legal framework to enforce restrictions that prevent anti-social behaviour in public spaces.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is asked to:

- 2.1 Approve the proposal to go to full Consultation

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The business case proposes the introduction of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to mandate that dogs be kept on leads within our cemeteries. The initiative aims to address concerns regarding public safety, environmental cleanliness, and the respectful use of these cemeteries as listed:

Locksbrook Cemetery, Upper Bristol Road, Bath, BA1 3DQ

Harptree Cemetery, West Harptree Road, East Harptree, Somerset, BS40 6BQ

St. Michael's Cemetery, St. Michael's Road, Lower Weston, Bath, BA1 3BJ

Smallcombe Cemetery, 6 Widcombe Hill, Bath, BA2 6DD

St. James Cemetery, Lower Bristol Road, Bath, BA2 3BQ

Twerton Cemetery, Bellotts Rd, Bath, BA2 3RT

- 3.2 Introducing PSPOs to require dogs to be kept on leads in cemeteries is a proactive step toward ensuring these spaces remain safe, clean, and respectful for all visitors, council staff, contractors and the public alike. The initiative aligns with the local authority's commitment to enhancing community well-being and maintaining public spaces. Despite previous efforts including signage, staff engagement, and public communications, non-compliance and abuse toward staff has persisted, necessitating a formal enforcement tool.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The business case proposes the introduction of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to mandate that dogs be kept on leads within our cemeteries.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 This will have implications on the Council Enforcement Officers as they will be enforcing the PSPO regulations if approved.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 No adverse impacts were identified in the collation of the EqIA and it was felt that all groups and those with a protected characteristic would in fact benefit from the proposal and create a safer environment for all.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 N/A

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 Numerous avenues have been utilised including signage, media coverage and social media campaigns – all of which have proved unsuccessful.

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Cllr Manda Rigby (Cabinet Member) – report approved 03/12/2025
- 10.2 Michael Hewitt (Monitoring Officer) - report approved 03/12/2025

10.3 Jeff Wring (S151 Officer) – report approved 03/12/2025

Contact person	Vincent Young – Service Manager, Bereavement Services Tel: 01225 396020
Background papers	N/A
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	