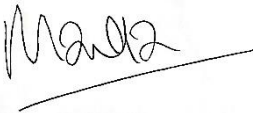


Single Member Cabinet Decision**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference****E3677**

Public Spaces Protection Orders for dogs on leads within Bath & North East Somerset Council owned cemeteries

Decision maker/s	Cllr Manda Rigby, Cabinet Member for Communications and Community
The Issue	<p>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. PSPO's provide local authorities with the legal framework to enforce restrictions that prevent anti-social behaviour in public spaces.</p> <p>The Council owned cemeteries concerned are:</p> <p>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</p>
Decision Date	16th December 2025
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees to approve the recommendation to go to full Consultation.
Rationale for decision	<p>Introducing PSPO's 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 have persisted, necessitating a formal enforcement tool.</p>
Financial and budget implications	N/A
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Health & Safety; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations

Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Parish Council; Town Council; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Service Users; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Other Public Sector Bodies; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Yet to be conducted
Other options considered	Numerous avenues have been utilised including signage, media coverage and social media campaigns – all of which have proved unsuccessful
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None.
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	 Councillor Manda Rigby Cabinet Member for Communications and Community Bath and North East Somerset Council
Date of Signature	16 December 2025
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	