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Dear Member

Cabinet – 29 October 2020

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the next meeting of the **Cabinet**, the following papers that were unavailable when the agenda was printed:

Item 7 – Public Spaces Protection Order - the full set of responses to the public consultation.

Yours sincerely

Sally Gabriel
Member Services Manager

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Summary of responses
Areas for walking dogs off lead are already very restricted especially older people and those with mobility issues.
To impose a new blanket restriction for dogs to be exercised on a lead in all parks in Crediton is cruel and unnecessary. It is common to sense to know that dogs need to be freely exercised without the constrictions of a lead. They can cover a lot of ground in this way and are so happy in doing so. To deny them of this pleasure is tantamount to cruelty. People derive a lot of pleasure from exercising their dog locally in this manner. Again to not be able to do so would be also cruel to the owners. I understand that as far as Crediton is concerned the number of complaints relating dogs was minimal. A small number of complaints that did occur were mainly in areas other than parks. The only exception was Newcombes Meadow (where there is already a requirement to keep dogs on leads), and these small number of cases were to do with dog fouling. To change the current regulations would be yet another example of beaurocratic health and safety that is unnecessary as no problem would appear to exist. I would assume that if these pleasures were taken away that the council would provide alternative arrangements. We surely can't rely on owners of private land for their generosity.
Re Crediton. Newcombes Park already has a bylaw requiring dogs to be on leads. It is important that dogs can be properly exercised off lead to chase a ball in other public spaces apart from play areas and the complaints have not related to dogs being off leads in other parks.
At all times in all public areas, no dog can be trusted not to attack at any time. If off the lead the owner has no control if an attack takes place.
Dogs love running after thrown tennis balls and retrieving them which is fine providing the dog is kept under control by their owner.
I don't think they should have to be on leads in public parks. If this goes through there won't be anywhere locally to walk your dog off the lead, which will increase traffic and pollution as we will have to drive to somewhere to exercise our dogs. What happens to dogs whose owners don't drive? How are they meant to excerise them? You should be looking to find the owners of dangerous dog instead of punishing everyone.

In terms of owners being able to exercise thier dog off the lead in parks, the council do not seem to have explored any other options to meet the obejectives of the consultation apart from a blanket requirement of having all dogs on leads at all times. The council have not proivded any evidence of increased problems of fouling or agression from dogs off leads, and certainly not on a park by park basis. The extent of the council's work seems to have simply been to draw red lines on a map of each of its parks.
As a responsible owner of a very well-behaved dog I feel that we are being penalised for those owners who are not! Very unfair!
Dogs which behave and aren't a problem should be able to be let off the lead. People with aggressive dogs should never let their dogs off lead and if they feel like it they will, regardless of any rules unfortunately.
Dog's require off lead exercise and not everyone has access to a vehicle to drive to a rural location without livestock to give their dog/s off lead exercise. A dog that is not appropriately exercised if far more likely to display "bad" behaviour, such as barking, or aggressive behaviours. Therefore, I think it is imperative that public parks remain a place that dogs can be exercised off lead, the benefits to the dog's wellbeing and the wellbeing of the people who own the dog and those who live within close proximity of a dog. I wholeheartedly agree with both picking up and removal of dog faeces from public places, and an owners responsibility to keep their dogs under control for the safety of the general public. However, a balance needs to be maintained not to deprive an innocent animal of basic rights to the exercise required for both the animals physical and mental wellbeing. Increase fines/punishments for inconsiderate dog owners, rather than punish innocent animals.
I agree on leads in formal parks like west exe & people's park but not in general areas of open space such as off Bluebell Avenue in Tiverton where dogs are need to be off leads to take adequate exercise and for play purposes & socialization, I have never experienced a problem with this
Yes, dogs must be under control and owners should pick up after their dogs. This is already stated in law. Forcing dogs to be on leads will not address the lack of cleaning up. enforcement of existing laws is a far better solution. Dogs need to be allowed to be exercised, which doesn't mean being on a lead all the time. Keeping a dog on a lead all the time and not allowing canine socialisation will result, ironically given your stated aims, in more dog aggression.

Dogs need spaces to run free. Some of the public parks listed are primarily and in some case solely used by people to allow them to throw a ball for example. Obviously, children's play areas should be dog-free, but areas including Cudmore Park and Starkey Close and Tidcombe Walk are quiet and a good place to play with dogs. It would be awful to stop us letting dogs run free, and we'd all be forced to go to Knightshayes and places further away, thus meaning more car journeys to suitable destinations.
Growling is a natural dog behaviour from yorkshire terriers to labradors. It is a warning sign to keep away or shows fear. If growling leads to aggressive attack then clearly you tackle that dog or that owner - a blanket ban to dogs being off lead in dog walking areas like the railway is over the top response to only 128 complaints, some of which you say may be a 'dog growling'.
I am not a great dog lover but I do think it is cruel to not let dogs off the lead in a public space as long as the owner can control their dog. This rarely causes an issue to other park users in my experience.
Dogs need to be able to run freely. Part of caring for a dog entails providing it with the right to express freedom of movement. Being restricted on a lead is not sufficient exercise and verges on the cruel, depriving it of its right to freely exercise. The parks of Mid Devon should be available for everyone's use. Dogs should be allowed to play ball, play with other dogs or simply run around expressing natural behaviour and enjoying themselves. It would not be right or fair to deprive all dogs of their freedom just because there may have been problems by a small minority of irresponsible owners. I love to see dogs enjoying running freely, it's in their nature and it's horrible and unnatural to see them confined and restrained on a lead when they are in a park or open space.
Dogs who are under the correct control of their owner should be allowed to run & sprint providing the owner has sufficient recall over them. Some dog breeds, to stay healthy require to have off lead exercise.
Dogs need the opportunity to be able to exercise off their leads. We are all forced to pay for the up keep of parks so we should all be able to benefit from them. I agree that dogs should be kept under control, and I always try to do that with mine, but dogs do need some freedom. The only time I would be likely to use a park is to walk my dog.

There are public parks in mid devon which offer the only place for dogs to be let off the lead.. most dogs and their owners get great pleasure from throwing a ball to a dog and to teach them to retrieve. If they could not exercise their dogs safely off the lead they would have to get in a car to go to a beach. Not so good for the environment. Farmland is not always possible to use as off lead exercise as livestock is often around. In walking my dog i have never come across viscious dogs. They exist but are a very small proportion of the dogs thst are regularly exercised off the lead.
I strongly believe that ALL dogs should be kept on a lead in ANY public area
Well behaved dogs should be able to roam and play under supervision of responsible owners. Only officially designated, and hopefully trained persons should be able to enforce a challenge to this.
Because it's a "public" park. That includes walkers and their dogs. Provided they pick up their dog's waste.
Enforcing the use of leads in such parks is too severe a response and is punitive to the vast majority of dog walkers who do not cause a nuisance. Conditions for use of such parks by dogs and their walkers without a lead should be considered. Such as allowing those who have not previously been sanctioned to use the park on condition 1) that young children are not in the immediate area, 2) that dogs are placed on a lead without delay at the reasonable request of another park user, 3) that dogs be required to be led at certain peak use times, for example. I am a dog walker living in Cullompton and have used Crow Bridge park for years without difficulty or conflict. Meadow Lane park has proximity to the skate park and pavement / traffic using Meadow Lane and therefore an area of this park adjoining the road and skatepark should be subject to a dog lead only clause. Perhaps council might consider a simple fence to cordon off an area where unrestricted responsible dog exercising may occur?
I don't agree with names public parks because in open spaces our family pets need area to run free- on the condition the animal is not known to be a nuisance in which case it should remain on a lead for safety .
Cementaries out of respect and if enforced for a lawfully significant reason. Public parks are used by so many dog owners as a place where they can exercise safely. Owners should of course have control of their dog off lead

Some of the public parks are in a rural area without children’s play areas and I can’t see what the problem is when the children’s area is enclosed to separate . I feel that responsible owners do adhere with consideration to others by implementing your current plans the ones who cause problems will continue. Perhaps it might be prudent to start with CTV cameras in mentioned areas which then will have a dual purpose.. firstly to identify irresponsible dog owners and secondly anti-social behaviours ie public drinking and drug taking which I would feel is much more of an issue in Crediton at this current time.
Well behaved dogs should have freedom to walk off the leach when they are supervised by an adult responsible walker
Much more antisocial threats from teenagers in parks, can they be put on leads
Given that any piece of land larger than a pocket handkerchief is "designated", the proposal is too restrictive.
I do not believe that dogs should be kept on leads in certain parks you are talking about such as the dog park at the people’s park. The majority of dog owners pick dog poo up. Why should the rest of us and our dogs be punished
Dogs need to be excercised off the lead ....and "named parks " seem to be anywhere you can do this at the moment .
Most dogs benefit greatly from daily Offlead exercise and in these open spaces I believe it should be allowed. A responsible dog owner will pick up after his dog and keep his dog under control whether on or off lead and irresponsible owners won't pick up even if the dog is on lead. Owners will need to travel daily to properly exercise their dog and some may not be able to do this. it seems very unfair to punish the many because of the few.
Dog owners NOT keeping dogs under control rather than all dog owners should be targeted

The proposal over parks is far too wide ranging. Many active breeds require off-lead time for welfare - the limitations proposed will actively harm people's pets. The proposal penalises good dog owners but, as mentioned, many incidents of aggression were by on-lead dogs, making the gains of this drastic proposal rather limited. It is common for many dogs to be unwilling to defecate while on a lead, requiring off-lead time for welfare. Off-lead play with a family dog is a significant form of personal recreation for owners, including families with children, meaning the blanket prohibition cuts quality of life for many, many people. Decision makers should consult with animal welfare charities and a dog behaviourist before concluding this option is necessary or humane. Be aware that an important aspect of dog socialisation, which reduces incidents of aggression, is off-lead playtime with other people and dogs. Powers already exist for enforcement of genuinely dangerous animals as well as to deal with fouling. It is extremely unclear what small gain the proposed lead enforcement will provide, and when set against the loss of welfare, pleasure and active socialisation provided by off-lead time the benefits can hardly be justified.
Parts of some larger named public parks could be specifically assigned for dogs to be off the lead, eg. There is a 'greyhound run' in Cullompton. New signage must make it clear to dog owners that this park is a 'dogs-on-leads' park.
Clearly dogs should not be in children's play areas. However many of the public spaces listed are frequented by responsible dog owners who are there to exercise their dog, allow them to run around and interact with other dogs which is essential for the dogs mental health and well being. Should these areas be particularly busy then responsible dog owners keep their dogs under close control and put them on the lead if necessary. So no I do not agree that dogs should be kept on leads in the named public spaces.
Dogs need off lead excersize not many areas if not allowed off in parks
It will not necessarily get the waste picked up. I have seen poo on the payments where dogs would clearly be on a lead. The people who do not pick up are irresponsible as they know their dog has done it. Don't penalise the majority for the the small amount who don't follow the law.
It would be better to enforce the current legislation regarding fouling and antisocial behaviour in the parks. Most dogs are well behaved - in fact better behaved - off a lead than on. They are more protective when on a lead. Those who flout the current laws will still do so, and you will penalise the rest of us.

The dog owner has the responsibility to keep their dog under control. There are many differences in the behavior of each animal, some are well trained and others that have irresponsible owners who have not trained their dog. It is unfair that all dogs and owners should be penalized with a blanket draconian ban. Some breeds of dog require to run to exercise for their well being and that cannot be attained on a lead. The majority of the people using the open spaces specified are dog owners and the council should be looking to provide areas for this vital form of human and canine exercise.
I let my dog off the lead in some parks and always pick after her why should she be penalised because of the lazy few ?
Guidance from the government states that councils should publish a list of alternative sites which dog walkers can use to exercise their dogs without restrictions. Can you list these please? Councils should also consult dog law and welfare officers and orgaisations affected by restrictions before seeking to a PSPO. Can you please share that report?
only in named public parks, if there is a notice asking dog owners to do so.
I accept that there are dogs out there that need to be on a lead. However, my own dog is the most passive animal and I see no reason for someone else to tell me to put him on a lead. As a very responsible owner, I will judge When a lead is necessary
Disagree with the unfenced area of Amory Park, Bluebell Avenue, Gornhay Lane, Oak Close, Old Park and Railway Walks Tiverton. These are not play areas and dogs should be allowed off the lead under control.
I do not know all of these parks but I do regularly use Old Peoples Park (Plan 49) to exercise my dogs off lead as this is one of the only areas children do not play.
I fell it depends on the park. I agree with dogs on leads in Peoples Park Tiverton, but the old Park Tiverton should be free for dogs to run as it is now. also Oak Close Tiverton open space, I dont feel this interferes with anyone if dogs are allowed to have a run about in there.
Some dogs are well trained and walk at thier owners heel
Restrictions within parks are a little over the top. Given that many dogs are trained and have sensible owners, this ruling restricts the masses because of the actions of the minority. Its not right

I think that it depends where the public park is. There are parks where dogs could be off lead. Unfortunately dog walks have been cut with so much building. Where I live there are so few places now where your dog can have a run. None of the named play areas in my area you would take a dog in anyway
Well behaved dogs should be allowed off leads.
I feel that within public parks dogs should be kept on lead but in other parkland areas - perhaps where there is a separate area i.e Amory Park outside the fenced area, or People park on the sloped section dogs should have somewhere they can have a run off lead
Dogs need space to be able to 'run' and I feel if there is an area of park/grassed area that does not have a play area in it then dogs should be able to run free IF they are well behaved and socialised dogs.
Parks that don’t contain children’s play areas/equipment should not be treated in the same way as those that do contain them. I agree that dogs should be on leads in parks with play equipment but they should be allowed off the lead in other parks.
There are already public parks that have notices stating dogs should be kept on a lead but you do not currently deal with offenders who ignore this so how do you expect to be able to police a totally blanketing of dog walking areas under your new proposals. Certain play areas are already fenced off from dogs but you are now including areas adjacent to the restricted dog walking areas.
Dangerous dogs yes, dogs who should wear a muzzle yes, friendly dogs no. Also I hope you're not planning on taking away vital dog socialisation and exercise areas like the Fingle Bridge where dogs are allowed to socialise off lead.
People's park has a separate area for dogs to be off lead why change it? Who else uses the steep slope?
If a dog is kept under control, I see no issue if off lead in parks or cemeteries.
There should be some designated areas where dogs can be run off the lead. Clearly signposted so those who want to let dogs off the lead can and those who don't want to be around dogs can stay away!

There are a lot of dogs In Willand and only a few irresponsible ones who do not pick-up,as is the case almost everywhere. Parks are for the public,with or without dogs.A blanket ban,all dogs on leads, is ill thought out and draconian. not all parks are the same. most people using Victoria park are with dogs(map 67).The small portion between 8 and 9 Victoria Close is used very little,mostly by a couple of dog walkers.I have never seen a dog in Willand Moor road park! if these measures come to pass then people with dogs will get in their cars and drive places where there is the space.It would not be very good for the environment with a lot of added pollution?Not very green.
Firstly you have in place fines for those whom do not clear up their dogs waste. Keeping a dog on a lead will not change the antisocial behaviour of our citizens who disregard their responsibilities. You speak of enforcement of your “new” proposals, but how have you acted upon and enforced the existing regulations? I’m sad to say with very little effect when I see the amount of waste in the locality and scant regard of the supposed fines for the offenders
I think it’s madness to stop areas like the Tidcombe railway walk, and the West exe river walk!
Dogs should be allowed freedom if they can behave. By stopping all dog owners from letting their dogs off of a lead, you are punishing all. There will be less incentive for people to train dogs and socialise them.
Why should well behaved dogs be kept on a lead because of the few that can't behave??
Dogs should be kept under control in the above areas but this does not mean on leads at all times. For example we frequent Cromwells greenspace on a daily basis and there is never anyone else there so there is no purpose in our well behaved dog having the pleasure of a run taken away from him.
Named Public Parks is a misleading statement as on Schedule C there are Public Parks and Public Open spaces. I would agree to Public Parks but the other ares e.g. Tiverton Railway Walk should be excluded from non lead walking being prohibited and only when requested by an authorised person when a dog is being a nuisance etc.

I walk my dog off the lead in public area's, mainly people's park crediton. I don't believe that I should keep my dog on her lead in this area. I always pick up after my dog and the same applies to other dog walkers who go to people's park. I have never seen any dogs being aggressive towards anyone or any other dogs while I have been there. I don't see why dogs can't be let off the lead in this area as generally people go there early in the morning before going to work to walk there dog. You don't see any of the general public there at that time of the day, actually you don't see many people there at any time of the day!!. Some people just don't want to clean up after their dogs so by having dogs on leads won't make any difference to some people. It's not the public area's that are bad it's the pavements
Proposed changes will make it near-impossible for the majority to let dogs off-lead, without travelling outside of town to somewhere like Knightshayes. As a consequences, the quality of life of the dogs will suffer. Breeds that need lots of exercise will not get it, and so likely end up developing behavioural issues. It will also inhibit chances for training commands such as recall, further adding to behavioural issues and making complaints more likely in the future. Most owners who have aggressive dogs / dogs with behavioural issues are aware of that and keep them leashed in an appropriate manner. The move to make virtually all green spaces leash-only is an over-reaction that will do much harm to the dogs at the cost of minimal benefit to the public.
Some of the places are not “ parks” but public “ green “ places. I have two big dogs who since they were puppies I have walked a 3 mile circular route around the town at 7 am. I have had them on the lead in all public areas apart from the field between the Lowman and the Exe at the bottom of St Andrew Street which is one of the proposed enforcement areas. The River Walk / Rotary Way except when there are families or swans about again a proposed enforcement area. Then again in the Old Park area off People’s Park., I let them off another proposed area. I carry and use poo bags always. If I am required to have them on the lead in all these areas I will have to drive them out of town to Exercise. They are active but not aggressive dogs and being large and black I do recognize they can be intimidating and take precautions as necessary.
Often older people are more limited in the areas they can access to give their pets a chance of a free run. I agree that dogs should be banned from children's play parks, communal garden areas and also from sports pitches. However, restricting access to other open spaces will not solve the main problem in my area, which is dog fouling on the pavements.

I don’t think that people should be stopped from having their dogs off lead especially when the parks are usually fairly empty. I allow my dog off lead In a few of these public parks if the parks are quiet. I feel people should be allowed to enjoy these public places to exercise their dogs. I also believe that dogs should be kept under control and put on a lead if any potential hazards are around. It would reduce my enjoyment of walking my dog as they are part of my daily routine.
Some areas of parks should be designated off lead places. Maybe fenced off?
It gives dog owners the chance for their dogs to run free and off the lead. I agree that dangerous dogs should be kept on the lead in such scenarios and that dog owners are responsible to pick up after their dogs. It should be up to the dog warden to make sure that these rules apply rather than putting a blanket over all dogs. Everyone is else being penalised for things that small minorities don’t do. People have dogs so that they can exercise them freely in these spaces.
Because if you are a responsible dog owner you have control of your dog whether off the lead or on ..& know when it is appropriate to put them on leads. I understand there are those who do not take responsibility for their animals...but they are going to flaunt these rules anyway :(in Mid Devon we must have one of the highest ratios of dogs to humans in the country! ..& the majority of them are responsible
Dogs need to run and open spaces are very limited, not all dogs are dangerous in fact the vast majority are not, it's the same story everyone gets penalised by the actions of a few.
Off lead exercise and socialisation is important for dogs particularly when young. Depriving them will cause behaviour problems later on
I don't think a blanket rule across all parks is necessary. We regularly exercise our dog off lead in the park between Victoria Close and Blenheim Drive. I am not aware of any complaints about bad dog behaviour, nor have I seen any dog behaving badly in this park. Responsible dog owners throw balls for their dogs and are mindful of other people in the park, whether exercising or just walking through. I very rarely see anyone kicking a ball around and, on the odd occasion we have, they happily share the space with dog walkers. Finally, there is an enclosed children's play area in this park, from which dogs (rightly) are excluded so, well-behaved dogs should be free to enjoy the other part off lead. Don't punish the innocent where it's not necessary.
We need to have some parks to let our dogs off lead. I always clear up after my dog.
I believe well behaved dogs should be allowed to run around and play fetch with their owner provided the owner is responsible enough.

Depends on the dog and only not allowed in kids parks.
I could not access the document showing parks and may not know the parks concerned so feel unable to comment as each park or area may require a different response. I would however be against a blanket ban that results in responsible dog owners who would comply with revised regulations being penalised to ostensibly manage those who are irresponsible and would probably not comply because they are intrinsically irresponsible anyway.
It appears that it is intended to have a blanket ban on allowing dogs off leads in any green space in Tiverton .I have owned and walked dogs along the railway walk to Tidcombe for 50years ,in all that time I have never encountered a dog warden,it appeared that you intend to penalise the majority of the dog owning public to appease the vociferous few.
I appose the plan for Culm Valley way, It is kept relativly clean of dog foul by local dog walkers who are probably the main users of this area, It would mean the nearest area to exercise dogs would be the railway path opposite Coldharbour Mill
Needs to be regulated not banned. Most dogs are fine off the lead, some badly trained dogs should not be detriment to the majority!
Dogs should be kept out of children's play areas but not the entire park.
The majority of responsible dog owners train their dogs to behave and return to them in public parks. To require dogs to be on leads at all times limits their exercise and enjoyment of the public places. You're targeting the wrong dog owners and inhibiting professional dog walkers
As long as someone can control their dog properly I do not agree they should be kept on leads in public parks. In order to maintain health and wellbeing dogs need freedom to exercise, a dog off a lead gets more and better quality exercise than one on a lead. People without cars will struggle to access the open countryside to do this. This penalises responsible dog owners. Irresponsible dog owners should be dealt with under current laws and happy that they should put their dog on a lead if instructed to by an enforcement officer or the police as long as these people have a valid reason for the request - too often we see people with so called authority acting beyond their remit. I currently do not own a dog but have owned a dog in the past
The majority of dog owners control their dogs. For some owners local public parks are the only place they can access to exercise their dogs.

It doesn't matter if a dog is aggressive if its on a lead or not, people with aggressive dogs don't listen to rules anyway so why penalize people who have well behaved friendly animals that they want to exercise in a public space. Dogs on leads will still poo, its about the owners not picking it up. Not all people have gardens to be able to let their dogs run free. It is cruel to expect all dogs to be kept on leads at all times in Mid Devon, have you tried throwing a ball for a dog whilst its on a lead? You need to target people with aggressive dogs who have no control over their animals.
I don’t agree that dogs should be kept on leads in public parks,a child’s play park yes but not canal,railway line,open fields,rivers etc.Just because a dog is on a lead won’t make some owners pick up their faceaes.Im a responsible dog owner and always pick up after my dog and I don’t see why my dog shouldn’t continue to be let off a lead and have a good run because others are irresponsible,It will make everyone drive to places where they can take dogs off leads and this won’t be very good for the environment if we all have to drive everyday to give our dogs nice walks.
Some residents in urban areas have limited opportunities to exercise their dogs off lead. There should be allocated public spaces in which this is acceptable. Perhaps there could be a balance between parks that DO allow off lead dogs and those that don't, rather than a blanket ban which is unfair.
If all of the named Public parks are included it will mean a severe lack of choice for dog owners to free run their dogs. This will encourage more people to drive to free running areas and therefore increase traffic. Also it discriminates against those who can't drive to free run their dogs. It is an important part of dog welfare that they have access to a variety of free running areas. Places such as Cottely Brook, Tiverton; Crow Bridge, Cullompton; Palmerton Park woods, Tiverton; and Railway Walk, Tiverton should remain off lead areas for dog walkers. Thus there will be some areas that people can go who choose not to be around off lead dogs but also give people a choice on where they can free run their dogs.
As a good dog owner for over 30 years. I see most dogs with families. I agree they should not be in childrens play area but allowed to run in a park area.
Why should animals that have been brought up as loving family pets have to be subject to the same stringent regulation designed to control unruly animals with no regard for others? Parks are open spaces; a particularly important facility for pets where personal outdoor space is limited. I believe parks should be used by man/women/children and dogs freely providing owner can control their own pet. Subjects could be requested to put their pet on a lead by an enforcement officer or police if they see the dog to be of danger or nuisance.

I believe some dogs are well behaved enough to be off a lead in parks ect. It's should be at the owners descretion
Dogs on lead at ALL TIMES!!!!
Dogs do need to be able to run freely and there is a lack of areas to be able to take them off lead. There is a lot more issues from youths littering and blaring out music in parks and also adults drinking in parks and leaving behind the bottles/cans than there is dogs being walked. Maybe efforts should be made to tackle the anti social behaviour that makes the parks feel unsafe rather than targeting dog walkers who generally walk straight through and the majority of the time are responsible and respect the area.
I personally have no issue with any dog being of lead so long as they are under control....
Dogs should be on leads in ANY public space!!!!!
The majority of dogs are extremely well behaved and have very responsible owners. To require all dogs to be on lead in the areas set out in schedule C it's unfair and cruel. Where would dogs be able to be walked freely? Where could dog owners practise training and recall? This schedule has made all green spaces not dog friendly. Mid Devon residents with dogs should be allowed to exercise their dogs with as much freedom as all other residents can. I regularly see children in parks being antisocial and making more mess than dogs. Dogs and their owners should not be singled out. It is the community's responsibility to ensure parks remain clean and safe. Dog owners ARE responsible and DO pick up after their dogs. Owners who know their dogs need to stay on the lead are capable of making that decision without the council enforcing strict unnecessary restrictions. Please do not enforce these restrictions.
Do not think it is necessary in all Parks. Dogs need to be able to run and exercise properly.
Well controlled dogs should be allowed off the lead in parks.
You are punishing the good owners too for the minority. Dogs should be able to run where they respond to their owners commands.
Having a dog myself I think if a dog is well trained and not aggressive and has a good recall it should be allowed to be of lead however unfortunately responsible owners will know this anyway but there are enough owners which are not acting responsible, so I have unfortunately to agree on this
Some if these are very large areas and dogs need to run around and can be controlled by sensible responsible owners

Jubilee park willand has plenty of room to exercise a dog I agree if you can’t control your dog it should stay on a lead but why punish well trained dogs and thief owners
I have a well-behaved, friendly young collie with good recall. Collie's are energetic dogs, they need a lot of excercise and to RUN. If I was forced to keep her on a lead at all times then her quality of life would suffer. She would be miserable. I keep her on the lead on the village, and the playpark is fenced off so she couldn't get in there anyway. I take her off the lead in the village public wood, in a few fields that have footpaths through (when there's no livestock) and on beaches. If a dog is aggressive then the owner will already know that and should keep them on a lead. Why should friendly dogs be penalised because of a few irresponsible dog owners?
All of the parks mentioned apart from Tufty, Crowbridge
It’s unfair for the responsible dog owner who picks up after their dog and who keeps their dog under control not to be allowed to walk their dog off the lead in public parks. Also for the mental well being of the dog they do need somewhere to have a run or play ball with their owner.
Not all dogs are aggressive and some are trained. They go with family groups and should be free to enjoy parks as well.
Would agree if it is a small park completely fenced in a gated. Most dog owners do have their dogs fully under control and any one who doesn't should have it on a lead anyway
Well behaved dogs should not be required to be on a lead. This should only be required if they are misbehaving.
Dogs/owners/families should be able to enjoy themselves and some freedom in the parks. However owners are responsible for ensuring their dogs are well trained, well behaved and do not cause a nuisance or upset to others. And should put them on a lead if necessary to prevent this.
I and many people walk their dogs down the old railway line between old road and manly lane at the far end. I have never encountered an aggressive dog or heard any of the many users, joggers and cyclists included moan about the dog walkers. It is a perfect walk to let your well behaved dog off the lead to stretch their legs. If you make people walk their dogs on a lead down the old track they may as well walk them on the streets where in our current situation is a very bad idea.
Number of Dogs walked at one time
2 dogs maximum but even that means one may not be being watched while watching the other
If think that number is to low and dog walkers should be able to walk upto 6 dogs at a time.

2 dogs per walker is manageable, 4 is not unless they are all small. Much better to set limit at 3 - though even that could be problematic with large dogs.
Perhaps limit of 6
It would be difficult for one person to watch more than 4 dogs running loose but several well-behaved dogs on leads should be ok.
Less than 4. Owner has limited control and less likely to pick up faeces with hands full of dogs!
Control rather than numbers is the issue. I frequently use an area which will be subject to the proposed order. Two persons walk more than four dogs regularly. If (eg) they see a cyclist they will call the dogs to heel. The dogs respond immediately
Seems a reasonable number
You may own more than just the limited amount
I did think that 4 was a good number but have seen a responsible walker with 5 small well behaved dogs proceeding in an orderly way whilst out.
Depends on the size of the dogs
Why 4 ? if the dogs are well trained & behaved more than 4 may be ok
a maximum of 3 dogs as one person would find it very difficult keeping an eye on any more especially when dogs deposit their faeces or run up to unsuspecting non dog owners.
Professional dog walkers may struggle.
The competence and responsibility of a dog owner is not depended on the number of dogs.
Responsible dog ownership and close control can be achieved with multiple dogs - treat the problem that exists with specific owners, using existing powers, not legislate against responsible multi dog households
Just two if dogs are to be allowed off the lead in public spaces as I think they should.
4 is too many for 1 person to handle safely.
Large dogs hard to control Some dog walkers use very long leads and they roam many yards and intimidate other users of the spaces. If households choose to keep more than two dogs, they can walk them separately.
Some people have more than 4 dogs. A limit on number is in no way reasonable. 4 small dogs such as Shih Tzus are in no way equivalent to 4 large dogs such as New Foundlands. A number cannot be placed on this, no two dogs behave the same & dogs vary breed to breed on weight, strength & muscle tone.
The limit should be a maximum of 2 dogs

It should be set at 2 as I have seen on numerous occasions people unable to control 3 or 4 dogs
As a dog owner I believe that one person cannot manage more than 2 dogs at any one time if they are to remain vigilant about their dogs fouling.
It seems to me that someone, a paid dog walker for example, could handle more than four dogs if they are well behaved. I only have one so my views here are just general comment.
I think that it should be restricted to two dogs. To have complete control of both dogs it requries the owner to have a dog on a lead in each hand. As is the nature of dogs, when other dogs approach there can be aggressive behavious and even attacks/fighting. To avoid this and to protect the public in my opinion it is essential that the owner has full control of each animal.
Should be no more than 2 per person.Its not possible to control more than 2 safely.
I've seen people manage more, and if someone owns 5 dogs, it becomes an issue
Yes for dog owners but should not be applicable for trained and skilled dog walkers
Discretion should be made on an individual basis. If they are professional handlers, then I dont see why there is an issue with more than 4. Equally, there are some people I see that cannot control two dogs. Again imposing restrictions will be hard to implement effectively. If someone chooses to make a living walking dogs then why should the local authority dictate their capability
Some of the best-controlled dogs I have seen have been in larger numbers (and the worst-controlled in smaller numbers!).
As long as they can also pickup dog poo with their other hand!
My reasons are above. livelyhood of dog walkers, trainers & judging by responsible behaviour & ownership not numbers. I think a minority cause the problems.
Unless a dog walker
If they are well trained and under control it’s fine to have more than four dogs. 5 well trained dogs are better than one that is ill behaved.
Only for off lead. See above re on the lead and dog walking as a profession.
The 4-dog limit is too high. In any case, only exceptionally have I seen someone walking with 4 dogs or more. I believe that most people would not be in effective control of 4 dogs at the same time, even on a lead. The potential for an accident to happen is greatly increased the more dogs someone is in charge of. I would personally put the limit to 2 dogs, or 3 maximum as a compromise.

As long as dogs are kept under close control. There is little difference between several controlled dogs within the handlers limit and one out of control dog.
Should be limited to two per person. From experience one person can't control more than two in urban areas.
I think 4 dogs is too many for a responsible owner to control , definitely no more than 3
If the Council now feels that they have the right to extend their powers so far into the private lives on individuals, what will be next? Will you seek to control the number of unruly children a parent can exercise at once? It is, again, ridiculous.
This limits a professional dog walkers business.
Comments on Fixed Penalty
There should be a record kept of the number of times the rules are breached and the fine increased each time to be more of a deterrent and banning orders should be used.
£100 is excessive. Walking a dog is not a crime. It is a natural thing to do. The whole idea is preposterous. There should be no fine. Before you know it people will be imprisoned for walking a dog. Where will all this end?
Depends on the severity of the offence.
Or much higher and well monitored.
I think £100 is too steep.
I only agree with this penalty for owners who blatantly don't pick up after their dogs.
I don’t agree with the proposal so I don’t think you should be fined for walking your dog.
£25
Think £60 nearer the mark as some people may be of limited means and it is possible to have a bag blow out of pocket, particularly if they are lightweight, especially on a windy day in winter. It has not happened to us BUT IS always a possibility.
I think it should depend on the situation. And aggressive dog who has been let off should definitely be higher. I think more like up to £1000 for aggressive dogs as they might bite other dogs or humans and even kill another dog. No excuse for letting them off.
Although I would be happy if that was increased.
£100 for first offence, rising after that
Too much - £20

Perhaps a lesser fine for the first offence increasing to the maximum subsequently. Try and engage in education of bad owners first before fining.
£50 as a first time offense, halved if paid within 7 days. People are struggling financially as it is. If a dogs falls ill, you may not have brought out the correct number of bags and thus cannot produce what someone may deem enough.
I am not in agreement with the PSPO as proposed.
Not if you propose for there to be no local and safe park for dogs to be off the lead.
Any fixed penalty should be sufficient to act as a deterrent. I suggest it is set at a proportion of the offending persons income subject to a minimum of £250
It needs to be higher to discourage people from breaching the order, £100 is not enough of a deterrent it should be at least £200
Fines should be relative to income.
Introduce a dog licence
Fixed penalties have been in existence for years - that they have proved ineffective to a point where the Council considers it necessary to adopt draconian regulations does little other than to demonstrate the shortcomings of existing legislation. Increasing the figure to, say, £500 with effective policing, should reduce incidences of bad behaviour. An increasingly prevalent event is the putting of faeces in a plastic bag, tying the container and then leaving it at the side of the path or road. This is environmentally worse than doing nothing at all and the practice should be specifically mentioned within proposed regulations and be subject to penalty.
I do not believe that dogs should be on a lead so therefore I do not agree. I agree with a fine for not picking up dog poo
£50
£10
£100 first offence £200 for 2nd and subsequent offences
Should be a harsher fine.
It’s unreasonable to expect people to pay if their actions are not causing a nuisance. By all means fine those who are.
Amounts should reflect the seriousness of the breach.
Many dog owners are pensioners, the amount shouldn't exceed £50. Unless the state pension goes up radically.

For dog fouling. Not sure about cemeteries initially unless very clearly signed and the changes made more clearly than the little posters which are currently pinned to the locations listed. There must be a sensible approach. I also know that a law abiding colleague I worked with was once given a heft fine when she walked with her dog at heel and totslly under control in the People's Park approx 15 years ago whereas OTHER LESS SAVOURY looking characters with more worrying breeds of dog flouting the rules had been repeatedly avoided (possibly through fear of their reactions) so it would be wring to fine the soft target. The focus should be on the anti-social pet owners as this is the only real problem anyway and they really SHOULD be cracked down on....but once again don't let them ruin it for all.
I do not think it is appropriate fo fine a person for walking their dogs off a lead.
It should be more as a deterrent.
1000 pounds
Training courses on dog handling should be compulsory, if not attended then a fine enforced.
What if people can't afford it. This is very severe for an economy in recession. Reduce it and guarantee that every pound raised is put towards resourcing improved social responsibility measures & more bins /free bags.
£100 It’s too much