

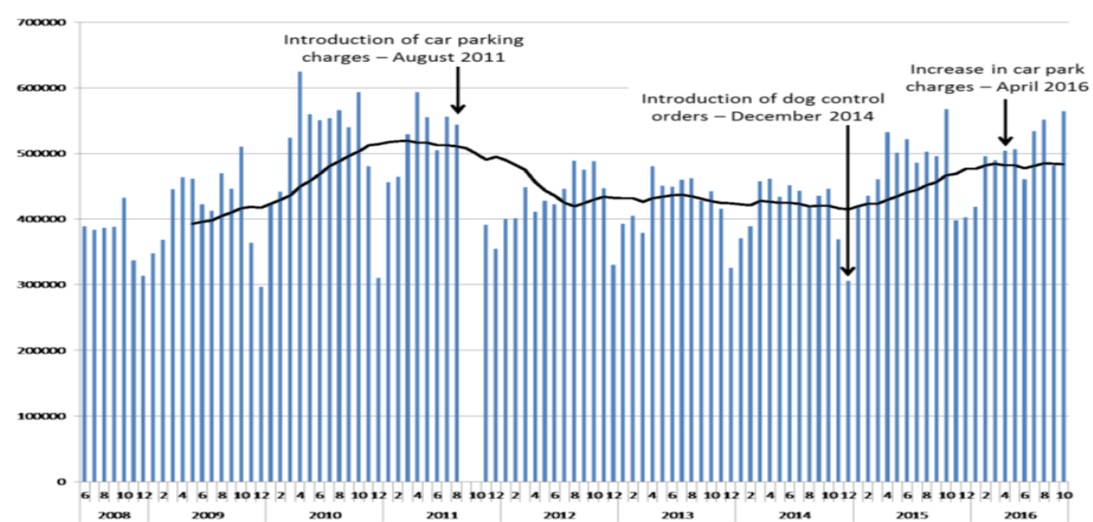
<b>Committee(s):</b>	<b>Date(s):</b>
Epping Forest and Commons Committee	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2017
<b>Subject:</b> Proposal to extend the use of DCOs as PSPOs at Burnham Beeches – outcome of the public consultation process	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of The Commons	<b>For Decision</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary</b></p> <p>All Dog Control Orders (DCOs) are in the process of being phased out and replaced by Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs). Any remaining DCOs will automatically be treated as PSPOs from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – there is no requirement to take any specific action at that stage. However, PSPOs may not have effect for more than three years, unless extended. As the DCOs at Burnham Beeches came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014, they must be extended by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, if they are to continue in force.</p> <p>At the January 2017 meeting of this Committee members authorised the Superintendent to consult on extending the effect of the existing DCOs at Burnham Beeches beyond 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 as PSPOs. This report outlines the outcome of that recent public consultation exercise.</p> <p>The consultation exercise was conducted in two phases both of which indicate support for extending the existing DCOS as PSPOs until 2020. An iPetition was conducted by local dog walkers that provides alternative proposals.</p> <p>This report seeks your committee’s decision concerning the continued use of the existing DCOs as PSPOs guided by the outcome of the consultation exercise.</p> <p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>Members are asked to support <b>Option 1</b> as explained within this report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resolve to extend the effect of the existing DCOs at Burnham Beeches, once they have become PSPOs, for three years from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.</li> <li>2. Authorise the Comptroller and City Solicitor to make replacement orders.</li> </ol>	

## Main Report

### Background

3. Burnham Beeches is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve and Special Area of Conservation. The site's popularity as a destination has increased since the introduction of DCOs in 2014 and it remains extremely well used by dog walkers.

**Chart 1**



4. For the last two decades, the principle aim of the management of Burnham Beeches has been to protect the site from the growing impact of urbanisation at its fringes. In this manner it has helped to protect the quality of life of those who visit the site or are in its locality. Major achievements over the years have included, the closure of the private roads that run through the site to control traffic, the introduction of conservation grazing to enhance biodiversity, control of mountain biking, the introduction of the 'honey pot' access policy (that focusses visitor activity on those parts of the site most able to accommodate the pressures) and partnership working with local authorities to mitigate the impacts of population growth.
5. DCOs were introduced by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The City was able to make DCOs at open spaces outside of its local authority area by virtue of the Control of Dogs (Designation of the Common Council of the City of London as a Secondary Authority) Order 2012.
6. In Sept 2014 this committee approved the introduction of five DCOs at Burnham

Beeches having considered the need for those orders in great detail:

- i. The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014. This requires visitors to Burnham Beeches to remove dog faeces deposited by a dog for which they are responsible.
  - ii. The Dogs on Leads (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014. This requires visitors to keep a dog for which they are responsible on a lead of not more than five metres in length. The order applies to that part of Burnham Beeches to the west of Sir Henry Peeks Drive and Halse Drive and to the two fenced areas adjoining the café enclosure at Burnham Beeches.
  - iii. The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014. This requires visitors to put and keep a dog for which they are responsible on a lead of not more than five metres in length when directed to do so by an authorised officer. The order applies to that part of Burnham Beeches to the east of and including Sir Henry Peeks Drive and Halse Drive but excluding those fenced areas covered by orders ii and iv.
  - iv. The Dogs Exclusion (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014. This excludes dogs from the café enclosure at Burnham Beeches.
  - v. The Dogs (Specified Maximum) (Burnham Beeches) Order 2014. This limits visitors to Burnham Beeches to four dogs per person.
7. This is only a summary of the DCOs. The full text of these orders, and a map showing the areas of Burnham Beeches to which they apply, can be found in **Appendix 1 and Map 1**. Certain exemptions and defences apply in particular circumstances, for example in relation to assistance dogs.
8. The purpose of the DCOs then and now remains, *To encourage responsible dog ownership and thereby:*
- i. *Ensure a fair and proportionate balance between the needs of visitors so that they can all equally enjoy the site.*
  - ii. *Reduce the number of dog related incidents and complaints recorded each year*
  - iii. *Reduce the impact of dog control management on the resources available to manage the site*
  - iv. *Assist the City of London to meet its statutory obligations under the*

*Corporation of London (Open Spaces) Act 1878, Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, and other legislation*

9. Burnham Beeches welcomes approximately 551,400 visitors (150,000 dogs) each year and has the highest density of visitors per hectare site of high nature conservation value in England and Wales:

**Visitors/hectare/day in ranked order (2014 figures)**

1. **Burnham Beeches - 8.01** visitors per hectare per day
  2. **Richmond Park – 6.3** visitors per hectare per day
  3. **Sherwood Forest – 5.3** visitors per hectare per day
  4. **Windsor Great Park – 3.4** visitors per hectare per day
  5. **The New Forest National Park – 1.2** visitors per hectare per day
10. The introduction of Dog Control Orders was the last and perhaps most important step to ensure the long term protection of the site for future generations of people and wildlife to enjoy.
11. The Dogs on Leads Order provides an area of the Beeches where dogs must be on lead at all times in support of the 'honey pot access policy' and to provide opportunities for visitors to enjoy, relax and appreciate the very special, natural environment that the Beeches provides without unwanted intrusion from off lead dogs.
12. Dog walkers are not banned from the 'dogs on leads' area. They are simply required to put their pets on the lead that may extend up to 5m in length, whilst in this area. Access is available to them as for all visitors, to all other areas of Burnham Beeches excluding a very small part around the café.
13. Since the introduction of the DCOs some dog walkers have altered their walking patterns to provide more time within the 'dogs on leads by direction' area. However, the number that have done so appears to be very low.

**Table 1**

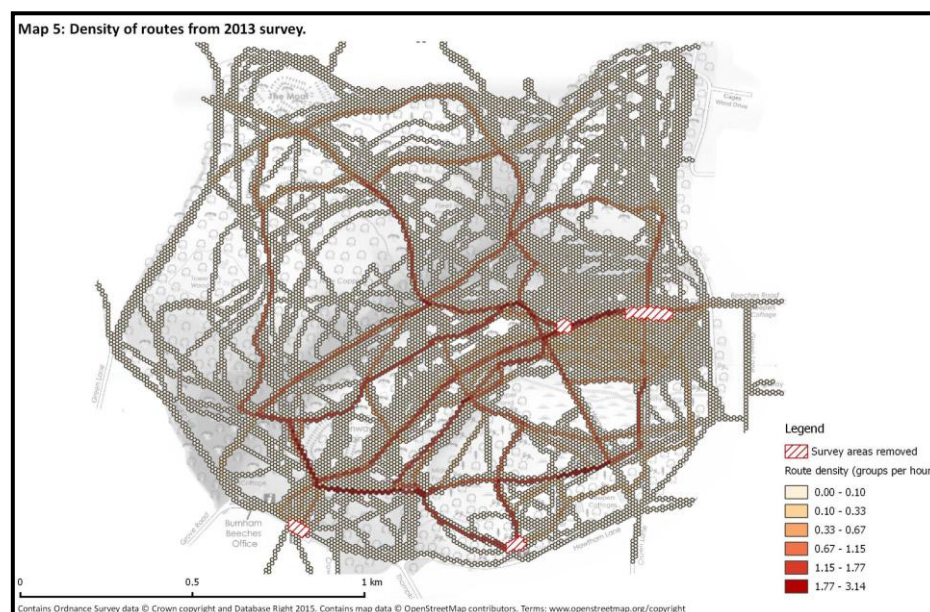
INCREASED USAGE	Change in visitor use 2013 -2016 (%)	Comment
Egypt	+2.8	Dogs on leads by direction
Fleet Wood	+3.0	Dogs on leads by direction
Main Common	+3.2	Dogs on leads by direction

<b>Moat</b>	<b>+1.8</b>	<b>Dogs on leads by direction</b>
<b>Nile</b>	<b>+2.3</b>	<b>Dogs on leads by direction</b>
<b>Victory Cross</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	<b>Dogs on leads by direction</b>
<b>DECREASED USAGE</b>		
<b>The Dell</b>	<b>-3.4</b>	<b>Dogs on leads</b>
<b>Lord Mayors Drive</b>	<b>-4.3</b>	<b>Dogs on leads</b>
<b>New Coppice</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>Dogs on leads</b>
<b>Ponds</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>Dogs on leads</b>
<b>Sir Henry Peeks</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>Dogs on leads</b>
<b>The Stag</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>Dogs on leads</b>

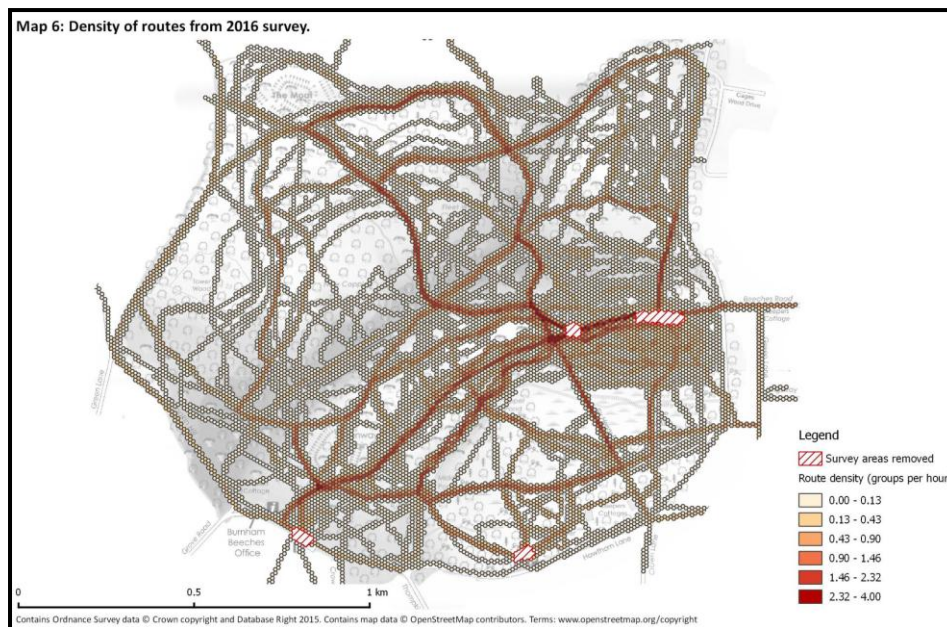
NB. Each 1% change = approx. 15 people per day

14. DEFRA guidance states that local authorities should look to provide other suitable dog walking areas in the locality, where restrictions are in place. The City provides 220 acres at Burnham Beeches and a further 200 acres at Stoke Common where dogs can be off leads. This more than adequately meets both the guidance and animal welfare requirements.
15. The following charts show how well used even the more tranquil areas remain:

**Chart 1. Density of routes 2013 – Before introduction of DCOs**



**Chart 2. Density of routes 2016 – After introduction of DCOs**



16. Your Committee received a separate report in January 2017 regarding the effectiveness of the existing DCOs. Members will recall in particular that the number of dog related incidents reported has declined sharply, and that the Dogs on Leads Order has led to a much greater reduction in dog related incidents than the Dogs on Leads by Direction Order.
17. The legislation governing DCOs is in the process of being repealed by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which introduced a new power to make PSPOs. That power has again been granted to the City, in relation to open spaces outside of its local authority area, by the Anti-social Behaviour (Designation of the City of London Corporation) Order 2015.
18. PSPOs can be used to address a wider range of anti-social behaviour than DCOs, but including all of those matters previously covered by DCOs. The transitional arrangements are clear that the provisions of any surviving DCOs will automatically be treated as if they were the provisions of PSPOs from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – there is no requirement to take any specific action.
19. However, whereas DCOs have no fixed expiry date, PSPOs may not have effect for more than three years, unless extended. The transitional provisions are silent as to how this should apply to 'converted' DCOs. Clarification was sought from DEFRA, but no response has been received. The best interpretation would seem to be that time starts to run from the date that they originally came into force. As the DCOs at Burnham Beeches came into force on 1 December 2014, they must therefore be extended by 30 November 2017,

if they are to continue in force as PSPOs.

20. Before introducing DCOs at Burnham Beeches, your Committee had to be satisfied that this was a necessary and proportionate response to problems caused by the activities of dogs and those in charge of them. Your Committee also had to balance the interests of those in charge of dogs against the interests of those affected by the activities of dogs. The same considerations applied when your Committee decided in January 2017 that the existing DCOs should continue in force.
21. At the January 2017 meeting of this Committee members also authorised the Superintendent to consult on extending the effect of the existing DCOs at Burnham Beeches beyond 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, as PSPOs.
22. The test for making a PSPO is set out in section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The City may make a PSPO if satisfied on reasonable grounds that activities carried out in a public place are having, have had or will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, and those activities are or are likely to be persistent, unreasonable and justify the restrictions imposed. The only prohibitions or requirements that may be imposed are ones that are reasonable to prevent or reduce the detrimental effect of the activity.
23. However, as any remaining DCOs are automatically to be treated as if they were PSPOs from 20 October 2017, it is already established that the activities identified in the City's DCOs are capable of having such a detrimental effect, and that the restrictions imposed are capable of being reasonable.
24. The decision that your Committee is being asked to make is not whether to make one or more PSPOs, but whether to extend the period for which the existing PSPOs have effect, under section 60 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. You may extend that period for up to three years if satisfied on reasonable grounds that this is necessary to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of the activities identified in those PSPOs, or an increase in the frequency or seriousness of those activities. There is no limit to the number of times that a PSPO can be reviewed or extended.
25. This report outlines the outcome of the recent public consultation exercise that will help to inform your Committee's decision.

## Outcome of the public consultation process.

### Phase 1.

26. **Phase 1** assessed the views of a representative sample of all visitor types who use the site including dog walkers. It was designed and conducted, with assistance from officers, by Footprint Ecology. This element of the consultation exercise forms the first part of the City's commitment to meeting the statutory requirements in section 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to carry out the necessary consultation, publicity, and notification prior to making a decision, as set out in the report to your Committee dated 16 January 2017.
27. The survey collected much useful information concerning visitors' views of the site, the type and duration of their activities and most importantly provided the opportunity to either agree or disagree with the existing DCOs and the proposal to extend them as PSPOs until 2020.
28. The full results of this survey are contained in **Appendix 2**.
29. For the purposes of this report the following findings are of most interest and may help members when considering the recommendations made by this report:

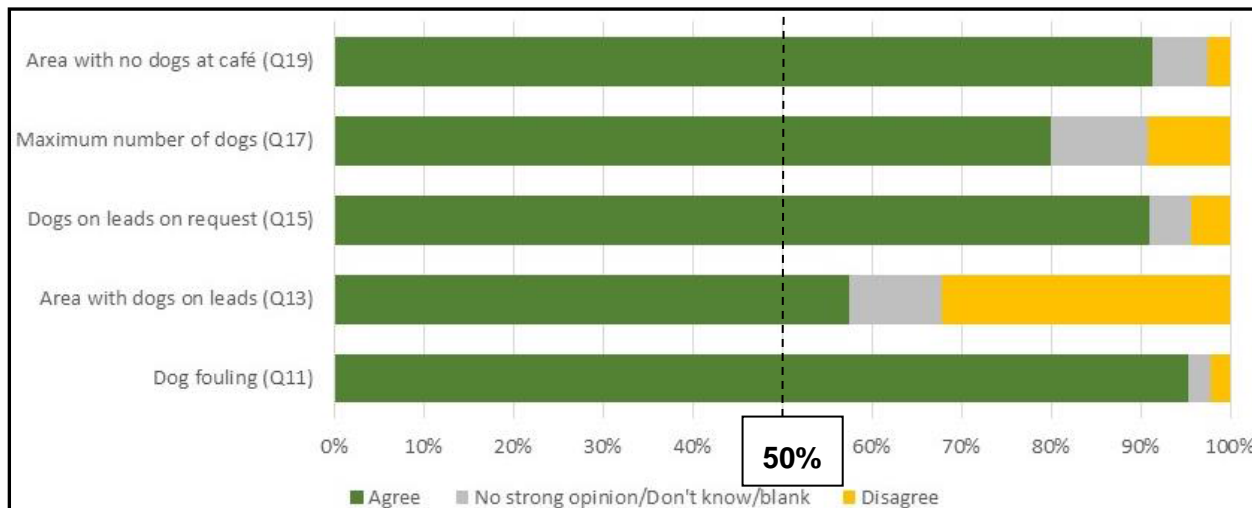
**Table 2**

Proposal to extend duration of <u>existing</u> powers relating to....	Agree	No Strong opinion/Don't know/No answer	Disagree	Total
Dogs fouling	352 (95%)	9 (2%)	8 (2%)	369 (100%)
Dogs on Leads	212 (57%)	38 (10%)	119 (32%)	369 (100%)
Dogs on leads by Direction	336 (91%)	17 (5%)	16 (4%)	369 (100%)
Dog Exclusion area	295 (80%)	40 (11%)	34 (9%)	369 (100%)
Maximum number of	337 (91%)	23 (6%)	9 (2%)	369 (100%)



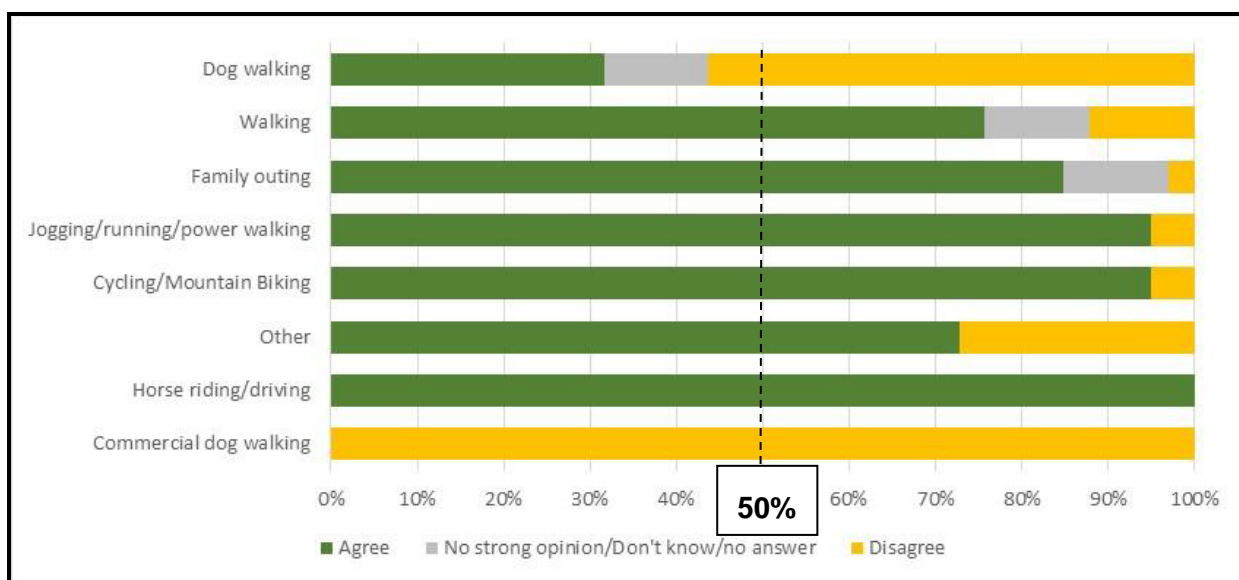
dogs				
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**Chart 3**



30. From **Table 2** and **Chart 3** it can be seen that there is good to very high public support for the continuation of all 5 DCOs as PSPOs until November 30<sup>th</sup> 2020.
31. **Chart 4** provides further analysis of the data which show that 81% of non-dog walkers agreed that the existing 'dogs on leads at all times' area should be maintained for a further 3 years as too did 32% of dog walkers. For the first time your Committee is presented with data able to define the gulf in opinion between non dog walkers, who form the majority of site visitors, and those of some dog walkers, who form the minority of site visitors.

**Chart 4 – Dogs on leads at all times area – outcome - by user group**



32. 5% of those interviewed queued to speak to the surveyors. Those who queued

appear to have particularly strong views on the Dogs on Lead area with 58% of them disagreeing with the continuation of the existing powers. This compares to 29% across interviewees who did not queue.

33. Based on the findings of the 2016 visitor numbers survey, the survey author estimates that the number of individual dog walkers represents 33% of individuals visiting the Beeches each year.
34. This indicates that the methodology used to conduct the April 2017 survey has slightly favoured dog walkers in terms of the number interviewed and this has lowered the apparent level of support for continuation of the current Dogs on Lead area.
35. If that unintentional bias is 'removed' then the overall percentage of people agreeing with the Dogs on Lead area rises to 64%

## **Phase 2. Appendix 3**

36. This element of the consultation exercise forms the second part of the City's commitment to the statutory requirements in section 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014 to carry out the necessary consultation, publicity, and notification prior to making a decision and as set out in the report to your Committee dated 16 January 2017. During this phase a wide variety of statutory and non-statutory organisations were consulted and this also included a further opportunity for public comment.
37. Phase 2 commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017 and ended at midnight on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Public notices were published in the local press, local sign boards, and local village notice boards and on the Burnham Beeches Website.
38. 60 individual organisations and their representatives were proactively approached for their views.
39. The following organisations supported the proposals to convert and extend the existing DCOs as PSPOS. All Statutory Consultees supported the proposals.
  - i. South Bucks District Council - **Statutory**
  - ii. The Chief Constable – Thames Valley Police – **Statutory**
  - iii. The Police and Crime Commissioner – **Statutory**
  - iv. The National Trust – A neighbouring open space that manages a visiting audience that is at least in part shared with Burnham Beeches.
  - v. The Dogs Trust - who provided clear guidance as to their opinion of the best use of PSPOs and had previously supported the introduction of

DCOs.

vi. Farnhams Parish Council

40. The following organisation did not support the conversion and extension of the existing DCOs as PSPOS:
  - i. The Kennel Club (KC) acknowledges that the DCOs have been effective since their introduction but continue to be of the opinion that the Dogs on Leads by Direction Order is sufficient to maintain the reduction in dog related issues across the entire site. The KC also submits that the use of the Dogs on Leads Order is overly restrictive and cannot be justified within the PSPO framework.
42. The Open Spaces Society (OSS) put the matter to their membership. No Society members responded so the response from the OSS was 'no comment to make' on the proposals. Some members may recall that the Open Spaces Society objected to the introduction of DCOs when they were originally introduced.
43. Phase 2 responses were also received from 34 members of the public. Of those, 24 were against some or all of the proposed PSPOs. Of those 24, 83% were dog walkers and 71% had previously signed the iPetition. Ten individuals gave their support for the proposals and provided a range of reasons for their views. Of those 10, 30% were dog walkers and none had signed the iPetition. The unusually high proportion of dog walkers responding to Phase 2 shows the importance of gaining a balanced view via random sampling as adopted by the recent site survey, to ensure that balanced information is available to Members.
44. Your Superintendent makes the following observations concerning the comments from the Kennel Club:
  - a. The submission that 'the Dogs on Lead by Direction Order is sufficient to maintain the reduction in dog related issues across the entire site', appears to be contradicted by the data presented in this report and that of January 2017.
  - b. The Kennel Club's view that 'the use of the Dogs on Lead Order is overly restrictive and cannot be justified within the PSPO framework' is not supported by the views of your Officers (paragraphs 22-24).

#### **iPetition.**

45. An iPetition was organised by a local dog walker who is one of 33 neighbours

(including 6 members of staff) living adjacent to the 'Dogs on Leads area' and must therefore keep their dog on a lead when entering the site. The petitioner presented supporting evidence at the meeting of the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group in January 2017 and subsequently met with the Chairman and the Director of Open Spaces and Heritage. More recently the petitioner has visited other open spaces and submitted further evidence to support the case.

#### **Appendix 4.**

46. At the time of writing this report the iPetition has accumulated 340 supporters since going live on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Many also responded to the Phase 2 consultation and has been shown provide the large majority of comments received from individuals.

47. The iPetition was worded as follows:

*The dog walkers of Burnham Beeches call on the Epping Forest and Commons Committee of the City of London to:*

- *Change the on lead area so that it operates on the Main Common and around the ponds and paddocks – the areas of high visitor numbers*

#### **AND**

- *Allow dogs to be off leads in all areas at the quietest times (before 11am and after 5pm and on weekdays in winter). The petitioners below believe in encouraging everyone to clear up after their dogs and stop them chasing wildlife or spoiling the enjoyment of other visitors*

48. Your Superintendent makes the following observations, specifically that the iPetition:

- a. Provides a weak evidential basis in support of its proposed changes.
- b. Expresses a singular 'dog walker's' perspective of how the site should be managed for visitors and wildlife.
- c. Is at odds with findings of the DCO/PSPO visitor survey 2017
- d. Is at odds with the views of the statutory consultees
- e. Fails to accommodate the site's main busy periods including School Holidays, Bank holidays, the six week autumn 'peak' and periods of clement winter weather, all of which are extremely busy periods of visitor activity across the site.

- f. Suggests 'off lead' access across the whole site for a roughly estimated 85% of the calendar year.
  - g. Fails to recognise that many more visitors are present on site during the proposed dogs off lead times than can be predicted - 45% of all visitors state that they come to the site at any time. Of the remainder many come to the site before and after the iPetition's proposed dogs off leads times.
  - h. Does not represent the views of all dog walkers.
  - i. Is too complex for staff to enforce as it provides complex temporal boundaries that visitors will need to be very familiar with if they are to understand the daily, weekly and seasonal changes. This is likely to lead to frequent and inadvertent non-compliance.
  - j. Suggests ill-defined boundaries on the ground between 'Dogs on lead' and 'Dogs on lead by direction' areas that are also likely to lead to frequent and inadvertent non-compliance.
  - k. Proposes that all quieter areas within the Beeches should be available for 'off lead' walks and assumes that there will be no consequences to the quality of life of other site users or wildlife.
49. The iPetitioners are of the opinion that the Main Common should be the 'Dogs on Leads' area and the remaining large majority of the site should be 'Dogs on Leads by direction'. Some authorities have adopted this approach and where they feel it appropriate, ban dogs or create dogs on lead zones e.g. in children's play areas. However Burnham Beeches and its visitors have their own unique set of circumstances that were exhaustively rehearsed prior to the introduction of DCOs in 2014.
50. The Main Common is the largest piece of open land on the site and visibility across it is high. Experience, supported by data gathered since the introduction of DCOs clearly indicates that dog walkers and non-dog walkers alike are able to share this space fairly without the enforced use of leads. The high visibility across the area and peer group pressure ensures that the number of incidents each year is extremely low.
51. Given the low number of incidents recorded on the Main Common, it is felt that the petitioner's proposals are unnecessarily restrictive to the majority of dog walkers who have to arrive at the site by car during a key visitor period and would be denied the opportunity to allow their pets to run freely whilst remaining within sight prior to explore the wider nature reserve with their owners, either on

or off lead.

52. However, Members should carefully consider all of the representations received during the consultation process. Failure to do so could leave any decision vulnerable to a legal challenge. Under section 72 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 your Committee must also have particular regard to the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly set out in articles 10 and 11 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

### **Summary**

53. **Phase 1** provides Members with a reliable insight into the views of the whole range of site based users including dog walkers. The survey methodology is scientifically robust and provides, as far as is reasonably practicable, a representative sample of site users and their views. The results of this survey show clear support for the continuation of the existing DCOs as PSPOs until 2020.
54. **Phase 2** is necessarily less scientifically robust but follows and exceeds the statutory requirements and the guidance provided by DEFRA. Those consulted are either legally required to be consulted or are generally recognised as using the site and it was therefore considered appropriate to consult them.
55. There is 100 percent support from all statutory consultees and the large majority of non-statutory consultees that responded.
56. There remains less support from elements of the local dog walking community and it is they who provided the majority of individual responses to Phase 2 of the consultation process.
57. The **iPetition** specifically targets the opinions of dog walkers rather than the wider visiting public. It proposes far greater off lead access than is supported by the visitor survey and is impractical and unenforceable for a variety of reasons set out in this report.
58. The outcome of the Consultation Exercise was presented, for information and discussion, to the Burnham Beeches Consultation Group on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

### **Options:**

**Option 1.** Based on the outcome of the recent visitor survey and other extensive research materials, extend the existing DCOs as PSPOs commencing 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017 and until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. **This is the recommended Option.**

**Or**

**Option 2.** Re-consult the public on the proposals contained within the iPetition and the limited research provided in support. **This Option is not recommended.**

### **Further action**

59. If your Committee proceeds with Option 1 then the Superintendent will publicise the extension, once the replacement orders have been made, in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State. He will also maintain the current monitoring regime to measure the effectiveness of the PSPOs during the next three year period and provide a summary report to this Committee by January 2020. If at that time it is proposed to extend the effect of the PSPOs for three more years, a further consultation exercise will need to be carried out, as required by the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
60. If your Committee proceeds with Option 1 then the Superintendent will also bring a report to your next meeting to review and update the Enforcement Strategy (called the Dog Management Strategy at Burnham Beeches). This will deal with matters such as the authorisation of officers to enforce PSPOs and the amount of any fixed penalty notice (FPN). A contravention of a DCO or PSPO is an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000). Members will recall however that a breach can also be dealt with by issuing an FPN of no more than £100. The level is currently set at £80 with a reduction to £50 if paid within 10 days.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

61. The proposals support the City's key policy priorities as follows:
  - i. **KPP5.** Increasing the outreach and impact of the City's cultural, heritage and leisure contribution to the life of London and the nation by: Developing and improving the physical environment around our key cultural attractions; and providing safe, secure and accessible Open Spaces.

The proposals support the Open Spaces Departmental Objectives as follows:

- ii. Improve the health and wellbeing of the community through access to green space and recreation.

## Implications

62. Table 3 outlines the cost of the PSPO consultation which is estimated at £23,000.

All costs are being met from local risk budgets:

**Table 3 – Estimate of costs.**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Independent research and site survey/consultation	£9,000
Management and staff time (12+10 days)	£5,500
Staff Training (refresher)	£1,000
Administration (set up)	£1,000
Changes to signage (to reflect changes to PSPOs)	£2,500
Advertising costs (Public Notices)	£4,000
<b>Total estimated costs</b>	<b>£23,000</b>

## Conclusions

63. The provisions of any surviving DCOs will automatically be treated as if they were the provisions of PSPOs from 20 October 2017 – there is no requirement to take any specific action. However, whereas DCOs have no fixed expiry date, PSPOs may not have effect for more than three years, unless extended. As the DCOs at Burnham Beeches came into force on 1 December 2014, they must be extended by 30 November 2017, if they are to continue in force as PSPOs for a further three years.
64. The results of the formal consultation exercises indicate a good level of support for the City's proposals to extend the existing DCOs as PSPOs for a further three years. They are also very helpful in providing the context against which the results of the iPetition may be judged.
65. The iPetition indicates that there is continuing resistance amongst some dog walkers to the current 'Dogs on Leads' area however, it has been demonstrated



that this is not representative of the majority of site users.

66. On balance your Superintendent and his team are of the view that the iPetition represents an issue that is of clear importance to some, mainly local, dog walkers who represent a minority of site users, but that any relaxation of the existing restrictions would have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of site users as a whole.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1. DCO Schedules and related map
- Appendix 2. Phase 1 - Visitor Survey Report
- Appendix 3. Phase 2 - Results
- Appendix 4. iPetition. Supporting evidence & communications
- Appendix 5. Equality Impact Assessment – Test of relevance

### **Background Papers:**

- Dog Control Order proposals– Report to EFCC – September 2014
- Effectiveness of Dog Control Orders – Report to EFCC - January 2017
- Dog Control Order Review. Report to EFCC – January 2017.

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