Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

19 October 2023 at 7pm

Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX

Membership

Councillor J. Jeapes (Chair)
Councillor A. Thompson (Vice Chair)

and Councillors

V. Canning, H. Clark, P. Davey. A. Davidson, S. Davis, J. Deakin, S. Dobson, K. Franks, M. Steel, M. Taylor, and S. Young

Local people are welcome to attend this meeting remotely, where your elected Councillors take decisions affecting YOU and your City. There will also be an opportunity to ask your Councillors questions or make a statement. These have to be submitted in advance to committees@chelmsford.gov.uk. Further details are on the agenda page. If you would like to find out more, please email jan.decena@chelmsford.gov.uk or phone Jan Decena in the Democracy Team on Chelmsford (01245) 606260.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 October 2023

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

2. Chairs Announcements

3. Minutes

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2023.

4. Decision and Action Sheet

To consider the decisions and actions from the previous minutes from the 18th July 2023 meeting.

5. Declaration of Interests

All Members are reminded that they must disclose any interests they know they have in items of business on the meeting's agenda and that they must do so at this point on the agenda or as soon as they become aware of the interest. If the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they are also obliged to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting.

6. Public Question Time

Any member of the public may ask a question or make a statement at this point in the meeting. Each person has two minutes and a maximum of 20 minutes is allotted to public questions/statements, which must be about matters for which the Committee is responsible.

The Chair may disallow a question if it is offensive, substantially the same as another question or requires disclosure of exempt or confidential information. If the question cannot be answered at the meeting a written response will be provided after the meeting.

Any member of the public who wishes to submit a question or statement to this meeting should email it to committees@chelmsford.gov.uk 24 hours before the start time of the meeting. All valid questions and statements will be published with the agenda on the website at least six hours before the start time and will be responded to at the meeting. Those who have submitted a valid question or statement will be entitled to put it in person at the meeting.

7. Decisions Called-In

To report on any Cabinet decisions called in and to decide how they should be progressed.

7.1 Public Spaces Protection Order – Hylands Park

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to consider the decision taken by Cabinet on 12th September 2023 which was called in on 13th September 2023. The decision relates to a Public Spaces Protection Order to be placed on Hylands Park. The reasons given for the call-in are as follows:

"*1. Questions about why Hylands Park, of the approximately 25 Parks controlled by Chelmsford City Council was selected for the Public Spaces Protection Order, (PSPO) were not adequately addressed. The data and statistics referred to did not appear to highlight Hylands Park as having a significant issue or being the priority for this type of action and the potential Criminalisation of dog walkers.*

2. If it is shown that public safety from dogs off the lead and multiple dogs being walked by one person, is a real issue at Hylands, it was clear from the general debate during cabinet, that enforcement will be key to the success of any PSPO in providing any meaningful impact on the issue.

3. Given that there is to be no increase in enforcement officers and the refusal by the council at the meeting to engage in self-funding enforcement resources the introduction of the PSPO, at some public expense, does not appear to be value for money. Elsewhere it was stated that PSPOs in relation to litter were not impacting on the issues and an increase was being experienced.

4. The public consultation results and feedback did not appear to have been adequately addressed. This approach was further reinforced when the request by a member of the Public to have his question read out in full was not met. Nor was it appropriately answered as the specifics about the five-year figures and criminal convictions were not responded to, nor was there any commitment to provide the information."

8. Cabinet Portfolio Report – Leader of the Council

9. Cabinet Portfolio Update – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Connected Chelmsford

10. Work Programme

11. Urgent Business

To consider any other matter which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

MINUTES

of the

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

held on 18 July 2023 at 7pm

Present:

Councillor J. Jeapes (Chair)
Councillor A. Thompson (Vice-Chair)

Councillors, V. Canning, H. Clark, A. Davidson, C. Davidson, S. Davis, S. Dobson, K, Franks, I. Grundy, and S. Young

Also in attendance:

Councillors I. Fuller, and R. Lee

1. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P. Davey, J. Deakin, M. Steel, and M. Taylor. Cllr C. Davidson substituted for Cllr J. Deakin; Cllr I. Grundy substituted for Cllr M. Steel, and; Cllr J. Sosin substituted for P. Davey.

2. Chairs Announcements

The Chair made no announcements in the meeting.

3. Minutes

The Chair announced certain changes to be made regarding the minutes. It was mentioned that an action sheet was to be included on the front detailing actions completed from the last minutes and to recap on outstanding business. This was AGREED by Members of the Committee.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. Declaration of Interests

All Members were reminded to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests or other registerable interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. Any declarations are recorded in the relevant minute below.

5. Public Question Time

No questions were asked or statements made.

6. Decisions Called-In

The Committee noted that no decisions taken by the Cabinet had been called in.

7. Annual Report from the Chelmsford Policy Board

Councillor Fuller, as the previous Chair of the Chelmsford Policy Board 2022/23, introduced the annual report of the Chelmsford Policy Board to members. The annual report contained the function and purpose of the Chelmsford Policy Board as well as a summary of the issues and developments covered in 2022/23. The Board was advised that masterplans took the majority of the time as well as public questions in meetings, an example was the Great Leighs Masterplan appearing in two meetings. Significant developments in the future were also raised such as the various solar farms and the Norwich to Tilbury pylons.

Regarding a query about the proposal for the Norwich to Tilbury pylons by the National Grid, Cllr Fuller confirmed that the Chelmsford Policy Board would be making further representations.

RESOLVED that;

1. The annual report from the Chelmsford Policy Board be noted.

(7.04pm to 7.11pm)

8. Report from Cultural Strategy Task and Finish Group

Councillor Lee, a previous member of the Cultural Strategy Task & Finish Group, presented the report. The Vice-Chair declared an interest on this item but it was noted that the item did not directly relate to his Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

It was reported a development of a new Cultural Strategy which was led by Chelmsford Culture was underway and had created an exciting vision for Chelmsford. Chelmsford City Council had been a key stakeholder in the development, delivery, and evaluation, a new Task & Finish group on Cultural Strategy had been formed in 2022. One of the key points for the Cultural Strategy Task & Finish Group was not to reinvent the wheel and to ensure trust in experts. Members were informed of the Terms of Reference of the Task & Finish Group and that the strategy would encompass the whole of Chelmsford as much as possible. The strategy was noted to focus on the city centre and the Task & Finish Group ensured to raise the priorities to also include other wards. Members were also noted of the other stakeholders such as Anglia Ruskin University and Dominvs and they provide financial input in the strategy.

Members were informed that whilst excellent progress had been made, it was also noted that this was just the beginning of the realisation of the cultural ambition and journey in Chelmsford. It was noted that a detailed action plan and roadmap for the City Council was still to be developed. It was therefore recommended to Members that the Task & Finish Group should continue. Members noted the importance and benefits of culture especially during COVD as the public had taken to walking or

using the waterways. Culture should be seen as a reason to live and Members were asked to agree to the recommendations.

After the report, members discussed and raised various issues on the Cultural Strategy Task & Finish Group. It was advised that;

- Even though the objectives of the attached Terms of Reference was completed, further work needed to be completed including a districtwide consultation.
- It was suggested that one of the objectives of the continuation of the Task & Finish Group was to embed the cultural strategy.
- The involvement of councillors had proved to be invaluable in ensuring public engagement and ensuring that voices of marginalised communities could be heard.
- It was suggested that officers should schedule meetings outside Overview and Scrutiny to finalise a new Terms of Reference.
- Villages and towns should be included in the strategy.
- A further report on Cultural Strategy would be presented to the next Overview & Scrutiny meeting to clarify the context as well as clarifying the next steps for the Task & Finish Group.

RESOLVED that;

1. The report be noted;
2. Officers to schedule further meetings regarding a new Terms of Reference and continuation of the Cultural Strategy Task & Finish Group.
3. A presentation from Chelmsford City Cultural Services Manager and Culture Chelmsford regarding the context of Cultural Strategy to be presented at the next Overview & Scrutiny meeting.

(7.11pm to 7.24pm)

9. Report of Decisions Taken Under Delegation to the Chief Executive

The Committee received a report summarising the decisions taken under delegation to the Chief Executive. Cllr C. Davidson and Cllr S. Dobson both declared their interest as they were consulted as previous Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford and as Mayor respectively in the 2022/23. Declarations were noted in the meeting.

RESOLVED that;

1. The report to be noted.

(7.24pm to 7.26pm)

10. Annual Report on the Overview & Scrutiny Function 2022/23

The Committee received the annual report on the Overview & Scrutiny Function 2022/23. Cllr C. Davidson declared his interest as the previous Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford and was scrutinised by the previous Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Members were reminded that as per Code 6 of the Local Corporate Governance the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had to produce an annual report. The annual report would then need to be taken in consideration by the Full Council. The report covered the following matters: statutory provisions, terms of reference, membership of the last committee, publication of information, work undertaken in 2022/23, future work for 2023/24, "call-in" of Cabinet decisions, and training and development. Members were asked to recommend to Council for approval of the annual report for subsequent publication.

In response to a query regarding why no introduction was in the annual report, it was noted that this was because the previous Chair of the Committee did not stand in the elections. The current Chair would be able to do the introduction in the future annual reports.

RESOLVED that;

1. The annual report to be noted;
2. The annual report to be taken to Full Council for approval for its subsequent publication.

(7.26pm to 7.33pm)

11. Work Programme

The Committee received a work programme for the year 2023/24. It was suggested that Members can make suggestions on the work programme within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny. Officers would be able to present the reports and the subjects could also be something interesting to Members that could be further explored. The suggestions would then be forwarded to the Chair, Vice Chair, and officers to be considered in the work programme. Any ideas should be notified before the next meeting so that they would be considered in the work programme.

Members then discussed possible reports that could be included in the work programme. Planning enforcement was a possible report to be explored by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Youth engagement was also suggested and it was noted that this had been a subject of the Task and Finish Group before. The Director for Public Places advised the Committee that the Essex Police Deputy Chief Constable was keen to attend a meeting to present the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit at the February 2024 meeting in conjunction with updates from Safer Chelmsford and Essex Police. Another suggestion from the Committee was for Essex County Traveller Unit to be invited to present at a meeting.

RESOLVED that;

1. Officers consider the suggestions put forward by Members and amend the work programme as necessary.

(7.33pm to 7.40pm)

12. Urgent Business

There were no mattes of urgent business.

The Chair advised members of the change of date for the next meeting which would likely be in October 2023. Specific dates would be explored to ensure that the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council would be available to present their Cabinet portfolios.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Decision and Action Sheet

Summary of Decisions taken at last meeting		
Item Details	**Decision taken at the meeting**	**Any comments**
Item 3 – Minutes of last meeting	Minutes were agreed.	N/A
Item 4 – Presentation on Cultural Strategy	Presentation was noted.	
Item 5 – Annual Report of Committee	Annual Report was recommended to Full Council.	Considered by Full Council on 25th July.

Action Points			
Action Points agreed at 17 July 2023 meeting	**Outstanding or Actioned?**	**Next steps**	**Officers to Action**
Officers to formulate new proposal for continuing Task & Finish Group and new ToR to be drafted. A new Cultural Strategy report regarding context to be presented to Members.	Outstanding	- Chelmsford City Cultural Services Manager and Director of Connected Chelmsford to discuss proposal and new ToR. - CEO of Culture Chelmsford and Chelmsford City Cultural Services Manager to give presentation on Cultural Strategy on **November 2023 O&S meeting.**	Louise Goodwin and Marc De'ath
Work Programme to be looked at and amended as per Members' suggestions: - Youth Engagement with Council - ECTU - Essex VVU	Outstanding	- Officers to reconvene outside Overview & Scrutiny to make amendments to the work programme.	Louise Goodwin, Keith Nicholson, and Jan

		- Planning Enforcement Inform and Debate to be added on **April 2024 O&S meeting** (as per agreed with Chair and Vice Chair)	Decena

Chelmsford City Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 October 2023

Call-In Decision: Hylands Park – Public Spaces Protection Order

Report by:
Director for Connected Chelmsford

Officer Contact:
Jan Decena, Democratic Services Officer, email: jan.decena@chelmsford.gov.uk, tel: 01245 606480

Purpose:

- For members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the call-in request of the decision taken by Cabinet on 12th September 2023 regarding the Public Spaces Protection Order for Hylands Park.

Options

- Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether:
    1. To support the Cabinet decision;
    2. Decide that the decision or part of it was unreasonable, or based on incorrect information or did not take into account information which should have been considered, or faulty in some other way and refer the decision back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

1. Background

1.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for dealing with call in requests of Cabinet decisions The call-in arrangements are highlighted at 4.5.11 of the Constitution and can be seen at **Appendix 1**.

2. Call-In Decision of Hylands Park – Public Spaces Protection Order

2.1. Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillor Jeapes, Councillor Canning, Councillor Dobson, Councillor Steel, and Councillor Taylor –requested the decision made by Cabinet on 12th September 2023 regarding a PSPO in Hylands Park to be called in.

2.2. The PSPO would restrict areas of Hylands Park where dogs are allowed, where dogs are allowed off the lead, and restrict the number of dogs that can be walked by an individual, thereby providing a safe environment for all park users. The Cabinet report in relation to the PSPO is attached as **Appendix 2**.

2.3. A formal written request was received by the Directed of Connected Chelmsford on 13th September 2023 and the reasons for the call-in are set out below:

1. Questions about why Hylands Park, of the approximately 25 Parks controlled by Chelmsford City Council was selected for the Public Spaces Protection Order, (PSPO) were not adequately addressed. The data and statistics referred to did not appear to highlight Hylands Park as having a significant issue or being the priority for this type of action and the potential Criminalisation of dog walkers.

2. If it is shown that public safety from dogs off the lead and multiple dogs being walked by one person, is a real issue at Hylands, it was clear from the general debate during cabinet, that enforcement will be key to the success of any PSPO in providing any meaningful impact on the issue.

3. Given that there is to be no increase in enforcement officers and the refusal by the council at the meeting to engage in self-funding enforcement resources the introduction of the PSPO, at some public expense, does not appear to be value for money. Elsewhere it was stated that PSPOs in relation to litter were not impacting on the issues and an increase was being experienced.

4. The public consultation results and feedback did not appear to have been adequately addressed. This approach was further reinforced when the request by a member of the Public to have his question read out in full was not met. Nor was it appropriately answered as the specifics about the five-year figures

and criminal convictions were not responded to, nor was there any commitment to provide the information."

2.4. Democratic Services notified Members of the Council and relevant officers of the call-in on 14th September 2023 and notified the Cabinet Member for a Greener and Safer Chelmsford, Councillor Rose Moore, of their requirement to attend. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also required the Public Health and Protection Services Manager, Paul Brookes, and the Director for Public Places, Keith Nicholson, to attend the call-in. Officers have provided a supplementary report, attached as **Appendix 3**, to provide further information requested. It was also agreed with the Chair to consider the call-in request at this scheduled meeting.

2.5. Councillor Moore has requested two contributors to support them at the call-in. The two contributors are Inspector Sam Girdlestone from Essex Police and the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Marie Goldman.

3. Call-In Procedures

3.1. The order of business during the call-in, as highlighted at 4.5.11.10 of the Constitution, are as follows:

a) The Chair will provide an explanation of the reasons for the call-in;
b) The Cabinet Member with the responsibility for the matter called-in will provide an explanation of the decision made at the Cabinet;
c) Contributors called by the Chair to be invited to comment on the decision;
d) Cabinet Member to ask questions to the contributors called in by the Chair;
e) Contributors called by the Cabinet Member to be invited to present information to support the decision;
f) Committee members to ask question to the contributors called in by the Cabinet Member;
g) Committee members to ask questions to Cabinet Member;
h) A general discussion between the Committee members;
i) Committee members to make the decision.

4. Conclusion

4.1. As per 4.5.11 of the Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to decide whether to:
4.1.1. support the decision made by the Cabinet;
4.1.2. refer the decision back to Cabinet under the following grounds:
4.1.2.1. that it is unreasonable;

4.1.2.2. based on incorrect information or that it did not take into account information that should have been considered;
4.1.2.3. faulty in some other way;

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – 4.5.11 of the Council Constitution

Appendix 2 – 12th September 2023 Cabinet Report – Hylands Park – Public Spaces Protection Order

Appendix 3 – Supplementary PSPO Report

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional:
Overview and Scrutiny Committees have statutory powers to scrutinise executive decisions and the Council's arrangements for calling in such decisions is set out in the Council's Constitution. In reaching any decision the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have regard to the statutory guidance issued in 2019.

Financial:
None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment:
None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030:
None

Personnel:
None

Risk Management:
None

Equality and Diversity:
Impact assessment not required

Health and Safety:
None

Digital:
None

Other:
None

Consultees:

As detailed in the report

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

None

EXTRACT FROM CONSTITUTION: 4.5.11, CALL-IN ARRANGEMENTS

4.5.11. CALL-IN ARRANGEMENTS

Procedure for scrutinising executive decisions

4.5.11.1 A summary of any executive decision (i.e. a decision taken by the Cabinet, a Cabinet committee or a Cabinet Member or officer under delegation) shall be notified to all councillors within two days of being taken. An executive decision that constitutes a recommendation to the Council shall not be subject to call in.

4.5.11.2 Executive decisions may be called-in by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The call-in will only be valid if:

a) it is requested by at least five members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
b) the request is in writing or by email and includes the names of all the councillors requesting the call-in;
c) the request sets out the reason for the call-in; and
d) it is received by the Designated Officer by the expiry of the call-in period, i.e. 5pm on the fourth working day after the decision has been taken.

4.5.11.3 No decision may be called-in more than once.

4.5.11.4 On being informed of a call-in, the Designated Officer shall notify all members of the Council and relevant officers. No decision that has been called-in, with the exception of an urgent decision, shall be implemented before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered it.

4.5.11.5 **Period within which decision must be scrutinised**

Where an executive decision has been called-in, the meeting of the Committee to scrutinise it will be held as soon as practicable after the decision to do so was taken. This will normally be within 15 working days after receipt by the Designated Officer of the request to call it in.

4.5.11.6 **Advance notification of arrangements**

In advance of a meeting of the Committee at which an executive decision is due to be scrutinised, the chair of the Committee may:

a) require from Cabinet Members and/or officers further written information on the decision to be scrutinised;

b) invite persons from outside the Council ("contributors") who have a particular knowledge of or expertise in the subject matter of the decision to be scrutinised to attend the meeting. Contributors may be reimbursed for travelling and subsistence costs reasonably incurred by them in attending the meeting;

c) require the attendance at the meeting of the Cabinet member with responsibility for the matter to be scrutinised (or another Cabinet Member agreed by the Leader if they are unable to attend) to explain the decision. In the case of an executive decision taken by the Leader, Cabinet, committee or an officer, the Cabinet member with responsibility for the function shall be required to attend, even though they may not have actually taken the decision; and

d) require the attendance at the meeting of such officers (or their substitutes if they are unable to attend) as the Chair thinks appropriate to provide information on the decision to be scrutinised.

EXTRACT FROM CONSTITUTION: 4.5.11, CALL-IN ARRANGEMENTS

4.5.11.7 The Designated Officer will make the necessary arrangements on behalf of the Chair no later than five days before the meeting.

4.5.11.8 The Cabinet member(s) will also have the opportunity to call up to two contributors or officers to present information in support of the decision. The names and, if appropriate, the positions of those persons will be notified to the Designated Officer at least two days before the meeting, who will in turn notify the chair.

Advance notification of information

4.5.11.9 At least five working days before the meeting of the Committee the Designated Officer will give to the Cabinet Member(s) invited to attend, in writing:

a) the specified reasons for the call-in;

b) the names and, if appropriate, the positions held by any contributors who have been invited by the Chair to attend the meeting in connection with the matter to be scrutinised and the purpose for which they have been invited; and

c) the subject matter of any additional written information requested by the chair.

Call-in procedure at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting

4.5.11.10 Unless the chair decides otherwise, the following order of business (insofar as it is applicable) will generally be observed in the Committee's scrutiny of an executive decision:

a) an explanation by the chair of the reasons for the call-in;
b) an explanation by the Cabinet member with responsibility for the matter called-in of the reasons behind the decision;
c) an invitation to contributors called by the Chair to comment on the decision; questions to the chair's contributors by the Cabinet Member(s);
d) an invitation to contributors and/or officers called by the Cabinet Member to
e) present information in support of the decision;
f) questions to the Cabinet's contributors and/or officers by Committee members;
g) questions to the Cabinet Member(s) by the Committee;
h) general discussion by the Committee;
i) the decision.

EXTRACT FROM CONSTITUTION: 4.5.11, CALL-IN ARRANGEMENTS

Options for decisions

4.5.11.11 The Committee may:

a) conclude that it supports the executive decision and does not wish it to be amended (in which case the decision may be implemented immediately);

b) decide that the decision or part of it was
   i. unreasonable, or
   ii. based on incorrect information or did not take into account information which should have been considered, or
   iii. faulty in some other way,

   and refer the decision to the Cabinet for reconsideration; or

c) come to the view that the decision is contrary to or not wholly consistent with a budget or a policy agreed by the Council. In coming to any such view the Committee will take into account the advice of the Director of Financial Services and/or the Monitoring Officer, as appropriate.

4.5.11.12 If the Committee conclude that the decision is contrary to a budget or a policy agreed by the Council, it must in the first instance refer the decision to the Cabinet. The Cabinet must decide whether to amend the called-in decision to satisfy the concerns of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or, if it does not wish to do so, refer the matter to the Full Council. If the latter course is chosen, the Full Council may either confirm or amend the decision.

Chelmsford City Council Cabinet

12th September 2023

HYLANDS PARK – PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Report by:
Cabinet Member for a Greener and Safer Chelmsford

Officer Contact:
Paul Brookes, Public Health and Protection Services Manager

01245 6096436, paul.brookes@chelmsford.gov.uk

Purpose

Following a public consultation to consider a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) restricting areas of Hylands Park where dogs are allowed, where dogs are allowed off the lead, and restricting the number of dogs that can be walked by an individual, thereby providing a safe environment for all park users.

Options

1. To make the Public Spaces Protection Order as presented
2. To make the Public Spaces Protection Order with amendments
3. Not to proceed with the making of the Public Spaces Protection Order

Recommendations

1. The Director of Public Places be authorised to make the Public Spaces Protection Order as presented.

1. Introduction

1.1 On 6th July 2023 Cabinet agreed to consult on a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) restricting areas of Hylands Park where dogs are allowed, where dogs are allowed off the lead, and restricting the number of dogs that can be walked by an individual, thereby providing a safe environment for all park users. The consultation ran from 13th July 2023 until 11th August 2023. Within this report there is some duplication of the 6th July 2023 report as the information is required for Cabinet to properly determine whether or not to make the PSPO.

1.2 This report considers the need for the PSPO taking into account the responses received during the public consultation.

1.3 The proposal to introduce a PSPO (appendix 1) is to help provide a safe environment for all users of the park whilst accommodating all activities currently taking place.

1.4 The PSPO will not apply to assistance dogs as defined by the Equality Act 2010. Whilst the majority of assistance dogs will have been trained by Assistance Dogs UK, Chelmsford City Council recognises that assistance dogs can be trained by other organisations or by individuals.

2. Public Spaces Protection Orders

2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a variety of powers for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour including Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO).

2.2 PSPOs are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's qualify of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order can be used to deal with likely future problems.

2.3 A local authority may make a Public Spaces Protection Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:

- That activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect, and

- that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

2.4 A PSPO lasts for 3 years, but at any point before it expires the PSPO can be extended for a further 3 years. A PSPO can be varied at any point, variations are most likely to be made to close any legal loopholes which offenders may be exploiting to avoid enforcement action, or the PSPO is having unintended or unforeseen consequences.

2.5 The penalty for breaching a PSPO is a £100 fixed penalty notice or prosecution in the Magistrates Court, although in line with good practice informal and formal warnings will also be used when enforcing the PSPO. Government has recently consulted on whether the fixed penalty notice for breaching a PSPO should be increased to £500 although no announcement has been made on this increase being introduced.

2.6 Whilst some of the issues proposed to be controlled by the PSPO can already be controlled through existing legislation, control by the PSPO is clearer and more effective, and closes some loopholes that make enforcement of existing legislation ineffective.

3. Rationale for PSPO

3.1 Complaints to the Council about dog-on-dog attacks or dog on human attacks have increased year on year, the latest figures up until 1st July 2023 were 78 complaints, an increase of 36% on the previous year. National police data shows a 34% rise over the last 5 years of dog attack causing injury.

3.2 Whilst the Council's data shows that the complaints are not focused on any one location Hylands Park is being considered for the PSPO for two main reasons, firstly, the risk to small children is significant due to the park being heavily used during nice weather for family picnics with the park allowing children to be under less parental supervision as the risk from hazards from nearby roads, cycle paths, and water features are less in Hylands especially in the 'bowl' area between the fort play area and Hylands house. These hazards which are more prevalent in other parks, particularly Central Park are also why dogs will tend to be kept on the lead more in other parks. Secondly, Hylands, due to its size, allows for restrictions to be introduced without disadvantaging any section of the public. Approximately 85% of Hylands would still be available for people to walk their dog off the lead.

3.3 Hylands Park needs to balance the competing needs of all members of the public that use the park for various activities and events. Whilst for the majority of time there is no conflict unfortunately there have been times where members of the public are subject to alarm, distress and sometimes injuries from dogs not being under control. The park is particularly popular for organised pack walks for both breed specific and general breeds, these walks tend to be off lead walks and can result in a number of dogs acting aggressively.

3.4 It is recognised that many dog walkers like to walk their dog off the lead and Hylands Park provides an ideal opportunity to do so, however, walking a dog

off the lead if not under full control of the owner can cause alarm and distress even if the dog is not dangerous. For people scared or nervous around dogs the often heard phrase “don’t worry they won’t hurt” doesn’t provide much reassurance.

3.5 The proposed PSPO will allow people who are nervous around dogs, or nervous when dogs are around their children, and those dog walkers who wish to keep their dog on the lead to walk within the park with confidence that they can enjoy the park without the risk of being subject to aggressive behaviour from dogs not under control. The PSPO also allows dog walkers plenty of space to walk their dog off the lead if they prefer.

3.6 Limiting the number of dogs that can be walked by an individual is aimed at professional dog walkers. Keeping a large number of dogs under control is difficult and it does lead to an increase in dog fouling as the dog walker is unable to watch all the dogs at the same time. Restricting the number of dogs that can be walked at one time to 4 or below should not impact on members of the pubic but will help mitigate issues caused by professional dog walkers. The RSPCA recommends that no more than four dogs are walked at any one time RSPCA Professional Dog Walkers' Guidelines.

3.7 Prohibiting dogs from small areas of the park is mainly replicating existing by-laws that are difficult to enforce and are in place to protect children whilst playing in the play area, preventing accidents in the car park, protecting livestock, and preventing conflict around Hylands House.

4. Public Spaces Protection Order

4.1 The proposed PSPO is attached at Appendix 1. The PSPO prohibits:

- Dogs being off the lead in the orange hatched areas shown on the map in appendix 2
- Dogs being off the lead after 9.00am in the black hatched area shown on the map in appendix 2
- Dogs being within the red blocked areas shown on the map in appendix 2
- An individual walking 5 or more dogs at one time

4.2 The areas to be covered by the PSPO in respect of dogs being off the lead

- All car parks within Hylands Park
- Access route from Widford Church
- The lake
- The area between the fort play area and the Hylands House car park

4.3 The areas to be covered by the PSPO are Hylands Park and in respect of dogs not being permitted in the area

- The fort play area
- The fenced area for grazing cattle
- Area immediately around Hylands House

- The walled garden
- Hylands House, pavilion and courtyard

5. Consultation

5.1 The consultation ran from 13th July 2023 until 11th August 2023.

5.2 Consultation was carried out as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The consultation was advertised on the Council's website from 13th July 2023 to 11th August 2023. The following consultees were written to; Essex Police, Essex County Council, Chelmsford City Council's Parks and Green Spaces, and Writtle Parish Council. An extension was provided to Writtle Parish Council to accommodate their meeting dates.

5.3 231 consultation responses were received from the public 37% were in favour of the PSPO, 60% were against the making of the PSPO, and 3% expressed views for and against, or no view. All consultation responses from members of the public are attached at Appendix 3, the numbering of the responses relates to the order in which they were received. The responses have been anonymised. Responses on behalf of an organisation are attached at Appendix 4 .

5.4 Whilst the majority of responses are against the PSPO a significant proportion are supportive of the restrictions. A proportion of the responses against the PSPO are due to dog walkers being inconvenienced due to their usual dog walk being affected by an area that would require their dog to be on a lead, or appear to be under the misconception that walking with dogs is being prohibited. The PSPO is not preventing dogs being walked, owners can either walk their dogs on the lead or choose to use the 85% of the park that will have no restrictions in place. It is important to note that the PSPO does not introduce any new areas where dogs are prohibited, dogs are already prohibited from these areas.

5.5 Many responses question whether the PSPO should only apply at certain times of the day and/or at certain times of the year. The reason for the PSPO existing all year round is although the risk is greater during the spring and summertime there is still a significant risk during autumn and winter when families are still using the park but in a different way. Taking into account the consultation responses it is proposed to allow dogs off the lead in the area between the fort play area and Hylands House (black hatched area of the map attached at Appendix 2) up until 9.00am each day.

5.6 In response to some of the consultation responses the map has been amended to show more clearly that the area around the fenced off area for grazing cattle near to Widford Church is not affected by the PSPO, except for the Northern edge which requires dogs to be kept on leads.

5.7 Some responses , particularly from professional dog walkers, object to the limit of no more than 4 dogs being walked by an individual. The limit of 4 is in accordance with the RSPCA's advice for professional dog walkers, and whilst

the Kennel Club refer to Government guidance of 6 dogs, this is a maximum for any situation and the Council believes Hylands Park, as a well used shared public park, justifies the use of the lower number as recommended by the RSPCA.

5.8 Essex Police and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner are in favour of the PSPO.

6. Enforcement

6.1 A number of responses ask how the PSPO will be enforced. If approved there will be a period of time before the PSPO is enacted to provide time for appropriate signage to be displayed. Once the PSPO is enacted there will be approximately 8 weeks where enforcement is advisory unless there is failure to follow advice provided or an individual repeatedly breaches the order. The majority of enforcement will be intelligence led although a significant number of proactive patrols will take place particularly during busy periods.

7. Conclusion

7.1 There have been numerous complaints about dogs being dangerously out of control, and numerous incidents of dog-on-dog attacks, normally where one dog is off the lead. Whilst the incidents are not location specific Hylands Park presents a significant risk due to the number of visitors and mix of families and dog walkers.

7.2 The proposed Public Spaces Protection Order enables everybody to enjoy the park in the manner they wish to. Introducing areas where dogs must be on the lead enables other park users not to be at risk from out of control dogs and providing areas where dogs can be off the lead ensures no group is discriminated against.

7.3 Limiting the number of dogs an individual can walk at one time will assist in managing issues caused by professional dog walkers when they are walking more dogs than they can control and manage.

7.4 There was an excellent response to the consultation with 231 responses. The consultation responses covered a range of views both for and against the PSPO. It is important to note that the PSPO is not preventing dogs being walked, owners can either walk their dogs on the lead or choose to use the 85% of the park that will have no restrictions in place.

7.5 Whilst there are currently no plans to introduce similar restrictions in other parks or public areas this will be kept under review.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Public Spaces Protection Order
Appendix 2 – Map showing restricted areas
Appendix 3 – Consultation Responses (Public)
Appendix 4 – Consultation Responses (Organisations)

Background papers:

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
PSPO Cabinet Report 6th July 2023

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: None
Financial: None
Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None
Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None
Personnel: None
Risk Management: None
Equality and Diversity: Impact assessment not required
Health and Safety: None
Digital: None
Other: None

Consultees: Detailed in the report

Relevant Policies and Strategy:

Chelmsford City Council

Proposed Public Spaces Protection Order - Hylands Park 2023

Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act') - Section 59

NOTICE is hereby given that Chelmsford City Council ('the Council') is proposing to make a Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO') which will apply to the public places ('the restricted area') hatched in orange, hatched in black and blocked in red on the plan attached at Schedule to the Order, which comprises of land within **Hylands Park**.

Under section 74(1) of the 2014 Act 'public place' means any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express or implied permission.

The effect of this PSPO, if made, will be **to prohibit** within the restricted area the following activities:

- Within the orange hatched areas walking a dog off the lead
- Within the black hatched area walking a dog off the lead after 09.00am each day
- A dog(s) being within the red blocked areas
- Within Hylands Park an individual walking 5 or more dogs

Assistance dogs as defined by the Equality Act 2010 are exempt from any restrictions within this PSPO.

"assistance dog" means—
(a) a dog which has been trained to guide a blind person;
(b) a dog which has been trained to assist a deaf person;
(c) a dog which has been trained by a prescribed charity to assist a disabled person who has a disability that consists of epilepsy or otherwise affects the person's mobility, manual dexterity, physical co-ordination or ability to lift, carry or otherwise move everyday objects;
(d) a dog of a prescribed category which has been trained to assist a disabled person who has a disability (other than one falling within paragraph (c)) of a prescribed kind;

It is proposed that the PSPO (if made) would have effect for a period of 3 years from the date of making. The duration of the PSPO could be extended for a further period (not exceeding 3 years) in certain cases.

Failure without reasonable excuse to comply with the prohibitions and requirements imposed by this PSPO (if made) is a summary criminal offence under section 67 of the 2014 Act. A person guilty of an offence under section 67 of the 2014 Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1,000).

A constable or authorised person may under section 68 of the 2014 Act issue a fixed penalty notice to anyone he or she has reason to believe has committed an offence under sections 63 or 67 of the 2014 Act in relation to this PSPO.

Signed……..
Director of Public Places on behalf of Chelmsford City Council

Chelmsford City Council
Civic Centre
Duke Street
Chelmsford CM1 1JE

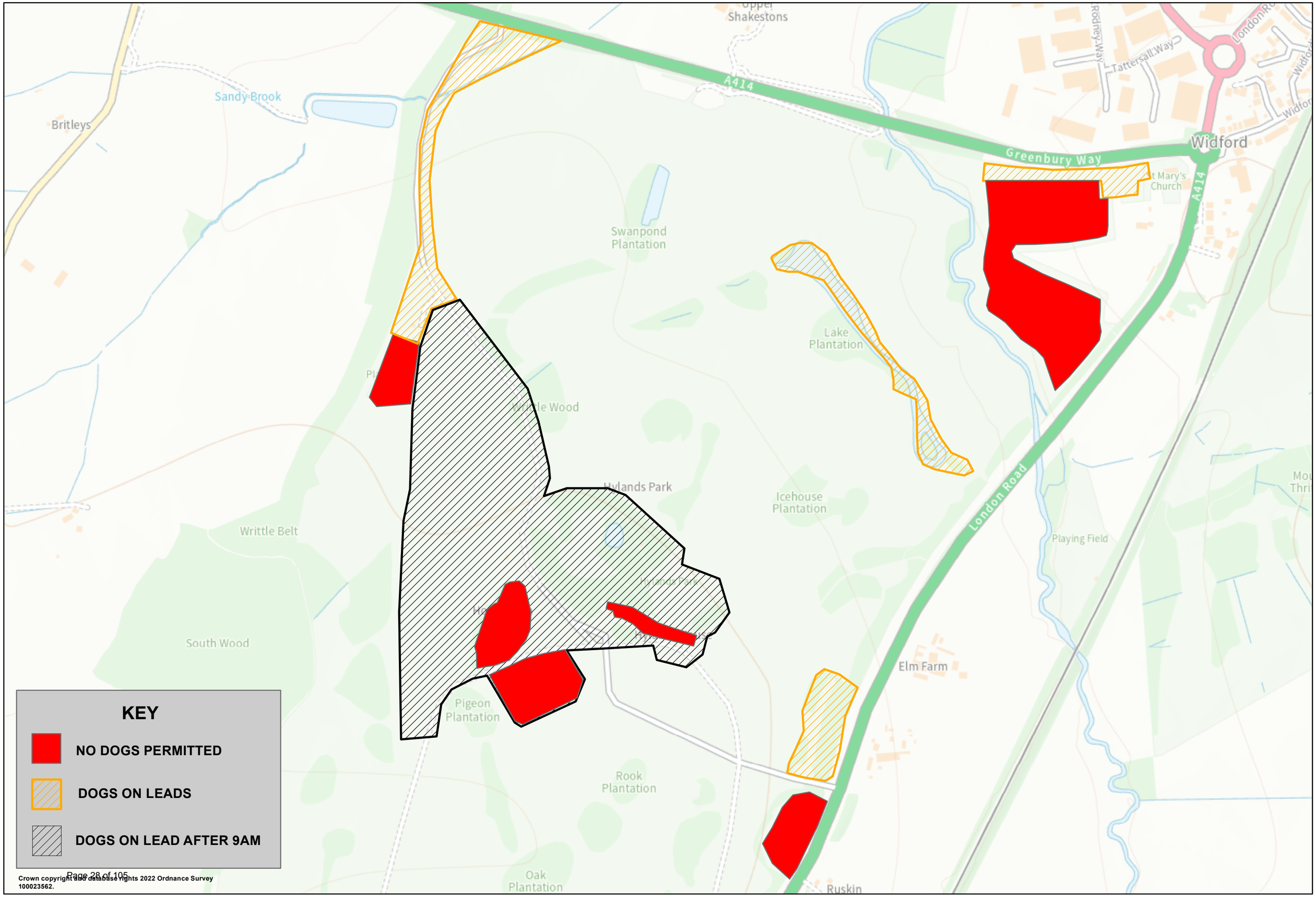
Dated

Chelmsford City Council

Appendix 2

Public Spaces Protection Order - Hylands Park Dog Walking

Date 30/08/2023



Number	Support the PSPO?	Comments
1	N	I walk my dog regularly over hylands and I am unsure which areas are ok for walking of lead as the map is not all that clear We are also being penalised by having to pay for parking
2	N	It's very restricting for dog walkers, you have allocated a massive area where dogs wont be able to run free off the lead. This is very unfair to the majority of safe dogs and responsible dog owners who use the park daily.
3	Y	The areas as designated (no dogs; on lead; off lead) seem to me to be reasonable .
4	Y	It still leaves plenty of space and areas available for dog walkers. As a young family and with a child with a visual impairment (can't see the small dogs and trailing leads) it makes it safer and a lot less stressful having to deal with inconsiderate dog walkers. They still allow their dogs to access areas off a lead, with terrible recall, where there are current restrictions so hopefully this will help with that issue.
5	N	Absolute ridiculous proposal, dogs walking should be allowed in all areas and not required on the lead. We pay so much council tax that we shouldn't have any restrictions over places open to the public.
6	Y	We are a family of 4 with two young children and we have stopped going to Hylands because we cannot enjoy it with the dogs running upto the children etc. One dog got quite nasty when we were having a picnic. I would support restrictions being introduced.
7	Y	I think it's a great idea. We have stopped coming to Hylands park, not because of the parking charges but because of the number of dogs which are not under control, the 'owners' seem to think they don't need to have any responsibility for their dogs actions once they are off lead. It would be lovely to have some space that dogs are kept out of, or at least need to be on leads, so we can also enjoy the space without being approached by dogs all the time. In fact I would like to see more than 15% of the park as dog free zones
8	Y	Seems like a totally reasonable request for people to walk their dogs with sensible precautions.
9	Y	I support the proposal as I think there are a lot of dog walkers now that don't, or can't, always control their dogs. People should be able to enjoy the park without having to keep an eye on other people's dogs. My only concern is enforcement. Putting up signs isn't really enough and it will lead to responsible dog owners who can control their dogs being forced out of these areas whilst irresponsible dog owners will ignore the signs and carry on as they are. I'd also like to see the scheme extended to the writtle belt.
10	Y	In theory this sounds like a good compromise for everyone. I have agreed end with dog walkers having more dogs than they can handle in public spaces. Also it will help separate off lead dogs with people who don't like dogs. Fully supportive.
11	N	Having certain areas will only mean that families with dogs will not be able to enjoy all parts of the park. Designated secure off lead area would be more beneficial.
12	N	It's such a shame.....we have been going to Hylands park with and without dog for over 30 years.

		We have never had a problem with other people or dogs. The on lead area seems excessive and the free to roam is in areas where we don't often go. I strongly oppose these plans and this would severely restrict my visits...I have a season ticket for parking.
13	N	My friends and I visit Hylands to walk our dogs every week and have done so for the past nine years. We visit when it's quiet and first thing in the morning, with the parking charges and now this it is very restrictive. I understand when it's peak times school holidays and weekends, but to have these blanket restrictions just seems ridiculous. We support both coffee shops and like to visit Hylands as this is central for us as two ladies are front Chelmsford and two from Brentwood. Please consider those that visit at the quieter times and still support the businesses when making these dramatic decisions, or we will have no choice but to go elsewhere
14	Y	I am absolutely in favour of this proposal. As a child I had cynophobia so walking at Hylands would have been off limits to me. My children are very nervous of dogs they don't know and I take them to Hyde Hall to run around in open space because there are no dogs allowed. Not everyone likes dogs and I'm glad the council is considering this proposal because then those of us that don't want people's dogs bounding over to us can enjoy the park in peace. However. This is totally pointless if you don't enforce it. Dog owners are often quite happy to ignore restrictions on where they can walk their dogs so please employ a warden during certain hours and issue fines for repeat offenders.
15	Y	Hylands Park is a dog toilet, and anything that contains the problem is welcome.
16	N	Serious lack of thought for people and businesses
17	Y	It is in the best interests of all concerned
18	Y/N	I partly support the new proposal. As one of your regular dog walkers I understand the need for an area for people who don't like dogs. I have a sensible proposal listed below after some comments. Please read the proposal as quite a few people think it is a good idea. Your alleged reports of dog attacks do not seem to have any police or medical reports, therefore you can only consider them as alleged. How easy is it for a person to phone the Council and say they have been attacked with no evidence, and malice in their thoughts? How much of your evidence is based on facts that stand up in court? I suspect most of these problems occur at weekends when there seems to be the larger number of untrained dogs and mostly untrained humans. I often avoid Hylands at weekends because of them. Is your new dog warden going to be there at weekends as that is when they will be needed? Already many regular walkers are talking about going elsewhere. You forget that it is dog walkers keeping the cafes open and money in the car park during the autumn and winter months. Not families picnicking. A sensible proposal would be to follow the actions of intelligent Councils who have dog rules on beaches. Why not make it seasonal? Dogs on leads between May and September and even weekends. People only picnic in good weather.

		There isn't a single person on the proposed fields during autumn and winter. Only dog walkers and the boot camp at weekends. Many people think this is a good proposal and it will help keep your winter revenue
19	N	I strongly object to a council enforcing restrictions on well behaved dogs in need of vigorous exercise seemingly being punished for the few. We have to stop living in fear and motivate people to train their pets to be safe which is surely a better solution. This has the potential to only to deploy attacks to other areas. What happens when an attack is reported in an area where dogs are allowed off the lead ? Is this the beginning of the park being a completely dogs - on - leads 🤷‍♀️ There are approx 12 million dogs in the UK an increase since 2020. I acknowledge attacks rising are inevitable with so many new to owning a dog. What has the council done to educate people to speak dog? Dogs on leads are in protective mode of their walker and are more likely to be aggressive. Facing a dog head on is threatening to them and more likely for the dog to be defensive. Dogs not socialised may develop aggressive behaviour, dogs on leads kept apart may reinforce a dogs insecurity and aggressive behaviour. Walking as a pack, one out of control has the potential for all to be out of control with a pack mentality. Can I suggest this council works with a dog behaviour expert and runs an advertising campaign with advice and motivation for the owners to act, where to find advice and classes; educating children not to approach dogs without asking. If you know your dog has issues please use a muzzle. If the council receives news of an attack that incident needs to be properly investigated and the dog dealt with in an appropriate manner. Can you lobby government for better enforced training on rogue dogs ? We don’t assume people are dangerous without cause, please don’t do the same to dogs.
20	N	I understand the people and animals injured have been by dogs off leads so how will still allowing dogs off leads prevent this happening again? How will this hammer to crack a nut scheme be policed and what would be the cost to taxpayers of policing it?
21	N	I can completely understand having certain areas where dogs must be on leads e.g. around the house, stables and car park but it would be such a shame to restrict elsewhere just for the sake of a few. I go to hylands park daily and absolutely love seeing all the dogs running around especially around serpentine lake. It would be such a shame to change that and I would probably discontinue my parking ticket and going to hylands park if I I was so restricted when walking my dog.
22	N	Has anyone surveyed how many dog walkers use Hylands park safely? I walk there most days.. where are these incidents? Really probably in the order of 0.001% of visits. Please fix the ruts and tractor tread marks on the upper field near South Woods before you spend money on blindingly obvious signage. That has hidden ruts from Creamfields, covered by long grass and dangerous for dogs and people. Isn't it obvious we won't let our dogs off on the few days a year there are picnics around.

		Are you seriously telling me I can't walk my little westie up the field from the Adventure Playground to the pleasure gardens on a wet day in Winter when the only people there are dog walkers??? Dogs only sweat by panting and through their paws. On hot days they need access to water and will find it. You'll end up having to deal with dogs with heat stroke if they are banned from the lake. People never obey rules, so please how can you police this? All the reasonable and well behaved dogs and owners punished again for a few idiots. Have you taken into account at least half of the year, the cold and wet bit, you make parking charges and cafes are kept going by dog walkers. Mauros will struggle of their community of dog walkers find better places to go.
23	N	The woods surrounding Hylands are great to let dogs explore and stay shaded from the heat. There's also the streams that help them to cool down. This section of the woods looks to have been labelled as dog on lead (based on a visit to the park 14/07/23) this makes Hylands no longer a viable option for exercising a large dog.
24	N	But, If it does go ahead, it would be better if it was "seasonal" as in the winter time, it's mainly only dog walkers that use the park anyway, especially during the wet /cold weather. I'm happy for the limit of 4 dogs or less per dog walker though, as it's not possible to let so many dogs out of 1 car, with the dogs all heading in different directions, and then keep your eye on all 4 or more whilst they all poop 💩!
25	N	I oppose this. I have a car parking season ticket and use the park twice a day walking my dog and I don't see why responsible dog owners have to pay the price for irresponsible dog owners. If this does go ahead which I believe it will is it not possible to make this a seasonal thing? or to be the same time as the car parking between 9&6 as I walk 7.30 in the morning and there is certainly no families about having picnics just people walking their dogs in the peace and quiet! and in the winter the majority of the people up at Hylands are dog walkers.
27	N	I am and have been a regular dog walker at hylands house for over 10 years. I would like you to consider several points: Firstly I would like to clarify that I understand the desire to balance all park users needs and I realise that many users of the park are not dog owners and some do not like dogs. I also realise that some dog owners are at best thoughtless and at worst reckless in the way they manage their dogs, however I think your proposed measures will do little or nothing to address these poor owners and will instead inconvenience responsible dog owners who use the park for virtually 365 days of the year. I would like you to consider altering this order to take account of busy times in the park as during the autumn, winter and some spring months there are few people there apart from dog walkers. I wonder if you have thought about the possibility of either a seasonal restriction on dog off lead areas, a weekend only restriction or a time based restriction (e.g from 10am?) most public beaches around the country that have dog restrictions have seasonal restrictions from Easter to September which allows everyone to enjoy the facilities.

		If you are not a regular dog walker the restrictions may seem reasonable but they effectively prohibit the ability to walk on either the tarmac or the cinder path from the writtle entrance with dogs off lead- I can tell you from personal experience that in the depths of winter these are the only ways to walk without being completely bogged down in the park. I know there are several elderly dog walkers who rely on these hard surfaces to walk safely during the winter. I very much hope this decision has not been firmly made and that you consider a flexible approach to the problem.
28	N	I have to say no at the moment because the areas where dogs are allowed off lead are not particularly suitable at present . The grass is too long meaning it can be unsafe for dogs as they can easily pick up grass seeds which can be very dangerous for them. There could also be ticks in the grass which can be fatal. It's also very unpleasant for those of us who suffer from hay fever so I cannot support this at this time.
29	Y	Most dog owners are unable to realise and understand that many people are not dog-friendly. Thus dog walkers often do not realise than free-running dogs can unsettle others who are, perhaps, walking and/or running - whatever their age an/or mobility. They can be unintentionally inconsiderate. Such comment isn't criticism but emphasising a need for consideration for others. So, on the face of it, a PSPO for dog walking is a very good idea. However, an unintended consequence could be that non dog-friendly people will avoid, in future, those areas of HP that are unrestricted for dogs because they regard such areas as more likely to be populated by unrestrained dogs. Is that fair.
30	Y	I am a dog owner and I think dogs should definitely be on a lead in the busy areas of the park. A few years ago we had a picnic next to the lake and we had to fend off endless dogs from trying to steel our food and then one dog ran across and did a wee on our blanket. We have not had a picnic at hylands since. With the number of young children around in the busy areas of the park I definitely think dogs should be on a lead.
31	Y	I am particularly in favour of a limit on the number of dogs which may be walked by one person and creating zones where dogs must be on leads. It's important that these rules are then enforced. Currently, there are an increasing number of inconsiderate and irresponsible people walking dogs at Hylands with no regard for other park users. Some rules and limits are welcome.
32	Y	We have 2 dogs and suffered dog on dog incidents when our dogs were on a lead. Owners take no responsibility- it's only playing they claim. I believe ALL dogs should be on a lead for everyone's safety. It doesn't have to be only a metre long so dogs can move away from owners on a longer lead, but still be under control. 4 dogs per one person is still too many. 4 dogs make a pack which can be dangerous. I stopped using the park and one of the reasons is because of loose dogs.
33	N	I will begin by saying that dog owners and dog walkers are being penalised more and more, with restrictions on access, with assistance (all types of assistance dogs) dog owners being turfed out of taxis and shops, by restrictions planned such as this. The large meadow that has now been turned over to 'cattle grazing' was an ideal space not

		often used by children and families due to its distance from car parks and play areas. We were told that cattle grazing helps the biodiversity of the grassland. I - under FOI - want to see a report, from Hylands not some generic response, that gives a true picture of how the environment has been enriched by having 6 cows there for 3 months of the year. The enclosure left a narrow pathway that would no DOUBT cause issues for walkers, joggers, dog walkers who all wish to avoid one another at the end of the day. We have been squeezed out of many areas of South Wood with ridiculous dead hedging. In most areas it has left extremely narrow pathways. Feedback has come from residents and staff at the estate over this situation. There is NO HOPE to avoid a pack of dogs - me with my 2 dogs do not like going anywhere near dog walkers with their many dogs, and we do not like kids and we do not like cyclists - who are not supposed to use the PRoW through the estate. Are they ever challenged? NO. They zoom up on all other users of the estate with no warning bell or yell. YET AGAIN, the majority of decent dog and respectful dog owners are potentially being penalised by a few ignorant idiots. DO NOT forget the idiot cyclists who should not be there. DO NOT forget the scum who continue to litter and it yet again, left to people like myself, to pick their crap up. DO NOT forget HOW MUCH we have to pay now in order to USE the estate. With regard to your proposal - this potential PSPO will have a detrimental effect on me and my use of the park!!! --- 2. Public Spaces Protection Orders 2.1 A local authority may make a Public Spaces Protection Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met: · That activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect I, for one, will move to another council, and pay their car park fees, in order to walk my elderly dogs.
34	Y	Sadly, Hylands seems to have been taken over by the 'love my dog' brigade .. Having been mawled as a very young child, my fear of dogs is exacerbated by them running around off lead - whether they have recall or not, I don't want to find out .. I feel totally alienated from using all parks in the City which is annoying as Hylands is walkable for me .. I've come across many dogs in the Ornamental Gardens over recent years and even been verbally abused when I've pointed out they're not allowed there .. My point is that any restrictions need to be 'policed' so the dog free areas can be enjoyed again by those of us who do not want to be jumped on or tread in poop .. I'm looking forward to visiting again
35	Y	I would prefer dogs to be on a lead at all times, but this is a step in the right direction. Had a bad experience a few years ago.
36	N	Dogs have the rights to be exercised properly as children do and dog walkers have the rights to enjoy the full park with their dogs and friends / family. I have never seen any issues / threatening situations

		caused by dogs or their owners in Hylands Park and I am a frequent visitor to the park.
37	Y	What is the penalty?
38	Y	Hylands park is huge, there is plenty of space for dogs to run off the lead outside the proposed areas, the proposals are entirely reasonable. Not everyone likes dogs and dog owners often do not respect this as their dogs run up to strangers, jump up at them etc. Non-doggy people have the right to enjoy the park as much as dog owners. If dog owners have not got control of their dogs, the dogs should be kept on leads. In respect of limiting the number of dogs, this is a good idea, how can one person keep track of where dogs defecate if they have got half a dozen running all over the place. No doubt many dog owners will be up in arms about the proposals but the council should stick to its guns. However, such a scheme is only as good as how it is implemented/policed, and this needs to be properly actioned and resourced.
39	N	While I agree that Hylands is a space for everyone to enjoy, it saddens me that as in all aspects of modern life, a few rogue dogs and owners ruin it for the many. My children are grown up now, but when they were little they used to ride their small bikes and scooters all round the gardens surrounding the house. They were courteous to walkers and others. Their memories of picking up conkers and feeding the ducks on the pond will live with them forever. Children are now not allowed to ride their bikes or scooters in these areas. We have walked our dog around Hylands since she was a puppy and the area fenced off at the top of the park near Widford church was always a favourite. I see that is proposed to be a no dog zone. Why? As you say in the car parks dogs should be on leads, but as with the children on their bikes, dogs are being penalised with these proposed changes. Dog walkers like refreshments but you will be banning them from the Stables area. Potentially this might mean the same irresponsible dog owners will leave their dogs in hot cars while they visit anyway. The responsible dog owners will go away taking their money with them.
40	N	Looking again at the map the gravel paths are all included. In the winter when it is really wet and the park is actually quiet the gravel paths are the best option due to the extensive waterlogged areas of the park. My dogs walk close to heel along these paths so now I've got to keep them in leads for the whole walk if the ground is wet. I e been walking my dogs for 8 years in the park and never had a problem with other walkers. 99% of dog walkers are mindful of what their dogs are like and are courteous. Can these areas be implemented perhaps at weekends when the park is busier rather than wholesale when during the week the park and/or winter months the park is much quieter.
41	Y	I support this
42	N	AS I have said on many occasions the people running Hylands Park are anti dog, the introduction of the ban within the stables area was the first little test by these people to see if they could make the park a dog free zone, we have had the second phase where they have made it nearly impossible for dog walkers to use the park on a daily basis by the introduction of the very high car parking charges and although they will not admit to it, it has had a bad effect on number of visitors to

		the park. We now have this new so called consultation re the banning of dogs in certain areas, I am totally against this as I see it as a lead into banning dogs from the park at a future date, if there is such a dangerous problem why have we not seen any dog wardens or police in the park, policing the anti social behaviour and issuing fix penalty fines. The park was left for the residents of Chelmsford to enjoy and use, but it has now become a money making exercise for the people running Hylands estate and the council, with all the things which are held at Hylands Park I would have thought they could charge more for the hire re the weddings and shows which go on there, I am totally against any further restrictions to the freedom of the park and I would add the parking charges should be cancelled as soon as possible to allow more people to use the park, not just those who can afford the high parking charges.
43	N	I do not own a dog, but cannot see the benefit of this and i strongly disagree with the proposals. i have no problem with dogs off leads in the main areas. i do agree they should be kept on leads around the main house. you are wasting peoples council tax and time by doing this consultation. if the new rules come into place it is not mentioned who will ensure the dog walkers are obeying the new rules. will you have to employ a traffic warden style person to constantly walk the grounds? this again will cost more of the tax payers money. in the summer the grounds are open from 7.30am to 10pm, will you have someone monitoring the park for all these hours? you will be discouraging people from visiting the park and income generation will fall against the cost of anyone employed to monitor the new rules resulting in a loss of profit. you should be encouraging visitors to the park, this will do nothing but stop them from coming.
44	Y	Support in theory especially the 4 dog rule. However I have some comments that I would like you to take into account. I am a regular walker at Hylands with 2 cocker spaniels. Oldest one has excellent recall and trots along beside me so I dont put her on a lead usually but will do so in areas that are stipulated as required. Younger one I put on a lead near roads the lake for example as her recall isnt 100% but is good. I do however get lost a bit in Hylands its a big area and I struggle with knowing where I am so dog restricted areas would need to be well signposted to avoid accidentally entering one. Also I have Osteoporosis so favour walking on level areas and I can see these areas being the most restricted. My 2 dogs being different ages walk at different speeds and I have concerns about turning an ankle over in uneven ground which could result in a breakage if walking with 2 dogs on leads different speeds. One of the reasons I tend to favour walking my younger dog on a lead on occasions when best to but letting the older one trot beside me. Can a route be marked out showing the more level areas where leads arent required for walkers such as myself. Alternatively I suppose I could ask a friend to hold one of my dogs in leaded areas and I walk with other one if a friend is available but of course someone wont always be available
45	N	There will always be irresponsible dog owners and this PSPO unless it is backed up regular police patrols of the park and car park, along with on the spot fines, will not will not change anything. The majority of dog owners are responsible and know when to have their dogs on the lead, so this PSPO is only aimed at the minority who do not - and

		these people will sadly still not follow the rules unless they are rigorously re-inforced so it's all a waste of time and effort.
46	Y	I'd like to see it in all public parks and areas. I look after a dog and she has twice been bitten by another larger dog off lead whilst she has just been walking on lead. Neither of these incidents were reported. It has made her nervous and makes me think twice about taking her for a walk in the park as not all dog owners are considerate. If a dog on a lead is approached by another dog not on a lead it causes difficulty - any experienced dog owner knows this. Yes please to the proposals.
47	N	I have lives in Chelmsford for over 4o years and in that time have had dogs. Hylands park used to be a lovely place to visit with the dogs. You could visit the cafe and have a coffee and mix with other dog owners. The council then decided to discriminate fog owners at the cafe so we all had to go round the back and be served through a hatch. Limited seating and unable to choose from the selection of cakes on display. We have also been stopped from going in the new diversity garden at all with dogs so that is now out of bounds. On top of that the council decided we had to pay park , something that was against the wishes of Mrs Hanbury who used to own the estate. You have cited in your report that there were 33 incidents. However you do not state how many were at Hylands nor the circumstances. Whilst it is very upsetting to have your dog attacked by another dog , it is impossible to prevent this. The majority of owners are responsible. There are a handful of people who will not put their dogs on the leads regardless of any enforcement put in place. If you do this , you will need to police this which would cost money and resources which could be better spent elsewhere. Hylands used to be a lovely place to visit but it is turning more into a children’s playground than a free park for the community. I am fed up with being discriminated against because I own a dog. I have golden retrievers who are friendly with everyone. I put my dogs on the lead in busy areas anyway as do most responsibilities owners. You are judging all dog owners by the few that won’t follow rules anyway. Totally unfair
48	Y	I fully endorse Chelmsford City Council's introduction of the new PSPO for dog walking at Hylands. The park and estate should be a place for all (humans and animals) to enjoy in harmony and tranquility.
49	Y	I have regularly had dogs jump up at me at Hylands, usually down by the lake. A large dog can easily knock someone over, especially when they jump up behind you and you do not know they are there. If this happened to an elderly person, they can do a lot of damage falling over and a dog can split their skin which then takes many weeks to heal. It's also extremely frightening to someone who is not used to dogs. It would also be good to have a large fenced off area where you can train dogs without them being able to escape.
50	N	I have never seen an incident involving dogs at hylands, my dog is well behaved and enjoys swimming in the lake.
51	N	It seems to me that a valuable resource serving Chelmsford and its environs is gradually being eroded and a 'hostile environment is being created. Anecdotally, I see a significant decline in the footfall at the park and this proposal will drive more people away. I propose that there are no restrictions between the hours of 7 to 9 and in the evening from 6 onwards. I see some benefits in keeping the dogs

		away from picnic areas and the Pleasure Gardens but the lake is very popular for walkers from 3-Mile Hill parking area.
52	Y	This is an excellent idea. There are too many dog owners who are irresponsible in allowing their dogs to run amok anywhere off the leash & foul. I have had my picnics spoilt by dogs coming up & putting noses in food making it inedible as well as jumping up & soiling clothes. I would like to be able to take my grandchildren up to Hylands without feeling intimidated by dogs or ending up with dog excrement on our shoes & clothes. I would welcome a wider area of restrictions being imposed.
53	N	I think smaller dog-free zones should be created for the significant minority. One of the big draws of Hylands is the dog community and walking round the lake is a natural meeting point. Restricting this because of people who are intolerant of dogs isn't right. I completely agree with the red zones but please reduce the orange, particularly the lake.
54	Y	Yes please. I was bitten by a dog whilst walking on a footpath. My injuries required weekly visits to hospital over 6 weeks. The dog owner was served with a a public community order.
55	Y	This scheme should be extended to every park in the Borough.
56	Y	Hylands Park should be accessible and useable for all people, children, adults, cyclists,walkers,dog walkers,kite flyers and all other people able or disabled. Dogs off their leads in high traffic areas can be a real problem for safety. Not everyone is comfortable being approached by a dog and I think people's wishes needs to be protected. With designated areas for "dogs off lead" you have the choice to avoid those areas.
57	Y	Fully agree.
58	N	Yet more draconian restrictions at Hylands. As if the parking charges didn't drive enough people away, this will diminish footfall even further. It almost seems a deliberate ploy by the council to reduce numbers using Hylands
59	N	A few fenced off areas as big as needed would suffice for picnic areas near playgrounds/ house etc gardens need to remain on lead as people sit there responsibly with their dogs also a fenced off area similar to wildflower ones would be brilliant for dogs with poor recall /prey drive etc for responsible owners that do not let off lead cyclists need to be reminded about being courteous around people as do joggers approaching from behind people it’s everyone s responsibility to share park on events days creamfields flower show stewards were also guilty of driving to fast with dogs and children around recent food show was terrible with vehicles approaching the field using path between toilets cafe and playground gaps in pathways with children and dogs crossing not aware path being used bandsman either end but no one taking vehicles up path spoke to show manager said health and safety approved using path (obviously your own people no way a independent would of done)basic lack of duty of care if everything got to be safe from dog walking people towards park users (what I agree with) got to work both ways shows and events at park which you earn from is also a accident waiting to happen. Are you also applying these restrictions in other parks in borough much worse in admirals Park Central Park with cyclists knocking down children/dogs otherwise smacks of discrimination/you manage

		Hylands left to you for people of Chelmsford appears you can see pound note signs since lockdown charge for Hylands but not chelmer admirals etc
60	N	It's very disappointing that these restrictions are being proposed which on top of paying for parking and part of the woodland being taken over by Go Ape make having a dog walk in a beautiful park even more of a challenge and as a Chelmsford resident I do not agree with these restrictions
61	Y	However, to counter balance this I would like to see "dog friendly" signs around other areas of the park, so it's clear dogs are allowed off lead. I would also like to see the grass cut or pathways cut through long grass in other areas of the park, as the only cut grass is currently in the areas proposed for "dogs to be on lead" (some dog walkers have mobility issues and trudging through long grass is more difficult). I would also like to see some secure (fenced) dog areas for off lead play and training. These are becoming popular in other council parks. Also to note a lot of revenue generated through recent parking charges is from dog walkers who use the park regularly. When the park is closed for commercial (revenue generating) events e.g. Creamfields, we should have a part refund for that period
62	Y	I walk with small young children on the paths, in the gardens and not on the grass area to avoid dogs. However, on quite a few occasions large unleashed dogs have run up to the children nearly knocking then over and the owners seen to think that it's okay as they say their dog is friendly and sometimes the owner is not even with the dog. Hylands estate is large enough for all to enjoy and dogs should be kept on leads in certain areas.
63	Y	I do approve of all the recommendations. I am very fond of dogs, but unfortunately some owners seem to have little control over their animals, or simply do not care. Dogs running up to small children can be very alarming for them, and fouling of the grass areas is very unpleasant. It has been a great initiative to separate the cafe areas, as too often owners think that because they love their dog, you would wish to be having tea with the animal's head on your lap. It is sensible to try to accommodate all park users in a safe environment.
64	N	Re path from Writtle Car Park up to house. This is the only level and dry path available for lots of elderly people to walk their dogs, especially during the winter months, when walking is impossible on the muddy ground. The need to keep them on a lead will make it difficult for them and others, to give their pets the exercise they need. I consider the proposed off lead ban to the south of the main field too extensive, surely it could be stopped along the line of the piped underground stream, that cuts across this field.
65	N	The on lead area covers the footpath which is the only safe place to walk my dog off lead whilst pushing a pram. Otherwise, the pram has to be dragged through the mud and grass and increases risk of my walking toddler falling on uneven ground. At the moment, Hylands is the only local place where it safe for me to walk my dog off the lead whilst pushing the pram with my baby and allowing my toddler to walk safely along the path away from roads and carparks. I would like to suggest that this proposal is changed to only 'on peak' times such as weekends and event days, to allow myself and others to continue our dog walks as usual during the week where the park is already considerably quieter and predominantly only dog walkers anyway.

66	N	I am an annual paying member for the car park at Hylands Park where i come on a daily basis with my dog (this is under my husband's account). I've lived in Chelmsford for over 3 years now and have come almost everyday to the park. We walk and run with our dog, and have never had any issues. If these new proposed changes were implemented, we would strongly re-think if we were to pay for Hylands Park parking as we feel this would take enjoyment out of our daily walks. We come to Hylands park when there are no children in the playground as it's either before school hours or after where there aren't any kids. It seems unfair that we would almost be penalised if this was introduced. I strongly believe that the majority of annual payers to park at Hylands Park are dog owners/walkers, and think they would also have the same views as myself. The shaded area where you're proposing to have dogs on lead is a large area from the car park which would result in a 10-15 minute walk to get outside of the leaded only area to the back of the park which i feel would put us off coming. I think it's an unfair statement and misleading when you say - 'Last year, we received 33 reports of dog-on-dog or dog-on-human attacks in Chelmsford' This is in Chelmsford as a whole, not specifically in Hylands Park, and it's misleading statistics to have this in the same proposal. As a result, I have made an FOI request to understand how many specifically have been reported in the park, not in Chelmsford as a whole If you were to implement this, my recommendation would be to consider who actually is your biggest payer of car parking charges since it was implemented. I strongly feel this would be majority dog owners/walkers. This would unlikely to be families with kids as they would only really be able to come regularly at the weekends/school holidays, whereas dog owners/walkers come every single day. If there was potentially to be a compromise, perhaps the order could only be enforced at the weekends when there are more people there, including more children. If this was to come in permanently 7 days a week, you'd upset and annoy your majority customer, which is dog walkers/owners, and frankly are likely not to pay to come anymore.
67	N	Once we get heavy rain in Autumn, the area on YOUR MAP outside Mauro's, on on the hill going down to the trees at the bottom of the hill and also outside the Adventure Playground, becomes a sticky muddy quagmire. It doesn't drain. It only improves as we get dry weather in Spring towards Summer. It has been the same forever. Very often there will be lakes forming at the bottom of the hill where there used to be a stream (now piped underground). No one is going to use it for picnics or games, until it dries out again the next year. I can't imagine what possible point there is in restricting the use of this area FOR DOGS!!! I know, because I have become part of it, there is a whole community of fellow dog walkers, whom use both cafes and I meet walking around the park. If this restriction is brought in then there will be less income for the cafes and less income from parking charges.
68	Y/N	I support the majority of the proposals with the exception of the path through the woods from the main entrance and the section of grass from the car park alongside the coffee shop and adventure playground as from what I can see there isn’t the option to let the dog off the lead directly from the car park

69	N	I do not agree with the no dogs area near St Mary's Church and wonder why this is proposed? I walk my dogs weekly in Hylands and understand the need for some of the on lead areas but would it be possible for the PSPO to only be active during school holidays or bank holidays. At most other times of the year the vast majority of people using the park are dog walkers and it seems a shame to restrict them during term time.
70	N	I have had my own dogs all my life and lived in Chelmsford all my life and used hylands for over 15 years for personal and professional use, I'm currently a dog walker and I start my morning group walk at 8.30am I head right to the back of hylands in a big loop round in all the years I have walked profession over 6 years I can say I only see maybe one other person with dogs at that time and this tends to be in the nicer weather in the winter I do not see anyone, if I go back and do a second walk about 11.30ish it pretty much the same might see a few more people, in all the years I have been walking professionally I have never seen or been involved with any dog on dog attacks or any dogs attacking a person, Being a professional dog walker you must be aware of the surroundings and any on coming people with dogs, I always keep a wide birth of any other solo walkers and my dogs are on leads and only let off when I can see I'm on my own, none of the dogs I walk are out of control as they would not be able to come out in a group, The proposal is just another way to control peoples movements using the 33 dog attacks in Chelmsford, even though none of these happened at hylands, the country heading toward a dictatorship and these changes are just the tip in my opinion, This is all about money for the council they can make more money with the go ape and concerts and fairs Than that can with the people just wanting to walk there dog in the only big park in Chelmsford.. The councils lining their pockets, this is really what it's all about.
71	N	Before one can make a decision to support the idea one would need to know how CCC plan to enforce the PSPO. Will there be enforcement officers patrolling the park, will fines be given to dog walkers who allow their dogs to a) be off the lead in areas where they should be on a lead and b) in an area where no dogs are allowed or do CCC expect the public to self-enforce (this would lead to confrontation with dog walkers).
72	N	As a regular visitor to the park, a dog owner myself and holder of an annual permit, I believe it is essential to address the limitations that hinder the overall enjoyment and accessibility of the park for both dog owners and their beloved pets. First and foremost, it is important to emphasise the numerous benefits that dogs bring to public spaces such as parks. Dogs provide companionship, encourage physical activity, and contribute to a vibrant and inclusive community atmosphere. By placing excessive restrictions on dogs in the park, it feels as though the park management is excluding a significant portion of the population and neglecting the needs and rights of dog owners. It appears that these restrictions are disproportionately favouring the interests of children and families, while disregarding the rights and needs of responsible dog owners. The proposed limitations are overly

		restrictive. While it is crucial to ensure the safety of park visitors, it is equally important to recognise that responsible dog owners are capable of maintaining control over their pets without the need for being on the lead. Allowing well-behaved dogs to roam freely in designated off-lead areas would enable them to engage in natural behaviours, burn off energy, and enjoy a higher quality of life. While children and families have playgrounds, parks, and other designated areas to engage in recreational activities, dog owners are left with limited options and are frequently excluded from public spaces. This disparity perpetuates the notion that the needs and desires of dog owners are of lesser importance. The new Go Ape adventure playground which is currently being constructed in ancient woodland within the park already means further restrictions on dog walkers and while I understand the importance of maintaining a safe and clean environment, I believe the proposed restrictions go beyond what is necessary and fair. I kindly request that the park management revaluates the proposed restrictions on dogs in the park and considers implementing more inclusive and balanced policies that respect the rights and needs of dog owners.
73	N	Unfortunately most people that go to Hylands park are dog walkers. Since bringing in the parking charges we haven't seen many of our dog walking friends (this includes older people who's only reason to go out is to walk Thier dogs over Hylands and this is part of Thier routine). Most people that visit Hylands that aren't dog walkers only tend to stay in the populated areas e.g. the play park. This shouldn't effect the areas that people walk their dogs. Obviously you would like to think that any aggressive dogs would be kept on leads anyway. Rather than limit dog walkers to certain areas off lead you could always make a segregated area that people can hire if they have agressive dogs.
74	N	I find this new proposal ludicrous. I pay a hundred pounds a year to walk my dogs there. Half the time it’s closed for various festivals etc. The main reason I use the park is for the dogs to swim in the serpentine lake. Saying no dogs off lead around here is ridiculous. Why?!! I’ve never seen or heard of a dog being attacked at Hylands. And I am a professional dog Walker that has been walking here for 5 years. The only problems I’ve ever encountered are over bearing mums that scream at friendly dogs, massively exacerbating their children’s fears even when the dogs are no where near them! This park was given over for the use of the public. The lady who originally donated would be turning in her grave. Firstly at your greed of parking being £5 a day. A DAY! And secondly by these ridiculous proposals to stop groups is dogs having the time of their lives over there.
75	N	I’m not sure of the need to select areas for dogs on / off the lead or how many dogs people can walk . I’m a dog owner myself and to be honest in the whole time I’ve used Hylands (15+ years) I’ve seen dogs have arguments but never a dog attacking a human. Plus I often need to walk my elderly mums dog and my sisters dogs which takes me to 5. Dogs love Hylands, I love Hylands and the freedom it offers to both myself and the furry ones. The wooded area is a godsend, it’s beautiful, offers shade and can be mesmerizing. It’s a shame we’ve lost part of it to go ape but that’s going to bring revenue so well done. I’m not going to mention loss of area for events because again they bring revenue which can only be a positive thing. I’m not pleased with

		parking charges as I feel you've lost a great way to ensure that people who desperately need outdoor space, can access it as they can't afford to pay the parking costs. That's a moral issue though! So in answer to your question no I don't agree with your proposal about dog restrictions
76	N	This will cause financial stress for dog walkers running a small business. It feels like a small minority are being penalised due to Chelmsford councils desire to make green spaces less accessable. Also how many of the dog attacks quoted occurred at hylands specifically? How many can be attributed to dog walkers and their business? Please think carefully about how this affects small businesses and the clients that rely on these services.
77	N	I have been walking my dogs over hylands for 15 years. Not once have I had or seen an unpleasant event or situation there. I have four well trained toy poodles who will now be limited in where they can walk and where they can run off-lead. I only recently went from five dogs to four - I cannot believe that these new rules would have meant I could not walk all my dogs at once. I often take my friend's dog for a walk with me. This will no longer be possible. I do not understand who these new rules will benefit. I walk my dogs at hylands most week day mornings and barely see another soul. Sadly, yet again, the bad behaviour of a few punishes the many. These plans are ill thought out and unnecessary. Perhaps a more sensible system would be to limit dog walkers just at weekends or issue licences to responsible dog owners. Hylands House was left to the people of Chelmsford and the surrounding areas to enjoy. It is not the job of Chelmsford Council to ruin Hylands for the many dog walkers and their dogs that enjoy it.
78	N	It would be good to understand why there is a need for this PSPO rather than just an enforcement of the current laws of the land (Animal Welfare Act 2006). If people are worried about unruly dogs, then there are laws in place to deal with that already, what additional benefit is anyone receiving from the PSPO? Each year in festival season the car park at St Mary's Church is opened to allow dog walkers to use that end of the park whilst the festivals are on. There is currently a big red no dog area on that field now. Will that be relaxed during this period or are we no longer able to walk dogs anywhere at Hylands when festivals are on? I find the 4 dogs per walker a very arbitrary number, could you explain how this number helps? 5 Dachshunds are much easier to walk than 3 German Shepherds, but you are imposing a number restriction rather than reminding people they should already be adhering to the Animal Welfare Act 2006 which advises on conduct in public spaces already. All in all, I see that most of the areas for on lead and no dogs allowed are actually already in place, so again, it seems that this legislation is not really value for money, outside of the above changes what additional benefit are the people of Chelmsford receiving from this? In reality if there have been complaints about dogs with no enforcement then taking place, this is a marketing exercise as I see no additional provision for extra staff or buy in from local law enforcement which will make any difference to the actions taken after a complaint, but potentially more things to complain about..!
79	N	I strongly disagree with this. To my understanding Hylands Park was left to everyone in Chelmsford. I do not understand why you would put

		a policy in place that will alienate the vast majority of people that use highlands, I voted for the LibDem party because I believe there is a party for everyone, not just for the Karens.
80	N	Definitely not ..the park is for everyone. Dog walkers should not be pushed to one side. Bad enough we now pay parking we should be expected to change our dog walk. NO
81	N	I walk dogs at Hylands park, and pay annually to use the car park there solely for that purpose, Most of the year the park is only used by dog walkers, and to restrict it's use all year round seems like a Draconian measure to tackle a non existent problem - it is already illegal to fail to control your dog in a public place; as is so often the case, better enforcement of existing legislation would be more appropriate.In particular the restrictions in the area surrounding the serpentine where dogs like to swim seems needless most of the time
82	N	This is utterly unnecessary and restricts access to a safe space to walk your dog. Furthermore by restricting the areas dogs can access you are increasing the chances of negative incidents as dog owners won't be able to space out in the way they currently can. There will be NO way to enter Hylands with your dog unless you drive and pay the parking fee. This is not acceptable. Firstly, it's just another way for the council to tax people (forcing them to pay for parking) and secondly, it negatively impacts the environment by making people drive to Hylands rather than walk - a stupid thing to do! From the St Marys church (temporary car park) area there is no way to get into the park unless you're prepared to take your chance down Greenbury Way which doesn't have a footpath. The A414 route is not safe and doesn't have a sufficient footpath the entire way to an entrance so again is not an option. The city council is discouraging people to visit hylands and making Chelmsford an unattractive place to live as it's becoming like a Nazi state. There are FAR more important things the council should focus on - speeding vehicles, littering, homelessness, empty shops in the centre, general safety, fly-tipping and open drug and alcohol misuse in the city centre, rather than terrorising dog owners
83	N	We have walked dogs off lead at I have walked dogs in Hylands for 15 years and during that time have always been aware of picnics during the summer months. The majority of the time the only people in the park are dog walkers and we have never come across unpleasant off lead dogs, your proposals are without findings . Before I had dogs I brought up in Writtle and spent all my summer holidays as a child in the park, I never experienced anything unpleasant from a dog. This council is completely woke .
84	N	This is. WAY TOO restrictive for dog owners. I Can’t understand why you are making it so difficult at the area 7 and 8 on the map.? Who else uses this apart from dog walkers ? I also walk my dog very early inthe mornings. To have to put my dog on a lead at 05.30 is pointless. If this system is approved it should be between 9-6 when most families are there.
85	Y	I 100% support this! The last two times I’ve walked in Hylands Park, I’ve had a dog jump on me whilst I sat on a bench, an Alsatian jump up at me, and (worst) a dog run straight at me and bite me three times on the leg. Through trousers it caused bruising that lasted for weeks. If I’d been a child, the bites would have been on the face or arms. For the latter incident I rang the police and they’re circulating the owner’s photo. In all cases the owners were unconcerned that

		their animals were aggressively approaching strangers. All dogs were off lead. Please make the whole park a lead required area!
86	N	We regularly walk our dog at Hylands and find the other dog owners to be very considerate and sensible in respect of other park users and dog owners, in fact this is the best place to walk a dog knowing that other people are respectful of everyone else. I think the space being made dog lead walking is far, far too much and think that the way the park is run at the moment is just right. Of course dogs should not be allowed into the children's play areas or near the other farm animals. It is also fine that dogs are not allowed into the new stables deli area - this gives non dog owners a place to sit and not have dogs there. Dogs should already be on their leads in the gardens which I also agree with. I think the rules already set out are very sensible and I strongly disagree with the new proposals and it will really spoil our enjoyment when visiting Hylands!
87	N	Ridiculous idea, punishing responsible dog owners for issues caused by a handful of irresponsible owners. There have been fewer than 3 issues per month in the whole of Chelmsford over the last year (according to the council).
88	Y	I walk my dog on lead all round Hylands Park. Off lead dogs frequently run up to me with their owners unaware. The owners also can't see when they're pooping if they are running around on their own so I support the proposal.
89	N	Totally unnecessary. There are already restrictions on dog walkers around the playground and stables. Having more would be too prohibitive.
90	N	No one wants to see injuries or anxiety but I wonder f thx will have a significant effect. Will less responsible dog owners comply? Will out of control dogs recognise the orange zones? Most of the week, especially out of summer season it is only dog walkers in the park. The joy of walking your dog off lead and access to the lake are huge and many many kind responsible people with gentle friendly dogs will be denied this pleasure in full. I'll probably get used to it but Hylands will not be the same destination of choose for this dog owner.
91	N	I go to Hylands park and this is not required as I have never experienced any issues and these restrictions are unwarranted.
92	N	I walk my 3 Labradors twice a day at the park and as a responsible dog owner I always put them on leads when I need to. They are trained and well behaved. I walk early and vary rarely see anyone other that other dog owners who also enjoy the park and the freedom to walk their dogs as they please. By restricting you will push dog owners into areas which will mean more chance of incident as naturally there will be more people and dogs in those areas. Why not align this if you are determined to do it to the car park charges times ie before 9am the park is open to all and dogs are allowed to walk off lead as they are currently and after 6pm the same. Also you could align to seasons ie in winter relax the rules as during those dark mornings I often see no one. Be sensible and proportionate, and with a little thought you could achieve what you want without alienating dog walkers who are just as entitled to access the park as joggers and cyclists.
93	N	I do not believe that the dog walking restrict are in anyway necessary. In all my time walking our dog in Hylands Park, I have seen no incidents to warrant this.

94	N	This will stop me walking in Hylands, I have a small dog who never goes on the lead, unless it's in town. because of her size taking her to the bigger space is not practical due to the grass height. With the parking cost now and this its very disappointing idea to impose on the Chelmsford residents, even with this you will still get the odd problem.
95	N	My dog walker does an outstanding job walking out dogs with a group of more than 4 , I trust her implicitly. This is also her livelihood. She and the dogs she walks know how to behave in a public place with a total regard for safety . Personally I have not seen a single dog attack at Hylands .
97	N	1. Park is being turned into a no go area for dog walkers 2. How is it going to be made clear as to the area's dog walkers can go because you can't carry a map around with you. And I'd like to know the cost of policing it from 7am until 10pm in summer months. 3.Parking in area 1 is only for Go Ape this is purely a cash cow for council . 4. From October onwards during cold weather very few people go in weekday that are not dog walkers so I'd like avery good reason why Dog walkers cannot use all the park except the red area.
98	Y	Just had a boxer dog jump at my 4 year old granddaughter scratching her and reducing her to tears. Although the owner apologised she was totally irresponsible letting it off the lead. We then went past the lake and had a wet Labrador come towards her and leaving a dirty wet mud stain on her dress. We really need dogs kept on leads around the lake and more enforcement of the rules
99	N	The park has been an open space for hundreds of years , suddenly it is suggested it is "unsafe" . Why are dog owners and walkers being used as a scapegoat by the minority of of park users ? As a long term resident of Chelmsford , and , pre parking charges , a user of the park I am against this draconian suggestion.
100	N	Having already excluded many Hyland Park users due to the exhorbitant parking fees, now you are targetting dog owners/walkers. Some years ago dog owners/walkers were prohibited from entering the Stable yard area to purchase refreshments and were corralled in a small area at the back of the Stables. The introduction of parking charges has now resulted in the closure of the cafe. It would appear that Chelmsford City Council only wants Hylands Park used by those who don't mind paying £5 a day to park and visitors without dogs. Any pleasure derived from walking with dogs will be eradicated by having to be aware all the time of the dog free/lead required areas
101	N	I’ve purchased an annual season ticket so I can walk my dog at hylands. It’s ridiculous that available spaces are being reduced. I am against this proposal.
102	N	We have a 5 day season ticket for parking and meet regularly with friends, twice a week, to walk our dogs. We always walk through the proposed pspo area as it it one of the few where the grass is cut and balls can be thrown for the dogs. We spend £10/15 at Mauro's cafe each visit. We will cancel our season ticket if this proposal is implemented. Please tell me how many how many a) dog on human and b) dog on dog attacks there have been within the proposed pspo area in the

		past year - I have never witnessed any. If there have been any such complaints, have they been investigated by the Council or simply taken at face value? We live in a society where people are too ready to complain about any minor issue and an increase in complaints within the whole of the Chelmsford area does not justify the restriction of everyone else's freedom in this way.
103	N	I am local to Hylands and walk my two dogs there on a regular basis. As a locals we have already had to suffer the car parking charges, and now these restrictions will have further negative impact on our lives . For our own well being and also resisting driving everywhere in todays climate , we often choose to walk to Hylands through the “cow” field and round the serpentine lake. This has always been a pleasant and calm walk , and think if access is completely restricted for dogs is simply unfair. This is not a busy area for visitors to Hylands and us dog families are doing no harm to anyone. I agree with potentially you have some area with dogs on leads (such as playground) , but not an out right ban. I also do see the sense that there should be a limit to how many dogs a “dog walker” has. Dogs on leads around the cafe area is fair enough too. Living close to Hylands has always been a major benefit to where we live. Taking our dogs to a large park and allowing them to run freely is a benefit we appreciate . We are asked to accommodate the numerous events /road/park closures for concerts and now you want local people to be restricted further . Simply unfair , if you proceed with all the changes you will loose further locals and visitors - already since the parking charges, the park is much quieter. This is a park for everyone to enjoy , including dog owners . There is no need to punish the majority of good responsible dog owners because of a few irresponsible ones .
104	Y	The proposal provides a ‘safe space’ for people not wishing to encounter loose dogs and a virtual perimeter for children to play in safety. In addition, it provide ample space for dog owners to run their dogs off the leash. I support this proposal.
105	N	You’re going to do it anyway regardless of the public opinion
106	Y	We visited last week, was sitting by the house and a big dog not on a lead came right up to my 5 year old son who was very frightened. Dog owner didn't call him back or anything. Would be nice to enjoy the place without worrying.
107	Y	Support the move but don’t believe that the introduction of the PSPO will do much to protect sensible dog owners and the general public from those who own aggressive dogs and/or those who are not responsible in ownership. I would also be interested to know what percentage of the 33 attacks in Chelmsford happened at Hylands Park? Finally, and perhaps most importantly, there must be steps taken to improve the damaged boundary fence parallel to the A414 near to the cattle grazing area. It is dreadful that this has been in such a poor state of repair for so many years and presents a huge risk to dogs and vehicle occupants on the road in that an animal could easily bolt from the park and cause a significant road traffic accident. I have reported this on multiple occasions with no response. The introduction of the PSPO and a further (unnecessary) car parking facility next to St Mary’s Church will increase dog walking - and therefore the risk of an incident - in this area. Please remedy asap.

108	Y	Long overdue and a suitable response to so many dog owners taking little or no responsibility controlling their dog(s).
109	Y	I agree whole heartedly with the proposals. Being a regular user of Hylands Park I am often dismayed and indeed somewhat distressed by the behaviour of some dogs and their inconsiderate and irresponsible owners. However I have two questions that have NOT been mentioned in your guidance leaflet: 1) How do you intend to enforce the proposals? 2) What will be the penalty for dog owners who do not abide by the PSPO? If this is to be a voluntary code with no means of 'policing' and no severe penalty for those ignoring the PSPO then, its all a waste of time as the small proportion of irresponsible dog owners will just carry on to be just that.
110	Y	Been walking our dogs in Highlands park for 45 years i think the Red zone is absolutely fine but don't think the orange zone is necessary Please No Orange Zone
111	N	Hylands Park was left to the people of Chelmsford. Introducing measures to have dogs on leads or banned from whole sections of the park is completely at odds with this and completely curtails the rights of dog owners to enjoy this beautiful park with their animals. It is the dog walkers who are the main users of this park. They use it every day come rain, sunshine, snow, winds etc. The fair weather picnickers only come if it is sunny and maybe come a couple of times a year - not like the dog walkers who come every single day! It is not these infrequent fair weather people who should dictate how the park should be used or by whom. Car parking charges have already driven many regulars away from using the park. If these restrictions on dog walkers are introduced no one will use the park. The proposals are too extreme and unfairly impact those who use the park regularly to walk their dogs. It is the regular users that you should consider rather than just pandering to the occasional visitors who don’t like dogs! The park is more than big enough to accommodate all user groups without restrictions rather than trying to penalise dog owners. People just need to use common sense and consideration towards other users rather than imposing unfair and restrictive rules. Maybe it would be better to clamp down on the littering and rubbish left behind by family gatherings or barbecues, people riding motorised vehicles across the fields, people fishing in Serpentine Lake or people riding mountain bikes at speed through the woods rather than imposing unfair restrictions on one user group ie dog walkers!!!
112	N	It's a park that you have already stopped a number of people enjoying regularly because of the parking costs. A lot of people take their children to the play area and to run around the park and explore because they can take their dog with them, it's part of the fun. Dog walkers are the heart and sole of the park, start restricting them and there will be even less visitors to Hylands, such a shame you want to do this. It seems strange that you want to restrict dog walkers but you don't mind the park being trashed by the concerts.
113	Y	Great idea. Particularly the limit of dogs per owner. Far too many times have i been walking my one dog and my dog been chased by multiple dogs where their owners couldnt control them. Dogs on leads areas are good idea. Please make sure that therebare a good amount of signage which is clear for all.

114	N	It will be impossible to enforce. No dog is 100% off the lead. What is in place to stop a dog chasing a squirrel from an off lead zone to a on lead zone. Or a dog can simply wander over the line. There needs to be fencing to separate the on lead/off lead areas.
115	N	Done ✅ let's all protest ! I've had my little rant!!!! I live very close to Hylands and walk my dog there on a regular basis. As a local I have already had to suffer the car parking charges, and now these restrictions will have further negative impact on my life For my own well being and also resisting driving everywhere in todays climate , i walk my dog in hylands on a daily basis and think if access is completely restricted for dogs is simply unfair. I walk my dog early in the mornings when it is not busy and do no harm to anyone. I agree with potentially you have some area with dogs on leads (such as playground) , but not an out right ban. I also do see the sense that there should be a limit to how many dogs a "dog walker" has. Dogs on leads around the cafe area is fair enough too. Living close to Hylands has always been a major benefit to where we live. Taking my dog to a large park and allowing him to run freely is a benefit we appreciate . We are asked to accommodate the numerous events /road/park closures for concerts and now you want local people to be restricted further . Simply unfair , if you proceed with all the changes you will loose further locals and visitors - already since the parking charges, the park is much quieter. This is a park for everyone to enjoy , including dog owners . There is no need to punish the majority of good responsible dog owners because of a few irresponsible ones. Perhaps dealing with the issues first ie identifying those responsible for committing these breaches and or offences would be a better way of resolving the issues. Also please could you tell how you plan to enforce these restrictions and the costs that this was involve Thank you I look forwarded to receiving your reply
116	N	You have already ruined our experience with the introduction of the parking fee. And now you want to restrict dogs even more. I would like to know how many incidents there have been in the previous 5 years? And if a similar number, why has this been left until now? The amount dogs that may attack is a very low percentage of dogs that are walked at Hylands. It's normally the owner and not the dogs fault. I used to get a coffee outside at the cafe but I see this is now a red area so I couldn't do this anymore with my dog. I feel for the retail. I understand the areas like the play park are red and gardens for leads but the main very large field, I disagree with. This is an amazing space for our dogs to run and burn off that excessive energy just like children. Most of us who are responsible dog owners do put our dogs on leads if children are around anyway. The main field, especially in the winter is a nicer walk as it is maintained better. Such a shame you want to introduce this due to such a limited number.
117	N	33 reports in the whole of Chelmsford - how many specific to Hylands Park? How many in the most popular area between adventure playground and home farm? It seems a massive over reaction, which will deny a lot of people a lot of pleasure just in case of a minor incident. It makes as much sense to say only people with dogs are allowed.

		My wife and I are disabled, and we cannot walk to the outlying areas to walk our dog
118	N	If it is going to be introduced, it should be seasonal like beaches. There are no families or people picnicking in late Autumn, Winter or early Spring. The vast majority of people who use the park regularly to walk their dogs, are responsible owners who already avoid the busy areas and clean up after their dogs. The mess that people leave behind after their picnics is far worse.
119	Y/N	To start with the question do you support the PSPO only has yes or no there should be another option some of. The red areas is a yes. The orange areas such as walking up from the entrance to the Hylands Park , walking through the woods I don't see why the dog should be on the lead if walking up the sand pathway yes the dog should be on the lead. The stables courtyard is already dogs on the lead Home Farm and the car park there again the dog does need to be on the lead. If you don't wont dogs to go into the Serpentine Lake make sure the clay pit pond has more water in it, we take our dog there every days but it could do with more water in it. The big area of orange from the writtle road car park nearly up to the clay pit I think is a bit to much the majority of people walk their dogs this why, I do realise there is still a large area of the park to be used but a lot of people who walk their dogs are older and some use wheelchairs I don't think this has been taken into consideration also to consider is the fact that visitors to the park have to pay is going to mean it gets even less visitors. I have lost count as to how many people have got to the machines and seen the cost have said to us as we get close how expensive and have gone back to their cars and driven away.
120	N	I completely disagree no need for any of this it's ridiculous!
121	N	Supportive of the play areas of course I am, and keeping dogs on leads in the formal gardens makes sense but as a dog owner with a yearly parking pass I object to having to keep my dog on lead in the woods and around the lake - everyone knows the pups love to play in the pond at the bottom of the lake. They can’t do that on a lead and I would stop me from visiting
122	N	I have been going to Highlands Park with my family and with a dog since 1964. I think the park is adequate for humans to share with animals and wildlife without the need to put additional restrictions on it. I read too often about the dramatic reduction in the habitat around the world that humans are imposing on animals and wildlife. We need to learn to all live together freely in whatever space we have left.
123	N	I would like to express that I am not in favour of the new PSPO as the freedom for dogs has been taken away for many who are not responsible or at fault of the actions of others. Whilst safety is important, the onus has to be on the persons responsible of managing their dogs. The park has huge grounds which have been enjoyed by all including the dogs for many years without these issues. Therefore, it should continue that way going forward so as not to take away this privilege from the dogs and their owners who currently enjoy the use of the grounds. Whilst I personally do not own a dog, I have a close friend who is entirely committed to her lovely dog and she uses Hyland park almost everyday Along with others and if the proposed order were to be enforced, she like others would likely not use the grounds and therefore it would disadvantage these persons.

124	N	Not a big problem and it is a long way to go through to the proposed changes if you want a quick walk. Could do a time limit instead
125	N	It's not fair to shut off the open areas of the park due to a few small incidents. Most of the dog community have strong control over their dogs. Just because a select few cannot control their dogs, doesn't mean it is fair to ban dogs from areas of the park. Instead, educate children to not run at dogs and pet them without permission from the owner
126	Y	These are my second comments but with new observations. I've recently returned from my weekly walk at Hylands Park and again witnessed upsetting scenes. No mention is made of the huge potential threat to wildlife, at Hylands, from dogs that are not on a lead. This is perhaps best observed at the Serpentine Lake where unrestrained dogs are allowed (and indeed encouraged) to swim in the lake and thus present a massive risk to avian life. Dogs also threaten sheep on neighbouring fields as well as wildlife in wooded areas all over Hylands; just be being there.
127	N	I organise a dog meet up group once a month in the park we meet next to the stables car park walk down past the horses on the cinder path to the back field. We then head diagonally across to the woods where we walk through and then head back across the path back to the flint cottage. Within this walk we have dogs off lead who in the 8plus years i have run this group have never caused any issue. If I read your shading correctly the whole of our walk cones under the on lead requirements. We take this route as its just under an hour and therefore not too costly with the parking charges and walking on harder surface for alot of the walk. Another nail in the coffin for responsible dog owners instead of targeting those who cannot train their animals
128	N	I'm writing to strongly object to a public space protection order on hylands park . Hylands park is a big important open GREEN Space to myself , I'm am a local & lived in this area my whole life . I use Hylands park for my own personal space, with my own dog , as well as for my dog walking business most days of the year . Firstly I feel the order is victimising, discriminating ,and in a sense bullying professional dog walkers , by dictating only 4 dogs to be walked at one time . I am properly insured allowing myself to walk 6 dogs ,I am police checked & have first aid training in dog care . I do not walk dogs out of control, aggressive or otherwise . A lot of thought goes into the dogs I walk and with what group they walk with. I always pick up my dog poo, and often other peoples too as well as rubbish , a lot of this rubbish is from paid activity's organised by Hylands park , some of this rubbish is dangerous to both humans and animals . I doubt for one moment anyone has spoken with professional dog walkers or even bothered to approach them regarding this , or other people in this industry eg dog trainers/behaviours , By using the RSPCA as a marker is not a good indicator as it not within their remit , they are not dog walkers and there advice is only a recommendation . It has no back up , (due to them not being in the industry)it is not their job. While on the subject of 4 dogs , I know people who have more than 4 dogs as pets , so they would not be able to walk their dogs together , I have also spoken to people in the park who have more than 4 dogs

		as their pets , none of them are ever out of control and they happily run around with the dogs I'm walking and love socialising with each other . So again for a minority of people you are discriminating against a dog loving society. It works both ways , if someone is nervous around dogs , you just keep out of each others way. As for barring dogs from certain areas, eg playground etc Hylands shopping areas , that sounds like plain common sense & is in place already, it does not need to be policed, I do think you'll find the community cafe in the park is a focus for people to meet with friends and share a dog walk , and enjoy the open space , and yes of course if people are in the area , they should put their dogs on leads , why would you want to ban dogs from this area . So yes I object to the need to ban dogs from further areas and consider you are bullying people to use leads in other areas when their dogs are perfectly under control and are happily co existing at the park together. Please do not use the excuse of protecting wild life & animals , as Hylands has lots of paid activities and festivals at the park ,one being the music festival creamfields , this take place during the birds nesting seasons & the ducks hatching there young , this festival must scare the living daylights out of them , plus the rubbish afterwards does not get cleared up properly, I find myself picking it up and disposing of it responsibly. I feel that hylands parking charges has now deterred people from coming to the park and now It's let's get rid of some more & use dogs as a excuse , Hylands / council will not be happy until every area , has something going on that needs to be paid for making them money , Taking green space away from the people ,
129	Y	Having seen dog walkers with too many dogs - who they are struggling to control- in Hylands park, seen my daughter chased by a dog when a dog walker lost control of one of her dogs, and become very frightened (with the dog walker herself screaming and in tears), and been caught with an owner being circled by their out of control dog, and on top of that being tired of dog poo being left in grass and paths... i am fully in support of the above plans.
130	Y	I believe the park should be safe for everyone to enjoy, and applaud the idea of areas where dogs should be on leads or not allowed. Whilst I realise that Hylands is big enough, in some areas, for dogs to be allowed off leads, I welcome the proposed limit of 4 dogs per person. I see so many professional dog walkers there with 6 dogs or more and find it quite intimidating.
131	Y	Fully support the proposals, it is important that people keep their dogs under control and ensure the Park is a safe space for both children and adults.
132	N	I consider it unnecessary restriction that would require enforcement to be effective. The current restrictions to have dogs on leads in certain areas of the park is not effectively enforced. I would however support the requirement to have all dogs on leads while in the park at all times as this would potentially reduce the number of incidents and would be easier to monitor / enforce.
133	N	Imposing yet more restrictions on people visiting Hylands is madness, firstly introducing parking charges and now proposing to restrict dog walkers. Hylands used to held up as the exemplar of how to run a

		estate, this is just another nail in the coffin. Is the Council deliberately trying to run the estate down so that it can be sold for development....
134	Y	Are there going to be any wardens around to make sure the rules are adhered to?
135	N	Ridiculous proposal to get more people into the park. The reason why the park is so empty now days is because of the parking charges not dogs. All this will do is stop even more people using the park.
136	N	The figures are incorrect. It's 3 dogs that this issue is about At Hylands attacking not 33! Get your information correct and it's going to affect business too as dog walkers won't come now what with paying too and not many areas to bring dogs at Hylands and people feel discriminated towards. Totally unacceptable
137	N	There's something shady about using data captured outside of Hylands park, which has very little issues dog wise. From the news articles it's also clear that the people proposing this have next to no canine knowledge. Using some very out of date terminology. This is yet another step towards squeezing as much money out of Hylands as possible. It's losing its park status and being turned into a commercial enterprise.
138	N	Can you publish details of the instances where there has been dog attacks. Also what plans are you going to put in place when dog owners meet at the park when there can be more than 20 dogs in packs. I think this is more of of an issue with dog behavior and the amount of dog dirt left due to owners not monitoring there animals correctly. An additional issue is around the increase in undesirable breeds that are more common now. Particularly that of the American 'Bully' dog variety. How is CCC going to monitor all of this? Finally restricting dog walkers to four dogs is going to impact how they make a living, with the vast increase in the dog population since COVID, having dog walkers who are generally very responsible, is vital. CCC could put them out of business. In the 30 years I have been visiting the park, which is at least two day a week, winter and summer, I have never seen any attacks of any kind. That's why details of the 30+ instances should be published in full.
139	Y/N	I do support it in part, i.e. dogs on leads in carparks and around the house and cafe areas. But I would like to know how many of the 33 dog attacks occurred in Highlands park itself? And how many were dog on dog or dog on human? The information given is misleading by starting to talk about Hylands and changing to Chelmsford statistics.
140	N	Although not a resident in Chelmsford I am a regular user of the Hylands estate having purchased a yearly parking permit. The requirement for dogs on leads in the areas proposed are too restrictive. The area between the cafe and the old stables beside the house are almost empty of people during the week, the only people using it being dog walkers. I agree on warmer weekends/school holiday times later in the day this is used by families (some of which are dog owners) and owners should as always have their dogs under control. Suggesting the area around the Serpentine lake being a dogs on lead at any time is a major issue. Dog owners often use the lake to cool their dogs down and encourage dog swimming which has health benefits for dogs. Again I understand that wildlife uses the lake and it is important that dog owners respect this. One of the reasons given for the PSPO is dogs out of control and attacking other dogs/people

		and wild stock in neighbouring farmland. Please detail the number of incidents as I do not see these being reported in the Essex dog crime weekly update. Also I would expect the boundary fences be properly maintained. I also have concerns that the cafe will be further impacted as dog walkers move to other locations. The cafe has already suffered following the parking charges introduced post Covid. Please also advise what is being done regarding the cyclists that consistently ride at speed along the footpaths in the wooded areas of the estate which are hazardous to dogs and their owners.
141	N	I have never seen a problem with dogs being exercised off the lead in the wider area of the park. The only area it needs to be enforced is the formal gardens and children's play area. This proposal is unnecessary.
142	N	I use Hylands Park for my dogs walk regularly. Whilst I do not see the need for this PSPO myself I'm sure it will be adopted and hope that the new areas where dogs have to be on leads are clearly marked in the park so as not to fall foul of the new rules by accident.
143	N	I am a resident of Ingatestone, a Hylands Car Parks season ticket holder, a responsible dog owner who regularly walks in Hylands Park and regularly uses the cafes and attends events staged at Hylands. I consider myself lucky that I have those facilities on my doorstep. I am not, in principle, against extending the existing restrictions for dogs on leads in the park, however I do believe that the proposed restrictions are discriminating against the vast majority of park visitors with dogs. There are no bad dogs only bad owners and your proposals will not address those people. Those dog owners will ignore the restrictions just as they ignore the bad behaviour of their dogs. I usually walk in the park early in the morning or in the evening. My car is frequently the only car in the car park off Three Mile Hill. I often walk the park without meeting anyone. I would like to suggest that a much fairer proposition would be to introduce restrictions at peak times only, much as many coastal councils already have in place. If your current proposals are put in place, it is a genuine concern that those of us with well behaved, friendly dogs who mix together, will now have less area to share with aggressive dogs when the park is most busy. Restricting the numbers of dogs per person to 4 does not address the issue as the incidents described involved 4 dogs. Perhaps if 4 dogs are walked, they should all be on lead. I do need to add that it seems that Chelmsford Council does not value those of us who use the park in all seasons and support the on site businesses. The events this summer resulted in no access for us for 3 consecutive weeks but we are expected to pay the monthly car park costs. The introduction of Go Ape will restrict the beautiful wooded area and of course there are no toilet facilities for those who walk our dogs alone. I hope you will take my comments seriously. We are lucky to have Hylands Estate to share and we all want the best for all users.
144	Y/N	The correct answer is it depends, but of course you do not give that option. I agree that the number of dogs should be reduced, some less reputable dog walkers walk too many dogs which they cannot control, let alone see where all the dogs are pooing so they can pick it up. I have seen some walking 13 dogs which makes a pack that cannot be controlled in all circumsatnces. I have no objection you doing this but in the heat of the summer we do need somewhere the dogs can have water too cool off. If you take away the lake then you need to replace

		the facility. I am not sure from the map if the dog pond is in the restricted area of not. Either way it is not big enough in the summer and thus often gets various bacterias living there. I appreciate that this may cost some money but not much. It depends on how much you want to help. I know there are some streams there in the winter, but they dry out in the summer.
145	N	Maybe you could consider an area exclusively for dogs thats sectioned off and secure for them to run free and play with other dogs without having non dog people intervene and try pet them probably causing of so called attacks!! The fact show only 3 so called attacks out of 33 took place in the park. What you are considering is more likely to make dog walkers
146	N	Enforcing that one individual can only walk 4 dogs at any given time is ridiculous. I foster and rescue dogs and often walk multiple at a given time. I am responsible as are most dog walkers. Furthermore, it should be the owners judgement whether or not to let their dog off the lead.
147	N	The park was given to all the people of Chelmsford and is the main stay for so many people as well as all the dog walkers. Limiting the number of dogs is simply ridiculous. Many of us help out our friends for dog care and that would mean we are not able to use the park. You are also taking so much of the park away from the dog walkers who are more than certainly the majority of users. It is also going to be completely in manageable unless you are going to Fence off all These areas. So don’t alienate so many of the park users you need us and our support.
148	Y	I feel this is a sensible move. It doesn't restrict off lead dog walking much beyond what is absolutely sensible. It also allows people like me to walk my rescue dog in an area where I know off lead dogs won't come running up to him, as happens a lot in parks around here. This will mean I can take my dog somewhere I know he and I will be comfortable. I think limiting dog walkers to 4 dogs per person is sensible as it is unrealistic for one person to be fully in control of 5 or more dogs (regardless of size) at one time. I think this is an excellent idea and welcome these changes. I'd love to see more like this introduced in Admirals Park near the roads and Central Park in the main green area near the public paths. Last week I saw a dog almost hit by a car and an accident almost caused when someone with their dog off lead didn't see them run out of admirals park onto the road and I've had countless dogs run at me and my dog in central park when we've been on the path. Dog owners here need guidance to stay safe.
149	N	If this has to be introduced have the council considered applying it only at certain times of day and certain months similar to the way many beaches work. Surely it isn’t necessary to control certain areas during the winter months when people are unlikely to be picnicking and when the grounds are nearly empty
150	N	Another ridiculous idea. While we're about it, lets's ban kids with footballs, bikes and skateboards. And no-one should be allowed to chew gum, picnic or bring cans and bottles into parks or on the beach for fear of litter. Not sure how these bans might be enforced though! Perhaps the answer is to just do away with all open spaces and build on them. I wonder if this was a problem on communal land back in the Middle Ages! After all, think of the mess sheep, goats and cattle

		would have made! How long will it be before you ban dogs from all the parks. The cyclist who race through all the parks of Chelmsford are a problem along with the scooters and food delivery guys. The mountain bikes that go along the paths in the woods of Hylands forcing prose to jump out of the way. And lets not forget the drug dealers who are all too common in the parks. All of the above have little or no regard for the safety of the public, be it dogs owners or not. Surely the public need to be protected from the above. I guess the council will appoint a dog warden to patrol and enforce this. Why not have the police patrol the parks for drug dealers and users. Will there be a ban on groups of dog owners meeting up?
151	Y	Doesn't seem unreasonable to have some areas of the park excluded from dogs, it would be great if you could indicate on the map some for the consultation that the footway from the church near one mile hill will still be open to dog walkers, I was there today and several people were talking about the consultation and that they wouldn't be able to access from that point. I could see on your map that they could but it could be made clearer please. Thanks
152	Y	Yes, generally, as this isn't hugely different to the behaviour I undertake now. I have two observations/ comments - the Serpentine lake lead requirement is tricky as it is hard to tell where that starts and ends. If you are on the path around the lake, putting a dog back on the lead mid walk for a few metres doesn't feel great - with the front area from the writtle car park to the house, I understand on leads when this is busy, but could a time be considered? Eg 9-5 or 6? Often times outside that are much quieter, though I appreciate that might make it more confusing
153	Y	I think it is a good idea. Even with the restricted areas where dogs have to be on a lead the estate is big enough for dogs to be off the lead in the unrestricted areas I am nervous of dogs, especially large ones, and I will be happier knowing that the areas I use in Hylands Park dogs will be under control. Thank you
154	Y	An excellent idea
155	Y	Totally agree with the introduction of the new PSPO for dog walking at the Hylands Estate, this should have been introduced years ago.
156	Y	A great idea. Dog owners often feel that everyone loves their dog. How wrong they are.
157	Y	I think the new rules will make Hylands much more pleasant to visit... I know not all change is welcome but sadly people need rules to keep maintain an acceptable standard for all...
158	Y	I am the owner of a dog who loves to be off the lead but think the Council should press ahead with these plans. There is plenty of space in Hylands Park to let dogs off the lead and adults and children should have areas where dogs can't be a nuisance. Not all dogs are well behaved and obedient and it can be frightening and cause anxiety even if a dog wants to be friendly when off the lead.
159	Y	I have a dog-reactive dog and love to walk. We find many local places stressful and difficult to visit because too many dogs are allowed to roam free and cause trouble. I welcome the idea of walking where I know all other dogs will be on the lead, and wont approach us uninvited. Thank you for considering this proposal.
160	Y	i support the proposal

161	Y	The problem isn't the dogs it is their handlers. As an ex military dog handler I would never have a dog off lead at all in a very busy environment like Hylands
162	Y	I wish the whole area (/world) would turn dog free; dogs are bad for the environment (according to one estimate, owning a medium-size dog can have a similar carbon footprint to a large SUV) and are never 100% without risk to humans. Hylands has plenty of dog walkers that leave their dog's mess lying around, especially in the wooded areas (or… they don't know as their dog is off the lead!). So yes, as many dog free and dogs on the lead areas as possible. Thanks for considering these areas.
163	Y	I think it's a great idea. Having dogs on leads in small areas of the park shouldn't be that big of an issue
164	N	The extortionate parking charges is already a reason to be put off coming here: the dog restrictions would be a reason to stop completely. It is completely unfair to penalise dogs and responsible owners. Where are the details of these dog attacks?
165	Y/N	Of the 33 dog attacks in Chelmsford referred to in the information on your website, how many occurred at Hylands Park? Also, this form asks me to state whether I support the proposal... currently undecided, hence my question. Perhaps this question shouldn't be mandatory.
166	N	The proposed limitations on dog walkers freedom to use Hylands Park as they desire seems completely unnecessary and over the top reaction to the small number of dog related incidents. Given the council only reports 33 such incidents each year across the whole city, it seems reasonable to assume that only a very small number if any will have been at Hylands Park. Not including the actual number in the consultation is fundamentally dishonest on the part of the officials running this consultation, and as such it should be shelved.
167	Y	My daughter was attacked by an out of control dog whilst running at Hylands this morning. In my view dogs should be on a lead at all times at Hylands.
168	N	Ridiculous idea. Not only do we pay for parking, we are now possibly restricted to the area we can enjoy the park with our dogs. 33 dog incidents in CHELMSFORD, not hylands park, means the statistics of any form of incident are minute! If this rule is brought in then, I will be forced to look for alternative areas where I can walk my do without having to pay for parking, nor having the fear of penalties due to my friendly dog having fun in an open park. I do hope common sense prevails
169	N	The problem is not with out of control dogs, but more with untrained owners! Most badly behaved dogs I have encountered are the result of clueless owners have zero idea of how to treat a dog correctly let alone train it adequately.
170	N	This is unnecessary. You state 33 reports of mainly dog on dog attacks in Chelmsford. This is not only a very small number but also for the whole of Chelmsford not Hylands Park so your statement is mis leading. In all the years I have walked my dog in Hylands Park, I have never witnessed any dog incidents even dog on dog. Dogs nipping one another is very common but can hardly be classed as an attack. Hyland Park is wonderful, leave it alone. However, it is surprisingly low on wildlife. It needs rabbits and perhaps some deer.

171	N	How many of the 33 dog attacks happened in Hylands Park. I have walked this park for many years and have seen no incidents. I would like to propose dogs on leads in the orange areas after 10 a.m. (much dog walking takes place earlier) and no dogs on lead restrictions during the winter months, say October until April. I have no issue with the proposed red areas as these are already in force. In recently years you have already introduced parking charges which has discouraged many. I have previously submitted comments but would like it noted that under the freedom of information act, it appears no dog attacks have taken place at Hylands Park over the past 5 years. So none of the 33 attacks mentioned in the proposal apply to Hylands Park.
172	N	Due to the minority of people who are not responsible dog owners the remaining majority, who are responsible, now need to pay the price. I appreciate that the proposal is looking to address these very few people but I feel that there should be further considerations, which are: - Could the restrictions be in force from 10am until 4pm each day? I walk my dog early in the morning and I never meet anyone who isn't a responsible dog owner early in the day. In fact, I never see families, children, etc using the park before 10am, even at weekends. It is purely sole people walking their dog. This would also mean any wheelchair users would be able to walk their dog off lead, whilst using the concrete pathways themselves, albeit they would be restricted to early or later hours in the day. - As the council now charge for the privilege of walking in a park that was gifted by Mrs Hanbury's family to the people of Chelmsford, could the funds be used to extend the areas of tendered, mowed lawns? This would mean off lead dogs could run in grass areas that do not pose a risk to their health (embedded grass seeds), and are safe for the owners too. The majority of the proposed off lead areas are long grass areas and they are almost impossible to walk in safely due to hidden uneven ground, and are a definite risk to anyone who is elderly or disabled. - I have noticed that there are less and less people using Hylands Park since the car park charging was introduced. Which is a real shame. Many, myself included at times, use alternative free parks to exercise themselves and their dogs. If the tariff was amended to have smaller incremental increases based on duration this may allow more people to use the facility, and in turn provide more income to support the park's upkeep.
173	N	I have been walking my dog over Hylands for 8 years now and never seen or experienced any issues with other dogs. The best thing about Hylands is you can take your dog there and let them off the lead, that's the point. It's obvious when you should keep them on the lead, e.g. around the cafes, house, car parks etc. but completely banning them from certain areas is unnecessary. Hylands is for everyone, I agree, but it's huge draw for dog walkers. The introduction of parking charges was bad enough and now you want to restrict walkers even further. A definite NO from me.
174	N	The areas defined are too large an area. I would agree that it is sensible to have dogs on leads near the cafe and children's play areas and agree that 4 dogs per person is sensible, however there is no point in bringing in rules that cannot be policed. I am sure

		irresponsible dog owners will be irresponsible rule breakers too and this only seeks to penalise the enjoyable walk for the walkers that are rule keepers and sensible with their dogs (which is still the majority).
175	N	First of all, as a Parking Permit Holder for Hylands house I am surprised I did not receive an email informing me of the proposed changes and of this consultation. I estimate that at least 95% of Permit Holders like myself are dog walkers and walk at Hylands regularly. We should have received an email. I myself walk at Hylands 2-3 times a week and have done so for many years. I object to these proposals. I feel this is a this a complete over reaction. 33 Dog incidents over the whole of Chelmsford! I have never seen or heard (from other dog walkers) of serious incidents in the park. This isn't to say they don't happen but they must be rare. 39 weeks of the year when children are at school, there's hardly anyone at Hylands without a dog. During the winter months, it unusual to see anyone at Hylands without a dog! Yet the regular visitors, the dog walkers, the Permit payers are now to be restricted further: The main field in the centre of the map where you are proposing all dogs be on leads is far too big an area. Once you pass the children's adventure playground you will rarely see anyone walking up that field without a dog. In the winter when there are few people around, I walk up the paths on either side of that field to avoid the mud. I wouldn't want to walk it with my dogs on a lead and they wouldn't get any exercise. That means I'd be restricted to muddy fields either side. The dog bins are also located along those paths so I'd have to put my dogs back on a lead every time I wanted to use them. This is ridiculous. I don't want to buy an annual permit to walk there 2-3 times a week if I have to keep my dogs on leads to use the paths. Regarding the number of dogs with one walker, I think restricting this to a maximum of 4 dogs is not unreasonable.
176	Y	I walk at least 4 times a week in the park and have done for a couple of years. On several occasions I have had dogs run at me barking and growling with little effort from there owners to control them. Thank you for the proposed restrictions - I do hope they go ahead and are monitored daily
177	N	Firstly I hold an Annual Permit for Hylands, so it would have been nice to have received an e-mail regarding these proposals instead of a flyer attached to a gate! I believe the whole of the middle field which you wish to have dogs on lead is too much. The poo bins and paths run up the side of this middle field and its a place for the dogs to be exercised rather than lead walked. Also the park is mainly used by dog walkers not people sitting here. Maybe a smaller area can be nominated for people choosing to sit and picnic , but lets face it, the only time families may sit in this area is during school holiday time (summer) (spring) maybe, weather permitting which is only a few weeks during the course of a year. So to make it a permanent dogs on lead all year would be pointless. If you visit the park during the colder, wetter months this field is empty and usually only occupied by dog walkers. (who are, lets face it your main permit holders). I do agree though with the number of dogs to be walked by professional dog walkers.
178	N	I do not support the introduction of the new PSPO. Regarding enforced dog on lead areas. Firstly, I feel that some of the areas are too ambiguous - especially the dogs on lead are "immediately around"

		Serpentine lake. The large green areas surrounding the lake are particularly popular with dog owners wishing to throw balls and, without a clear definition of the proximity to the lake dogs have to be kept on lead, this wouldn't be possible without risking a fine. Secondly, a large number of the areas where dogs must be kept on lead are where the dog waste bins currently are (around the lake, in the field behind the adventure playground). As these rules will encourage dog owners not to use these areas, alternative waste bins should be installed further around the park. For example, a waste bin would be useful past the current ones in south wood as you walk further through. Regarding the dog free areas, I would appreciate some clarity on whether this would prevent dog owners from accessing the Stable's cafe. Currently, dogs are not allowed in the courtyard but can access the cafe through the side to order hot drinks etc. Overall, to be honest I find the reasoning behind the proposed PSPO to be tenuous. Of the 33 dog attacks in Chelmsford last year, how many occurred in Hylands? I am there almost every day walking my dogs and I have never encountered any dog violence (either dog on dog or dog on human). The vast majority of dog walkers in Hylands are courteous, respecting when another dog is on lead, and giving space to dogs that need it (including one of my own dogs). Year round, dog walkers make up a large percentage of the visitors to Hylands Park. We pay the parking charges, buy drinks in the cafes, and support the park no matter the season! I would support a ban in group meet ups such as those organised by breed specific groups but this could be organised differently and not through a blanket PSPO on all dogs.
179	N	I have a couple of observations. Firstly in your introductory information on the PSPO you mention specifically that there have been 33 instances of reports of out of control dogs in Chelmsford public areas, but since this is a PSPO is specifically for Hylands Park it would have been less "misleading" if you presented only the incidents that have occurred in the park. That way any improvement in the park brought about by the PSPO can be fairly judged. The incidents outside the park may not be directly comparable to the circumstances within the park and therefore may not pertinent to the proposals for Hylands. It might have been very useful to include some information on the proportion of park visitors walking dogs. In the mornings, certainly before 11:00 am, it seems to me that dog walkers comprise by far the majority - maybe up to 80%. It is a much enjoyed local resource and is very well maintained by the Council. I have to say that mention of the deer is surprising to me. In all my visits to the park over more than 10 years I don't think I've ever seen a deer in the park. Talking to others I get the same response. One dog walker said he's seen only 2 muntjacs in over 50 years of visiting the park. Whilst I would never condone dogs attacking deer, I think it is a trivial hazard compared to the cars on the A414. There are numerous deer strikes on the A414. The PSPO proposals are not too severe, loss of access to the lake will be disappointing for some (dogs!). The park has several lakes and ponds but most are extremely muddy and unsuitable for dogs to swim of paddle in (or even drink from). If you do exclude dogs off the lead from the Serpentine Lake area, it would be good to nominate a

		different lake for dogs to use and to maintain that in a more suitable condition. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to many more peaceful hours spent walking dogs and making friends in the beautiful Hylands Park.
180	N	You state that last year there were 33 dog-on-dog or dog-on-person attacks in THE WHOLE OF CHELMSFORD. Were ANY of them in Hylands Park? And how many human-on-human attacks were recorded during that period in Chelmsford? Using your dubious logic, are you therefore planning to ban people from Hylands? It is becoming increasingly clear that there is a strong anti-dog element on the Council. First, they were banned from the cafe - despite years of happy co-existence before the Council decided that that could not be tolerated. What a miserable lot of killjoys. I have been bringing my dogs to the parkk for many, many years and have never once witnessed a dog attack. For goodness sake, turn your attention to something worthwhile which will benefit the City instead of just sitting there dreaming up yet more anti-dog schemes.
181	N	I have walked my dog for the past 7 years at Hylands and have never heard of any issues myself or from other people. The only issue I have had was with a child who asked to stroke my dog mum said yes. He then kicked my dog and run off laughing, mum said "boys will be boys" and walked off. My dog is a cav, small and gentle was yelping. Where is our protection? How do you intend to police this if brought in?
182	N	Another example of over control by this out of touch council using a sledgehammer to crack a nut. Dog walkers (who can afford the extortionate car parking) make up a very large contingent of visitors to the park in all seasons and all weathers. The council should be focusing it efforts in controlling the littering in Hylands by non dog walkers. On a one hour walk with my dogs today I observed three discarded vapes and numerous cans and bags.
183	Y	I don't walk our dog at Hylands very often, but this seems reasonable. Looking at the map though, you will need plenty of signage and maybe even some markers or fencing at the boundaries of each of the zones. It's unreasonable to stick a few maps up online and/or in the car parks and expect people to remember where those boundaries are, especially the ones between off-lead and on-lead.
184	N	The new rules are another reason for not using Hylands Park. Firstly the introduction of exorbitant car parking fees for people just outside Chelmsford. Now banning dogs swimming in the Serpentine. Dogs love to swim. The ducks keep away and are not hurt. The dogs are in the water for a very short time and it is part of their enjoyment of the park. The cafes will suffer with lack of support as most of the people with dogs will avoid these areas. In holiday time I can understand the need for keeping dogs on the lead round the main car park for safety reasons. At other times most of the people using the park are dog lovers and keep their animals well under control. Why should the majority suffer when just a few incidents have happened.
185	Y	I think it's very important for all visitors to feel safe and I welcome these proposals. I would even extend the "dogs on a lead" zones to Admirals Park and Central Park especially along the main

		pedestrian/cycle route into town from Writtle. I have lost count of the times I have had to take evasive action even while walking but especially when cycling (on my old lady bicycle) as dogs let loose run randomly in front of me. I am not reassured by the constant bleating of dog owners who claim their massive uncontrolled animal wouldn't hurt me! I should be able to walk into town and into Hylands park without worrying about being knocked over as I am a small retired lady and vulnerable to fractures. However my husband is not in this category yet he is also constantly affected by careless dog owners who have caused accidents which damaged his bike by allowing dogs to chase each other. We have been Chelmsford residents for 40 years and chose to live within walking distance of the town centre because we are committed to green initiatives and similarly walk regularly to Hylands. Well done for thinking about us non dog owners.
186	N	The majority of dog walkers are responsible and use leads as and when needed. This feels like they are being punished for the very few who are not sensible and responsible dog owners. You already made the second class cafe area for dog owners and now want to limit enjoyment of Hylands even further. I wonder who will use the park if you continue to make its use difficult. This year I have observed far fewer cars in the car park. Dog walkers must make up a huge proportion of the Hylands visitors and car parking revenue.
187	Y	Seems like a sensible measure which should keep all park visitors happy (with or without a dog).
188	N	My wife and I have walked our dogs in Hylands park more than 40 years. We have never experienced a problem with the way things are at present. I do agree dogs should not be in some area ie children's play area. But we often walk round the lake during the week and only come across other dog walkers. We often meet professional dog walkers with more than 4 dogs and fin they have more control over them than some people with only 1 or 2. I therefore think a blanket rule of only 4 is very harsh.Please leave things as they are but clamp down on the rare occasions when people do not behave properly and ruin it for the majority.Dog warden patrol would be good.
189	Y	I am a regular Hylands user and dog owner and, whilst this will restrict some of my regular walks, I do understand the want for these particular areas to be lead walks. My only comments are that I think this is fine provided you still cut the grass in areas where dogs are allowed off lead, my dog has allergies to the long grass and, as a permit holder, I walk her at Hylands most days and have done for the past 10 years and where I walk is dependent on the length of grass as well as looking for a low population area. Also, I think it may be worth looking at restrictions on a seasonal basis only, say April to end of September as when the weather is bad, and during the late Autumn and Winter, I am often one of only a handful of other die-hard dog walkers at Hylands during the day and prefer to stay near this central area for my own safety so as not to be isolated and I often walk this central section without seeing another person so we wouldn’t affect anybody else if my very well behaved dog was off lead. Obviously I personally would prefer no restrictions as my dog is well trained and well behaved and prefers to avoid other people rather than approaching them, but I understand that not all dog owners are responsible or realistic about their dog’s behaviour.

190	Y	Good day This was long due to be put in place at The Hylands We have small children that are afraid of dogs and could never play when dogs room around free try to jump on them barking aggressively and catch their ball ! The green space , the gardens are taken over by dogs all the time even the playground Too much about dogs only Thank you so much for doing this We are hoping to see great results!!
191	N	Of the 33 reports of dog-on-dog or dog-on-human attacks in Chelmsford how many were in the park? You are slowly killing off the park for public use. The park was give to the public for the public. It started with extortionate car parking charges and now this. The park is no longer for everyone, only those that can afford it. If the public abandon the park and vote with their feet where will you be then? As it stand we will not be renewing our annual parking. Good bye Hylands.
192	Y	I support this proposal. I like to walk but avoid Hylands as there seem to me to be too many dogs running around off their leads, not in the control of their owner/walker. I am afraid of dogs, especially if bounding towards me, so I stay away from Hylands so I do not have to deal with this situation.
193	N	The no dog zones are not aceptable.The limit to four dogs per walker is again not aceptable as my dog walker somtimes has 5 or 6 dogs making her day longer and more costly.
194	Y	I am a dog owner whose dogs were attacked at Hylands Park several years ago (police and council involved) and welcome the PSPO. There are owners who have their dogs off lead around the outside cafe area by the Fort with no thought for others. Last year there was also a personal protection company that let their dogs off lead from the Writtle road car park to let off steam. Only know this as the woman had a puppy and I offered it 'make friends with my dogs' to help socialize it and she explained they didn't want it to be friendly with other dogs :-(
195	N	I have walked my dog for years at hylands, I agree with the red areas highlighted apart from number 7 , I also agree with the amber areas around go ape , the children's park and hylands gardens. But the rest is unnecessary, the dog attacks are due to owners not controlling their dogs and other dog walkers should not be penalized, I would be better to have cvtv and prosecute accordingly
196	N	Of the 33 dog incidents in Chelmsford can you confirm how many took place with in Hylands Park. Aside from with in Hylands Park could you also confirm where in Chelmsford the dog incidents took place. And the number of complainants (members of the public)
197	N	How many of the reported incidents actually took place in Hylands as opposed to Chelmsford as a whole? I think that’s a very important distinction given you’re stating Chelmsford statistics yet implementing something specifically in Hylands. Whilst 33 cases is a concern (if genuine), I guess this pales in insignificance to drunk & disorderly reports in the town centre in a single weekend, but I guess that’s a lot less important as banning alcohol would hit the councils pockets too hard!
198	N	I understand the desire that hylands park is able to be utilised by families to be able to picnic and have fun. However the park is used on a daily basis by dog walkers the majority of whom are responsible

		dog owners . The dog walkers use the park ALL year round not just at weekends, or during the summer months. I strongly suggest that the restrictions in relation to areas where dogs are permitted off lead be seasonal and NOT operate during the winter month for example between 1 October and 30 March of each year. Most beaches in Essex restrict dogs on the beach during the winter months. The Council also needs to take into consideration the condition of the areas in which dogs can be walked off lead, many of the regular dog walkers are retired individuals who find it difficult walking in long grass on undulating surfaces. I would suggest that more of the area us mowed more frequently and repaired after events such as cream field and the proms. These areas are often left to nature to rectify but the damage often cannot be rectified by nature. Large whole are left in the paths and pothole and mud tracks on the grassy areas. The councils own data is clear that in 2022 there was 1 dog attach in hylands when a chil was knocked over by a dog, 2020 there were 2 dog attacks on either a child or an adult and in 2019 there were 3 dog attacks on either a chil or an adult. It is alarmist therefore in my view to print on a leaflet in relation to hylands park that there have been 33 dog attacks in Chelmsford- this may be accurate but does not reflect the position in relation to hylands park. Further if there is now a designated area where dogs can be off lead it may be wise to revisit the areas and to install further bigs for the dog excrement-at present within this area there are insufficient bins. It would also be wise for hylands staff to clear the horse excrement from the public areas. Horse excrement has been left in the field behind the children's play area for almost a week. In relation to dog on dog attacks this can occur whether a dog is on or off a lead and it is the responsibility of each dog owner to know their dog and to be able to stop any such attacks by controlling their dog. An attack is NOT 2dogs growling at each other.
199	N	I have been walking in hylands both with and without dogs for more than 40 years, and my opion of the changes is that the ones who are likely to cause a problem with an out of control dog(s) are the ones that would ignore the regulations even if you try to impose them.
200	Y	Dogs should be on leads everywhere. Limit should be three dogs. Parking should be free for everyone
201	Y	As a dog owner I am disappointed that more rules need to be in place that take away responsible dog owners freewill choices, however providing there are still enough large areas that dogs can exercise, I feel the new rules could make those owners who are not currently respectful to others around them to take more care.
202	Y	The problem is that if people are forced to having dogs on leads all that will happen is they will drive out to the countryside and run their unruly dogs in "Our Back Garden" the end result is that they will then attack our dogs and children (it has happened to me on several occasions) then the law will change for all dog owners, most of which are sensible in the approach to handling dogs in public, this would be unfair, I believe an on the spot fine, cautions, and muzzling of unruly dogs (and owners!!) along with being told that particular animal has to be kept on a lead and the wardens can work with the owners to keep their dogs at heal.
203	Y	It will indeed help visitors and dog walkers enjoy the beauty of Hylands park in a safer way. As a regular visitor I am a witness of

		incidents when dogs approach walkers sometimes in a very scary manner, even out of control, and their owners showing no consideration towards those who do not have a dog or are scared of dogs. I often complement those dog owners who are considerate and keep their animals under control. I really appreciate the Council's effort to make Highlands Park a place where everyone can enjoy! Thank you!
204	Y/N	I understand why this decision has been made, and overall support it, especially when it comes to the protection of children. However, I do think there's an argument to make this change seasonal, especially when it comes to the field directly coming off the Writtle Road carpark (opposite the play area, by Mauros). This area is one of the most common - and vast - areas of the park, making it ideal for dogs to be off lead as they can be clearly seen and kept an eye on. As I say, I completely respect why you want to keep this area an on-lead spot in the summer months, particularly the school holidays, as a lot of families will choose to picnic adjacent to the play area. But in the off-peak months, especially Oct - Mar, the park is much, much quieter and is practically absent of children, especially during the week. Some would even say the park is kept afloat largely by the custom of dog walkers during these months, for example who might let their dog off lead for a little run in clear sight around the field and then grab a drink at Mauros. many, and that most dogs pose no harm to children, adults nor other creatures. In the case that a dog has displayed violent, or even potential violent tendencies, they should of course be muzzled and kept on lead. My comment was in relation to dogs (the vast majority) that pose no threat, are trained responsibly, and are simply at the park to enjoy a walk and a little run...
205	Y	The proposals don't go far enough. The areas where dogs are allowed off the lead should be minimal, and remote from the heavily used areas, for the safety, and enjoyment, of the vast majority of park users.
206	N	I'd like to know why, according to your marked up plan, that a footpath has been removed from 'Area 7' adjoining the house close to the church. There is currently a footpath that runs between the cattle 'fenced off area' and the house boundary hedge - your map now indicated this is no longer there. Is this a mistake on the map or this an intentional ploy to remove this footpath. I'd be grateful for clarification on this point before 11th August please. Thank you
207	Y	Excellent idea but will probably need policing for sometime until dog owners get the message.
208	N	1) While I am supportive of the 4 dogs limit per professional dog walker, this seems at odds with the 6 dogs limit issued against those same licenses issued by CBC. All I can see from this measure is that local dog walking businesses will suffer and/or Hylands Park will lose the parking income. 2) I walk my 2 dogs daily at Hylands Park, occasionally instead going to Weald Park, Thorndon Park or Discovery Centre. I use these parks because I need to let my dogs off lead to burn energy, as there will now be a lot of confusion as to where my dogs can and cannot be off lead and overzealous park wardens and public I will drop my parking permit for Hylands as I suspect will the other hundreds of dog walkers who go to Hylands and CBC can once again struggle for income to

		maintain the park, especially when the novelty of Go Ape and the summer holidays is over. 3) I need to let my dogs off lead to expend the energy they have, otherwise they just run crazy in my back garden and disturb the neighbours, as a responsible dog owner I have never wanted my dogs to annoy anyone but this will be the outcome, CBC is shifting the issue from one place to another. 4) Lots of people tell me to book one of the play fields available for dogs in the Chelmsford area, I tried doing this but there is no availability for weeks since everyone else block books, there simply are not enough of these places for the dogs owned. When I talk to current play area owners they tell me the CBC rules are so strict most people don't want to go through them. 5) when I do use Hylands park I am always keen that my dogs should not upset anyone so keep them on lead around popular or busy areas such as the house, the stables, the children play areas and associated coffee shops and car parks. To me this would be a sensible limitation put on everyone, but the Serpentine Lake is well out of the way of these, I see no justification for having an on lead rule here, it is very rare anyone is there without a dog/s. In the summer this is also the only place for dogs to cool off that is clean, all other water areas in the park are covered in slime and stink. Either leave the Serpentine Lake off lead or fix the other water areas around the park. In summary, supportive of 4 dog limit, supportive of on-lead around house, stables, car parks, play areas and coffee shops. This will also be easy to explain and police. Not supportive of on-lead rule around the Serpentive Lake which is away from most non-dog walkers. Also I find when people react badly to dogs and think they are being 'attacked' it's because they either don't know how to handle themselves around dogs, or approach dogs without clearing it with the owner. I would suggest a few strategically places dog etiquette boards would be useful such as turning your back on a dog which is jumping up at you to play, asking an owner if it is okay to stroke your dog, etc.
209	N	I was so very sad and frustrated to hear of the PSPO the council are currently proposing. I feel it completely unjust, completely discriminatory and a real let down to the people of chelmsford. Please accept this letter as my absolute unequivocal objection to your proposal. My reasons listed below; Firstly, your reasons for the PSPO appear to be extremely misleading and of very little logic. You state 33 dog related incidences have occurred ion chelmsford. Upon requisition the real figures, only 3 of these were actually at Hylands. 3. Just 3. Your PSPO sounds extremely excessive and histrionic for just 3 incidences out of the thousands and thousands of people that enter our park yearly. It really seems such a huge nuclear reaction and makes me question your true intentions here. In fact it seems you are misusing and totally exploiting the use of a PSPO. The same number of incidences at Chelmer Park. Why are you not putting a PSPO on Chelmer park also? If your concern for public safety is based on these numbers then surely you need to be doing this there too?

		Please do let me know what the differences are. You also stated in your proposal that one of the incidents at Hylands involved a group walk where different owners bring their dogs, all of the same breed. An attack occurred during one of these. But by the rules of your PSPO, this type of walk and situation won't actually be stopped. These types of walks are still allowed to go ahead, open to another similar incident. Please explain why you have used this incident to propose a PSPO. Now onto the reasonings that truly effected me personally…. As a professional dog walker of over 8 years and currently studying to become a fully qualified dog trainer and behaviourist, I was extremely offended by your accusation that I could not control more than 4 dogs at one time. I feel personally attacked and my own livelihood completely at risk during an already terrible time in this economic climate. To add insult to injury, it has come to light that several members of the council, including one who is very involved in this proposal actually use professional dog walkers for their own dogs. The dog walker(s) used walk more than 4 dogs at a time. Yet you have stated that no body is able to control any more that that amount of dogs. So why is it that you use these professional dog walker yourselves? I guess what im trying to point out is that your proposal is of very little logic and more a personal attack of dog owners and especially professional dog walkers. My dog walking business is my sole source of income. Its a job I have dedicated more time than I ever imagined and I take absolute pride in it. During the 8 years I have been running my business, I have never had a single dog related incident, be it dog on dog or dog on human. In fact the only attack going on is the council on us at present. By stating I can now only walk 4 dogs at once, you are respectively making me drop clients that I've had for years, let down the dogs whilst also giving me a pay cut in an already terrible economical crisis. Hylands is a huge place and one that the dogs love to visit as there is so much room for everyone. Us pack walkers do not walk in the areas where lots of people are, especially children. We certainly do not walk near the childrens play ground, the cafe or any other higher traffic area. Its common sense, something you need to trust us with. You also mentioned the wildlife in your proposal and the danger dog walkers pose to them. This fact really hit me hard. Mainly because I have felt for such a long time (and spoken out about) that Hylands park have an abundance of wildlife that is routinely put into danger by yourselves You held creamfields music festival at the most pivotal part of spring. Wildlife are raising their young. Stress can cause the loss of pregnancy, the mother to deliberately harm her young or abandon them. Two years ago, you put the festival car park right next to the lake. The lake that had goslings, ducklings and baby moorhens. Wildlife needs to be left alone during the time that Creamfields was on. You instead held a music festival! And allowed footfall of all car drivers to pass the lake and fill it with litter, human excrement etc. Further to this, you had rusty broken gates and fences dumped in that lake for many years. I asked many times for this to be removed. It

		wasn't until the parking charges came into forces, that these objects were finally removed. The only danger posed on wildlife is by you and your money grabbing being placed over their wellbeing. If you come down to walk beside me, you will find birds (crows in particular) follow us as we walk the fields, ducks come straight to us. This because we feed them daily. I purchased duck food, bird seed etc especially for this. My pack of dogs are always under complete control during their time at our park. I would never in a million years allow them to jump into the water when there is wildlife there. I do however let them cool off in an area where there are no wildlife around. According to your proposals, dogs will not be allowed in the water at all. This is extremely dangerous during the summer months and will lead to health issues. I walk to the lake every single day throughout the year, sometimes more than once. I have even made a call to yourselves about a duck that I was concerned for. Nothing was done about it from your end. But do tell me more reasons why my profession is of detriment to the wildlife. The dog walking industry is fairly new and has grown since covid. As with all new things, there are questions, challenges and resistance from those with little knowledge of what the job involved. but this job is an important one. One I take tremendously seriously. It is worth respect and us professional dog walkers deserve respect and value. Instead we Arte personally persecuted by you. I am fully insured to walk up to 6 dogs. I am trained in canine first aid level 3 and continue to update my skills where necessary. I have attended seminars and webinars in canine body language, canine aggression and rehabilitation. I have read many a books on the subject of dogs and will continue to study throughout my life. I urge you to seek the advice of more esteemed and qualified professionals in the canine industry about your idea of only being able to control four dogs at a time. And NOT the RSPCA who have very little knowledge of the industry and no bearing in this debate. They are a well known charity organisation but they are not experts in the field. I also invite you to walk alongside me on one of my walks so I can show you that is is absolutely possible to control more than four dogs at a time. When speaking to the general public, I have not met one single person who is for this proposal. I have a feeling you will pass the PSPO regardless but I will be asking for full figures and numbers and will not rest as I truly believe you are proposing a PSPO unfairly and underhandedly. Over any of the reasons above, its the principle. You are taking yet another freedom of ours. At a time when life is already so very difficult. Do not let the people of chelmsford down yet again by passing this PSPO.
210	Y	I am a dog owner and fully support these proposals. I would be keen to see a PSPO for dog walking in other areas of Chelmsford too, such as the Beaulieu development and wider Chelmsford Garden parish. Thank you.
211	N	I am disabled and have a small elderly dog and it is easier for me to walk him off the lead. If this goes ahead the dog walkers will be in a

		more concentrated area. The map was very difficult to read and i also need to walk on the paths and I think that the paths are on lead. I use a walker so this means that I won't be able to walk my very well behaved dog.
212	Y/N	I think you should have an option to say "maybe" as the answers will be nuanced. You also should have said how many of the 33 dog attacks have taken place in Hylands Park or, indeed, in any of the parks. I would largely support the introduction of this PSPO - by the way, it is not good practice to use jargon - if you were to set up an enclosed dog area (free of charge) to allow dogs to run free without the risk of them escaping, and if I didn't think that it would be likely to be extended to other parts of Chelmsford by stealth.
213	Y	I do support this but i have trained my dog so he does as she is told but disappointed people who can’t do this . I do think more attacks will happen with dogs on leads in the surrounding play park areas as parents will be standing around with dogs and alot of dog attacks happen with dogs being defensive when they are on leads and owners think there dog has to say hello to every dog . My dog was attacked while both dogs were on the lead so it will still happen . I think all the areas around the play park should be no dogs as the owners will be standing around here and will make it a high area of attacks still .
214	N	This change feels like it's being pushed for reasons other than those being disclosed. It is disingenuous to push this as a way to lower dog attacks, the issue is not prevalent in Hylands and this "solution" would only cause more issues. Of the 33 dog related attacks in Chelmsford, only 3 of these are in Hylands. This number includes dog-on-dog attacks. By introducing these areas you will do the following: - Force dog owners into a smaller space within Hylands, causing dog walkers, walkers in these areas, and dogs to be in a closer proximity, with less ability to avoid each other. This will increase the number of dog attacks. - Make dog owners feel unwelcome. - Dog owners are likely the prime source of parking income at Hylands, considering their use of the park year-round, where holiday-goers and picnickers will only use the park in the Summer months, so this will reduce the income from park users. - Push dog owners to use the other available resources, such as Central and Admiral park (which will not generate revenue for the council) and put more people at risk of dangerous animals. - This will add more stress on the already struggling Essex police force in enforcement, which are already struggling to manage issues more severe than people walking their dogs in a park. There are more effective, cheaper, and less discriminatory ways to fix the issues of dog attacks, and it's incredible that none of them have been thought of before this irrational response. If Chelmsford council wish to make a productive effort they could: - Investigate lobbying for the ban of dangerous dogs, including the Bully XL which is the main cause of dog attacks in the UK. - Improve education around how to behave around dogs, how to determine if a dog is behaving dangerously, and how to effectively train dogs.

		- Enforce dispersal orders for large groups and meet-ups (if this is an issue) - Lobby to introduce legislation/or enforce existing legislation around commercial dog walkers and the number of dogs they can walk at one time. In a first world country it should be obvious, the way to improving the situation is education, not blanket discriminatory fear.
215	N	There are limited areas I can go in a wheelchair due to the lack of suitable path ways, so implementing this ludicrous proposal will restrict where my dog can be allowed off lead. It would be more beneficial to place one of these orders in Admirals where cyclists and pedestrians share the path and isn't really suited to off lead dogs. This order is not going to stop the amount of fouling which is more of a problem for a wheelchair user. I would like to know how this will be 'policed' as there are going to be many who will ignore it. So for those that will follow the law and keep their dogs on leads will have dogs running up to them. I am disappointed that yet more restrictions are going to be placed on an area where there is ample room. There are plenty of other spaces you could place this restriction where they would be better suited.
216	N	I am dismayed to see the extent of the changes you propose. As a disabled wheelchair user with 2 cockapoos the pathways are the only way we can get through the park. My dogs and many other disabled people with their dogs love to go off lead once we reach the pathway to the left with hedges each side after the car park near the cafe with table tennis tables outside. The pathway which goes to the middle car park is the best one for wheelchair users. The grass around it is sometimes fine to go on but mainly our wheelchairs get caught and bogged down. I agree and understand the area around the house and cafe area being onlead only. I don't understand why the lake area should be lead only as the dogs love to cool off there? It is at the end of the path so no real problem? I feel when people are paying £5 to park to walk/run their dogs it is totally unfair to restrict alot of the dog popular areas to lead only! We tend to walk in all weather's where as a lot of people only come when the weather is ok! We have been asking for the sandy path from the house down to the lake to be resurfaced for ages as it is so uneven and difficult to manage. We have been totally ignored. Now you want to make this the main area for off lead! Basically it will not be worth alot of us coming if these changes happen which will then affect your income from car park and the cafe. Please reconsider.
217	Y	I agree with the proposed restrictions for dogs, agree that safety is paramount and would put a dog on the lead at the suggested areas. I also hope there will be Diageo's where I can let the dog off.
218	Y	Proposals are sensible and reflect a common sense approach to enable use of the park by all.
219	N	I agree with the red zones but feel that the large area in the middle and around the lake for lead walks only is unfair. I also feel that perhaps restrictions in the summer when families may be playing/picnicking is more understandable than year round rules. If the park isn't being used by families as much in the cooler months

		then it seems a shame to keep dogs on leads. Can this be reviewed? The other thing is to be able to walk dogs in the woods which runs alongside the adventure playground in the summer when it's too hot in fields. Thank you
220	N	We have paid for a parking season ticket since it was introduced because we use Hylands a lot to walk our dogs. I'm presuming that the reduction in areas we are allowed to walk will be reflected by a reduction in the cost of a season ticket. How will the restrictions be policed? Can you have the restrictions at peak times and not applicable very early in the morning when a lot of dog walkers are out? You should know that the introduction of parking charges caused a lot of anguish amongst the elderly community who rely on their dogs as a social lifeline for company, excercise and to boost their mental health. They can't afford charges so where do they go now? What price mental health? I have been dog walking at Hylands since 2013. You have managed to host the "v" festival, Fling, the 3 foot festival, Creamfields and various other events throughout that time with no need for restrictions, why now? I am not sure about the validity of this consulation as the restrictions clearly connected to the building and opening of the "Go Ape" facility which is up and running. What do you intend to glean from this consultation? You refer to over 30 dog related incidents in Chelmsford. Are they all in Hylands Park? I don't believe they are and it's disingenuous to suggest these restrictions are a reasonable response to this matter. The plan is short sighted and unreasonable. I will accept a reduction in the cost of the season ticket, so I look forward to hearing from you on this point,
221	N	Most dogs are treated as a member of the family Eg they go everywhere with the family Hylands park I assumed was a "family park" Also the loss of trade for the coffee bar/stables
222	N	Although I don't think the plans are too restrictive, I do think having a PSPO is totally unnecessary as you mention 33 reported incidents in Chelmsford - NOT just Hylands Park. How many dogs visit Hylands every single day?! Hundreds. So, although 33 is 33 too many (my own dog was extremely badly attacked, totally unprovoked, and left with huge lifelong scars, but not at Hylands - in our local pub, with both dogs on lead!) a PSPO is over-kill for Hylands. As you accept, most responsible people already put their dogs on lead in crowded areas, where people are picnicking etc. Those who don't, probably won't even with a PSPO in force. 🙄 As usual, it is not fair to penalise the majority for those very few who are selfish and uncaring. Also, I would hope that with dogs off-lead banned from the area near Mauros cafe, you will mow another area where dogs are allowed off lead. This is a lovely area to throw a ball for dogs (without losing it in long grass or risking grass seeds getting under their skin - a real & potentially very serious threat). My very small dog cannot walk in the longer grass as his legs are too short, it's too tiring for him! Dog walkers do not always want to have to wear heavy wellies all year round, which is essential in long grass areas. I would suggest a ban on off-lead after, say, 10.00am and during the summer months only, as to have that area not used early in the morning and throughout the winter (when it's mainly dog walkers in the park) seems totally unnecessary. But more paths kept mown short through the other dog walking areas, so

		we can safely and easily walk through the longer grass, is also essential. Dog walkers are your mainstay of park users. They pay the most in car parking across 12 months, they spend money in the cafes throughout the year, not just on nice days! We often feel we are treated as 2nd class citizens as the only place to eat or drink is not adequately weather-proof, yet most of us walk in the worst conditions, unlike most families who mainly visit on “high days & holidays”! I have noticed that the rougher field areas are not being adequately maintained at the moment. (Just on another subject, a friend who has been walking her dogs in the park around 8.30/9.00pm the last few weeks, has seen teenagers (& on one occasion, grown men!) accessing Go Ape and using the equipment there (obv without harnesses). The danger to themselves is their choice but I’d be concerned about sabotage to the equipment endangering innocent users. She has reported this to Go Ape, who reported that they have already had to replace the locks on the doors once, but these miscreants appear to be climbing up the underside of the stairways. This just goes to show there is always an element of unlawfulness in certain people and no PSPO will eradicate that!)
223	Y	(Received by letter) I support the PSPO for dog walking at Hylands Estate. I have used the estate regularly for walks since 2020 and do not own a dog. I appreciate that it is a good place to exercise dogs but agree that the dogs should be under control. My own adverse experiences with dogs have limited my use and enjoyment of the estate which is a lovely place. In particular, I agree that the number of dogs walked by one adult should be limited, I do not think an adult should be able to exercise more if with a child (the SPO says ‘walked by any one person’). Where leads are required, short leads would mean greater control (some people use very long leads). I do think it should be permitted to exercise dogs on the path around the cattle grazing area (outside the area) Tih is because when the river floods this the only part those of us who use the entrance by Widford church can get to (the map is a little unclear on this). I would like the Council to out details of which dog-related incidents should be reported please and how to do this so the situation can be monitored. [I have had several adverse experiences with dogs in the past year. These included a small dog jumping to the height of my chest and biting my hand – unsuccessful due to my thick glove and another dog nipping me from behind]. I did not know they could be reported.
224	N	Because of council policy of not repairing them park after events and there are a lot of events people with limited mobility will find it difficult to walk a dog off lead indeed the ground has so many deep lot hole it's impossible for a person with mobility problems to get a mobility car across the fields. You are stopping disabled people with dogs going into the formal gardens even if dogs are on a lead. There are no grazing cattle before June and after November. The park has minimal use from non dog walkers between mid October to mid March No guidance to the cost and enforcement of the Oslo And the cost of loss of revenue from people who Will not be able to take dogs over the park. Sadly you are turning the park into a park for the vocal minority
225	Y	The PSO FOR HYLANDS IS DEFINITELY A GOOD IDEA
226	N	My name is ***, I am a Chelmsford resident, a Liberal Democrat voter, and I have run **********, a dog walking and pet sitting business

		here for the past 11 years. I wish to outline my strong objections to the proposed PSPO at Hylands Park. While I agree that there should be areas that restrict dogs or require them to be on lead (as there already are), the proposal to extend these areas and limit the number of dogs walked is one that would impact me, my clients, my business, and my family. It will directly impact small businesses like mine and the cafes within the park who struggled to survive during COVID and who are finally getting back on their feet. It is clear that the impact on professional dog walkers or private individuals with more than four dogs has not been considered within this proposal. It is usual practice for professional dog walkers to have between six to eight dogs in a group on a walk. I regularly have this many dogs on my walks at Hylands, twice a day, five days a week for the past 11 years, without incident. I am well-known by the regulars, my dogs are kept under control, and I pick up after them – as well as picking up rubbish and dog excrement left by other park users. I am a professional, I choose my dogs very carefully to ensure they do not have aggression issues, that they are socialised and friendly. My business is fully insured, I am member of the Federation of Small Businesses and like many other professional dog walkers I also pay to park at Hylands. You quote the RSPCA as an authority on professional dog walkers, I question this. They are a rescue organisation, not experts in this area. The Kennel Club is the leading canine authority on dog access in both urban and rural areas and the only national organisation named by the Government as a body that local authorities should consider consulting when introducing restrictions on dog walkers. Have you consulted with them? They state on their website with regards to the maximum number of dogs that one person can walk: “An arbitrary maximum number of dogs that a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control that will often displace and intensify problems in other areas. The maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner depends on a number of factors relating to the dog walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used and the location where the walking is taking place. If a maximum number of dogs measure is being considered due to issues arising from commercial dog walkers, we instead suggest that councils look at accreditation schemes – as seen in places such as the East Lothian Council area. These can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice, rather than just curb the excesses of one aspect of dog walking. Accreditation can also ensure that dog walkers are properly insured – which will typically cap the number of dogs that they can walk at any one time – and act as advocates for good behaviour by other dog owners.” All of the above advice from the Kennel Club, outlines a more proportionate approach for Councils to consider. You state that there were 33 dog attacks within Chelmsford over the last year. Given your proposal to put a PSPO at Hylands, one would assume that the majority of the attacks happened in that location. However, from the information I received after my FOI request, only three took place at Hylands!!!! Given the number of dogs that use the park, this is a tiny percentage. Citing these numbers as evidence for

		your PSPO is misleading and an extremely unbalanced and heavy-handed response. Hylands is a large space that can accommodate a number of different users and activities. If you implement a PSPO here, you risk displacing dog walkers to smaller parks – where there is less space for everyone, therefore potentially increasing the risk of incidents. There were two dog attacks at Chelmer Park, a much smaller park with less visitors than Hylands, yet you are not implementing a PSPO there. WHY??? Or is the intention to implement PSPOs in further parks across Chelmsford? In addition, the incidents detailed in the justification for this proposal, have all been dogs of private individuals, not professional walkers, and were not being walked in a group more than four – so again the proposal would not prevent this issue from re-occurring. There is no evidence that issues have been caused by professional dog walkers, therefore it is not appropriate or reasonable for this proposal to negatively impact them. There is mention of large groups of dogs at Hylands. These are groups of private individuals undertaking breed specific walks at weekends – sometimes 20+ dogs, but as each individual is walking less than four dogs, these would still go ahead under the proposed PSPO. Whilst licensing is not required by law, other Councils, for example the London borough of Wandsworth, have limited the number of dogs walked in public parks, but have also implemented licences for professional dog walkers to walk up to eight dogs. This is a more measured and reasonable approach, which acknowledges our experience and expertise. It provides the council with some checks to ensure that those licenced walkers have appropriate insurance, experience etc. In my experience, Hylands is mostly used at weekends or in school holidays, so rather than imposing a blanket one size fits all policy, have you not considered a more reasonable and measured proposal of having restrictions at the weekends or in school holidays? Other councils, for example Maldon, Southend have restrictions that are time based at particular times of the year, when areas are busier. However, over the past three weeks, I have counted how many people I have encountered on my walks over at Hylands. Considering it is the school holiday, which is usually busier, I have only seen five people. They have either been private individuals walking their dogs or other professional dog walkers. Where are all these members of the public that are being alarmed and distressed by our presence as you quote in your consultation? During winter, there are many days I only see one or two people at most!! I, and other dog walking professionals have the common sense to walk our dogs in areas where there are not lots of people or children. I have managed to do this for 11 years. Your other cited reason for the PSPO is due to concern for the wildlife at Hylands. I find this odd when you don't seem concerned about the wildlife when allowing the park to be used for numerous festivals and events, especially those during the breeding season. Hypocrisy at it's best, given the amount of debris left behind after these events, not to mention human excrement, drugs etc. In conclusion, I do not believe that this is proportionate and reasonable proposal, and wonder whether the Council has a hidden

		agenda for Hylands Park. There are alternatives for you to consider that would not impact upon professional dog walkers or members of the public who use the park. I would hope that you will consider the measures that I have detailed above, but in particular, if you are going to introduce restrictions, I would hope that you will consider the advice from the Kennel Club, the possibility of implementing licensing arrangements for professional dog walkers and whether it is more proportionate to implement seasonal/time based restrictions. I would be more than happy to discuss any of the above in person.
227	N	Hello, as a local Chelmsford resident since 1973 and a responsible dog owner, I & my extended family have grown up as regular visitors to Hylands Park. We are very thankful to have access to the beautiful green spaces and facilities provided for the wellbeing of the community and outside visitors. Hylands Park is a wonderful resource for the community, and I totally appreciate that we all need to co-exist harmoniously across the 574 acres. I also totally agree and back the concept that if you have no or little recall then your dog/s most definitely need to be leashed at all times around any park for the safety of dogs & people ! However, because of those few irresponsible dog owners, those that work hard to monitor and manage our dogs are being tarnished & restricted. Restrictions should not just apply to dog owners, but all park users need to take some responsibility in their surroundings and be aware and educated. Most hardcore and responsible dog owners walk their dogs without any recourse or incident in the early mornings and or late evenings, just to avoid others using the park and any incidents. This is especially the case for those with nervous, older or reactive dogs who too need the time and space to be exercised and to avoid interactions with people, crowds and dogs alike. With this proposal dog owners, especially of nervous/older/reactive dogs will be pushed out or forced to stop coming to the park. As you know the park is not accessible on foot from all directions and so in the main people must drive there. Dogs should definitely be off limits in the red zones and always leashed in the car parks. However, to exercise your dog of leash you are forced to walk further out just to get to the relevant areas, which can add an additional time resource to your walk and also to your parking fee requirements. Pushing dog walkers further out to surrounding areas will force more owners to coast along the closest perimeter around the proposed leashed zones, where owners will let their dogs run all over the place, especially in the wooded areas. This in turn will undoubtedly congest those areas and potentially exaggerate the likelihood of more dog-on-dog incidents and potentially dog on people incidents. Also, I appreciate that as stated there is approx. 480 acres to have your dog off leash, however getting to those acres is not always feasible. Dog walkers already spend 85% of the year in outdoor attire and wellington boots to walk through the mud as there are no trails/footpaths away from crowds. Now they will be forced to walk further through mud and uneven terrain to get to these parts of the park. This is not just inconvenient but a serious accessibility issue for a number of dog walkers. Not to mention the extra time element that would impact walkers having to go further in reduced light and darkness during the winter months.

		A practical solution may be to have a suitable time zone in place whereby dogs can be of leash (if they have recall) in agreed/suitable leashed areas of the park before 9.00am and after 6.00pm when the park is usually quiet and also to coincide with the parking restrictions. This will allow the whole community to utilise the park equally without being restricted and penalised and co-existing harmoniously. There is also the issue of how this will be monitored and enforced. Wardens and or cameras will undoubtedly bring with it some additional cost to the estate/council. Perhaps the consideration of a dog membership fee / dog tag system could be considered alongside the current parking fee. This would ensure only registered dogs that can be traced use the park and thus encourage responsibility and aid safeguarding. Another much needed requirement and an extra expense to consider would be additional dog poo bins in these outer areas, to avoid people dumping bags around the park.
228	N	I have walked regularly in Hylands Park for around 25 yrs and before you started charging, I used to walk my dog every day. I wrote to complain about the terrible damage the Council inflicted upon the park and its wildlife in their BLF bid some years ago and now I find myself writing again to complain about the ludicrous plans to stop people walking their dog/s in some areas and put them on leads in others. In all the years, I've walked the park, I've seen more problems between people arguing over their children than I have dogs behaving badly. The main regular users of the park are people walking their dogs and I'm sure I don't need to cite that thousands of dogs are walked every year and the problems referred to by the Council are less than miniscule. I won't bother to go into further detail as I can imagine many park users have already provided supporting factual evidence but I will say that you are now charging for use of only a portion of a park for some users... perhaps your focus might have been better put towards helping improve its use for those in wheelchairs or prams as the paths in places are pitiful. I'm not a wheelchair user but have seen these poor users struggling to negotiate pitted and awkward paths. If these plans are brought in, I will again seek alternative park space where my dog can run freely and enjoy the space unencumbered by badly considered rules and regulations clearly thought up by jobsworth Council worker/s with nothing better to do than think up ludicrous schemes to make people's lives more challenging!
229	Y	In principle I do agree to this. I would like to see the rules relaxed before 9am, as very few famies are in the park at this time and it is mainly dog walkers before 9am.
230	Y	Unfortunately not all dog owners take full responsibility for their dogs. We need to ensure all users of the park feel safe be that humans, dogs or wildlife. Whilst not wanting to destroy businesses, I do support restricting the number of dogs walked by a single person i.e. dog walkers. The responsible dog owners will/do exercise their dogs off lead in the many acres still available to do this. I do hope however that there will be plenty of signage and in the early days staff to support anyone who appears unaware of any changes. A review in 6-12 months which the park users can participate in would be appreciated so that any tweaks to the arrangements can be made.

231	N	I have walked regularly in Hylands Park for over 10 years with my dog. I find myself writing to complain about the ludicrous plans to stop people walking their dog/s in some areas and put them on leads in others. In all the years, I've walked the park, I've seen more problems between families arguing over children than I have dogs behaving badly. The main regular users of the park are people walking their dogs and I'm sure I don't need to cite that there is tonnes of dogs who are walked every year and the problems referred to by the Council are few and far between. Perhaps your focus might have been better put towards helping improve its use for those in wheelchairs or prams as the paths in places are horrific. If these plans are brought in, I will have to seek alternative park space where my dog can run freely and enjoy the space unencumbered by badly considered rules and regulations that doesn’t reflect the parks actual issues. Please spend time looking at actual problems instead of trying to make people's lives more challenging!

Paul BROOKES

From:	Samuel Girdlestone INSP 42002914 <Sam.Girdlestone@essex.police.uk>
Sent:	20 July 2023 11:48
To:	Lewis MOULD; Public Health and Protection Consultation Mailbox; Paul BROOKES; Spencer CLARKE
Subject:	PSPO in Hylands Park (Dog Walking)
Attachments:	61-hylands-park-pspo.pdf; Chelmsford City Council.pdf

Good Morning,

Ref: PSPO in Hylands Park, Chelmsford (Dog Walking)

I am writing this e-mail in response to a letter received by the Essex Police Chief Constable, BJ Harrington, dated 13th of July 2023 concerning a proposed Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the area of Hylands Park, Chelmsford.

As the Community Policing Team Inspector for the Chelmsford and Maldon District, I believe a PSPO in this area will be a proportionate, necessary and justified proposal which will support Chelmsford Council, Essex Police and other partners with effectively responding and dealing with issues reported. Having consulted with my Supervising Officers, Constables and staff I am aware that they have had to deal with several complaints, incidents and reports concerning dogs within the estate and if a PSPO were in place it would have given us more effective options to consider, saving my team time and providing further reassurance to concerned members of the public.

Having consulted with the Essex Police Dangerous Dogs Manager, Sara Dean, she has explained to me that we have had a number of reports of dangerous dogs' incidents over the last 3 years at this location. Having spoken with the Essex Police resolution centre, they have provided me with data which shows 13 x investigations into dangerous dogs or dogs out of control have been reported for this location between May 2020 and July 2023. Out of these, 5 x of the investigations relate specifically to dangerous dog investigations on this area of the Hylands estate. The reference numbers for these investigations are: 42/270328/21, 42/109932/23, 42/137908/20, 42/18234/22 and 42/232523/22.

I am supportive of this proposal and happy to support Chelmsford Council with this application.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration

Inspector Sam Girdlestone

WHITE RIBBON AMBASSADOR

WORKING TOGETHER TO END MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Police Inspector 2914
Chelmsford and Maldon Community Policing Team
North Local Policing Area Command | Safer Neighbourhood Partnership Hub, Duke Street, Chelmsford | CM11JE
☎ Extension: 42030: (work mobile)
2914@essex.pnn.police.uk
https://www.essex.police.uk/

PFCC
POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

Mr Paul Brookes
Public Health and Protection Services Manager
Public Places
Chelmsford City Council
Duke Street
Chelmsford
CM1 1JE

Kelvedon Park, London Road, Rivenhall,
Witham, Essex, CM8 3HB

Telephone: 01245 291600
Fax: 01245 291601
E-mail: pfcc@essex.police.uk
http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk

Date:1st August 2023

By email: pspo.consultation@chelmsford.gov.uk

Dear Mr Paul Brookes,

Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014:
Public Space Protection Order – Hyland's Park – Dog Walking

The PFCC is supportive of this PSPO and recognises one of the substantial benefits is enforcement by both Police and council workers, enabling stronger partnership working and additional capacity to monitor and respond to the outlined behaviour.
The PFCC is satisfied that Chelmsford City Council has reasonable grounds for the PSPO and that two conditions are met:

- activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect, and

- that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

The introduction of the PSPO will help provide a safe environment for all users of Hyland's Park whist accommodating all activities currently taking place and is proportionate, necessary, and justified. The PSPO will support the control of dogs and is in response to an increase in dog-on-dog, dog-on-human related attacks, and incidents. The PSPO will support Chelmsford City Council, Essex Police, and other partners to effectively respond in a timely manner with proportionate enforcement of those who breach the order.
It should be noted that the deployment of Essex Police operational resources remains at the discretion of the Chief Constable, however Community Policing team inspector for Chelmsford and Maldon is supportive of the PSPO and consultation with the Essex Police Dangerous Dog Manager highlighted a number of reports of dangerous dog incidents at this location.
Essex Police welcome additional powers/tools to address the issue and the deployment of police would be done where possible, subject to operational demand.
The PFCC works closely with Chelmsford CSP and is keen for activity to be driven by the Partnership. We note that the proposed PSPO would support the strategic priorities of the

Partnership, as well as our vision to keep Essex communities safe and secure. The PSPO targets behaviour in line with the PFCC's priorities as articulated in the Police and Crime Plan.
The PSPO, if made should clearly communicate the restricted areas, activities in question, definitions, outcomes, and appeal process. Consideration of how to publicise and embed this PSPO should be given, recognising some of the challenges it may present for those individuals or communities affected. The PFCC recommend obvious, large clear signage of the PSPO in the areas covered by the PSPO.
Overall, we feel that the PSPO seems proportionate to the detrimental effect that activities associated with dog attacks and incidents cause, and appropriate to prevent it from continuing or occurring in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

Claire Hanrahan
Community Safety and Criminal Justice Manager
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex
Email: Claire.Hanrahan@essex.police.uk
Web: www.essex.pfcc.police.uk

THE KENNEL CLUB

Formal Response to Chelmsford City Council's Public Spaces Protection Order Dog Control Measures Consultation

Submitted on 3rd August 2023 by: The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, Piccadilly, London W1J 8AB, email: kcdog@thekennelclub.org.uk

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare, and training. Our objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners. We campaign for and advocate on behalf of dogs and their owners and, as part of our external affairs activities, engage with local authorities on issues such as Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs).

The Kennel Club is the only national organisation named by the UK Government as a body that local authorities should consult prior to introducing restrictions on dog walkers and is considered the leading canine authority on dog access. As such, we would like to highlight the importance of ensuring that PSPOs are necessary and proportionate responses to problems caused by dogs and irresponsible owners. We also believe that it is essential for authorities to balance the interests of dog owners with the interests of other access users.

Response to proposed measures

Dog fouling

The Kennel Club strongly promotes responsible dog ownership, and believes that dog owners should always pick up after their dogs wherever they are, including fields and woods in the wider countryside, and especially where farm animals graze to reduce the risk of passing Neospora and Sarcocystosis to cattle and sheep respectively.

We would like to take this opportunity to encourage the local authority to employ further proactive measures to help promote responsible dog ownership throughout the local area in addition to introducing Orders in this respect. These proactive measures can include: increasing the number of bins available for dog owners to use; communicating to local dog owners that bagged dog faeces can be disposed of in normal litter bins; running responsible ownership and training events; or using poster campaigns to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dog.

On lead

We can support reasonable 'dogs on lead' Orders which can, when used in a proportionate and evidence-based way, include areas such as cemeteries, picnic areas, or on pavements in proximity to cars and other road traffic.

THE KENNEL CLUB

On lead by direction

The Kennel Club strongly welcomes 'On lead by direction' Orders. These allow responsible dog owners to exercise their dogs off lead without restriction providing their dogs are under control, whilst simultaneously giving the local authority powers to restrict dogs not under control.

We recommend that the authorised officer enforcing the Order is familiar with dog behaviour in order to determine whether restraint is necessary. There exists the possibility that a dog, through no fault of its own, could be considered a 'nuisance' or 'annoyance' to someone who simply does not like dogs.

We encourage local authorities to make use of more flexible and targeted measures at their disposal, including Acceptable Behavioural Contracts and Community Protection Notices. Kennel Club Good Citizen Training Clubs and our accredited trainers can assist owners whose dogs run out of control due to them not having the ability to train a reliable recall.

Exclusions

We do not normally oppose Orders to exclude dogs from playgrounds or enclosed recreational facilities such as tennis courts or skate parks. It is important that alternative provisions are made for dog walkers in the vicinity to avoid displacement or the intensification of problems in nearby areas. However, we will oppose PSPOs which introduce blanket restrictions on dog walkers accessing public open spaces without specific and reasonable justification. Dog owners are required to provide their dogs with appropriate daily exercise, including "regular opportunities to walk and run" – in most cases, this will be off the lead while still under control.

Seasonal/time restrictions

Where a seasonal restriction is proposed, we suggest that local authorities consider whether a time restriction would be an appropriate addition. For example, many playing fields are empty in the early mornings and late evenings, making this a key time for many dog owners to exercise their dogs. These are important local resources for owners to make sure their dogs get the required daily off-lead exercise and we see little reason why it should be restricted during times of the day when it is little used, even in the busy season.

Displacement

A common unintended consequence of restrictions is displacement onto other pieces of land, resulting in new conflicts being created. It can be difficult to predict the effects of displacement, and so the council should consider whether alternative sites for dog walkers are suitable and can support an increase in the number of dog walkers using them.

THE KENNEL CLUB

Maximum number of dogs

An arbitrary maximum number of dogs that a person can walk is an inappropriate approach to dog control that will often displace and intensify problems in other areas. The maximum number of dogs a person can walk in a controlled manner depends on a number of factors relating to the dog walker, the dogs being walked, whether leads are used, time of day and the location where the walking is taking place.

As such we advise against the use of arbitrary numerical limits. Instead we suggest that the behaviour of individual commercial dog walkers is considered on a case by case basis, with Community Protection Notices used to tackle those behaving in anti-social manner.

If a maximum number of dogs measure is being considered due to issues arising from commercial dog walkers, we instead suggest that councils look at accreditation schemes – as seen in places such as the East Lothian Council area. These can be far more effective than numerical limits as they can promote good practice, rather than just curb the excesses of one aspect of dog walking. Accreditation can also ensure that dog walkers are properly insured – which will typically cap the number of dogs that they can walk at any one time – and act as advocates for good behaviour by other dog owners.

Government guidance has been relatively consistent that the maximum number of dogs being walked should not exceed six dogs.[1,2] This is in line with typical limits imposed by insurance companies, for which annual dog walking insurance for walking up to six dogs on or off lead, is readily available for under £100 per annum. Councils should be clear as to what behaviour they're aiming to address when introducing PSPOs to regulate the behaviour of commercial dog walkers. As there is a high chance rogue operators will make a financial calculation that the risk of being caught and maximum fine under a PSPO, is outweighed by the income generated by exceeding the numerical limit set out in the PSPO. Or indeed, it may encourage multiple dog walkers to share a single vehicle and walk in groups, resulting in larger groups of dogs being walked together.

Appropriate signage

It is important to note that in relation to PSPOs, The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (Publication of Public Spaces Protection Orders) Regulations 2014 makes it a legal requirement for local authorities to –

---

[1] Defra / Welsh Government - Dealing with irresponsible dog ownership, Practitioner's manual, October 2014 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/373429/dog-ownership-practitioners-manual-201411.pdf

[2] Animal activities licensing: statutory guidance for local authorities March 2023 - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/home-boarding-for-dogs-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities, https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/dog-day-care-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities and https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/dog-kennel-boarding-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities

THE KENNEL CLUB

"cause to be erected on or adjacent to the public place to which the order relates such notice (or notices) as it considers sufficient to draw the attention of any member of the public using that place to -

(i) the fact that the order has been made, extended or varied (as the case may be); and

(ii) the effect of that order being made, extended or varied (as the case may be)."

Regarding dog access restrictions, such as a 'Dogs on Lead' Order, on-site signage should clearly state where such restrictions begin and end. This can be achieved with signs that say on one side, for example, 'You are entering [type of area]' and 'You are leaving [type of area]' on the reverse.
While all dog walkers should be aware of their requirement to pick up after their dog, signage must be erected for the PSPO to be compliant with the legislation.

Assistance dogs

We urge the Council to review the Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance for businesses and service providers when providing any exemptions for those who rely on assistance dogs. The guidance can be viewed here: https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/assistance-dogs-a-guide-for-all-businesses.pdf

We would therefore encourage the Council to allow for some flexibility when considering whether a disabled person's dog is acting as an assistance dog. The Council could consider adopting the definitions of assistance dogs used by Mole Valley District Council, which can be found below from their 2020 PSPO which included the following exemption provisions on dog control:

Nothing in this Order shall apply to a person who –

a) is registered as a blind person on a register complied under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948; or

b) is deaf, in respect of a dog trained by Hearing Dogs for Deaf People (registered charity number 293358) and upon which he relies for assistance; or

c) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities, in respect of a dog trained by any current or future members of Assistance Dogs UK or any other charity registered in the UK with a purpose of training assistance dogs and upon which he relies for assistance

d) has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities and in the

THE KENNEL CLUB

reasonable opinion of the Council that person relies upon the assistance of the dog in connection with their disability. or that of Northumberland County Council:

"(4) The term "Assistance Dog" shall mean a dog which has been trained to assist a person with a disability.

(5) The expression "disability" shall have the meaning prescribed in section 6 of the Equality Act 2010 or as may be defined in any subsequent amendment or re-enactment of that legislation".

From: Writtle Parish Council Admin <admin@writtle-pc.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 August 2023 11:39
To: Public Health and Protection Consultation Mailbox <pspo.consultation@chelmsford.gov.uk>; Lewis MOULD <Lewis.Mould@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Cc: Clerk to Writtle Parish Council <Clerk@writtle-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Hylands Park - Dog Walking Writtle Parish Council response

Thank you for agreeing the extension for Writtle Parish Council to respond to the consultation on the changes to the dog walking areas at Hylands Park. The proposals have been considered by our Planning and Development Committee and there are in principle no objections.

Regards

Justine Atterbury
Assistant Clerk
Writtle Parish Council,
Parish Office, The Green
Writtle, Chelmsford
Essex CM1 3DT
www.writtle-pc.gov.uk

From: Paul VAN DAMME <Paul.VanDamme@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2023 12:43 PM
To: Lewis MOULD <Lewis.Mould@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Cc: Paul BROOKES <paul.brookes@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Subject: FW: Hylands PSPO Consultation

Hi Lewis,

Thank you for your email.

"The PSPO Dog walking at Hylands Estate is supported by the City Council Parks Service in a land management and ownership capacity. Whilst it formalises in part voluntary arrangements already in place, the PSBO will ensure that the arrangements, expectations and the different PSBO zones/areas are clearly set out and applied consistently. This will benefit all park users including those exercising dogs to ensure that all can enjoy the park in safe and balanced way commensurate with the wider park visitor activities and uses".

Many thanks, Paul

Paul Van Damme
Parks & Green Spaces Manager
01245 605562

paul.vandamme@chelmsford.gov.uk

Chelmsford.gov.uk/parks

www.chelmsford.gov.uk

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 19 October 2023

Subject: Call-in of the decision made at Cabinet on 12 September 2023 in respect of the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order covering Hylands Park. Cabinet:

> RESOLVED that the Director of Public Places be authorised to make the Public Spaces Protection Order as presented, with an amendment to the black hatching section of the map detailed in Appendix 2, to remove where it had encroached onto the car parks near Hylands House and the Writtle entrance as dogs had to be on leads in car parks at all times.

1. Context and current situation

1.1 A voluntary 'code of conduct' for visitors to Hylands Park has been in place at Hylands Park since 2013. In respect of the behaviour of dog owners the code requests that:

- Aggressive dogs are not brought into the Park and are immediately put on a lead and removed from the Park if they become aggressive
- Dog are kept within direct eyesight whenever possible, and kept close when near the boundaries of the Park
- If a dog cannot be controlled off lead and does not return quickly on command, then they should be kept on a lead
- Dogs should not be allowed to approach other people without their permission
- Dog waste is picked up and disposed of in the designated bins provided [or taken home]
- Owners always carry a lead with dogs kept on a 'short lead' in the designated areas - car parks, near roadways, the Serpentine Lake, around the House and Stables Visitor Centre and in the Pleasure Gardens
- Dogs are not permitted in children's play areas, the grazing areas or the One World Garden

1.2 This code identifies zones in the Park where dogs are excluded and areas where dogs are to be on a lead. The areas are shown on the plan attached.

1.3 The introduction of a public spaces protection order is intended to allow enforcement of the dog control measures that have essentially been in place in Hylands Park since 2013, but only on a voluntary basis.

1.4 The proposed Public Spaces Protection Order [PSPO] extends the areas dogs are to kept on a lead in some places, removing the requirement in some others. Overall, there is a slight increase in area designated for dogs to be kept on a lead reflecting the experiences in managing the Park since 2013.

1.5 The dog exclusion areas remain essentially as designated in 2013 and includes the play area, the area immediately adjacent to Hylands House and the livestock grazing paddocks that are fenced off and the depot at Home Farm where members of the public are not permitted anyway.

1.6 This voluntary code of conduct and the associated zoning remain in place today and are demarcated on site by signage. This voluntary code in unenforceable and unfortunately regularly disregarded with requests to comply with the code often ignored, sometimes resulting in aggressive and unacceptable behaviour towards City Council employees.

2. Background

2.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced a variety of powers for local authorities to deal with anti-social behaviour including **Public Spaces Protection Orders**.

2.2 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's qualify of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. The order can be used to deal with likely future problems.

2.3 A local authority may make a Public Spaces Protection Order if satisfied on reasonable grounds that two conditions are met:

- That activities carried on in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect, and
- That the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.

2.4 The purpose of the Hylands PSPO is to reduce or prevent incidences of where dogs are dangerously out of control have caused alarm, distress and injuries.

2.5 A dog does not have to be dangerous to cause alarm or distress but only needs to be perceived to be dangerous or out of control. Many dogs off the lead are deemed to be out of control as they do not effectively respond to call back commands.

2.6 Guidance for controlling dogs in public places is published on the GOV.UK website which, amongst other provisions sets out the role and purpose of Public Spaces Protection Orders, including areas where dogs must be kept on a lead, excluding dogs from certain places such as farmland or parts of a park and limiting the number of dogs a person has with them [this also applies to professional dog walkers]. A Public Spaces Protection Order may also include a provision that

requires a dog to be put on a lead if told to do so by a police officer, police community support officer or a person appointed by a council.

2.7 At Cabinet on 6 July 2023 a report was considered as to whether the Council should consult on the possible introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order restricting the areas of Hylands park where dogs are allowed, where dogs are allowed off-lead and restricting the number of dogs that can be walked by an individual, thereby providing a safe environment for all Park users. Cabinet resolved that:

> The Director of Public Places be authorised to consult on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order.
>
> If following the consultation, no objections are received the Director of Public Places be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford, to make the Public Spaces Protection Order

2.8 At Cabinet on 12 September 2023 approval was given to make a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Hylands Park restricting where dogs are permitted and where dogs are allowed to be off the lead.

3. Response to the reasons for call-in

3.1 This decision was called in on the grounds published earlier on the agenda. The reasons for call-in are set out below followed by a response to that reason.

Questions about why Hylands Park, of the approximately 25 Parks controlled by Chelmsford City Council was selected for the Public Spaces Protection Order, (PSPO) were not adequately addressed. The data and statistics referred to did not appear to highlight Hylands Park as having a significant issue or being the priority for this type of action and the potential Criminalisation of dog walkers.

3.2 Paragraph 3.2 of the September Cabinet report addresses this issue:

Whilst the Council's data shows that the complaints are not focused on any one location Hylands Park is being considered for the PSPO for two main reasons, firstly, the risk to small children is significant due to the park being heavily used during nice weather for family picnics with the park allowing children to be under less parental supervision as the risk from hazards from nearby roads, cycle paths, and water features are less in Hylands especially in the 'bowl' area between the fort play area and Hylands house. These hazards which are more prevalent in other parks, particularly Central Park are also why dogs will tend to be kept on the lead more in other parks. Secondly, Hylands, due to its size, allows for restrictions to be introduced without disadvantaging any section of the public. Approximately 85% of Hylands would still available for people to walk their dog off the lead.

3.3 A PSPO can be made where there are concerns that activities are likely to have an effect that is detrimental to the quality of life of those in the locality, there is no requirement to show that such activity is currently occurring. The following are excerpts from complaints received by the Council, it is this type of incidents that the implementation of the PSPO is trying to prevent

- *'Dog not on a lead, obviously runs a lot as it's a greyhound. However, approached my dog and bit him round his ear/ head. Scratched him all down his back and completely an unprovoked attack. I fell to the floor and my partner went after the owner who denied it even happened. She was too far away to even see what happened because the dog was running around the whole park. Then he re approached my dog again and I had to pick mine up. We were in the middle of a field literally there would be no reason to cross paths with anyone but yet this dog came to us and attacked my Frenchie. We were on route to the car park where the cafe was.'*

- *I was in Hylands Park adjacent to the playground having a picnic with my family (wife, 4 year old son, 7 year old daughter and 1 month old newborn). Around 3pm I saw two adults, 1 male 1 female with a young boy walking 5 large dogs off the lead (looked like Rottweilers). I first noticed as the dogs had approached 2 ladies sitting down who were startled. When I noticed that the individuals and dogs were coming towards me and my family I immediately stood up and warned the male not to approach me or my family as I have 3 very young children including a baby. I have nothing against dogs. After being verbally abused by the male who was carrying large dog lead chains around his neck, as well as the female who verbally abused and assaulted me, they put their dogs on the lead and left the park via the car park. I immediately called Essex Police and reported the attack.*

- *The dog came charging over to caller's nervous greyhound which was on a lead- daughter of caller walked to try and find the owners of the dog but the dog pounced on her from behind and jumped at her back multiple times biting at her clothing and hair. Off lead dog owners appeared and said that the dog was only acting that way as it hadn't been out for while. Caller advised that this was not the first time this dog has charged at hers. Daughter of the owner of the off lead dog said that the dog doesn't respond to recall well. Caller was very concerned for the safety of other dogs and people as it occurred in a popular park and the dog was off lead nowhere near its owners.*

If it is shown that public safety from dogs off the lead and multiple dogs being walked by one person, is a real issue at Hylands, it was clear from the general

debate during cabinet, that enforcement will be key to the success of any PSPO in providing any meaningful impact on the issue.

3.4 The vast majority of the public are law abiding and will comply with reasonable direction, with any order of this type, the majority will willingly comply, there will be those that unintentional breach the order as they unaware of the restrictions and there will be a small number that wilfully breach the order. Focused, advisory enforcement at the start of the restrictions will directly help in raising awareness and assist in changing behaviour of those who may wilfully ignore the order. Given the large area of the park that have no restrictions it is not envisaged that widespread breaching of the order will take place. In the unlikely event of this not being the case then resources will be directed to resolve frequent breaches of the PSPO.

Given that there is to be no increase in enforcement officers and the refusal by the council at the meeting to engage in self-funding enforcement resources the introduction of the PSPO, at some public expense, does not appear to be value for money. Elsewhere it was stated that PSPOs in relation to litter were not impacting on the issues and an increase was being experienced.

3.5 Enforcement resources are directed to where they are needed at any one time, the enforcement requirements of the PSPO are not anticipated to be overly resource intensive and can be comfortably achieved within existing resources. Government guidance is very clear that enforcement should not be viewed as a means of raising income. Whilst fixed penalty notices income is reinvested into team's work including proactive campaigns, it would not be financially prudent to invest £40,000 on recruiting additional enforcement officers when the fixed penalty notice income is not guaranteed. If successful, the work of the team results in reduced fixed penalty notice income as less offences should occur.

The public consultation results and feedback did not appear to have been adequately addressed. This approach was further reinforced when the request by a member of the Public to have his question read out in full was not met. Nor was it appropriately answered as the specifics about the five-year figures and criminal convictions were not responded to, nor was there any commitment to provide the information.

3.6 The public question referred to the 60-40% consultation response which has been addressed in that this was a consultation and not a referendum. The remainder of the question related to number of dog-related incidents. This is similar to point 1 above.

3.7 The addition information requested in respect of the number of dog incidents / attacks over the last three years in the Chelmsford City Council area and how the incidents in Hylands Park compare with the other parks run and managed by the council is as follows:

Dog attacks / dangerous dog incidents reported to CCC			
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total	37	60	77
Admirals Park	1		2
Arun Park		1	2
Hylands Park	1	4	1
Melbourne Park			1
Central Park			1
Lionmede Park			1
Chelmer Park	1	1	

The years referred to in all tables in this report are from 1st October to 30th September

3.8 Of the 174 incidents over the last 3 years; 18 were dog on human attacks / incidents, 120 were dog on dog attacks / incidents, 36 were dangerous dog incidents / concerns.

3.9 Essex Police have had a number of reports of dangerous dogs' incidents over the last 3 years at Hylands. Essex Police resolution centre shows 13 x investigations into dangerous dogs or dogs out of control have been reported for this location between May 2020 and July 2023.

4. Other Public Spaces Protection Orders

4.1 Information was also requested regarding the use of other Public Spaces Protection Orders applied to area under the City Council's management and control. Five Public Spaces Protection Orders are currently in place as follows:

City Centre PSPO

4.2 In force since September 2016. Covers Chelmsford city centre. Introduced to deal with a range of anti-social behaviour that were causing issues. This PSPO has been varied at the time of renewal to address issues of concern. The PSPO prohibits:

- advertising boards / structures
- distribution of free literature
- drinking alcohol in an anti-social manner
- fly posting
- behaving in a threatening, abusive or aggressive manner

Dog Fouling PSPO

4.3 In place since November 2017. Covers whole of CCC area. Prohibits dog fouling on any land the public has access to.

Fly Posting and Roadside Advertisements PSPO

4.4 In place since July 2018. Covers whole of CCC area. Introduced to tackle prolific unlawful advertising. Prohibits fly posts and roadside adverts in whole borough on public highway or private land (without landowners' prior permission)

City Centre Car Parks PSPO

4.5 In place since July 2021. Covers 5 city centre car parks. Introduced to tackle anti-social behaviour, including aggressive begging, in car parks. Prohibits loitering in these car parks in stairwells and by ticket machines.

Creamfields PSPO

4.6 In place since August 2016. Covers Hylands Park and a specific city centre area for the duration of the music festival. Introduced to deal with anti-social and aggressive behaviour associated with the festival. Prohibits:

- possession or consumption of psychoactive substances
- selling tickets/wristbands to gain entry
- gaining access to festival with an unauthorised ticket/wristband.

4.7 In many instances the introduction of the PSPO is enough to control the unwanted behaviour, particularly if the behaviour is the responsibility of a limited number of individuals. The number of Fixed Penalty Notices served for each PSPO is shown below. It should be noted that the purpose of the PSPO is to discourage anti-social behaviour in the first place, not to issue a large number of FPNs.

Number of Fixed Penalty Notices Served per PSPO			
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
City Centre PSPO	6	9	6
Dog Fouling	0	1	2
Fly Posting/Roadside Advert	20	47	61
Creamfields	0	2	0

5. Enforcement arrangements

5.1 Current 'enforcement team' costs are approximately £250,000 per annum. The Community Protection Officers carry out a broad range of duties mainly focusing on:

- Education and enforcement of environmental crime (fly tipping, littering, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles etc.)
- Animal welfare including stray dog services and licensing of kennels
- Routine allegations of nuisance

5.2 There is a typical allocation of 712 hours per annum for dedicated proactive 'patrolling' activities. This resource is directed to areas of high footfall or areas of concern. Any new PSPO will have a proportionate allocation of this resource incorporated into any implementation plan as well as additional resource if required. Patrolling isn't limited to 712 hours but is a guide to the proportion of time that is expected Officers will allocate to it. Patrolling is weighted towards the summer months when the team operate a shift system covering operating hours from 6am to 9pm, this allows for more proactive patrols in the lighter mornings and evenings when public open spaces are busier.

5.3 There are various Codes of Practice and Statutory Guidance local authorities are required to comply with. Compliance with these is viewed as best practice. The most relevant to the Hylands PSPO can be accessed vis the following links:

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 Statutory Guidance

DEFRA Effective Enforcement Code of Practice for Litter and Refuse

Department for Business Innovation & Skills Better Regulation Delivery Office Regulators' Code BIS Regulator's Code

Enforcement Policy - Public Health & Protection Services (currently being reviewed)

5.4 Some local authorities use private companies to carry out environmental crime patrolling and enforcement. Where private companies are used the number of fixed penalty notices issued can be in the thousands.

5.5 Contracts with private companies usually contain a 'profit sharing' clause once operating costs have been covered. It has been reported that an Essex local authority issued FPN's totalling £564,900 but only retained £36,420. This type of contract results in the purpose of issuing a fixed penalty notice becoming profit led rather than the nature of the offence determining the most appropriate course of action. 85% of private enforcement FPN's are for dropped cigarette butts, whilst unacceptable is not a priority for enforcement action.

5.6 Concern over this type of approach can include issuing FPNs that are not in the public interest, the focusing of enforcement on easy targets rather than prioritising more serious offences, and poor enforcement practice such as following people for extended periods of time. This has led to negative media stories and a number of Council's to stop using such an approach.

5.7 It is not known whether any evaluation has been produced that shows that intensive enforcement action used by private enforcement companies results in a reduction of littering and fly tipping.

5.8 Due to the breadth of work the Community Protection Officers carry out any outsourcing of environmental patrols could not be offset by reduced staffing costs.

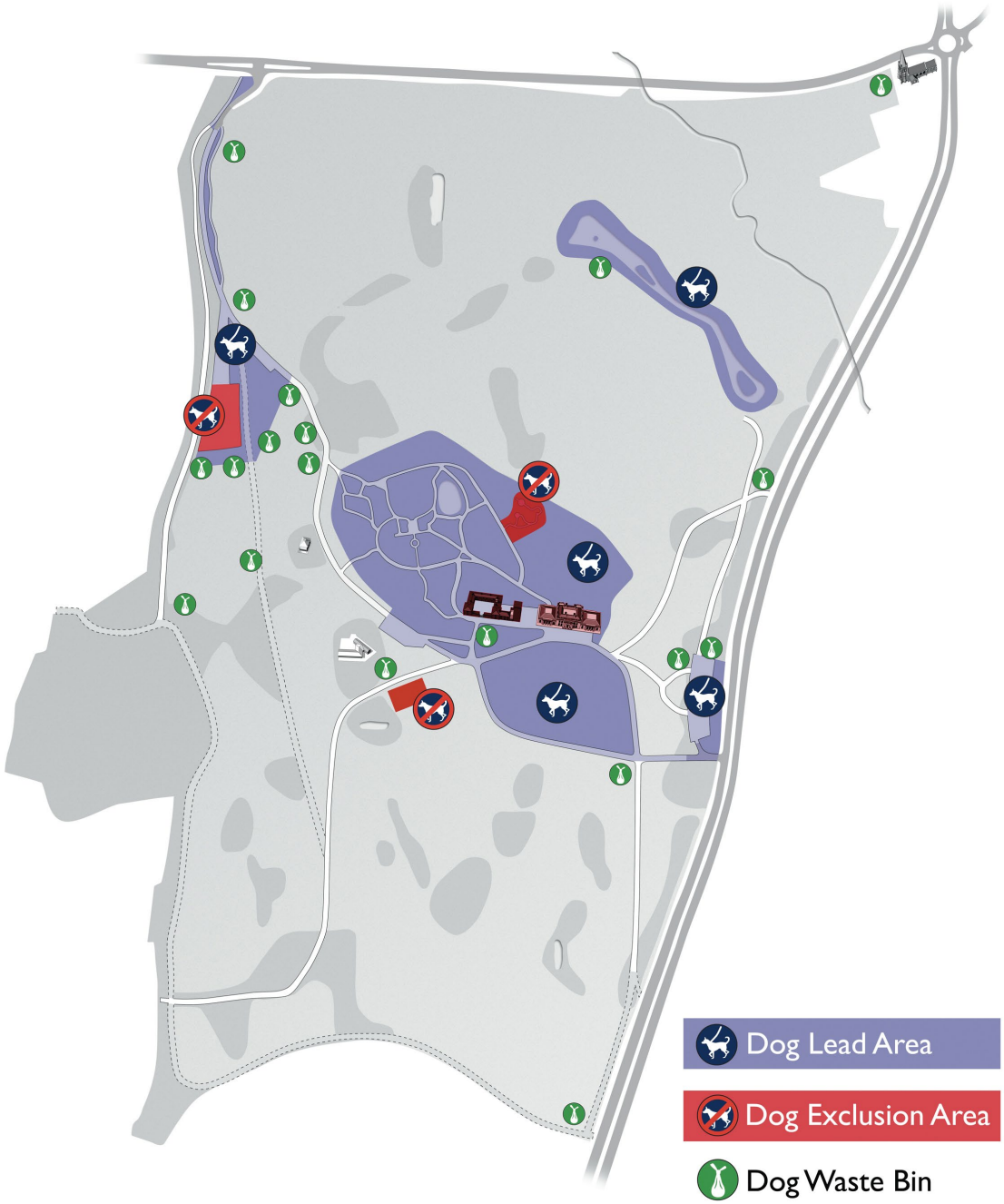
6. Statutory PSPO consultation

6.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 requires that public consultation take place in advance of making a Public Spaces Protection Order. The additional cost to the Council excluding staff time of the statutory public consultation was £632.21. The consultation was published on the Council's website, publicised via social media and e-newsletter as well as correspondence to statutory consultees and other key stakeholders.

6.2 The consultation evidenced that there was significant support for the PSPO with many of those in support of the restrictions providing comments about how they have been affected by dogs being walked off the lead. Whilst 60% were against the PSPO it is important to note that this was a consultation and not a referendum. Many of the responses against the PSPO were unhappy with the general concept of placing restrictions on a dog being off the lead rather than specifics relating to the proposed Hylands PSPO.

6.3 As a result of the consultation the PSPO was amended to not have restrictions on dogs being on the lead until 09.00am in one of the most popular parts of the park.

Plan showing dog control zones for existing voluntary visitor 'code of conduct' for Hylands Park



Plan showing proposed PSPO restrictions

Councillor Stephen Robinson

Councillor for St Andrews Ward
Leader of the Council

Chelmsford City Council

Agenda Item 8

Annual Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee 19th October 2023

New projects

Chelmsford Garden Community: I was appointed to the Shadow Community Council in Summer 2022 and attended monthly meetings until after its formal establishment on 1st April 2023. It has rapidly established itself as an active voice for residents. I continue to Chair the Community Liaison Group for the area, set up to ensure that local Councillors of all three tiers and other stakeholders are kept informed about progress with the Garden Community development plans.

I also sit on the CGC Delivery Board, along with the Cabinet Member for a Growing Chelmsford, our CEO and Planning officers, ECC representatives and the nominees of the three developers. Discussions are ongoing about the oversight and management of the public spaces, with some controversy still over the amount and scale of management fees charged to residents. We are keen to keep these to the minimum possible, while still having to comply with the NPPF.

North Essex Councils: I reported last year that discussions had just started to assess the possible benefits of working more closely together e.g. on shared services. This had grown out of the joint working that we have done in North Essex Economic Partnership (which was reported to September Cabinet). This includes the eight district-tier councils (plus ECC) that are not in the Assoc. of South Essex Local Authorities (Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend and Thurrock).

Civic Offices: a year ago, Group Leaders agreed that Members didn't need as much office space as we had been used to, pre-Covid. This decision was fed into the review being undertaken by the Building Services team to consider all options for remodelling the Civic Offices complex. Each department is reviewing their office needs. This may create more lettable space including for meetings and external hire.

LGA oversight of changes to election law: I've been appointed to a cross-party LGA working group to make representations to ministers about the implications of changes to the electoral process, including voter ID and new rules on absent voting. We've met four times this year and in that capacity I also recently met with the Chair of the Electoral Commission.

Housing crisis: the MTFS report to October Cabinet explained the scale of the rapidly growing problem with homelessness and temporary accommodation. The Cabinet Member for a Fairer Chelmsford leads on this (from both a housing and property perspective) but proposals for action are consistently on my agenda, especially given the implications for the council's finances.

Two years ago, our CEO and I started quarterly meeting with the CEO and Directors of CHP, to seek out ways we could jointly address some of the challenges e.g. CHP homes left empty for too long. We subsequently held a meeting with a number of the registered social landlords that operate in Chelmsford and intend to build on those links, for example I recently met with Clarion housing.

Refugees: a year ago, we had recently started responding to the consequences of many arrivals into Chelmsford, fleeing the war in Ukraine. This work has been ongoing, with the homelessness avoidance team involved in rematching Ukrainians to new sponsors. In May 2023 we began employing

one of our Ukrainian residents in the housing team, to improve our liaison and support for the families.

Then in Spring 2023 the Home Office announced they would end the housing of Afghans in hotels. When they first arrived in the second half of 2021, we had warned that there could be an implication for housing authorities. (I mentioned this in my report to you last year.) The Home Office never really recognised, let alone planned for, the issue.

I raised these concerns in webinars with Ministers in April and May but they failed to acknowledge the scale of the problem that they were creating. Thus, on 9th August 2023, nine Afghan families in the Chelmsford hotel became homeless and thus the responsibility of CCC. Sadly but not surprisingly, there were no properties available in the Chelmsford district, so they all had to be rehoused in other parts of the country.

As members will know from the question to full council in July, we were informed that around 300 asylum seekers would be arriving in the district (this is now likely to be rather more). Essex County Council pleaded with the Home Office to not send any school-age children to Chelmsford as there are no school places. Initially they agreed but later said they could not stick to that commitment.

At first, the Home Office also said that it was unlikely that any of the asylum seekers would have their asylum claim determined while they were in Chelmsford. This has also not been adhered to, meaning that many more people will become entitled to apply to CCC for homelessness support.

Along with other Leaders, I consistently raise these concerns at the Essex migration task force meetings, convened periodically by the Leader of ECC (who have responsibility for all refugees in Essex).

Invest in Chelmsford: last November I spoke at an event that CCC organised, aimed at encouraging businesses to relocate to and invest in Chelmsford, as part of our aim to grow the number of jobs in Chelmsford at the same rate as the number of new homes.

Devolution: I reported on this last year and we have all subsequently been briefed on the latest proposals for a "Level Two" deal. ECC, Southend and Thurrock remain in the lead on this and so we wait to see what further details are added to the proposal, which they hope to publish on "Essex Day" (26th October) and be confirmed in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

"Our Chelmsford – Our Plan" needs to be reviewed following the election. The current version was adopted by Council in January 2020 and can be seen here: https://chelmsford.gov.uk/ourplan

It is intended to present a summary version to Policy Board on 2*nd* November, revise in the light of Members' comments and then report to Council on 6*th* December.

It will continue with our aims of creating a greener, fairer and more connected Chelmsford. If Members have any comments at this meeting about CCC strategic objectives that might be included in OCOP, I will be pleased to receive them.

Councillor Stephen Robinson

Councillor for St Andrews Ward
Leader of the Council

Chelmsford City Council

Summary of the regular meetings attended / roles carried out

1. **Chair of Cabinet**
   After the May election, we had a 'cabinet reshuffle' and new portfolio holders have been briefed on, and settled into, their roles.

   Cabinet members have continued the aim of being as transparent as possible, by sending to their Shadows from Opposition those papers that are coming to Cabinet, in advance of formal publication. Shadow Cabinet members have also been advised that they can meet Cabinet Members and Directors at other times for briefings on current issues.

   Cabinet meets with Senior Management Team before each cabinet meeting, and at other times to look in detail at some of the departments with the biggest financial challenges, to identify areas for service improvement and possible savings, given the challenges in the MTFS.

2. **Liaison with the Chief Executive**
   The Deputy Leader and I meet almost every week with the Chief Executive for brief updates on current issues that have been considered by Senior Management Team or arising from external contacts with businesses or other parts of the public sector.

3. **The Local Government Association (LGA)**
   The Leader represents the Council at the annual LGA conference and some other meetings in between. The LGA is mainly a way to share ideas and gain insight on common issues of the day. Additionally, all 50 Leaders from the East of England LGA meet three times a year and I am one of five who have been elected to the EELGA Management Board, which meets quarterly to oversee the work of the EELGA staff. Following the May elections, I am now Vice Chair of EELGA and we have just completed the recruitment process for a new CEO of EELGA.

   In February, EELGA launched a significant report into how the region could address the "Levelling Up" Agenda and identified five key areas (of the Government's 12 missions) where the region is currently underperforming. It was presented to MPs and the DLUHC Minister at a meeting in Westminster.

4. **The Essex Leaders and Chief Executives Group**
   The Leaders of the 12 Districts, two Unitaries, Essex CC, the PFCC and their Chief Executives normally meet four times a year to discuss areas of common interest. A key topic at the last couple of meetings has been devolution (mentioned above).

5. **Essex CC / Chelmsford CC Highways Liaison**
   There used to be regular "5 a-side" meetings between the two councils. Unfortunately, those meetings have not restarted since Covid but we are trying to reestablish them. I also serve on the Army & Navy Taskforce, along with the local County Councillors and the MP. After nothing happening for some months, a meeting is due to be held shortly.

6. **The "One Chelmsford" Board**
   This comprises representatives of key stakeholders in Chelmsford – the NHS, Police, Fire, MP, CVS, ARU, business, ECC and CCC. It meets three times a year to discuss areas of common interest. At recent meetings we have discussed common objectives and a shared purpose for

coming together, which is now being progressed working with a consultant from the https://www.thrivingplacesindex.org/

7. Waterside Panel

The Waterside Panel exists to oversee plans for the old gasworks / Lockside area. The first priority has been moving the High Pressure Gas Reduction System and gas main to enable development and then the new road and bridge (from Wharf Road to Baddow Road). The contract to build the bridge was the subject of a decision at Council in July.

As reported to Cabinet, no decision has been made yet on how to redevelop this important, city centre regeneration site. Our aim is to deliver a flourishing and exciting new community and to do so in partnership with a development partner.

8. CCC Working Groups

a) Mayoral: The Leaders of the three Groups, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and officers meet about every two months to consider the upcoming programme of civic events.
b) Constitution: this is a little more ad hoc but has met a number of times over the last year, making proposals to Governance Committee and Council.

9. The Employment and Joint Staff Committees

These have certain limited functions as specified in the Constitution. The Employment Committee meets for the first time since March 2019 on 12th October.

10. External spokesperson

I am contacted from time to time by local media. We no longer issue media releases *per se* but have switched to delivering a great deal more content online at citylife.chelmsford.gov.uk

I attended the High Sheriff's Annual Awards in March and his summer reception for the Essex public sector.

I am happy to take questions on this report at the meeting or at other times.

Chelmsford City Council Overview & Scrutiny Review

19 October 2023

Work Programme

Report by:
Director of Connected Chelmsford

Officer Contact:
Jan Decena, Democratic Services Officer, email: jan.decena@chelmsford.gov.uk, tel: 01245 606260.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to invite Members' comments on the Committee's work programme which has been updated since the Committee last met on 18 July 2023.

Recommendations

Members are invited to comment on the Committee's work programme, attached as Appendix 1 to this report and make any necessary amendments to it.

1. Background

1.1. The Committee's work programme has been updated following the meeting held on 10 July 2023 and is attached at Appendix 1.

1.2. Any changes to the programme since the last meeting are indicated by an asterisk and bold text in Appendix 1.

2. Conclusion

2.1. Member's comments are invited on the work programme.

List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Work Programme

Background papers:

None

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: None

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

(For new or revised policies or procedures has an equalities impact assessment been carried out? If not, explain why)

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees:

Chair and Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Relevant Policies and Strategies:

Not applicable

APPENDIX 1

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme

** Any changes to the programme since the last meeting are indicated by an* asterisk *and bold text.*

Subject	Author
Report/s to be confirmed:	
Performance Review Items	
***Theatre Refurbishment Project Evaluation Task and Finish Group**	Marc De'ath Chelmsford City Culture Services Manager
***Presentation on Youth Engagement**	
***Presentation on Essex Countywide Traveller Unit**	
19 October 2023	
*****CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION – HYLANDS PSPO***** *Cabinet Member required:* Cllr Rose Moore, Cabinet Member for a Greener & Safer Chelmsford *Contributors:* Inspector Sam Girdlestone and Deputy Leader of Council, Cllr Marie Goldman *Officers required:* Keith Nicholson, Paul Brookes	
Performance Review Items	
***Cabinet Portfolio Updates**	**Leader of the Council**
Cabinet Portfolio Updates	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Connected Chelmsford
20 November 2023	
Performance Review Items	
Cabinet Portfolio Updates	Cabinet Member for Fairer Chelmsford
Revenue Monitoring 2023/24	S151 Officer

Cabinet Member for Growing Chelmsford's Annual Report on Housing Delivery	Jeremy Potter Spatial Planning Services Manager
***Report on Cultural Strategy T&F (moved due to call in on 19th October 2023)**	Marc De'ath and Clare Gevaux, CEO of Culture Chelmsford
Standing Items	
Report on Decisions Taken Under Delegation to the Chief Executive	Jan Decena Democratic Services Officer
12 February 2024	
Performance Review Items	
Cabinet Portfolio Updates	Cabinet Member for Greener and Safer Chelmsford
Annual Presentation by Safer Chelmsford Partnership and Essex Police	Spencer Clarke Public Protection Manager Essex Police
***Presentation on Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit**	**Essex Police**
22 April 2024	
Performance Review Items	
Cabinet Portfolio Updates	Cabinet Members for Active and Growing Chelmsford
Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies	Jan Decena Democratic Services Officer
***Planning Enforcement Inform and Debate**	Keith Holmes Planning Development Services Manager