



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Scrutiny Board: Environment and Neighbourhoods

Date: 9th October 2009

Subject: Statement on Enforcement of Dog Fouling – Dog Warden Service Strategy

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Statement of Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) Enforcement of Dog Fouling dated February 2009 identified a number of recommendations for service improvement.
- 1.2 Recommendation ten of the statement stipulated that the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods produces a Dog Control Strategy for Leeds by September 2009, setting out the duties of the Dog Warden Service; the current and potential role of other officers in enforcing Dog Control Orders; strategies for future education campaigns; and the implications of having additional Dog Control Orders for Leeds.
- 1.3 The Response to the Statement from the Scrutiny Board (Environment & Neighbourhoods) Dog Fouling dated 13th July 2009 advised that the outline Strategy pertaining to the Dog Warden Service only (but identifying partners) will be drafted for the September 2009 deadline. A Strategy, including the agreement of partners will take longer.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 The proposed Dog Warden Service Strategy is attached.
- 2.2 The full strategy involving partners will be formulated from the Dog Control Order Project Board, at which the board will also explore the use of Dog Control Orders in Leeds.

2.3 The inaugural Dog Control Project Board meeting took place on Thursday 17th September 2009. At this meeting, the constitution was agreed, key stakeholders were identified and the project team was finalised.

2.4 Initial areas for consideration discussed at the meeting included the consultation process involved and budget pressures arising from the introduction of any dog control orders.

3.0 Financial and Legal Implications

3.1 The Legal process for implementing any Dog Control Orders involves consultation, advertising the intent for an order and subsequent further advertising, confirming the orders. This process has set timescales defined in the legislation.

3.2 Enforcement of any additional Orders would fall to existing Dog Wardens but smarter working through existing Council services should enable further support.

3.3 The Project Officer post (from the Highways and Environmental Enforcement Team), initially identified to undertake work arising from the project board, is subject to Neighbourhood Renewal Funding which ends March 31st 2010.

3.4 Further budget pressures that will arise from any agreed Dog Control Orders include signage costs, educative campaigns and promotional literature.

4.0 Way Forward

4.1 The Dog Control project team will meet on a monthly basis with the main objective of identifying which Dog Control Orders, if any, are appropriate for the City.

4.2 The anticipated timescales for the Dog Control Order project will be approximately 12 months, with any subsequently orders commencing April 1st 2011 (depending on the responses received to the consultation).

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 To recommend that Scrutiny Board notes the content of this report and approves the outline Dog Warden Service Strategy and process.

Background papers

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) final Statement on Enforcement of Dog Fouling (February 2009).