



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 8th February 2010

Subject: Dog Fouling Enforcement - Recommendation Tracking

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 This report shows progress against outstanding recommendations arising from the Dog Fouling Enforcement review conducted by the Board last year.
- 1.2 A standard set of criteria has been produced to enable the Board to assess progress. These are presented in the form of a flow chart at Appendix 1. The questions in the flow chart should help to decide whether a recommendation has been completed, and if not whether further action is required.
- 1.3 To assist Members with this task, the Principal Scrutiny Adviser has given a draft status for each recommendation. The Board is asked to confirm whether these assessments are appropriate, and to change them where they are not.

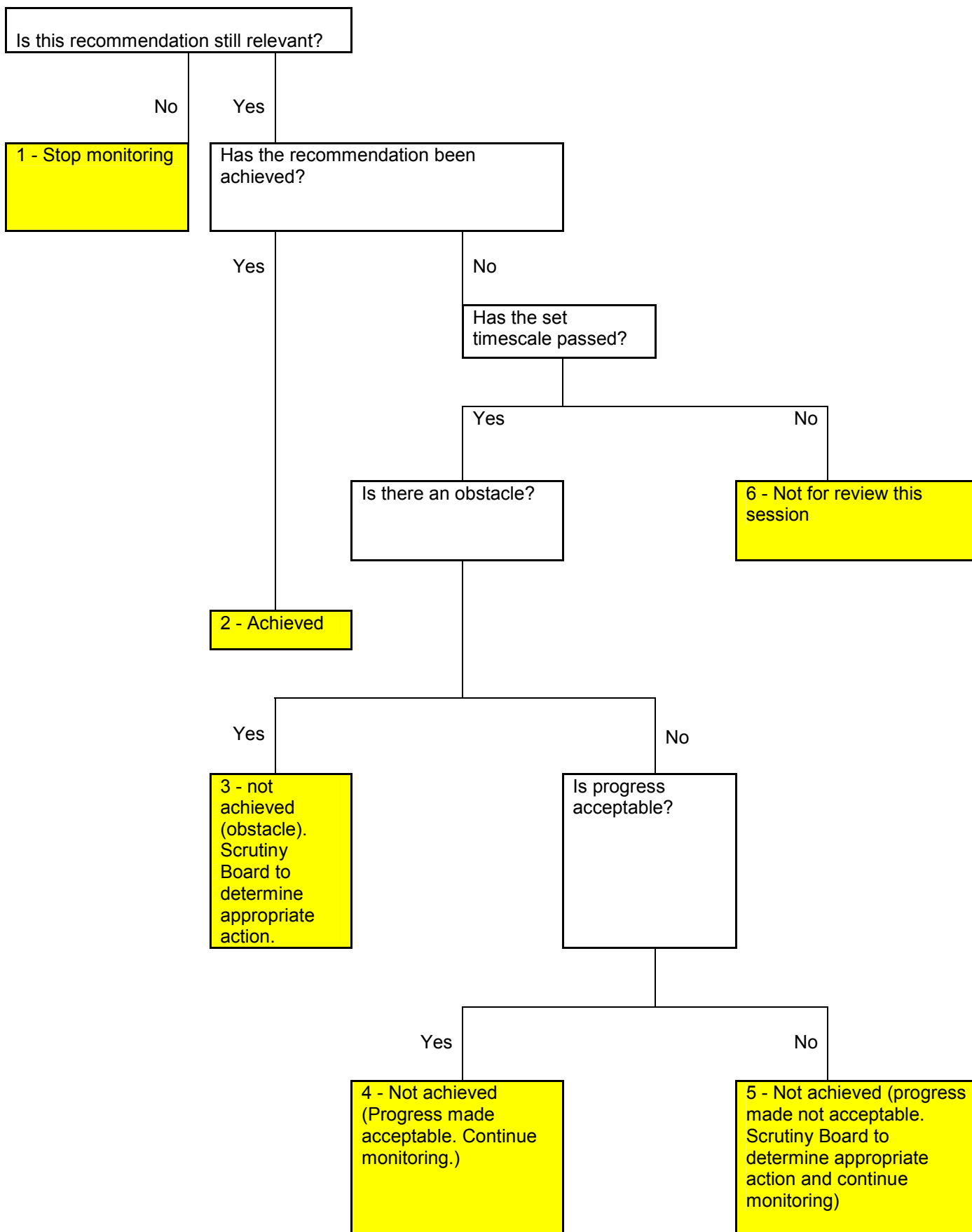
2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
 - Agree those recommendations which no longer require monitoring;
 - Identify any recommendations where progress is unsatisfactory and determine the action the Board wishes to take as a result.

Background Papers

Scrutiny Statement on Dog Fouling Enforcement. February 2009.

Recommendation tracking flowchart and classifications:
Questions to be Considered by Scrutiny Boards



Recommendation Tracking – Progress Report (December 2009)**Categories**

- 1 - Stop monitoring
- 2 - Achieved
- 3 - Not achieved (Obstacle)
- 4 - Not achieved (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- 5 - Not achieved (Progress made not acceptable. Continue monitoring)
- 6 - Not for review this session

Dog Fouling Enforcement (2009)

Recommendation for monitoring	Evidence of progress and contextual information	Status (categories 1 – 6) (to be completed by Scrutiny)	Complete
1. That the Council works in close partnership with local parish and town councils to ensure the effective use of Dog Control Orders across the city and maximise available enforcement resources.	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>All Parish and Town Council's (Secondary Authorities) to be contacted to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify dog related issues within their area; • Ascertain which DCO's (if any) would be appropriate for their area • Discuss support and assistance for enforcement and educative campaigns, including erecting any signage <p>Current position: Correspondence has been sent to each Parish Council secretary inviting their initial observations on these issues.</p>	4 - Not achieved (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.)	

<p>2. That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods determines a suitable figure for Leeds that will be enforced in relation to the maximum number of dogs that any one person can walk at any one time.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>Inaugural enquiries made with the National Association of Pet Sitters, who recommended no more than four dogs.</p> <p>The DEFRA Dog Control Order Guidance recommends a number of six dogs.</p> <p>Appropriate figure to be determined through the consultation process if this Dog Control Order is recommended.</p> <p>Current position:</p> <p>The final figure will be determined through the Dog Control Order consultation process. Government guidance of 6 dogs currently provides the most persuasive precedent.</p>	<p>4 - Not achieved (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.)</p>	
<p>3. That the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods carries out a review within the next 4 months of the options available to the Council to extend Dog Control Orders in Leeds.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>A detailed report entitled 'Dog Control Orders' dated 13th July 2009 was considered by the Board in response to this particular recommendation. This report summarised the type of Dog Control Orders available and the implications of each one. In terms of implementation, the following was highlighted within this report:</p> <p>It is anticipated that there will be a significant cost for implementation of any control orders, in addition to the signage costs. Prior to implementing any orders, an education and awareness campaign is recommended, which will also have resource implications.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Service will now discuss the Dog Control Review with the Executive Member for Environmental Services, following which the Service will consider options to adopt Dog Control Orders and the consultation process. The outcome of the consultation, along with data from the Dog Warden Service, will</p>		

	<p>determine which Orders are necessary and proportionate. The project timescale will be driven by the detailed consultation process.</p> <p>Current position:</p> <p>Executive Member for Environmental Services has been briefed.</p> <p>Multi Agency Project Board established to consider options for adopting Dog Control Orders. (See supplementary paper).</p> <p>The fiscal situation is of concern due to competing priorities but is being considered by the board.</p>	<p>3 - not achieved (obstacle). Scrutiny Board to determine appropriate action.</p>	
<p>4. That an action plan is drawn up on how the Dog Control Orders agreed upon following the review can be progressed. This action plan will be brought back to the Scrutiny Board for consideration by June/July 2009.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>The action plan will be determined through the dog control strategy, therefore the timescale has been amended as per the Director's response.</p> <p>Current position:</p> <p>A draft action plan timetable to progress to implementation of Dog Control Orders has been drawn up and shared with Members. Member concern over the proposed time scales are being reviewed. Management resources available to conduct the review have currently been reduced in order to meet budget pressures and so may prove to be a constraint on speeding up the time line</p>	<p>3 - not achieved (obstacle). Scrutiny Board to determine appropriate action.</p>	

<p>5. That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods will roll out the training programme for issuing Fixed Penalty Notices for litter and dog fouling over the next 12 months to all Neighbourhood Wardens and Park Ranger staff and recommend that this involves any other enforcement staff who may be able to carry out such works.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Environmental Action staff now trained and authorised to issue Fixed Penalties for litter and dog fouling. • Training complete for Park Rangers and Neighbourhood Wardens in North West area. Discussion taking place with relevant department as to how staff can implement this. • Neighbourhood Warden role currently under review. • Training Session to take place 25th June 2009 for Travellers Services Team and Otley Chevin Estate Officer. <p>Current position: Neighbourhood Warden restructure approved. Recruitment due to commence Feb 2010 to Community Environment Officer (CEO) and Community Environment Support Officer (CESO) posts, following which the officers will integrate into the Environmental Action Teams. The subsequent training programme will incorporate issuing fixed penalty notices for dog fouling, littering and other environmental crime offences where appropriate.</p> <p>The role of Park Rangers has been discussed with their managers who are supportive of the proposals. They are underway with negotiations on contractual terms so that this may be addressed. Senior Manager from Parks and Countryside attends the Dog Control Order Project Board meetings and will keep the board updated as appropriate.</p> <p>Gypsy Traveller Services staff now fully trained to issue fixed penalties for litter and dog fouling.</p>	<p>4 - Not achieved (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.)</p>	
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<p>6. That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods conducts a review of existing staffing resources within the Dog Warden Team to determine whether it is adequate enough to meet current service demands.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>Review Conducted. 25% increase in stray dogs handled since Transfer of Responsibility from West Yorkshire Police, equivalent to one FTE dog warden post (at a cost of £22,631 p.a., plus on costs including vehicle hire and PPE). Budget review will need to be assessed to see whether these funds are available. In addition, competing priorities dictate that any absences will not be covered including current maternity leave.</p> <p>Meeting taken place with West Yorkshire Police HQ to improve partnership working and ensure efficiency in dealing with dangerous dog issues.</p> <p>Current position:</p> <p>Due to overall budget pressures and competing priorities it is not proposed to increase the dog warden establishment at this time. Any savings accruing from the introduction of DCOs and a revised kennelling contract will be used to review this position.</p> <p>Dangerous Dog Protocol currently being developed between Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police and the other four West Yorkshire authorities.</p>	<p>3 - not achieved (obstacle). Scrutiny Board to determine appropriate action.</p>	
<p>7. That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods ensures that the full budget provision for the Dog Warden Service each year, which includes the additional funding from West Yorkshire Police, is spent on improving that service.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>It was not felt appropriate to be prescriptive on how budgets are spent as this can detract from the flexibility needed to deliver a range of services according to varying demands. The Directorate is committed to tackling both the problems with stray dogs and also dog fouling; and therefore Recommendation 6 reports on scale of resources available.</p>	<p>1 - Stop monitoring</p>	

<p>8. That the contract specification for the provision of stray dog kennels is reviewed prior to its renewal and that further opportunities are explored to help generate greater interest from local suppliers.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>Kennelling of stray dog contract currently undergoing the procurement process. Market Interest Day for potential suppliers to be held 30th July 2009 to generate interest in the contract, in particular with local suppliers and support any applicant queries over the procurement and tender process.</p> <p>New kennelling contract is proposed to be a geographical framework, to reduce officer travelling time to kennels.</p> <p>New contract will be collaboration between Leeds, Kirklees and Wakefield Councils. Interest also received from Barnsley Council and West Yorkshire Police.</p> <p>Current position:</p> <p>Market Interest Day held and attended by several potential new suppliers, some of which showed definite interest in the kennelling contract. The contract is currently being advertised and the closing date for tender submissions is Wednesday 20th January 2009.</p> <p>The contract is a collaboration between Leeds, Kirklees and Wakefield.</p> <p>Internal process review taken place to assist officers by scheduling “kennel runs” to minimise travelling time.</p>	<p>4 - Not achieved (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.)</p>	
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<p>9. That the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods reviews an out of hours flexible working scheme for the Dog Warden Service and explores opportunities to utilise other relevant enforcement staff working out of hours to assist with the enforcement of dog fouling.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>Current contractual arrangements with dog warden staff specify normal office hours but officers do operate a flexible working system and work evenings/weekends, depending on operational and community needs. A move towards extending contracted hours or introducing shift patterns would have a significant financial impact.</p> <p>A bid has been submitted to Outer North East area committee well being fund for structured early morning, evening and weekend dog fouling patrols. Outer South since submitted an interest and further bid currently being prepared.</p> <p>Options to be explored further as part of the Dog Control Strategy.</p> <p>Current position: Existing staff continue to operate on a flexible working system, as per current contractual arrangements. Further options to be explored under the Dog Control Strategy (see recommendations 4 and 10).</p>	<p>4 - Not achieved (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.)</p>	
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<p>10. 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.</p>	<p>Formal response received in July 2009:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>October 2009:</p> <p>In October, the Board considered and welcomed the proposed Dog Warden Service Strategy.</p> <p>At this stage, it was noted that 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Current position:</p> <p>As above, a full strategy will be formulated from the Dog Control Orders Project.</p>	<p>4 - Not achieved (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.)</p>	
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