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**DOGS REVIEW GROUP**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor Stephen Harker,  
Consumer and Environmental Services Portfolio**

**Responsible Director(s) – John Buxton, Director of Development and Environment**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To report the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in relation to the Dog Warden Service.

**Information and Analysis**

2. The Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4th January, 2005 established a Review Group to investigate how the Dog Warden Service operates and the associated problems of dog fouling and noise nuisance.
3. The detailed findings of the Group are outlined in the attached report (**Appendix 1**).
4. The Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 6th December, 2005, accepted and endorsed the recommendations of the Review Group and agreed to forward the following recommendations to Cabinet :-
  - (a) That officers continue to develop issues identified including promotion, having particular regard to the contact number and naming and shaming following issue of fixed penalty notice.
  - (b) That the Street Scene Review Team examine the proposal to develop an Environmental Enforcement Crime Team to include the Dog Wardens and to provide a much increased focus on dog fouling enforcement.
  - (c) That regardless of whether the Environmental Enforcement Crime Team is set up, officers secure enhanced priority for enforcement of dog fouling legislation.
  - (d) That officers pursue the issue of local kennelling in preparation for the loss of the police facility.
  - (e) That a local indicator be developed to demonstrate and measure the level of attention to fouling enforcement.

## **Director's Comments**

5. The recommendations of the Review Group identify several relevant issues which can be progressed, partly through the Street Scene Review and partly through the proposed development of the Environmental Crime Team within Community Services.
6. The kennelling issue is being explored on both a local basis and at a regional level within our Tees Valley partners.

## **Outcome of Consultation**

7. In undertaking this Review the Group consulted various people which included Darlington Borough Council's staff, third party potential providers and other Local Authority Providers and their comments were taken into consideration when compiling the final report.

## **Legal Implications**

8. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

## **Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

## **Council Policy Framework**

10. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

## **Decision Deadline**

11. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

## **Recommendation**

12. It is recommended that :-
  - (a) The recommendations of the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee be noted.
  - (b) The comments of Cabinet be referred back to the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

## **Reasons**

13. The recommendations are supported to enable the views of Cabinet to be sought and referred back to the Public Protection and Community Partnerships Scrutiny Committee.

**John Buxton**  
**Director of Development and Environment**

## **Background Papers**

There were no background papers used other than those referred to in the report.

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