

## **COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, 19 December 2019

**PRESENT** – Councillors B Jones (Chair), Mrs Culley, Bartch, Cossins, Donoghue, Durham, McCollom and Tait

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Boddy, Howarth and Wallis

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE** – Councillor Dulston

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Ian Thompson (Assistant Director Community Services), Brian Graham (Head of Environmental Services) and Hannah Fay (Democratic Officer)

### **CLS22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

### **CLS23 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2019**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 24 October 2019.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 24 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

### **CLS24 REPLACEMENT OF DOG CONTROL ORDERS WITH PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS**

The Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report (previously circulated) seeking Members views on the report presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 5 November 2019 (also previously circulated), as part of the consultation process on replacing previous Dog Control Orders with Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), the introduction of wider powers concerning the walking and supervision of dogs, and the exclusion of dogs from cemeteries (with some exemptions).

It was reported that should the Council wish to enforce the provisions within the existing Dog Control Orders, which lapsed under legislation in October 2017, they would need to be replaced by 20 October 2020 with PSPO's; and details were provided of the existing Dog Control Orders and proposed PSPO. A consultation period of eight weeks consider the implementation of Public Space Protection Orders for control of dogs had been approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 5 November 2019.

Details were provided on the engagement undertaken to date; the Cabinet Member with the Community Safety Portfolio had met with businesses and residents and was keen to engage with those that did not own dogs; and Members were advised of a proposal to undertake an education exercise with dog owners, covering all aspects of

dog ownership.

Concern was raised in respect of the PSPOs; that this was a heavy handed approach to tackle dog fouling and did not address root cause; and Members suggested the use of community protection notices rather than PSPOs. The Cabinet Member with the Community Safety Portfolio made reference to the PSPO currently in place to address anti-social behaviour in the town centre which involved multi-agency engagement and problem solving; felt confident that this approach would be successful in respect of dog control; and advised Members that Community Behaviour Notices were being explored by the Councils legal services.

Following a question by Members, it was confirmed that fourteen fixed penalty notices had been issued for dog fouling and eight dog control offences between the period of 2016/17 to 2018/19; and that 730 requests to clean up dog faeces had been reported in this period. Members were advised that intelligence from residents had resulted in fixed penalty notices being issued; and that dog fouling was a difficult offence to capture.

Members queried the possibility of providing enclosed dog walking areas within the Borough and were advised that work was being undertaken to ascertain the feasibility of designated dog walking areas.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That, as part of the consultation process, Cabinet be advised of this Scrutiny’s view that:

(i) consideration should be given to the introduction of a licensing scheme for individuals wanting to walk more than four dogs.

(ii) consideration should be given to the implementation of a phased approach in respect of the introduction of the Public Space Protection Orders.

## **CLS25 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 2 2019/20**

The Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report (previously circulated) together with a detailed performance scorecard (also previously circulated) advising Members of the Quarter 2 performance against those key performance indicators for 2019/20 which were within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.

It was reported that, of the 16 indicators which were reported six monthly at quarter 2, six were showing performance at quarter 2 which was better than the same period last year whilst one indicator was showing performance the same; four indicators were showing performance worse than the same period last year, five had no previous data to compare with and one indicator was reported a month in arrears.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be received.

## **CLS26 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee’s work programme and to consider

any additional areas which Members would like to suggest should be included in the previously approved work programme.

In light of the agreed amendments to the Portfolios and Scrutiny Committees, Members noted a number of items that have been transferred to Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That the current status of the Work Programme be noted.