

Proposed extension to the Commission's review of enforcement of the Dog Fouling legislation

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Commission agrees to extend its review of enforcement of the Dog Fouling legislation to cover the whole of the Council's Dog Control Service.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on 2 September 2004, the Planning and Environment Commission agreed to carry out the following workplan topic reviews in 2004/05:

- a) A review of Derby City Council's Tree Management Policy
- b) A review of enforcement of the Dog Fouling legislation in Derby

The review of the Tree Management Policy was completed in December 2004 and the Commission now needs to consider a programme for the second of the two reviews.

- 2.2 Andrew Hopkin, Assistant Director - Environmental Services and Trading Standards, has suggested to the Chair that the proposed review of dog fouling is extended to cover the whole Dog Control service. His reason for suggesting this is that 80% of the Dog Wardens' time is spent on dealing with stray dogs, which reduces the amount of time they can devote to enforcing the dog fouling legislation. He also said that the Government is likely to take away the responsibility of the Police to accept stray dogs.
- 2.3 It is recommended that, for the reasons provided by the Assistant Director – Environmental Services and Trading Standards, the Commission extends its review to cover the whole Dog Control service.

2.4 A provisional timetable for a review by the Commission of the Dog Control service is set out in Appendix 2 of this report. Commission members are asked to bring to the meeting on 16 February 2005 a list of the dates in March/April when they are likely to be available for a visit or interview meeting.

For more information contact:	David Romaine 01332 255598 e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 – Provisional timetable for the review of the Dog Control Service

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. The proposed review will incur some costs but these will be contained within the Commission's research budget.

Legal

2. None arising from this review.

Personnel

3. None arising from this review.

Equalities impact

4. A review of the Dog Control service will be of benefit to all Derby people.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

5. This report links to the following of the Council's Corporate Objectives and Priorities for Change:

Corporate Objectives: Protecting and supporting people; A healthy environment

Priorities for Change: Responding to people's needs appropriately

Appendix 2

Provisional timetable for the review of the Dog Control service

	Date	Activity
1	16 February 2005	Outline of review to scheduled meeting of P&E Commission Members to indicate their availability during the period 28 February to 15 April
2	3 March 2005	Confirmation of programme to scheduled meeting of P&E Commission
3	Weeks commencing 28 Feb and 7 March	Visits to selected local authorities Scene setting interviews with external witnesses (try for someone from ENCAMS?) Interview with Park Ranger representatives Maximum of three visits and two interview sessions
4	9, 16, 23, 30 March and 6 April	Report to Area Panel meetings. Ask for information about dog fouling and stray dog problems in the areas Invite representatives of each of the Area Panels to a workshop session during week commencing 11 April. OSCer to visit any locations identified to see scale of the fouling problem
5	Week commencing 28 March	Interviews with EH staff – Dog Wardens and Manager Interview with Cabinet member
6	Week commencing 11 April	Workshop meeting with Area Panel representatives and EH staff
7	21 April 2005	Recommendations agreed at scheduled meeting of P&E Commission
8	28 April 2005 - deadline for draft reports for Council Cabinet meeting on 17 May.	Executive Summary and Recommendations completed in time for deadline
9	17 May 2005	Final report to Council Cabinet meeting

DRR 27 January 2005