

**Subject:** Dog Fouling

**Status:** For Publication

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009

**Report of:** Chief Executive

**Portfolio Holder:** Environmental Services

**Key Decision:** No

**Forward Plan**  **General Exception**  **Special Urgency**

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a response to the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group and 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 Cabinet recommendations listed at 4.5.

## 2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering quality Services to our customers
- Encouraging healthy and respectful communities
- Promoting the Borough

## 3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

## 4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 As part of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2008/09 it was agreed to look at Dog Fouling. A Task and Finish group was established.

- 4.2 The Terms of Reference for the review were:

- To identify problem areas throughout the Borough based on internal information eg complaints, local councillor awareness

- To determine the role of Town Caretakers/litter pickers in relation to dog fouling
  - To determine a way forward to educate and train the public
  - To identify what enforcement is in place
- 4.3 In scoping the review, the Task and Finish Group agreed to seek evidence from the Dog Warden, the Town Centre Caretakers, Area Manager and Area Officer. Information was received about the remit of the Town Centre Caretakers, the Dog Warden Service and the positive reward scheme and also received evidence on the number of complaints the Council received from both Councillors and the public.
- 4.4 The report of the Task and Finish Group is attached at Appendix A.
- 4.5 Following the Cabinet meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 it was recommended that the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services in consultation with the Communities Manager provide a response to the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group recommendations listed below and report back to a future Cabinet meeting:
1. That the Council produces a Dog Fouling Policy.
  2. That the Communities Team undertake a full review of the Dog Warden Service (this would not include in the out of hours service as this has already been tendered)
  3. That once the Officers have received the Enforcement training, a press release be produced informing the public of the need to clean up after their dog or they could face a fixed penalty notice.
  4. That the Communities Manager gives consideration to maintaining the 'Caught Doing Right' reward scheme to see if the budget for this can be maintained over a longer term.
  5. That both Councillors and Town Centre Caretakers be provided with Caught Doing Right postcards to hand out to those members of the public that they see cleaning up after their dog.
- 4.6 The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Communities and Neighbourhoods are both supportive of the developments of a full review of the Dog warden service which should culminate in a partnership approach to kennelling and dog warden services throughout Lancashire.

Once the dog control orders have been published we will issue the statutory 28 day public consultation notice. Running alongside this an ongoing media campaign will be conducted to encourage responsible dog ownership, but that for those members of the public who flaunt the law fixed penalties will be utilised.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**5. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

5.1 Any financial implications arising will be met from existing budgets

**6. MONITORING OFFICER**

6.1 No Comments

**7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

7.1 No Comments

**8. CONCLUSION**

8.1 The Council's Corporate Plan recognizes that residents and visitors to Rossendale want their environment to be cleaner, safer and greener. The Council and its partners are promoting a sense of Pride in Rossendale. This will not be fully achieved without the cooperation of dog owners to act in a responsible way and clean up after their dogs or face a potential fine.

**9. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

9.1 That the Council produces a Rossendale Dog Fouling policy to be adopted by a future Cabinet meeting.

9.2 That the dog warden service be reviewed and a partnership approach be considered to include neighbouring authorities.

9.3 That as soon as dog control orders have been issued a promotional campaign is conducted to raise awareness of being a responsible dog owner or face a fixed penalty.

9.4 That the 'Caught Doing it Right' campaign be integrated into the Pride in Rossendale initiative.

**10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

Councillors  
Neighbourhood Forums  
Overview and Scrutiny  
Cabinet

**11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

## 12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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