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| Subject: | Cabinet Response to the Findings of the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group – Phase 1 | Status: | For Publication |
| Report to: | Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Date: | 5 th September 2016 |
| Report of: | Head of Operations | Portfolio Holder: | Operational Services and Development Control |
| Key Decision: | <input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/> | General Exception | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Equality Impact Assessment: | Required: | No | Attached: /No |
| Biodiversity Impact Assessment | Required: | No | Attached: No |
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| 1. | RECOMMENDATION(S) |
| 1.1 | That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the Cabinet's response to the recommendations within the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group Report |
| 1.2 | That the Scrutiny Support Officer will in six month's monitor the recommendations agreed by Cabinet/THG to ensure these have been implemented and if not, receive an explanation for the delay. |

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.
- **Clean and Green Rossendale:** This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

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

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 Following a presentation from to Overview and Scrutiny by an Officer of the Council on the current level of service and enforcement activities around dog fouling in Rossendale, it was agreed that a review of the service was needed.

The task and finish group met 5 times between October 2015 and February 2016 and it was agreed that it would be best to look at what the group wanted to achieve and consider any background information provided in order to define the terms of reference.

- 5.2 Meetings were held with Officers from the Operations Team and due to the change of Management within the Operations Team, it was unclear at this stage would want to propose, if anything, for the service.
- 5.3 The Phase 1 report attached as Appendix A, was presented to Cabinet Briefing in June and below is the response to the recommendations contained in the report.

Response to recommendations

Recommendation 1:

That signs be erected in the Town Centres to reinforce the fact that dogs should be kept on a lead.

This recommendation has already been supported and signs have, and are still, being erected around the Borough.

Recommendation 2:

That education plays a key role in ensuring people pick up after their dogs and therefore work should be undertaken with schools as highlighted in the report at 5a.

The appointment of a new Environmental Enforcement Officer within the Operations division of the Business Directorate will allow greater capacity to provide for environmental education issues, including dog fouling. The appointment to the new role will also allow capacity to co-join our efforts with national and local programmes and campaigns.

Recommendation 3:

That procedures and contact details of Officers are identifiable when reporting dog fouling related issues.

Procedures for reporting incidents of dog fouling will be reinforced via the council website, together with the contact details of appropriate officers based within Operations.

Recommendation 4:

That the Council's website be looked at to ensure the information provided is clear and up to date with current legislation and contact details are correct

Officers will review information provided on the council website and will amend the information where required to reflect current legislation.

Recommendation 5:

That the Council should encourage professional dog walkers to adhere to the guidelines of the code of conduct provided by the Professional Dog Walking Association.

As stated in Recommendation 2 above, the appointment of a new Environmental Enforcement Officer within the Operations division of the Business Directorate will allow greater capacity to co-join our efforts with national and local programmes and campaigns, including working with local professional dog walking groups or individuals to adhere to the code of conduct.

Recommendation 6

That members should be encouraged to contact the Operations Team to inform them of hot spot areas so that the stencil can be used and/or signs erected

The Head of Operations will write to all members to remind them of the opportunity to make contact to have hot spots stencilled and/or signage erected.

Recommendation 7

Due to Managerial changes within the Operations Team, it was unclear at this stage what the new Head of Operations would want to propose, if anything, for this service. It was therefore agreed that before any further work is undertaken by the task and finish group, a period of 3 months should be given. Work would recommence in July 2016.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Any financial implications arising will be contained within existing budgets

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 No additional comments

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 No HR implications.

Consultation has been carried out by Members of the Task and Finish Group, Members of the Public, other organisations and various Officers from Rossendale Borough Council.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The Cabinet **supports the recommendations** of the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group.

9.2 Cabinet values this important review undertaken by the Task and Finish Group.

9.3 That the Dog Fouling Task and Finish Group continues its work and report back to Cabinet at the end of this review..

Background Papers

| Document | Place of Inspection |
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| Phase 1 Report of the Welfare Reforms Task and Finish Group | Democratic Services Room 213, Futures Park |