

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 11 (d)

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

30 APRIL 2013

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL - PROGRESS REPORT

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) with an update on the work of the Environment Scrutiny Panel.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Board notes the updated position.

BACKGROUND

3. Since the last report to OSB, the Environment Scrutiny Panel has met twice, on 4 March and 15 April 2013.
4. The scrutiny panel's investigation of the topic of dog fouling is ongoing, with information considered at these meetings shown below.
5. On 4 March 2013, the panel:
 - Agreed the terms of reference for its investigation.
 - Heard information on the Green Dog Walker Scheme operating in Hemlington.
 - Considered details of the number of reports of dog fouling, including trends.
 - Heard from Officers from Area Care in respect of that service's involvement with the issue, including the impact of staffing and service reductions.

6. On 15 April 2013, the panel heard from the Council's Environmental Protection Manager regarding:
 - Estimated dog numbers in Middlesbrough (1 in 3 houses - approximately 20,000 dogs).
 - The link between stray numbers and levels of fouling.
 - Current enforcement processes and numbers.
 - Available resources, including staffing reductions due to budget pressures.
7. The scrutiny panel's next meeting is scheduled for 13 May 2013, when a draft final report on this topic will be considered.

COUNCILLOR BOB KERR

CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

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