

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE - 16 JULY 2013

ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL - DOG FOULING - ACTION PLAN

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>1. That, given the additional funding that has recently been made available to Middlesbrough Council to undertake the local Public Health function, and the links between dog fouling and public health, a request is made for some of the funding to be directed towards addressing dog fouling issues.</p>	<p>We will seek to promote the positive health benefits associated with responsible dog ownership such as reduced stress and improved cardiovascular health. Consideration will be given to the Health and Well Being Strategy.</p>	<p>Paul Robertson/Edward Kunonga</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>December 2013</p>
<p>2. That, following an assessment to determine suitable areas, the Green Dog Walker scheme is extended from Hemlington to other areas of Middlesbrough.</p>	<p>Council officers will promote the Green Dog Walker scheme to interested groups, focussing on areas of high fouling as a priority.</p>	<p>Paul Robertson</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>December 2013</p>

<p>3. That the issue of dog fouling and the Council's associated budget/staffing problems are highlighted to all Community Councils. Community Councils should be requested to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Purchasing poop scoops (which are the single most cost-effective to addressing dog fouling) for use by local residents. b. Purchasing litter/dog bins and signage for use in appropriate areas. c. Promoting involvement in the Green Dog Walker Scheme in any areas where it becomes operational. d. Making use of free resources (such as Dog Fouling Campaign posters and stickers) available from Keep Britain Tidy. 	<p>Council staff will contact Community Council's with a view to promoting these methods as a means to control dog fouling in their areas. In the event of a service resource issue caused by a widespread positive response, areas with high levels of complaint will be given priority.</p>	<p>Paul Robertson</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>October 2013</p>
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<p>4. That action is continued to reduce the number of stray dogs in Middlesbrough. Hotspot areas should be identified and resources concentrated on those areas. Micro-chipping schemes should continue to be promoted/undertaken as resources permit.</p>	<p>Planned Micro-chipping campaigns will be focussed on the areas of highest need first i.e. where stray dog issues are highest.</p>	<p>Paul Robertson</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>March 2014</p>
<p>5. That, wherever possible and in appropriate areas, any new or replacement litter bins are dual use - ie suitable for both litter and dog waste.</p>	<p>This Policy is now in place with the exception of places where smell may be a problem. Bus Stops, shopping precincts etc</p>	<p>Keith Garland</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>In Place.</p>
<p>6. That the Council's current light touch approach in relation to dog fouling enforcement (i.e. the use of fixed penalties/prosecution being used for second offences, or where people refuse to pick up) is continued.</p>	<p>The existing approach will be continued. The Environment Enforcement policy, which is currently under review, will reflect this recommendation.</p>	<p>Paul Robertson</p>	<p>Nil</p>	<p>September 2013</p>

7. That the possibility of using appropriately trained operational Council staff to encourage good behaviour and assist in enforcement action, such as the issuing of fixed penalty notices for dog fouling, is investigated.	Where appropriate trained council staff could be used to intervene and educate and if required gather evidence. The ability and practicality of the use of staff to spot fine will be investigated.	Keith Garland	Nil	October 2013.
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