

Briefing paper to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Tackling Dog Fouling and Nuisance – update

Portfolio Holder:

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this briefing paper is to update members on the issues relating to Dog Fouling and nuisance across the borough and initially explore the opportunities provided by other potential stakeholders such as behavior change campaigns and educational material.

Recommendations

Members are requested to note the content of the briefing paper and consider the suggestion of a representative of the board working with officers to explore the campaign material and initiatives promoted by charities and campaign groups that could be useful in any future initiative considered by the Council.

Tackling Dog Fouling and Nuisance – update

1 Background

1.1 At the Council meeting on the 20th March 2019 a motion was debated and a number of tasks were allocated to the Overview and Scrutiny board for consideration. These tasks were as follows:-

- Re-examine current examples of best practice, and the powers granted to it in recent legislation, to determine which could, and should, be adopted in this borough;
- Confer with The Dog Trust to establish the ways in which the Council might work in partnership with them to address dog fouling, promote micro-chipping, or otherwise improve animal welfare;

Overview and Scrutiny board were also asked to review the current fine level administered by the Council for on-the-spot fixed penalty notices within areas covered by Public Space Protection Orders and report back on these matters to Council at the earliest opportunity.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Environmental Health Enforcement team receive service requests relating to dog fouling/nuisance and carry out targeted enforcement patrols in certain areas of the Borough.
- 2.2 From the 1st January 2019 the team have received 10 complaints of dog fouling. In response to any complaint the team issue a leaflet asking the residents to give as much detail as possible to allow the targeting of the enforcement patrols.
- 2.3 The team also leaflet areas where problems are reported and erect signage if appropriate. These leaflets are also made available to Ward Councillors for their use in their locality.
- 2.4 The team also carry out proactive patrols where concerns are expressed from stakeholders such as Councillors. Recently the team have issued 8 Fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for breaching the specific Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place on Crompton Moor (5 FPNs for dog fouling and 3 FPNs for having more than the allowed number of dogs).

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- 2.5 There are a number of charities and campaign groups that work in this area, offering support and campaign material in an attempt to change the behaviour of some dog owners. These come at a cost and it is this area of work that requires further exploration potentially with a representative of the overview and scrutiny board

3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- 3.1 Members are invited to note the content of the briefing paper and consider the proposal for a member of the board to support officers in the detail appraisal of the options available