

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Dog Control Policy

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet on the Council's revised Dog Control Policy, which has recently been reviewed and updated.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the revised Dog Control Policy be adopted and be approved.

3. Detail

The Council's Dog Policy, last reviewed in 2018, serves as a comprehensive framework to manage the responsibilities of dog ownership across the Borough. The policy consolidates all relevant dog control measures, excluding licensing provisions for pet shops, boarding establishments and dog breeders, into a single document. By doing so it provides a clear and comprehensive approach to ensure the well-being of both the community and the dog population.

The policy outlines the Council's approach for promoting responsible dog ownership, addressing issues such as stray and dangerous dogs and maintaining public spaces free from dog related nuisance's.

Since the last review of the document, there are a number of minor amendments that need to be undertaken to update the policy. These cover:

- The number of dog owners in the UK.
- Changes in departmental responsibility within the Council regarding dog control.
- Updates to the dangerous dogs list, to include XL Bullies.

Appendix 1 details how the Council currently deals with stray dogs and includes data highlighting the number of dog related incidents in the Borough since 2018.

An updated version of the policy can be found in **Appendix 2**. **Appendix 3** summarises the changes to the policy.

4. Key Decision

The Dog Policy applies across the Borough, so will be a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not Applicable

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider at this stage with ongoing business as usual activities continuing to be met from within existing resources. Any variations to fees and charges are considered as part of the annual budget setting process.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report, the relevant legislation is detailed in the policy.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not Applicable.

9. Union Comments

The comments from the Union were as follows:

Not Applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

There are no comments relating to Climate Change within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not Applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil