
REPORT TO: COMMUNITY SERVICES

AGENDA ITEM: 12

DATE OF MEETING: 4TH OCTOBER 2001

**CATEGORY:
DELEGATED/
RECOMMENDED
OPEN
PARAGRAPH NO: N/A**

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DOC:

SUBJECT: REVISED STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH DOG FOULING WITHIN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE

REF:

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS5

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Committee approves the proposed revised strategy for dealing with dog fouling problems within the area of South Derbyshire.
- 1.2 That Committee authorises the Environmental Health Manager to amend the strategy as necessary in line with the final outcome of the Cleansing the Environment Best Value Review.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To outline a proposed new strategy for dealing with dog fouling of land in line with the Cleansing the Environment Best Value review.
- 2.2 To seek approval for the implementation of the new strategy.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Housing & Environment Committee approved the original Dog Fouling Strategy in October 1999, in response to concerns raised by Members at that time.
- 3.2 The Cleansing the Environment Best Value review included dog fouling within its scope. The final report and action plan from this review is on the agenda for this committee. This revision of the dog fouling strategy is in response to findings within that review. If further amendments are made to the final report after it has been inspected then this strategy will be amended accordingly.
- 3.3 During the Best Value review a consultation exercise was undertaken to assess the public's concern of dog fouling within South Derbyshire. This revealed that the main concerns were that dog fouling was still perceived to be a problem and that there was a lack of enforcement activity.
- 3.4 In order to address these concerns the Dog Fouling Strategy for South Derbyshire has now been revised. A full copy is attached at Annex A.

Briefly the revised strategy proposes the following: -

Review of Problem areas

- 3.5 It is proposed to undertake a further review of the 'hotspot' areas within the District in order to locate the worst problems. This will commence within the first month if the strategy is approved. This will be undertaken in consultation with the Parish Councils, District Councillors and members of the Public.

Enforcement

- 3.6 A programme for patrolling the identified 'hotspots' will be undertaken in order to catch any offenders. With the introduction of fixed penalty notices this will assist in the enforcement of the legislation. This targeted enforcement activity is hoped will catch a number of offenders and try to get across the message that the Council will not tolerate dog fouling in public areas. However, before this can commence it will be necessary to review the Health and Safety provisions for the Dog Warden.

Improve Publicity

- 3.7 With the introduction of Fixed Penalty Notices it is proposed to issue a press release to promote this. Additionally, a publicity caravan will be used to target problem areas and promote responsible dog ownership, which will be backed up with free poop scoops and information packs being issued to anyone visiting the caravan. Further press releases are also planned to outline when enforcement has been successful.

Education and Training

- 3.8 It is proposed that an educational pack for schools will be produced along with information leaflets. Training in the enforcement of fixed penalty notices and collection of evidence will also be given to the Dog Warden.
- 3.9 It is proposed that this strategy will be implemented over a 12-month period and reviewed at the end of this period to determine its success.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The main financial implications will involve the purchase of materials for the education packs and leaflets, the use of the publicity caravan, purchase of poop scoops and also the training of the Dog Warden.
- 4.2 The training requirements have been included within the training budget for the Department. The other costs will be met within the existing Dog Control budget as a result of savings made on the new kennel contract.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the implementation of the strategy will be met within existing staff resources. Other staff from within Environmental Health may also be required to assist in the implementation. However, a review of this will be undertaken to ensure

that there is no significant impact on other services within the Environmental Health Department.

- 5.2 We are working with the legal section to ensure that the enforcement procedures that will be adopted comply with the Human Rights Act 1998.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The implementation of the strategy may have an impact across the whole of South Derbyshire due to the patrolling and enforcement of the provisions of the legislation to catch and take action against offenders. It is also hoped that the publicity campaign will also reach a wide section of the community.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The Best Value review undertaken by the 'Cleansing the Environment Team' indicated that the public within South Derbyshire are concerned about the level of dog fouling and the lack of enforcement of the Legislation.
- 7.2 The initial strategy for dealing with the problem of dog fouling within South Derbyshire has been reviewed in order to try and address these concerns. It is hoped that with a more targeted and active campaign of enforcement and education, dog fouling problems within public places will be reduced.
- 7.3 The revised strategy will be reviewed after 12 months in operation so as to determine its effectiveness and formulate options for the continued enforcement of the legislation.

8.0 Background Papers

- 9.1 The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996
- 9.2 Strategy for addressing the problems of dog fouling within the geographical area of South Derbyshire, October 1999
- 9.3 Revised Strategy for addressing the problems of dog fouling within the geographical area of South Derbyshire, October 2001

