

FOR PUBLICATION

**ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT
ON DOG FOULING**

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 10 MARCH, 2015

REPORT BY: COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

WARD: ALL

COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY: ALL

KEY DECISION REFERENCE (IF APPLICABLE): FORWARD PLAN ENTRY REF:
NON-KEY DECISION NO: 52

FOR PUBLICATION

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR PUBLIC REPORTS: None

TITLE:

LOCATION:

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present for consideration by Cabinet the report and recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committees on the service provided in relation to dog fouling by Chesterfield Borough Council.
- 1.2 To provide the statutory written notice that must be given by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet to take required action as at 3.3 below.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That it is noted that the Environmental Services, Street Scene Team provides an excellent service to residents of the borough. However, the project group recommends that a review of staff resources for the enforcement team be carried out as the project group recognises that while the existing staff do a good job, going over and above what is expected of them, that their impact is limited by there only being a FTE of 1.5 Enforcement Officer posts dedicated to dealing with dog fouling.
- 2.2 That the potential of the Neighbourhood Wardens is fully realised and that they receive extra training in carrying out enforcement action, so to feel more confident and able to issue penalty notices. The project group makes this recommendation as there are 5 FTE Neighbourhood Warden posts and 3 FTE Enforcement Officer posts (with FTE 1.5 dealing with dog fouling), and see the Neighbourhood Wardens as a potentially underutilised resource as they are out and about in, and have a good understanding of local communities in the borough.

Also that the potential for more collaborative working between the Neighbourhoods team, and Environmental Services Street Scene team, as a result of the provisions under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, is looked at.

- 2.3 That new and functioning mobile phones are purchased for the Environmental Services, Street Scene Team as the current phones are old and often do not work. New phones would benefit effective communication, increase service responsiveness as well as contributing to the health and safety of staff working in non office based roles. Up to date phones would also enable staff to communicate via social media and allow the Environmental Services, Street Scene Team to work within the “digital first approach” contained in the Council’s External Communications Strategy.
- 2.4 That a review of the provision of dog bins in the borough takes place. This should look at the location, usage and number of bins so that it can be determined if dog bin provision is an effective use of resources or if the resources could be spent more effectively providing standard bins which can be used to dispose of dog waste as well as general litter.
- 2.5 To recommend that on all temporary signs and notices that are produced to discourage dog fouling that the maximum fine of “up to £1000” be used in the wording as is done by Bassetlaw District

Council. Also to recommend that Bassetlaw District Council be contacted to see if the effective and innovative imagery on their signs can be borrowed and to enable the sharing of best practice.

- 2.6 That a coordinated and structured approach to communication and engagement with residents of the borough to include school engagement, community engagement, key message delivery and advertising, is adopted.

Greater coordination in the planning and use of existing resources has the potential to have a bigger impact than the current uncoordinated approach and will also be a more effective use of existing resources and provide better outcomes in these financially difficult times, i.e. increased public awareness that Chesterfield Borough Council deals effectively with dog fouling and a reduction of dog fouling in targeted areas.

Better coordination and consequent outcomes could be met by:

- Running campaigns by area so to make a splash rather than scattering messages in an unfocused and disparate way across the borough. This approach will also be more appealing to the media than disparate scattered activity.
- Establishing a campaign group to meet two to three times a year, comprising of members, Environmental Services, Street Scene Team officers and the Communications and Marketing Manager. The group would monitor the impact of communication, community engagement and advertising and would discuss and formulate future plans and priorities for communicating and engaging with residents.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee agreed that a Scrutiny Project Group be appointed to look into the service provided in relation to dog fouling by Chesterfield Borough Council.
- 3.2 Further information and background detail are contained within the Scrutiny Review Group's report attached at Appendix 1 which provides the purpose of the review and its findings.
- 3.3 Statutory Scrutiny Committees are also required to provide written statutory notice to Cabinet requiring action in response to its scrutiny report and recommendations. These actions require Cabinet to:

(i) consider the attached report and recommendations;

- (ii) indicate the actions it proposes to take if any; and
- (iii) publish its response within 2 months of the receipt of the report.

With regard to (i) and (ii) above the Council's Constitution provides for Cabinet to consider the report at the earliest practicable opportunity.

4.0 SCRUTINY PROJECT GROUP REPORT

- 4.1 The report of the Scrutiny Project Group was considered and its recommendations approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 5 February 2015 (Appendix A).

5.0 RISK CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are no risk considerations arising from the recommendations in this report.

6.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Action on recommendations in this report should be contained within existing budgets.

7.0 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal considerations arising from the recommendations in this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no equalities considerations arising from the recommendations in this report.

9.0 HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There could be human resourcing considerations arising from the recommendations in this report.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Cabinet consider the recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee as set out below:
- 10.2 That it is noted that the Environmental Services, Street Scene Team provides an excellent service to residents of the borough. However, the project group recommends that a review of staff resources for the enforcement team be carried out as the project group recognises that while the existing staff do a good job, going over and above what is expected of them, that their impact is limited by there only being a

FTE of 1.5 Enforcement Officer posts dedicated to dealing with dog fouling.

- 10.3 That the potential of the Neighbourhood Wardens is fully realised and that they receive extra training in carrying out enforcement action, so to feel more confident and able to issue penalty notices. The project group makes this recommendation as there are 5 FTE Neighbourhood Warden posts and 3 FTE Enforcement Officer posts (with FTE 1.5 dealing with dog fouling), and see the Neighbourhood Wardens as a potentially underutilised resource as they are out and about in, and have a good understanding of local communities in the borough.

Also that the potential for more collaborative working between the Neighbourhoods team, and Environmental Services Street Scene team, as a result of the provisions under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, is looked at.

- 10.4 That new and functioning mobile phones are purchased for the Environmental Services, Street Scene Team as the current phones are old and often do not work. New phones would benefit effective communication, increase service responsiveness as well as contributing to the health and safety of staff working in non office based roles. Up to date phones would also enable staff to communicate via social media and allow the Environmental Services, Street Scene Team to work within the “digital first approach” contained in the Council’s External Communications Strategy.
- 10.5 That a review of the provision of dog bins in the borough takes place. This should look at the location, usage and number of bins so that it can be determined if dog bin provision is an effective use of resources or if the resources could be spent more effectively providing standard bins which can be used to dispose of dog waste as well as general litter.
- 10.6 To recommend that on all temporary signs and notices that are produced to discourage dog fouling that the maximum fine of “up to £1000” be used in the wording as is done by Bassetlaw District Council. Also to recommend that Bassetlaw District Council be contacted to see if the effective and innovative imagery on their signs can be borrowed and to enable the sharing of best practice.
- 10.7 That a coordinated and structured approach to communication and engagement with residents of the borough to include school engagement, community engagement, key message delivery and advertising, is adopted.

Greater coordination in the planning and use of existing resources has the potential to have a bigger impact than the current uncoordinated approach and will also be a more effective use of existing resources and provide better outcomes in these financially difficult times, i.e. increased public awareness that Chesterfield Borough Council deals effectively with dog fouling and a reduction of dog fouling in targeted areas.

Better coordination and consequent outcomes could be met by:

- Running campaigns by area so to make a splash rather than scattering messages in an unfocused and disparate way across the borough. This approach will also be more appealing to the media than disparate scattered activity.
- Establishing a campaign group to meet two to three times a year, comprising of members, Environmental Services, Street Scene Team officers and the Communications and Marketing Manager. The group would monitor the impact of communication, community engagement and advertising and would discuss and formulate future plans and priorities for communicating and engaging with residents.

11.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To provide a more responsive dog fouling service and to improve resident's awareness of the service that is provided.

MARTIN ELLIOTT
COMMITTEE AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

You can get more information about this report from Martin Elliott (Tel. 01246 345236).