

Environment Select Committee

Review Title: Dog Fouling & Animal Welfare Service (Dog Fouling)

Scrutiny Chair/Project Director:	Contact details:
Cllr Mrs Rigg (Chair)	01642782009; maureen.rigg@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer/Project Manager:	Contact details:
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Departmental Link Officer:	Contact details:
Mike Batty	01642 527074; mike.batty@stockton.gov.uk
<p>1. Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address? Council Plan 2008-11 Environment & Housing – (8) Make the Borough a cleaner, greener place to live, work and visit - maintain the excellent levels of cleanliness in the Borough. Organisational and Operational Effectiveness - Performance & Resource Management and Focus on Residents & Customers.</p>	
<p>2. What are the main issues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To consider the trend of dog fouling complaints over the last ten years and the effect the Council's policy has had on this. ▪ To consider the various elements of the policy, namely education, enforcement and look at the service delivery of each of these elements. ▪ To consider issues regarding the adoption of the Dog Control Order provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to further control dog fouling in certain designated areas and how these orders would be enforced. Flexibility regarding the level of any fines imposed. 	
<p>3. The Thematic Select Committee's overall aim/ objectives in doing this work is:</p> <p>To respond to public concern regarding:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the amount of dog fouling occurring within the Borough (with approximately 350 formal complaints received each year); <p>and whether or not service improvements can be introduced within this area.</p>	
<p>4. The possible outputs/outcomes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A reduction in the number of incidents of dog fouling occurring in the Borough each year, with a resultant improvement in both cleanliness and customer satisfaction arising as a consequence. ▪ A clear, concise and suitably resourced short, medium and long term dog fouling strategy. 	

- Lobbying for a national policy and strategy with a lead taken by central government office.

5. What specific value can scrutiny add to this topic?

To encourage public responsibility with regard to their ownership of dogs through a review of existing policies regards dog fouling.

6. Who will the panel be trying to influence as part of their work?

Public, Care for Your Area, Parks and Countryside, Encams (a DEFRA funded organisation).

7. Duration of enquiry?

5 - 6 months.

8. What category does the review fall into?

Policy Review

Policy Development

9. Extra Resources needed? Would the investigation benefit from the co-option of an “expert” witness?

N/A

10. What information do we need?

Secondary Information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.)

Ownership of powers and implications of extending those powers e.g. to other staff to carry out enforcement.

Number of complaints, Fixed Penalty Notices and prosecutions and categorisation by type and ward.

Identification of ‘hot spots’.

Street cleansing operations and efficiency.

Number and siting of dog waste bins.

Problems arising from other animal waste (e.g. horse manure).

Areas where dogs can go.

Service Improvement Plan.

Review of the service.

Ipsos MORI data (Ipsos MORI (2008) results due to be released around November 2008).

SBC consultation data.

Primary/new evidence/information

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member/portfolio holder, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

Mike Batty – Head of Community Protection

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

Mark Berry – Principal Environmental Health Officer

Angie Mallaby – Supervisor/ Admin. Support Officer

Craig Willows – Service Development Manager, CFYA

Other local authorities – service statistics, practices and procedures

11. What processes can we use to feed into the review? (site visits/observations, face-to-face questioning, telephones survey, written questionnaire, etc.)

Meetings, other local authority feedback, national agenda.

12. In what ways can we involve the public and at what stages? (consider whole range of consultative mechanisms, local committees and local ward mechanisms)

Possible Viewpoint Focus Groups/ Questionnaires.
Use 'Local Democracy Week' during October, as a way to engage with schools to encourage awareness of the topic and to promote responsible dog ownership.

13. Diversity – How will we address the six strands of diversity (age, disability, faith and belief, gender, race, and sexual orientation) in order to uphold the Council's Single Equality Scheme?

N/A.

Distribution list:

Mike Batty; Mark Berry, Craig Willows, Angie Mallaby

Project Plan

Chair/Project Director

Councillor Mrs Rigg

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KEY TASK	DETAILS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
Scoping of Review	Information Gathering; outline of scope of review	15 th August 2008	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	2 nd September 2008	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	22 nd September 2008	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Press Release	September/October 2008	Chair, Link Officer, Press Officer Scrutiny Officer

Obtaining Evidence		<p>22 September 2008 Mark Berry – background and context</p> <p>13 October 2008 Mark Berry – service overview</p>	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	W/c 9 February 2009	Select Committee
Tri-partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss finding of review and draft recommendations	W/c16 February 2009	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	2 March 2009	Scrutiny Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	9 March 2009	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Corporate Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	24 March 2009	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/ Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	16 April 2009	Cabinet/ Approving Body