



CABINET – 18TH JANUARY 2017

SUBJECT: OUTCOME OF INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PROVISIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN A PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER RELATING TO DOG CONTROL

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151

- 1.1 The report was considered by the Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 12th December 2016.
- 1.2 The Head of Public Protection introduced the report which detailed the outcome of the informal consultation on the provisions to be included in a public spaces protection order relating to dog control. Each of the restrictions as detailed in sections 4.9 to 4.15 of the Officers report were summarised and the informal consultation responses received for each outlined.
- 1.3 The Committee then heard representations from Councillor J. Pritchard and Ms D. Duffy on behalf of local residents and dog owners in the Morgan Jones ward and Mr Paul Smith of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) who spoke in general support of provisions detailed in sections 4.9 to 4.14 but expressed concern in relation to restriction 4.15 (excluding dogs from all council owned marked sports/playing pitches). Mr P. Budd, Secretary of Bargoed Rugby Club spoke in support of the protection order as presented and specifically for the restriction to exclude dogs from all council owned market sports/playing pitches.
- 1.4 The Committee fully discussed the report and considered each of the provisions in turn. In relation to restriction 4.15, Members expressed concern with regard to its impact on dog owners in more urban areas, where access to green spaces was limited and those with mobility or transport issues. Members were also concerned that responsible owners who dogs inadvertently strayed onto pitches could be prosecuted under the order but it would still not address those irresponsible dog owners continually failing to control their animals. Members were advised that robust training would be provided to enforcing officers, when implementing the order and a common sense approach adopted towards each individual incident. Members also reference the need to raise public awareness of the changes particularly during the early stages of the order and that consideration be given to increasing dog bin provision in certain areas.
- 1.5 Members noted and accepted the proposals set out in paragraphs 4.9 to 4.14 of the Officers report.
- 1.6 An amendment to recommendation 10.3 was moved and seconded in relation to the provision at paragraph 4.15 of the report to exclude dogs from all council owned marked sports/playing pitches on a seasonal basis according to use and that this proposal be omitted from the next stage of the process and be revisited once the impact of the other provisions can be established and consideration be given to implementing an awareness raising campaign in relation to sports pitches and responsible dog ownership. By show of hands the amendment was carried in noting there were 2 against and 1 abstention. By a further show of hands the amended recommendation was carried and in noting there were 2 abstentions this was

agreed by the majority present.

- 1.7 It was moved and seconded that the outcome of the informal consultation relating to dog control findings from the informal dog control order consultation be noted and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that: -

i) restrictions: -

- Excluding dogs from enclosed children's play and multi-use game areas;
- A requirement to place dogs on a lead in all enclosed memorial gardens within the County Borough;
- A requirement to pick up after their dogs on all public land within the County Borough;
- A requirement for dog walkers to carry an appropriate receptacle for dealing with the waste that their dog/s produce within the County Borough;
- A requirement to place a dog on a lead by direction of no more than 2 metres in length when directed to do so by authorised officer, which could include local authority officers, police officers and/or PCSOs;

be included in the draft order and the statutory order making process, including formal consultation be commenced in relation to these restrictions with the outcome reported back to Cabinet for consideration.

ii) the restriction excluding dogs from all council owned marked sports/playing pitches on a seasonal basis be omitted at this stage of the process and be revisited once the impact of the other provisions can be established and consideration be given to implementing an awareness raising campaign in relation to sports pitches and responsible dog ownership.

- 1.8 Members are invited to consider the report and the above recommendations.

Author: E. Sullivan, Democratic Services Officer, Ext 4420.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Health Social Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Report – 12th December 2016 - Agenda No. 3