



Subject:	Responsible Dog Ownership - Update
Date:	10 October 2023
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Helen Morrissey, City Protection Manager Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services (OSS Portfolio Lead)

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide members of the People and Communities Committee with an update on the

1.2	<p>issues raised at the Council Meeting on Monday 4 September 2023 regarding the Responsible Dog Ownership – Update Report (dated 8 August 2023). The Council agreed that the minute be taken back to the Committee for further consideration, and to allow further information on the issue to be provided.</p> <p>Members are reminded that at the Committee of 11th September 2023 the following decision was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agreed to defer consideration of the minute to the October meeting, to enable the Director to prepare a report on the available options regarding fines; • agreed to submit a report to a future meeting considering the Council undertaking a feasibility study on providing street bins in areas where fouling had been a persistent problem, including consideration of the erection of lamppost bins in certain hotspots areas; and • requested an update on FIDO machines.
1.3	<p>In addition to the noted actions, this report provides more detail about signage and Dog Enclosures in Parks.</p>
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the updates on the issues raised at Council on 4 September 2023 in relation to fines and signage; • Note the update on New FIDO machines and • note that a further report will be brought back on the other items in relation to a feasibility study on street bins; • Update on dog enclosures in Clement Wilson Park, Falls Park and Orangefield Park will be provided at the next round of Area Working Groups.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 4 September 2023 officers were asked if it would be possible to have an incremental increase for the Fixed Penalty Notice fines for repeat offenders. Officers have consulted with Legal Services and there is no provision within the legislation to allow for incremental increases to fines.</p>
3.2	<p>There is provision within the legislation to pursue a case in court, rather than giving the alleged offender the opportunity to accept and pay a Fixed Penalty Notice fine. The maximum fine in court is £1000. Officers will always have regard to the option of prosecuting any repeat offender identified as part of the graduated approach to enforcement.</p> <p><u>Signage</u></p>

3.3	<p>There is a substantial number of signs for dog fouling throughout the City and they are concentrated in areas that have been identified as hotspots. Most signs also contain information about the Fixed Penalty Notice fine for other offences including littering.</p>
3.4	<p>For Members' information, if a change to the fine for the dog fouling Fixed Penalty Notice is introduced, Legal Services has confirmed there is no legislative requirement to amend all the signs immediately. A rolling programme would be sufficient and would not impact on our ability to take formal action should an individual fail to pay the fine.</p>
3.5	<p>The City Services team are considering best way to review signage and consider a budget and program of work for this.</p>
3.6	<p>Whilst some existing signs could be replaced within the existing Enforcement and Dog Warden Service budget on a rolling program, we recognize that there is a need to explore options to future proof any new signs and consider the best messaging. They may not refer to the level of the fine or as in other district council areas, they could refer to the maximum court fine of £1000. Appendix 1 contains details of our current references to an £80 fine.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Provision of Street Bins</u></p> <p>Officers are currently completing work on a new tender for the provision of street bins and this will be in place from the 1st January 2024. In the interim officers in City Neighbourhood Services are pulling together information from our Quality monitoring team along with information from the customer hub. A future report will be brought to committee that identifies dog fouling hot spot areas. This report will also explore the feasibility/suitability of street bins in these areas and will provide options with regard to the type of bins and information on the costs of providing and emptying any new bins. Members are also asked to note that a quotation is in place that will allow the department to replace some street bins across this city between now and the date when the new tender becomes active.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Dog Enclosures</u></p> <p>At August committee members received an update on pilot Dog Enclosures in particular a previous decision by committee in 2019 to trial dog enclosures in Clement Wilson Park, Falls Park and Orangefield Park. Officers will update members on this further at the next round of Area Working groups.</p>

<p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p> <p>3.11</p>	<p><u>FIDO Machines</u></p> <p>CNS have ordered 4 new replacement FIDO machines and expects to take delivery of them in New Year. Each area manager will use information on dog fouling hot spots to inform the work programme for each vehicle.</p> <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Costs to update / replace with newly designed signage will be factored into estimates process.</p> <p>The cost of purchasing the new FIDO machines is included within current budget estimates.</p> <p>There is currently no provision within existing estimates for the provision of dog enclosures in the three parks listed above.</p> <p>The feasibility report on the provision of street bins will include the costs associated with the purchase, installation and emptying of the bins. This information will be presented to Committee at a later date.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – References for fines</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Report to August 23 People and Communities Committee</p>