



Subject:	Notice of Motion ‘Dogs in Kennels – Transfer of Ownership’
Date:	7th April 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager
Contact Officer:	Barry Flynn, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise the Committee of a response which has been received from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, regarding the motion considered by the Council, at its meeting on 3rd March, entitled ‘Dogs in Kennels – Transfer of Ownership’.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the receipt of the correspondence and to take such action thereon as deemed appropriate.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 3rd March, considered the following motion, which was moved by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Councillor Verner:
3.2	<p><i>"This Council recognises that the safety of people and communities is paramount, and that any dog irrespective of breed or type may display aggression. However, this Council also recognises that the provisions, as set out within the Statutory Rule The Dangerous Dogs (Designated Types) Order (Northern Ireland) 2024, under powers conferred by Article 25(1)(c) and (8) of The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (the 1983 Order), as relates to XL Bully dogs that make it an offence to rehome is unnecessary cruel.</i></p> <p><i>Restriction of rehoming, even by establishments such as rescue centres and animal shelters has led, as is leading to, the unnecessary destruction and euthanasia of healthy animals, which have no history of violence or aggression, and goes against the 'unnecessary suffering' clause in the Welfare of Animals Act NI 2011. Therefore this Council will write to the DAERA minister outlining our opposition to the continuation of the legislation as currently set out and asks that the Minister allow for managed rehoming by shelters and other specific animal rescue establishments, of dogs including those considered to be XL Bullies with no history of aggression or violence, to suitable owners, to prevent further animal suffering."</i></p>

<p>3.3</p>	<p>At the meeting, an amendment, which was moved by Councillor R. McLaughlin and seconded by Councillor Maskey, was tabled. The amendment, which is set out below, was passed by the Council.</p> <p><i>“This Council recognises that public safety is of utmost importance and that any dog, regardless of breed or type, may display aggressive behaviour. It is also essential to ensure that animal welfare is not compromised. The restrictions on rehoming outlined in The Dangerous Dogs (Designated Types) Order 2024 is now in place, and its implementation should be assessed particularly regarding outcomes for public safety and animal welfare. A balanced and evidence-based approach is necessary to ensure that both public safety and animal welfare concerns are addressed effectively. Like any new legislation there is an imperative to consider its outcomes. Therefore, this Council will write to the DAERA Minister requesting an assessment of the impact of these restrictions to date.”</i></p>
<p>3.4</p>	<p>A response has since been received from the Minister and is attached as Appendix 1.</p> <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial implications attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications attached to this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Response from Minister.</p>