



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Improvement Programme - Dog Management Pilot for Orangefield Park
<b>Date:</b>	11 November 2010
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Head of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Alex McNeill, Park Manager

### Relevant Background Information

Dog fouling and management of dogs in our Parks and Open Spaces has been raised as a serious issue on several occasions both by Elected Members and in response to public consultation. At a recent meeting with local residents from the Orangefield area the issue of dog control was raised again and suggestions made to address the problems. Issues were summarised as follows:

- Dog fouling on recreational areas such as football pitches
- Dogs off leads
- Aggressive behaviour by dogs to members of the public
- Aggressive behaviour by dogs to other dogs.

Subject to approval from the Parks and Leisure Committee, it is proposed to implement a pilot 'traffic light system' to designate specific areas of park for dog use. Appendix 1 is a drawing of the park showing designated areas of use. It is anticipated that the zoning of the area will assist with the control of dogs and provide improved experience for all users who visit the park.

### Key Issues

The pilot scheme would be developed with park users including those who currently walk dogs in the park.

Appropriate marketing of the initiative will be undertaken and a range of activities will be organised throughout the pilot to support dog walkers and other park users.

The division of the park into areas for dog use is proposed as a pilot to assess the appropriateness of the approach. The main objectives of the pilot would be:

- To improve the service provision at Orangefield Park
- To develop improved relationships with local residents through consultation, meetings, etc to assure that everyone's needs are being met
- To trial the pilot dog management plan for six months
- To work in collaboration with the Antisocial Behaviour Officer and the Dog Warden Service within the Council
- To report outcomes from the pilot to the Parks and Leisure Committee at the end of the six month period and to make recommendations on a way forward.

### **Resource Implications**

#### Financial

- It is estimated that signage at entrances and within the Park would incur a cost in the region £8k.
- Promotion of the pilot in local newspapers is estimated to be in the region of £2k.

These costs can be met from existing revenue budgets.

#### Human Resources

Officer time for consultation meetings.

#### Asset and Other Implications

None

### **Recommendations**

To approve the implementation of the pilot scheme to manage dogs at Orangefield Park and agree to receive a report on the evaluation of the pilot project after six months.

### **Decision Tracking**

Officer responsible: Alex McNeill, Parks Manager

Actions to be completed by: July 2011

### **Key to Abbreviations**

None.

### **Documents Attached**

Appendix 1: map demonstrating the zones of differing dog management within Orangefield Park.

