

DATE OF COMMITTEE  
11 July 2012

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER  
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT

TITLE OF REPORT  
Implementation of Dog Control Orders 2012

**EXEMPT INFORMATION**

None

**PURPOSE**

To approve the formal adoption of four Dog Control Orders:-

The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Tamworth Borough Council) Order 2012  
The Dogs on Lead By Direction (Tamworth Borough Council) Order 2012  
The Dogs on Lead at All Times (Tamworth Borough Council) Order 2012  
The Dog Exclusion (Tamworth Borough Council) Order 2012

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Members approve the formal adoption of the Dog Control Orders with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2012**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Following a period of initial consultation, the notice of formal consultation of 28 days was approved by Cabinet at their meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 for the areas to be included for the implementation of Dog Control Orders and for this to be recommended to full Council for adoption.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 requires that formal adoption of Dog Control Orders be endorsed by Full Council.

The formal consultation ended on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 with no further comments or additions submitted by members of the public or stakeholder organisations. Results of the initial consultation showed overwhelming support (see below background information)

As no further representation has been received, the orders can be implemented after approval in Tamworth following a further public notice (attached as Appendix 1).

The adoption of these Dog Control Orders makes it easier for the authority to deal quickly and efficiently with the small minority of dog owners who behave irresponsibly, while at the same time encouraging a culture of responsible dog ownership.

These orders, along with our ongoing Mucky Pup – Clean It Up campaign, will bring a number of benefits, including the creation of a cleaner environment, reduction of health problems associated with dog faeces and the promotion of responsible dog ownership.

They represent a modern and effective way of enforcement when required and provide a commonsense method of dealing with an issue of constant concern for our residents.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications to those identified in the Cabinet Report dated 14 December 2011

## **LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND**

All legal implications are detailed within the report

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The initial consultation regarding proposals for the introduction of Dog Control Orders ended on 28 February 2012. The Council received 257 responses. The results of this consultation has provided the following outcomes on the proposed orders:-

- **Fouling of Land by Dogs Order – the whole of the Borough**

The survey showed that 93% of the respondents were in favour of the introduction of this order

- **Dogs on Lead by Direction Order – the whole of the Borough**

The survey showed that 89.8% of respondents were in favour of the introduction of this order

- **Dogs On Lead at ALL times Order - designated land Tamworth Borough Council cemeteries, pedestrian area of the town centre, top lawn Castle Grounds, all public footways or grass verges adjacent to a road in Tamworth (as defined by the RTA 1988) and Anker Valley Sports Pitches**

The survey showed that 89.9% of respondents were in favour of the introduction of this order

- **Dog Exclusion Order – designated children's' play areas only**

The survey showed that 83.8% of respondents were in favour of the introduction of this order

## **Stakeholder/Landowner feedback**

Feedback was received from:-

- The Kennel Club
- The Dogs Trust
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
- Dunroamin (the Council's stray dog collection service)
- Waterloo Housing
- Tamworth Dog Walkers

No further comments were received from the other stakeholders invited.

The responses received contained no major objections to the proposals, although the Kennel Club advised upon the need to allow dogs to roam free with children in parks and advised against a total banning of dogs from parks or open space or for dogs to be on the lead at all

time.

In designating only formal play areas and specific locations where dogs must be on a lead means that Tamworth Borough Council continues to support responsible dog ownership in public spaces, but acknowledges the fact that dogs need to roam free under the control of their owners.

Overall the initial consultation indicates there is support from residents for the control of dogs, as detailed in the bullet points above.

The proposed orders for implementation, in accordance with legislation, must be approved by Full Council and implemented within 10 days following with all signage in place.

### **Education**

Street Wardens have commenced the "Saxon Hound" Mucky Pup Clean it Up campaign and will continue to educate and inform residents on Dog Control.

Leaflets on dog fouling and the implication of dog control orders are also widely available, and the instantly recognisable "Saxon Hound" will be used for all branding associated with the education campaign.

### **Enforcement of the Dog Control Orders**

Many comments in the initial consultation referred to enforcement. It is not proposed to increase the level of enforcement the Council currently delivers, but it is proposed that all enforcement staff will receive delegated authority to operate the new powers and the Mucky Pup Clean it Up campaign will encourage residents to report irresponsible dog owners. This should enable the council to more effectively allocate resources to enforce the orders.

### **Additional Areas**

The consultation did not include strong proposals for additional areas to be included, but after consideration some additional areas are proposed for a dog exclusion area as they are designated play areas:-

Tennis Courts – Tamworth Castle Pleasure Grounds

Skate Park – Tamworth Castle Pleasure Grounds

### **REPORT AUTHOR**

Jo Sands

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet reports dated 14 December 2011 and 30 May 2012

### **APPENDICES**

App 1 – Public Notice

App 2 –Fouling of Land By Dogs (Tamworth Borough Council) Order 2012

App 3 – Dogs on Lead At All Times (Tamworth Borough Council) Order 2012

App 4 – Dog Exclusion (Tamworth Borough Council) Order 2012

App 5 – Dogs On Lead by Direction (Tamworth Borough Council) Order 2012

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