



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Adur Executive Member for
Environment and Worthing Executive
Member for Health & Wellbeing
30 October 2018

Decision to be taken on or after
7 November 2018

Key Decision: No

Ward(s) Affected: Central

Cessation of the Voluntary Code of Practice for Professional Dog Walkers Scheme.

Report by the Director of Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1 In September 2016 a Voluntary Code of Practice for Professional Dog Walkers (PDWs) was introduced by Adur & Worthing Councils. The aim of the scheme was to encourage PDWs to follow best practice regarding the control of dogs under their care.
- 1.2 A review of the scheme has been carried out as the scheme allowed.
- 1.3 Public Spaces Protection Orders are in place for Adur & Worthing Councils. They provide a mechanism to tackle irresponsible dog owners/ walkers and limit a dog walker to a maximum of 6 dogs in public places at one time. Issues of dog fouling and nuisance dog behaviour can also be addressed.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Endorse the cessation of the Voluntary Code of Practice for Professional Dog Walkers effective from **15 November 2018**.

3. Context

3.1 In September 2016 a Voluntary Code of Practice for Professional Dog Walkers (PDWs) was introduced by Adur & Worthing Councils. The aim of the scheme was to encourage PDWs to follow best practice regarding the control of dogs under their care.

3.2 There is no national legislation to provide model guidelines for Professional Dog Walkers and a Voluntary Code of Practice was designed.

3.3 Scheme members partook of the code voluntarily and were not tested in any manner by the Dog Warden Service with the exception of checking for insurances and vehicle legality.

3.4 A review of the scheme has been carried out as the scheme allowed. An area of concern was identified, in that, there was no system or criteria in place for grounds to exclude a member from the scheme. This omission could present a reputational concern for the Councils should the need to exclude a member from the scheme arise.

3.5 Since December 2016 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) are in place for Adur & Worthing Councils. They provide a mechanism to tackle irresponsible dog owners/ walkers and limit a dog walker to a maximum of 6 dogs in public places at one time. Issues of dog fouling and nuisance dog behaviour can also be addressed.

3.6 The Scheme does not additionally have a positive impact on the regulation of Professional Dog Walkers as there are now more effective mechanisms in place such as the PSPO.

4. Issues for consideration

4.1 The Executive Members are requested to endorse the cessation of the Voluntary Code of Practice for Professional Dog Walkers effective from **15 November 2018**.

5. Engagement and Communication

5.1 As part of the review process the Dog Wardens for the Council were consulted and consensus was that there was no added benefit in running

such a scheme, as they had already formed good relations with the Professional Dog Walker fraternity.

6. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications relating to this report. There are no cost implications and any fine income is received through the Public Space Protection Orders that are in place for Adur and Worthing Councils.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1999 (LGA 1999) contains a general duty on a best value authority to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

7.2 Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.

Background Papers

Introduction of a Voluntary Code of Practice for Professional Dog Walkers Report

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media,141459,en.pdf>

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2. Social

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.2 Equality Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered and no issues identified.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered and no issues identified.

3. Environmental

Matter considered and no issues identified.

4. Governance

Other effective mechanisms are in place in the management of Dog Control.