

<b>REPORT TO:</b>		Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
<b>DATE:</b>		26 July 2023	
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>		Cllr Steven Smithson - Environmental Services	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>		Craig Haraben (Head of Environmental Services)	
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>		Service Update Dog Warden	
<b>EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)</b>	<b>No</b>	Not applicable	
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>Options</b>	If yes, date of publication:	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 To update Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the dog warden service

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 That Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report

**3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

3.1 The dog warden service primary function is to promote responsible dog ownership within Hyndburn.

3.2 The dog warden undertakes daily patrols in relation to responsible dog ownership to speak to and educate owners of dogs and to take enforcement action for dog fouling and dog control in relation to breaches of public space protection orders (PSPOs).

3.3 The dog warden is the lead officer dealing with incidents of stray dogs in the Borough. Any stray dogs which are collected by the dog warden during working hours are taken to the Council's contracted kennelling service. Dog owners can reclaim their dogs from the kennels by paying a release fee. Out of hours (between 5pm and 9pm) stray dogs are dealt with by the Council's contracted kennelling service, which is Aspen Valley Kennels in Oswaldtwistle.

- 3.4 The dog warden also investigates reports of irresponsible dog owners that do not fall within the Dangerous Dogs Act (as this is the responsibility of the police), noisy/barking dogs (as this would be dealt with via environmental protection) or animal welfare concerns (RSPCA).
- 3.5 However the dog warden will work with and support other agencies such as the police or RSPCA to deal with dog related issues which the other agencies lead on.
- 3.6 The dog warden will promote good dog ownership by working with partners on local initiatives (such as working with the dogs trust to hold educational events, free dog health checks and microchipping) and taking opportunities to involve schools and attend suitable events when resources are available.
- 3.7 The dog warden also promotes the poop bags supplied by the Council free of charge to residents to promote responsible dog ownership relating to dog fouling.
- 3.8 During financial year 2022/23 the dog warden dealt with 161 reported items broken down as follows:

Type of Issue	No.
Stray Dogs reported	35
Dogs impounded at the kennels	20
Reported Dog Fouling	67
Dangerous Dogs Reported	39

- 3.9 During financial year 2022/23 the dog warden has issued 14 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for a combination of dog fouling and breaches of PSPOs relating to dog being off leads.

**4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Not Applicable

**5. Consultations**

- 5.1 Portfolio holder and Environmental Services staff have been consulted in relation to this report.

**6. Implications**

<b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b>	None from this report
<b>Legal and human rights implications</b>	None from this report
<b>Assessment of risk</b>	None from this report
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	None from this report

**7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:  
List of Background Papers**

7.1 There are no background papers to this report

**8. Freedom of Information**

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.