



Title of Report:	Outcome of Legal Proceedings
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	5th April 2023
For Decision or For Information	For Information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Securing compliance with legal regulatory requirements using available enforcement powers.
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	N/A	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	N/A	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	N/A	Date:

1.0 **Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report to update members on the outcome of recent legal proceedings under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983.

2.0 **Background**

2.1 Council is the enforcing authority for a wide range of legislation. This enforcement role has been delegated to the staff of the Environmental Services Directorate.

3.0 **Outcome of Legal Proceedings**

3.1 The following cases were referred for legal proceedings and heard at Coleraine Magistrates Court sitting at Ballymena Courthouse over the period 2nd December 2022 to 3rd March 2023. The results of prosecution are as follows:

3.2 **Dog Attacks on a person and another animal**

Ref. No.	Offence(s)	Result of Proceedings
LC1111860	<p>A dog attack on a cat contrary to Article 28 (1) (b) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 and a dog attack on a person contrary to Article 29 (1) of the Dogs (NI) Order</p> <p>A Staffordshire Bull Terrier escaped from the owner's property and attacked a neighbour's cat. The owner of the cat was bitten whilst trying to rescue their pet.</p>	<p>Conviction</p> <p>Fine: £250 for the offence of a dog attack on a person and £150 for the offence of a dog attack on another animal.</p> <p>Court costs of £175 were also granted along with an offender levy of £15.</p>

3.3 **Dog attack on another animal**

Ref. No.	Offence	Result of Proceedings
LC1113336	<p>A dog attack on a cat contrary to Article 28 (1) (b) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983.</p> <p>An Alsatian Dog escaped from the owner's property and attacked and killed a neighbour's cat.</p>	<p>Conviction</p> <p>Fine: £300 for the offence of a dog attack on another animal.</p> <p>Court costs of £131 were also granted along with an offender levy of £15.</p>

3.4 Dog attack on a person

Ref. No.	Offence(s)	Result of Proceedings
LC1114271	<p>A dog attack on a person contrary to Article 29 (1) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 and breach of a control condition contrary to Article 30 (f) (1) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983.</p> <p>A Tibetan Mastiff was being walked on a lead when it lunged and attacked a passer-by inflicting injury to their arm that required hospital treatment. The dog had previously attacked and was subject to a control condition requiring a muzzle to be worn in a public place.</p>	<p>Conviction</p> <p>Fine: £200 for the offence of a dog attack on a person.</p> <p>Court costs of £38 were also granted along with £75 legal fees and an order of compensation to the victim for £250.</p>
LC1113410	<p>A dog attack on a person contrary to Article 29 (1) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983.</p> <p>3 Greyhound/Lurcher type dogs escaped their property and chased and attacked a passing cyclist.</p>	<p>Conviction</p> <p>Fine: £450 for the offence of a dog attack on a person.</p> <p>Court costs of £129 were also granted along with £15 offender levy.</p>
LC1113417	<p>A dog attack on a person contrary to Article 29 (1) of the Dogs (NI) Order 1983.</p> <p>A 7 year old child was playing on a tree swing in an open grass area when an off lead Alsatian dog bit their leg which required hospital treatment.</p>	<p>Conviction</p> <p>Fine: £100 for the offence of a dog attack on a person.</p> <p>Court costs of £50 were granted along with £15 offender levy. The defendant was also ordered to pay the victim £1000 compensation.</p>

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the above information is noted.