

Title of Report:	GREEN DOG WALKERS SCHEME – RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP
Committee Report Submitted To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	12TH JANUARY 2021
For Decision or For Information	FOR INFORMATION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing Our Environments and Assets
Outcome	Promotion of Responsible Dog Ownership
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	Approximately £4000
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	21451
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: To be Completed
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: To be Completed
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date: To be Completed
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: To be Completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date: To be Completed
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: To be Completed

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with information regarding the adoption of the Green Dog Walker Scheme which helps promote responsible dog ownership.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 and subsequent relevant legislation Council is responsible for enforcing a range of dog control regulations including dogs straying, fouling and dog attacks on persons or other animals.
- 2.2 Part of any enforcement strategy and compliance building is education and support for dog owners to be responsible for their pets.
- 2.3 The Enforcement section (Litter and Dog Control) of the Environmental Health department will soon launch its Green Dog Walkers Scheme.
- 2.4 This is a nationwide programme designed to encourage responsible dog ownership and help reduce the incidence of dog fouling. Many Councils throughout the UK have signed up to and implemented this scheme.
- 2.5 Members of the public will be able to sign up for free where they will be given practical help to be responsible dog owners including branded dog leads, dog collars and poo bags
- 2.6 It aims to promote the messages that dog foul should be lifted and properly disposed of and that everyone should have proper control of their dogs at all times.
- 2.7 Members will also be encouraged to be ambassadors by promoting the initiative and distributing bags to other dog owners that don't have any when they are out and about with their dogs.
- 2.8 A launch is anticipated in January 2021 with associated PR activity and development of a page on the Councils website where the public can sign up.

3.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Environmental Services Committee notes the report.