



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>REVIEW OF SUSPENSION OF OUT OF HOURS SERVICE PROVISION (DOG CONTROL)</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> September 2020</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Innovation and Transformation
Outcome	Service delivery reduction
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	To be determined
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES/NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	21451
Staffing Costs	N/A

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

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is provide members with an update on the suspension of this service (Dog Control) since July 2019 as a result of necessary in year savings.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 Members will be aware that all legacy councils provided an out of hours service for Dog Control, Food Control and Health & Safety, Dangerous Structures and Emergency Planning

2.2 Whilst voluntary arrangements are still in place for the remaining service areas, those for Dog Control have been suspended now for 12 months. A review of the impact of this decision has been undertaken.

## **3.0 Review of service**

3.1 The total number of complaints received with respect to the service area during normal working hours are detailed in the table below.

	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2018-30 <sup>th</sup> June 2019	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2019-30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020
Attacks on Persons	55	63
Attacks on Livestock	18	22
Attacks on other Dogs	46	51
Attacks on other Animals	5	3
Stray Dogs	497	377

3.2 Whilst a number of these complaints may have been received out of hours, (particularly stray dogs), the section is not aware and have not received any complaints as a result of service reduction. All complaints and notifications received have been adequately managed with the provision of a normal weekday service.

3.3 Any serious incident (dog attacks) at weekends were responded to by officers on their return to work. This has not affected the quality or speed of any investigations or prosecutions.

3.4 Stray dogs have either been retained by the public over the weekend/ overnight or taken directly our kennel service provider or to dog rescue charities.

## **4.0 Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that Council confirm the withdrawal of this service on a permanent basis and to commence negotiations with relevant employees with respect to employment contract amendments.