

Report

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Report to:	Community Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	16 June 2009
Report by:	Executive Director (Community Resources)

Subject:	Provision of Kennelling Facilities for Stray Dogs
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise Committee of developments in respect of dog kennelling for stray dogs and consider the revised contractual arrangements with the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA)

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that arrangements to secure kennelling facilities for stray dogs with the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as outlined in this report be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) has, since 1996, provided kennelling facilities for stray dogs for the eight Councils within the Glasgow and Clyde Valley area. In 2008 the SSPCA wrote to the eight Councils intimating that they were withdrawing the service to kennel stray dogs from 1 May 2009. This was on the basis they were a charity and were effectively subsidising Council services as their charges did not recover the costs associated with the kennelling of stray dogs.
- 3.2. The Council considered other options for the kennelling of stray dogs, however, it would have involved the provision of new kennels which would have incurred significant capital expenditure and ongoing staffing and operational costs. Dialogue was thereafter instigated with the eight Glasgow and Clyde Valley area Councils to establish if a joint solution could be sought.
- 3.3. Through the group, dialogue was established with the SSPCA and after several positive meetings, the SSPCA decided to amend their stance and proposed to accept stray dogs for kennelling at a cost of £275 per dog including veterinary fees. This represents a recovery of costs incurred by SSPCA, however, it is a significant increase in the average cost of £45 per dog presently being charged. SSPCA have also proposed that the new arrangement would commence on 1 September 2009. Prices would be increased by the Retail Price Index (RPI) figure annually during the term of the agreement.

4. Considerations

- 4.1. The kennelling of stray dogs is a statutory service which the Council must provide. SSPCA have kennelling facilities which incorporate the required welfare, isolation and quarantine facilities. In addition they have the requisite veterinary services in place. These facilities are not readily available in local privately owned dog boarding facilities.
- 4.2. Work carried out in collaboration with the Glasgow and Clyde Valley authorities established that capital costs to build kennels with all the appropriate facilities would be in excess of £400,000. Staffing, veterinary and operational costs are estimated at approximately £200,000 per annum. The option of delivering the service in house would incur significant additional expenditure and represents a greater cost than that proposed by the SSPCA.
- 4.3. The options available to the Council to provide this statutory service are limited and the SSPCA proposal represents the most practical and cost effective solution at present.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications for the Council.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Based on an average of 400 stray dogs per year the annual costs would increase from £18,000 to £110,000. For the current year the estimated additional cost from 1 September 2009 will amount to £54,000.
- 6.2. The additional costs in 2008/2009 will be monitored and reported throughout the year and the service will attempt to fund the costs in the current year without any adverse effect on the quality or level of service. The requirement for future years will be considered as part of the rollover budget exercise.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. None

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. Legal Services have been consulted in respect of the draft agreement with the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Norrie Anderson

Executive Director (Community Resources)

21 May 2009

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Improve the quality of the physical environment
- ◆ Improve health and physical fitness

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Draft agreement with the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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