

Report To:	SCRUTINY PANEL B
Date:	20 OCTOBER 2022
Heading:	SCRUTINY REVIEW: DOG FOULING AND LITTERING
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	ALL
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present Scrutiny Panel B Members with further information to progress the ongoing Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering.

Recommendation(s):

Scrutiny Panel B Members are recommended to:

- a. Agree next steps for the Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Dog Fouling and Littering was added to the scrutiny work programme 2022/23 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June 2022.

Alternative Options Considered

No alternative options have been considered at this stage of the review process.

Detailed Information

BACKGROUND

Dog Fouling and Littering was added to the scrutiny work programme 2022/2023 by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the June 2022 meeting. Members agreed that dog fouling and littering offences remain key issues for the Council to focus on, being the source of a high number of complaints reported to Councillors.

So far, Scrutiny Panel B has held one formal meeting reviewing the Dog Fouling and Littering topic in July 2022. At this meeting, Members had an introductory discussion on the topic, discussing:

- Previous reviews carried out into the topic in 2004 (*Effectiveness of the Dog Fouling Control Service in Ashfield*) and 2010 (*Dog Fouling Scrutiny Review*).
- How dog fouling and litter issues can be reported to the Council
- Different areas the Council has responsibility for in Ashfield
- What enforcement action the Council can take
- Previous Council campaigns such as the ‘Don’t drop litter’ campaign in June 2022

Members agreed terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering:

Review Topic	Dog Fouling and Littering
Review Group	Scrutiny Panel B
Officer Support	Scrutiny Research Officer, Service Manager – Scrutiny and Democratic Services, Democratic Services Officer
Rationale	Dog fouling and littering issues make up a large number of complaints received by Elected Members.
Purpose/Objectives	To understand the scale of dog fouling and littering issues in Ashfield, how the Council undertakes preventative and enforcement action, and to understand the success of various recent targeted dog fouling and littering campaigns.
Indicators of Success	Panel Members will focus on the following key areas to achieve success through the review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education/Responsibility/Engagement • Prevention/Enforcement
Methodology/Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examining any relevant Council policy documents such as the Corporate Plan • Up-to-date statistics for dog fouling and littering enforcement action in Ashfield • Site visits across the District • Involvement in the development of any emerging policy documents relating to dog fouling and littering
Witnesses/Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Officers working to tackle dog fouling and littering issues • Executive Lead Members • Organisations that offer support to local authorities tackling these issues • Residents
Sources of Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy documents/Statistics/Hotspot maps/Site visits/National context/Legislation

Site Visits	Panel Members have indicated that following the identification of dog fouling and littering hotspot locations, several site visits may be beneficial to better understand the scale of any issues and the actions the Council is taking.
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NEXT STEPS

The Executive Lead Member for Community Safety and Crime Reduction will be in attendance at the meeting to provide Members with an overview of the Council’s strategic direction and objectives regarding dog fouling and littering, and to answer any questions Members may have.

Following this, Members are asked to identify next steps to be taken to progress the Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering. This may include arranging any relevant site visit, setting up a working group, identifying further information needed, and extending any invitations to desired attendees ahead of the next meeting of Scrutiny Panel B.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

Cleaner and Greener is a key priority for the Council set out within the Corporate Plan.

Legal:

There are no direct legal implications resulting from this report.

Finance:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None.
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

Risk:

Any risks identified by Members through the Scrutiny Review: Dog Fouling and Littering will be presented to Cabinet within a final report.

Human Resources:

There are no direct HR implications resulting from this report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no direct environmental and/or sustainability implications resulting from this report.

Equalities:

There are no direct equalities implications resulting from this report.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications resulting from this report.

Reason(s) for Urgency

None.

Reason(s) for Exemption

None.

Background Papers

None.

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