



REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2008

SUBJECT: FORMER COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - TACKLING OF DOG FOULING.

BY: CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Greener Strategic Group is invited to note the following report submitted to the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group at its meeting on 21 August 2008, which reviews measures undertaken by the then Moray Community Safety Partnership to tackle dog fouling in Moray.
- 1.2 The Group is also invited to note that the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group has responsibility within its remit to address this issue.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Greener Strategic Group note the following report submitted to the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group at its meeting on 21 August 2008, which reviews the measures previously undertaken in Moray to tackle the issue of dog fouling.**
- 2.2 **It is also recommended that the Group notes that the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group has responsibility within its remit to address this issue.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the first meeting of the Greener Strategic Group on 19 June 2008, members raised concerns about the continuing damage to the environment caused by dog fouling. It was noted that a report on the subject was being submitted to the meeting of the Safer and Stronger Group on 21 August 2008, reviewing measures take by the then Moray Community Safety Partnership to combat the problem. The content of that report is set out below.

- 3.2 Dog Fouling is an identified problem for all local authorities throughout the country. In a recent Customer Satisfaction Survey undertaken by the Association of Public Services Excellence stakeholders scored the local authorities participating in the survey low in the area of dealing with dog fouling. The survey results demonstrated a comparatively low satisfaction rate, which may be due to high expectations from communities. To combat this partner agencies require to educate communities about the measures being undertaken to tackle dog fouling. These include, awareness raising and enforcement. The survey recognises that dog fouling remains one of the key issues of citizens and this is reflected in Moray.
- 3.2 During the period 2004 and 2007 the former Moray Community Safety Partnership undertook two Citizens Panel and two Community Safety Surveys from which dog fouling continued to be identified as the number one issue impacting on the quality of life of communities.
- 3.3 A Moray wide publicity campaign was undertaken making use of local and national media accompanied by a comprehensive leaflet drop outlining the hazards of dog fouling including health issues and the use of fixed penalties.
- 3.4 Community Wardens in consultation with their communities identified problem areas and the Community Wardens, Environmental Protection Officers and Dog Wardens targeted these areas for joint patrols. Warnings were delivered to people allowing their dogs to foul and if a person failed to comply with the warning then a Fixed Penalty Notice would be issued. This procedure is laid down in the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003.
- 3.5 All Community Wardens, Dog Wardens and Environmental Protection Officers have been authorised by The Moray Council to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of litter, dog fouling and fly tipping. They also received 2 days training from Keep Scotland Beautiful on the legislation and procedures.
- 3.6 As at 31st July 2008 there have been 2 fixed penalties issued by Community Wardens in respect of Dog Fouling and 301 verbal warning have been delivered to people who allowed the dog to foul.
- 3.7 The following are a cross section of initiatives developed by Community Wardens within their communities to tackle the problem of dog fouling:-
- The Forres Dog Show
 - Hopeman Beach Walk Initiative
 - Cullen Cliff Walk Initiative
 - Greenwards School Publicity Event
 - Lossie Dog Fouling Project

- 3.8 In the year ahead the Antisocial Behaviour Operational Group will oversee a number of dog fouling initiatives which have been identified for the future. Community Wardens working alongside communities and other agencies will endeavour to educate the public as to the hazards of dog fouling and their requirements under the law. This involves the printing of 4000 leaflets, which outline the hazards of dog fouling and the responsibilities of dog ownership.
- 3.9 Full use will be made of the legislation, which includes the issuing of fixed penalties after the appropriate verbal warning is delivered and ignored.
- 3.10 Environmental Protection has undertaken a year-long publicity campaign with Moray Firth Radio. One of the identified themes of the campaign will be dog fouling.
- 3.11 At its meeting on 21 August 2008 the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group noted the report and agreed that the Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator would report back to the Group after seeking clarification on the legislation regarding the issuing of fines and whether warnings must be given prior to fines being issued.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

Whilst the issue of dog fouling is tackled through the Antisocial Behaviour Operational Group, which comes under the Safer and Stronger theme, it also has a considerable impact on the quality and cleanliness of the environment, which is a key concern of the Greener Strategic Group.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group has instructed the 'Safer Co-ordinating Group' to ensure that the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 is fully implemented. These powers will be used in tandem with an education and awareness raising campaign.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

Partners would be required to provide additional staffing or other resources to tackle the specific problem of dog fouling within communities. It will be the responsibility of the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group to ensure appropriate resources are allocated to deal with the problem.

(d) Consultations

The Safer Co-ordinating Group will take into consideration findings of community surveys and consultations when deciding which areas within Moray require to be targeted.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The Greener Strategic Group is invited to:

- (i) note the report submitted to the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group at its meeting on 21 August 2008, which reviews measures undertaken by the then Moray Community Safety Partnership to tackle dog fouling in Moray.**

- (ii) note that the Safer and Stronger Strategic Group has responsibility within its remit to address this issue**

Author of Report: Andy Jamieson, Antisocial Behaviour Co-ordinator

Background Papers:

Ref: