



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Green Dog Walkers Scheme – Responsible Dog Ownership - Update</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	<b>Environmental Services Committee</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> October 2021</b>
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	<b>For Information</b>

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Climate Change and Our Environment
Outcome	Promotion of Responsible Dog Ownership
Lead Officer	Head of Health and Built Environment

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Approximately £4000
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES</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: 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 update 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 launched its Green Dog Walkers Scheme in April 2021.
- 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 were able to sign up for free and were given practical help to be responsible dog owners including branded dog leads, collars and foul disposal bags
- 2.6 The scheme 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 of the public were also encouraged to be ambassadors by promoting the initiative and distributing bags to other dog owners that did not have any when they are out and about with their dogs.
- 2.8 The scheme was launched in April 2021 with associated press releases and the creation of a new webpage on the Council website which allowed applicants to join the scheme and receive their Green Dog Walker pack containing a branded dog lead and collar, foul bags and a mini torch.
- 2.9 The scheme has been very popular among the public with 712 dog owners signing up for the scheme. 690 Green Dog Walker packs have been sent out to those who joined up and Council continues to work through the applications to provide packs.
- 2.10 It is proposed that Council reinvigorate the scheme and promote further uptake of the scheme among the public by having a further programme of

promotion and awareness raising of the scheme in December 2021 including new press releases and other PR actions.

### **3.0 Recommendation**

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