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| To: | Strategic Planning and Policy Committee |
| From: | Terri Mulligan, Environmental Services Manager Tania Madden, Manager Strategic Planning |
| Endorsed by: | Kathryn Ross, Chief Executive |
| Date: | 24 July 2019 |
| Subject: | Section 10A Report of Dog Control Act 1996 |
| RECOMMENDATION | |
| Recommendation: That the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee recommends Council adopt the Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the 2018/19 registration year (Attachment 2 to Report 137/19). | |

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to submit the Practices Report for the 2018/2019 registration year to the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee for recommendation to Council for adoption.

Dog Control Policy & Practices Report for 2018/2019

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 (see Attachment 1) requires Councils to report annually on specified dog control activities. Once adopted by Council, this must be publicly notified.

Key points to note from the report (included as Attachment 2) are:

- The registration of dogs has increased by 210. This is a result of both new dog owners and staff following up on the owners of unregistered dogs to ensure that their dogs do get registered.
- The number of dogs classified as 'menacing by deed' has declined to 45 (from 47 and 58 in the previous two years). The number of dogs classified as 'menacing by breed' has also decreased from 121 the previous year to 107, which is closer to the number of 'menacing by breed' two years prior (104).
- There were 103 infringements issues, down from 124 the previous year. Staff are continuing their efforts to follow up on unregistered dogs, and the vast majority of infringements issued were for failure to register.
- Overall service request calls have remained steady being comparable with the previous two years.
- Administration service requests have increased substantially from 186 in the previous year to 249 over the last twelve months. Staff attribute this to an increased focus on unregistered dogs with more notices to register being issued and dog owners subsequently making contact regarding payment arrangements for registration, and responsible dog owner applications and enquiries.
- There were no prosecutions over the year.
- There were 9 fewer dogs impounded than the previous year.

Significance, Engagement and Consultation

The decision to adopt the Dog Control Policy and Practices Report for the 2018/2019 registration year has been considered against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and is not considered significant.

Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996 states –

Territorial authority must report on dog control policy and practices

(1) A territorial authority must, in respect of each financial year, report on the administration of—

- o (a) its dog control policy adopted under section 10; and*
- o (b) its dog control practices.*

(2) The report must include, in respect of each financial year, information relating to—

- o (a) the number of registered dogs in the territorial authority district:*
- o (b) the number of probationary owners and disqualified owners in the territorial authority district:*
- o (c) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as dangerous under section 31 and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:*
- o (d) the number of dogs in the territorial authority district classified as menacing under section 33A or section 33C and the relevant provision under which the classification is made:*
- o (e) the number of infringement notices issued by the territorial authority:*
- o (f) the number of dog related complaints received by the territorial authority in the previous year and the nature of those complaints:*
- o (g) the number of prosecutions taken by the territorial authority under this Act.*

(3) The territorial authority must give public notice of the report—

- o (a) by means of a notice published in—*
 - (i) 1 or more daily newspapers circulating in the territorial authority district; or*
 - (ii) 1 or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in that district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district; and*
- o (b) by any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.*

(4) The territorial authority must also, within 1 month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

Annual Animal Services Report 2018/19

The information provided below sets out the statistical information required by Section 10(A)(2) of the Dog Control Act 1996

Number of Registered Dogs

| | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of dog registered by council | 5484 | 5614 | 5824 |

Number of dogs classified as dangerous (Section 31)

| | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Dangerous by owner conviction S31 (1)(a) | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Dangerous by sworn evidence S31(1)(b) | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Total Dangerous Dogs | 4 | 5 | 5 |

Number of dogs classified as menacing (Section 33A and 33C)

| | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Menacing by Breed S33C | 104 | 121 | 107 |
| Menacing by Deed S33A | 58 | 47 | 45 |
| Total Menacing Dogs | 162 | 168 | 152 |

Number of infringements notices issued

| | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Infringement notices issued | 8 | 124 | 103 |

Number of classified dog owners

| | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Disqualified Owners | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Request for Service

Number and nature of request for service received

| | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| barking complaints | 225 | 246 | 211 |
| attack human | 17 | 24 | 24 |
| attack stock, domestic animal & poultry | 48 | 34 | 39 |
| rushing | 63 | 44 | 61 |
| wandering & stray/ roaming/ lost | 883 | 856 | 830 |
| unsociable behaviour on private property | 24 | 28 | 28 |
| fouling, welfare & general nuisance | 157 | 109 | 131 |
| administration | 66 | 186 | 249 |
| Breach of bylaw | 6 | 5 | 7 |
| Total | 1546 | 1535 | 1580 |

Impounding and Rehoming

| | 2016/2017 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total dogs impounded | 239 | 279 | 270 |
| Dogs returned to owner | 173 | 207 | 191 |
| Dogs rehomed | 21 | 14 | 12 |
| Dogs signed over the SPCA | 13 | 28 | 33 |
| Dogs euthanized | 32 | 30 | 34 |