

Briefing Paper to Park Area Committee

26th June 2013

Wards: Holderness, Marfleet,
Southcoates East, Southcoates
West

Update on progress with the control of dogs in East Park

1. Purpose of the Briefing Paper

- 1.1 To update Members on the proposed plans regarding the control of dogs in East Park.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members note the current position with regard to the control of dogs in East Park.

This is a non - key decision

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Sections 55 to 67 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA) gave Local Authorities powers to introduce regulations aimed at ensuring dog owners control their dogs whilst on any designated land. These controls are known as Dog Control Orders (DCO's).
- 3.2 The Act provides Local Authorities powers to designate DCO's for five offences (a to e) which are listed below, for any land which is open to the air and to which the public has access.
- a) failing to remove dog faeces
 - b) not keeping a dog on a lead
 - c) not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
 - d) permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
 - e) taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land
- 3.3 The penalty for committing an offence contained within a DCO is a maximum fine of level 3 on the standard scale (currently £1000). Alternatively the opportunity to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice may be offered in place of prosecution.

4. Options

4.1 The report has been submitted for information on the preferred options.

4.2 The options are as follows:

- See attached plans in Appendix 1
- Trial period of six months to start 1st July 2013.

5. Council Priorities

5.1 The introduction of DCO's may help the Local Authority to achieve one of its priorities, a safer environment for its residents. However, any action taken by the Council in achieving a safer Environment must be proportionate to the risks. Supporting evidence is therefore essential before the introduction of new powers, such as DCO's, can be considered.

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Officer Interests: None