
To Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date 04 February 2015

Subject: Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control)

1 The decision which is the subject of the Call-in and the reason for Call-in

1.1 The decision by Cabinet to grant permission to create the Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control) was called in by Councillors, Bailey, Skinner and Taylor.

1.2 The reasons for the validated part of the call-in were as follows:

‘There is ambiguity of wording and definitions are not precise and clear. There needs to be clear geographical definitions concerning:

The “General Point” fails to adequately clarify the situation for Puppy Walkers, by stipulating exceptions for the blind/disabled owners, rather than referring to the actual assistance dog or dog-in-training.’

2 Background to the decision

2.1 Cabinet Member (Policing & Equalities) considered a report on 18th December 2014 to create a City-wide Public Space Protection Order (Coventry Dog Control) incorporating the following controls: Fouling of land by dogs; dogs on leads; dogs on leads by direction; and dogs exclusion and Dogs (specified maximum). Cabinet Member made further additional recommendations which were considered and approved by Cabinet on 6th January 2015.

3 Material facts relating to the specific reasons for this Call-in

3.1 **General Point:** There are two parts to the call in statement:

- A. There is inadequate clarification in relation to ‘puppy walkers’, and
- B. Whilst there are exceptions for the blind/disabled owners, there is no reference to assistance dogs or dog-in-training.

3.2 Point A: There is no reference to puppy walkers in the ‘Order’. The training of puppy or an older dog, with a view to being an ‘assistance dog’, is not exempt from the ‘Order’ whilst in training. Consequently, if a dog is being trained the person performing the training will be responsible for ensuring that the ‘Order’ isn’t breached. The ‘Order’ only gives exemptions to individuals who are specified in the General Point 1.

3.3 Point B: There does not appear to be a legal definition of the term ‘assistance dog’. Although in a Government document, which relates to proposed amendments to the

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, 'assistance dogs' are referred to as 'a dog which has been accredited to assist a disabled person by a prescribed charity or organisation'.

- 3.4 We believe that the paragraphs under the General Point 1 (b), together with point 1(a) which refers to persons with sight conditions, adequately covers all possible types of 'assistance dogs'. Paragraph 1(c) (i-iv) covers the existing 'prescribed charities' and paragraph 1(c)(iv) covers the creation of further new and relevant 'prescribed charities' in the future.

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