

4. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AS DOG RANGERS

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee on the Council's powers to appoint dog rangers.

BACKGROUND

At the Committee's November meeting last year, a report on the process required to amend the Dog Control Policy was considered. This included a discussion on enforcement matters.

The Committee resolved (inter alia) that officers report back on the issues involved in preparing a submission to central Government seeking to amend the Dog Control Act so that enforcement can be undertaken by other Council officers (eg parking enforcement staff) in addition to dog control officers.

The Committee's intention was merely to utilise existing enforcement staff in addition to animal control officers who could issue infringement notices to dog owners breaching the Dog Control Bylaw by not leashing their dog in a public place. Infringement notices could also be issued under the Dog Control Act to the owners of unregistered dogs.

It was not considered appropriate to extend the powers beyond the issuing of infringement notices because enforcement staff do not have the training and experience that animal control officers have.

An opinion has been received from the Council's Legal Services Unit on this matter (copy attached). Whilst the Council already has the power to appoint any person as a dog ranger, it is apparent from the attached table setting out the powers exercisable by dog rangers that the issuing of infringement notices is not included. At present only dog control officers have that power.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Council write to the Minister of Local Government and Department of Internal Affairs seeking that the Dog Control Act be amended to allow dog rangers employed by territorial authorities to issue infringement notices under section 66 of the Act.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.