

7. PROPOSED DOG REGISTRATION FEES 2002/2003

The Committee **received** a report from Jane Donaldson, Environmental Services Manager, facilitating discussion on dog registration fees for the 2002/03 year. A demonstration of the new electronic job allocation system relating to dog ranging was also provided by Mark Vincent, Team Leader Animal Control.

At the meeting on 22 February 2002, when the Committee considered the proposed budget, updated figures were tabled indicating that the dog account would probably start the 2002/03 financial year \$78,300 in overdraft. Furthermore, the revenue target for 2001/02 was well behind budget and a shortfall of \$175,000 was anticipated.

The Committee **decided** that a two-month amnesty on unregistered dogs should be introduced in an effort to account for unregistered dogs. It is hoped that such an amnesty for the months of March/April 2002 will help offset the deficit.

After further discussion the Committee **decided** to recommend to the Annual Plan Subcommittee that all dog registration fees be raised by \$10 per category, and that the funding policy be changed to reflect a 7.6% general benefit, rather than the current 5%. It was noted that this increase in registration fees and rates subsidy would still not address the overdraft, but would prevent it increasing. Councillors Wells (Chair, Cox and Megan Evans requested that their votes against this decision be so recorded.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council approve a two-month amnesty on all unregistered dogs.
 2. That Council officers investigate a possible time payment option for dog owners and consider ways of reducing internal charges, particularly for vehicle costs.
 3. That a further report recommending dog registration fees for 2002/03 be presented to the Committee at its meeting set down for 15 March 2002, prior to formal adoption by the Council.
 4. That the dog registration fees for the 2002/03 year be considered by the Council at the meeting scheduled for 28 March 2002.