

2. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AS DOG RANGERS

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Council on the powers that are available to appoint the Council's enforcement officers as Dog Rangers.

BACKGROUND

At the 8 November 2002 meeting of the Regulatory and Consents Committee a report was considered on the process required to amend the Dog Control Policy. This included a discussion on enforcement matters.

The Committee resolved amongst other things 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 Regulatory and Consent Committee's intention was to use 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.

Recommendation: That the Council write to the Minister of Local Government and Department of Internal Affairs seeking an amendment to the Dog Control Act to allow Dog Rangers employed by territorial authorities to issue infringement notices under section 66 of the Act.