

#### 4. ADOPTION OF REPORT ON DOG CONTROL POLICY AND PRACTICES

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services, DDI 941-8549
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Inspections & Enforcement Unit Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Mark Vincent, Animal Control Team Leader

##### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The Dog Control Act 1996 ("the Act") requires all territorial authorities to report annually. Once the Council has adopted the report, public notice must be given of the report and a copy sent to the Secretary for Local Government. This provision in the Act was introduced by the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003. The Act lists the information required in the report.
2. The 2006/2007 report was not submitted to the Council in the 2006/07 financial year due to an administrative error. Process changes are now in place to ensure that this does not reoccur. Both the 2006/07 and the 2007/08 reports are attached for the Council's consideration.

##### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. The Dog Control Act 1996 was amended by the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003 with a focus on increasing public safety. As part of the amendments Central Government has introduced the requirement for territorial authorities to report annually with certain information.
4. The annual report requires territorial authorities to provide details in relation to such matters as: dog exercise and leash control; dog prohibited areas; impounded animals; education programmes and initiatives and a range of specific annual statistics including aggressive/dangerous dogs, number of dogs classified as dangerous or menacing dog, the number of registered dogs, number of infringement notices issued, and the number of prosecutions etc.
5. It is recommended that Council adopt both the 2006/07 and 2007/08 reports pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
6. Within the calendar year an Inspections & Enforcement Unit Annual Report will be brought to the Regulatory and Planning Committee and the Council to detail the Inspections & Enforcement Unit's approach, outputs and trend data across the full range of enforcement activities. This is a new initiative to provide Council with better information and understanding of the various enforcement activities and team outputs. This additional report will expand on the information provided in the attached reports, providing additional information in regards to such matters as complaint trends, dog owner numbers, micro chipping etc.

##### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. There are no direct financial implications in relation to the preparation of the annual report or the recommendation Council adopt the report. Covered by existing unit budgets.

##### Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2006-16 LTCCP budgets?

8. Yes.

##### LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. Section 10A of the Dog Control Act requires that a Territorial Authority must report on Dog Control Policy and Practices –
  - (1) In respect of each financial year, report on the administration of –
    - (a) Its Dog Control Policy adopted under section 10; and
    - (b) Its Dog Control Practices

- (2) The report must include, information relating to –
  - (a) The number of registered dogs
  - (b) The number of probationary and disqualified owners
  - (c) The number of dogs classified as dangerous and the relevant provision under which the classification was made.
  - (d) The number of dogs classified as menacing under section 33A
  - (e) The number of dogs classified as menacing under section 33C
  - (f) The number of infringement notices issued
  - (g) The number of prosecutions taken
- (3) The territorial authority must give public notice of the report –
  - (a) by publishing the report in –
    - (i) One or more daily newspapers circulating in the district
    - (ii) One or more other newspapers that have at least an equivalent circulation in the district to the daily newspapers circulating in that district.
  - (b) by any means that the territorial authority thinks desirable in the circumstances.
- (4) The territorial authority must also, within one month after adopting the report, send a copy of it to the Secretary for Local Government.

**Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?**

10. As per above.

**ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS**

11. The annual report and recommendation contained in this report aligns with the LTCCP level of services for Animal Control as the KPI's detailed in the LTCCP require the initiation and resolution of all dog control complaints within stipulated timeframes, namely:

Priority 1 complaints (wandering stock and aggressive behaviour by dogs) responded to within 2 hours.  
 Priority 2 complaints (other complaints about dogs) commenced within 24 hours.

(Page 147 of the LTCCP, level of service under regulatory services).

**ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES**

**Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?**

12. Not applicable.

**CONSULTATION FULFILMENT**

13. There is no requirement for consultation in relation to the preparation of the annual report. There is a statutory requirement (section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996) for the report to be publicly notified once adopted by Council.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Adopt the attached Christchurch City Council Report on Dog Control Policy and Practice for 2006/2007, pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.
- (b) Adopt the attached Christchurch City Council Report on Dog Control Policy and Practice for 2007/2008, pursuant to Section 10A of the Dog Control Act 1996.