DOG CONTROL ORDERS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Allan Holliday, Portfolio Holder for

Environment and Sustainability.

LEAD OFFICER: Kelth Parker, Head of Neighbourhood Services.

REPORT AUTHOR: Clinton Boyce, Legal Services Manager.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(a) that the coming into force date of the dog control orders approved at Council on the 18th August 2011 be changed from the 3rd October 2011 to the 9th November 2011; and

(b) that the proposal to make The Dogs Exclusion (Copeland Borough Council) (No. 1) Order 2012 in respect of the play/multi use game areas at Gosforth Recreation Ground, Kells Welfare Field, Millom Park, Meadow Road Mirehouse and Sneckyeat Hensingham as shown hatched black on the plans annexed to the report be endorsed and subject to the required statutory consultation with the outcome being reported to Council at its meeting on the 23rd February 2012.

1. INTRODUCTION

Members are referred to the previous minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13th August 2011 (at item 1 of this Agenda). Council stipulated a commencement date for the four Orders of the 3rd October 2011. Council also included a further recommendation, not contained in the original report, delegating minor amendments to the Legal Services Manager. The reasoning behind this additional recommendation was to include additional multi-use game areas into the order relating to the exclusion of dogs from certain areas. Having considered this proposal further it is felt that, for legal reasons, an additional order should be made for these areas. Due to delays in resolving this matter the proposed commencement date for the main orders approved by Council on the 13th August 2011 could not be achieved.

2. COMING INTO FORCE DATE

Once a dog control order is made certain steps must be taken. These include placing signs summarising the order, publishing in a local newspaper a notice that the orders have been made, making the information available on the web and sending the confirmation to other public authorities. It was not possible to complete these steps by the 3rd

October 2011. They can be completed by the 9th November 2011. This change of date is not seen as a minor amendment and it is preferred if Council endorses the change.

ADDITIONAL AREAS WHERE DOGS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED

It is proposed that a further order should be made to include the following multi use game areas in an exclusion order on the basis that it is inappropriate for safety reasons to have dogs within play areas. If an order is made this will mean that dogs will not be permitted to enter these areas, shown hatched black on the attached plans:

Recreation Ground, Gosforth: Multi Use Games Area; Rear Richmond Hill Road, Hensingham: Multi Use Games Area; Rear Richmond Hill Road, Hensingham: Play Area; Millom Park, Millom: Multi Use Games Area; Meadow Road, Mirehouse: Multi Use Games Area (two areas); and Welfare Field, High Road, Kells: Multi Use Games Area.

Before making an order certain steps must be taken. These include publishing a consultation notice in a local newspaper and consulting other authorities in the area. Any comments received can then be considered by members before deciding whether or not to confirm the order. Members are asked to endorse the above areas being considered for inclusion in a new exclusion order and subject to public consultation. The addition of these areas is not considered to be a minor amendment.

4. STATUTORY OFFICER/EIA COMMENTS

Monitoring officer: Legal comments are contained within the

report.

Section 151 Officer: The costs of the statutory public notices will

be borne by the earmarked reserve for dog control orders within the 2011/12 budget of £10,000. No other financial issues arise.

EIA: As stated in report to Council on 18th August

2011. Orders contribute to achieving a safe and cleaner environment. Provision is made

for 'working dogs' within the legislation.

List of Appendices:

Appendix 1: Plans for proposed additional areas to be subject of an

exclusion order.

Background documents: None.









