

For general release

17 July 2008

FOR INFORMATION

NOTICE OF MOTION ON PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

11. NOTICE OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

- 11.1 The Cabinet considered the following Notice of Motion submitted to Council on 13 March 2008 by Councillors Duncan and Davey.
- 11.2 'This Council recognises the social and health benefits of responsible dog ownership, the harm caused by irresponsible dog owners failing to clean up after or control their animals, and expresses its support for preserving open access to public areas including (but not limited to) beaches and golf courses for dog owners acting responsibly.

This Council notes that:

- Dogs play an essential role in improving health, welfare and quality of life for many thousands of residents of and visitors to the city
- Proposals to ban dog walking on outlying beaches and open spaces in the city will effectively ban dog owners from accessing such spaces, since many such residents' only use of these facilities is during their daily walking of the dog
- Dog owners and walkers who fail to control their companion animals or clean-up after them are endangering the health and welfare of others. This is contrary to both national legislation and local bye-laws and should not be tolerated
- Any extension of the current ban on dogs on beaches between the two piers could force visitors to the city to leave their pets in vehicles with probable adverse consequences on the welfare of the animals concerned.

This Council therefore

- Expresses its opposition to proposals to extend the current summer ban on dogs between the two piers to all beaches within the city limits and require dogs to be on leads on other open spaces including Hollingbury Golf Course
- Resolves to take firm action against irresponsible owners who do not clean up after their dogs or control them properly in public places
- Supports the sentiment in the petition organized by local campaign group 'It's Barking Mad', the text of which follows, and which has been signed (as at Monday, March 3) by 576 people including a Member of the European Parliament, one of the city's Members of Parliament, three Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and 20 members of this council.

"We fully support the need to have some designated dog-free beaches as currently in place. We are for fair access to the beaches for all and oppose an all out ban on

dogs on the beaches between April and September. We are for a crack down on fouling. We are against unnecessary dog restrictions on the promenade, the Undercliff Walk and at Hollingbury & Waterhall golf courses.”

11.3 The Chairman invited Councillor Duncan to speak to the motion.

11.4 Councillor Duncan addressed the Cabinet on the substantive points of the motion.

11.5 **RESOLVED –**

(1) That the Notice of Motion be noted and

(2) That the Notice of Motion be considered when determining Item 20 on the agenda ('Dog Control Order').

20. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

20.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Environment detailing proposals to replace current bylaws relating to dogs and the Dogs (Fouling of the Land) Act 1996, with a Dog Control Order. The replacement of the current bylaws with Dog Control Orders was designated under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 Sections 55 and 56 (for copy see minute book).

20.1 The Cabinet also took into consideration the petition, Notice of Motion and Deputation as above, when considering the issue.

20.2 **RESOLVED –** Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:

(1) That the making of an order pursuant to Section 55 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 providing for offences relating to the control of dogs in respect of land within Brighton & Hove be agreed. The Dog Control Order shall relate to:-

- (a) the removal of dog faeces,
- (b) for keeping of dogs on leads
- (c) the exclusion of dogs.

in respect of land specified in appendix 3.

(2) That the level of fixed penalty for contravening a dog control order be set at £80.00

(3) That the commencement of the Dog Control Order from Midnight 31st December 2008 be approved.