

TRANSPORT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

4th November 2011

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Pamela Hargreaves (Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Denise Ogden, Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

4. Review of Dog Control Orders (*Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services*)

Type of decision

Key – test ii applies

Purpose of report

To seek approval to amend the existing Dog Control Orders currently in force across Hartlepool

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

In 2008 five Dog Control Orders were introduced to Hartlepool under part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act. In May 2011 the Finance and Procurement Portfolio Holder gave approval for a review of these following requests from the public for changes to be made to existing orders and for the introduction of new orders in specified parts of Hartlepool including on leads orders at North Sands and Redheugh Gardens and a dog exclusion order at Fens Field. Consultation took place between 1st May and 31st July 2011, full details were appended to the report for the Portfolio Holder's attention. The following amendments to the current orders were proposed:

- That dogs be allowed to run freely at the Catcote end of the Burn Valley Gardens
- That dogs be required to be on leads at North Cemetery
- That dogs be required to be on leads at North Sands between September and March. Officers noted that there had been public and Parish Council opposition to this proposal however Natural England had objected to an application to develop the former Steetley site on the Headland because of concern over the potential increase in

disturbance to water birds on the North Sands which it was thought would result. The Council had a statutory duty to take reasonable steps to further the conservation and enhancement of Sites of Special Scientific Interest under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 therefore the seasonal 'on leads' order was recommended despite opposition

- That dogs be excluded from Fens Field
- That dogs be required to be on leads at Redheugh Gardens
- That dogs be required to be on leads at Thornton Street Linear Park

The Portfolio Holder was advised that there were no financial considerations associated with these changes other than the maintenance of appropriate signage.

The Portfolio Holder noted the concerns expressed by residents of the Headland area and the Headland Parish Council in relation to the proposal for North Sands. However, she was mindful of the statutory duty placed upon the Council, under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to 'take reasonable steps' to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs. The Assistant Director, Neighbourhood Services commented that Natural England was concerned that during the period September to March any activity in that area may disturb migrating birds. As a result of these concerns, planning conditions had been attached to the development at Steetley to ensure dog control orders were in place.

Decision

- (i) The making of, as referenced, the orders detailed in Section 4 of the report was approved for the following areas:

North Sands
Fens Field
Redheugh Gardens
Thornton Street Linear Park

- (ii) The Chief Solicitor was instructed to bring the orders into force.

The meeting concluded at 3.34 pm

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 9 NOVEMBER 2011