

**REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016**

**REPORT ON: MICROCHIPPING OF DOGS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2016**

**REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

**REPORT NO: 105-2016**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Committee of the implications of the new Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland) Regulations 2016 which came into force on 29 January 2016 and make recommendations for the implementation of this new statutory responsibility.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- notes the content of this report and the implications of the new Regulations;
- remits the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to arrange for the necessary staff training; and
- remits the Head of Democratic and Legal Services to make appropriate amendments to the Scheme of Delegation of Powers to Officers.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services advises that all costs associated with implementing these proposals will be contained within the existing Neighbourhood Services Revenue Budget.

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 The Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland) Regulations 2016 came into force on 29 January 2016. From 6th April 2016 it will be compulsory for all dogs over 8 weeks old in Scotland to be microchipped; this includes both being implanted with a microchip and having their details registered on a compliant database.

4.2 The main effects of the Regulations are:

- to require mandatory microchipping of all dogs in Scotland and the recording of information about every dog and its keeper on a database complying with a specified set of conditions;
- to set a technical standard for the type of microchip that must be used for the purposes of microchipping a dog under these Regulations; and
- to set out rules about who may implant a microchip in any kind of dog in Scotland.

4.3 For the purposes of these Regulations, a local authority can authorise appropriate officers as “authorised persons”. It is considered that the Senior Environmental Services Officer and six Environmental Services Officers within the Community Safety and Protection Division are the most appropriate members of staff to implement the provisions of the Regulations.

4.4 An authorised person may take possession of a dog to check if a compliant microchip has been implanted. It is anticipated this enforcement activity will target irresponsible owners

as part of other enforcement activity that deals with straying, dog fouling, nuisance barking and dealing with dogs that are deemed to be “out of control”.

- 4.5 Where the dog is not microchipped an authorised officer can serve notice on the keeper of the dog, requiring a compliant microchip to be implanted within 21days. Should a keeper of a dog fail to comply with a notice within the 21days, the authorised person may take possession of the dog, without the keepers consent, to arrange for the dog to be microchipped and may recover the costs for doing so from the keeper.
- 4.6 Currently, the Animal Care Assistants at Brown Street Kennels are qualified to implant microchips and it is proposed to maintain this function via any necessary training in accordance with the requirements of the new Regulations.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Executive Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted on this Report.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

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**Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

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23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016