

**RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

Key Decision ✓

**SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF STRAY DOG KENNELLING SERVICE TO HOPE RESCUE AT CYNLLAN KENNELS, LLANHARAN**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Service Director, Public Health and Protection, to formally transfer the stray dog kennelling service to Hope Rescue Animal Charity from the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and agree the recovery of costs incurred by Hope Rescue from owners who reclaim their dogs.

**DELEGATED DECISION: (DATE)**

It was **AGREED:**

- That the formal transfer of the stray dog kennelling service to Hope Rescue at Cynllan Kennels, Llanharan takes effect from the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
- That the Council Animal Shelter at Dinas Depot, Porth is closed from the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
- That in addition to the statutory fee, the costs incurred by Hope Rescue in kennelling stray dogs are recovered from owners who reclaim their dogs.

  
**Chief Officer Signature**

PAUL MEE  
**Print Name**

8.6.17.  
**Date**

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution



**CONSULTATION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE**

06/06/2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE (if required)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

**CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.**

**IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

YES ✓

**Reason for urgency:** To ensure the formal transfer of the stray dog kennelling service to Hope Rescue at Cynllan Kennels, Llanharan takes effect from the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

*If deemed urgent* - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:

.....  
  
**(Mayor)**

08.06.17  
.....  
**(Dated)**

**NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.**



FOR CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

**PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES**

**PUBLICATION**

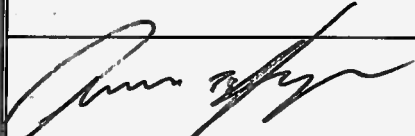
Publication on the Councils Website:- 9/06/2017

**DATE**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

**Note:** This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 5 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be           /            
**DATE**

|  |   |                           |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| <br><b>Secretary to the Cabinet Signature</b> | CHRISTIAN SJ HANAGAN<br><b>Print Name</b> | 08.06.2017<br><b>Date</b> |
|--|---|---------------------------|



### Further Information

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Directorate:</b>  | <b>Public Health and Protection</b>   |
| <b>Contact Name:</b> | <b>Louise Davies</b>  |
| <b>Designation:</b>  | <b>Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Community Safety</b> |
| <b>Tel.No.</b>       | <b>01443 425385</b>   |



## **DELEGATED DECISION**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

#### **TRANSFER OF STRAY DOG KENNELLING SERVICE TO HOPE RESCUE AT CYNLLAN KENNELS, LLANHARAN**

#### **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & PROTECTION**

**AUTHOR: Louise Davies, Head of Environmental Health, Trading  
Standards and Community Safety.**

**Neil Pilliner, Pollution and Public Health Manager**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to confirm the date of formal transfer of the stray dog kennelling service to Hope Rescue Animal Charity as the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and agree the recovery of costs incurred by Hope Rescue from owners who reclaim their dogs to reflect the costs Hope Rescue will incur as part of the new arrangement.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Service Director, Public Health and Protection, as described below.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 The formal transfer of the stray dog kennelling service to Hope Rescue at Cynllan Kennels, Llanharan, takes effect from the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
- 2.2 The Council Animal Shelter at Dinas Depot, Porth, is closed from the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
- 2.3 In addition to the statutory fee, the costs incurred by Hope Rescue in kennelling stray dogs are recovered from owners who reclaim their dogs.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 On the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Cabinet confirmed approval for Hope Rescue to provide kennelling facilities for the Council in Llanharan. Hope Rescue has prepared their kennels to detain stray dogs from the



12<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Legislation allows full cost recovery of the costs incurred to detain a stray dog and the costs charged to owners who reclaim dogs need to be changed to reflect the actual costs to Hope Rescue of kennelling a dog at their licensed kennels.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 At a Cabinet meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the decision was made to outsource the kennelling facility and retain the statutory service for animal control. The Service Director, Public Health and Protection, opened a dialogue with third sector organisations with respect to outsourcing the kennelling facility at a location within the County Borough. On the 24<sup>th</sup> November, Cabinet gave approval for the transfer of the stray dog kennelling service to Hope Rescue
- 4.2 Hope Rescue has purchased a licensed boarding kennels, Cynllan Kennels, in Llanharan, for the purpose of detaining and re-homing stray dogs. The service they will provide for the Council will ensure adequate capacity to detain the stray dogs seized by Animal Control Wardens and a more accessible service than currently offered by the Council to owners who wish to reclaim their dog. Through the new partnership with Hope Rescue, there will also be improved arrangements to receive stray dogs through a 24 hours/365 day service at the kennels. In addition, the kennels are located in a woodland area with improved facilities to exercise dogs and undertake behavioural assessments linked to the Council and Hope Rescue's goal of re-homing stray dogs.
- 4.3 Any dog picked up by the Animal Control Service, which is chipped and can be returned directly to its owner, will continue to be returned free of charge the first time it is found to stray. In accordance with the new legislative requirement, the Council will continue to require the owners of any dog not micro-chipped to be chipped at the owners' expense before release and this will be done by Hope Rescue and recharged to owners.
- 4.4 Currently, around 25% of dogs detained by the Council are reclaimed by their owners. The Council will continue to meet the costs of kennelling and caring for stray dogs that are not reclaimed within the statutory 7 days period and these costs will be met through the existing Council budget at no additional cost. After seven nights the dog ceases to be the responsibility of the Council and Hope Rescue will seek to re-home the dog. Owners of dogs detained at the kennels are responsible for the costs incurred and these are payable before a reclaimed dog is released, in addition to the statutory fee of £25. Hope Rescue will collect these costs and the fines from owners.
- 4.5 The costs incurred by Hope Rescue in kennelling a dog at their facility will include a handling fee (£5) and kennelling costs (£10) on the first

day. An additional £10 kennelling fee is then charged for each night the dog is detained for up to 7 nights. As with the existing arrangements to recover costs, a vaccination fee and any veterinary treatment costs may be recovered from owners if required. The costs charged to owners who reclaim their dog will be significantly less than the cost charged by Hope Rescue to owners of dogs privately boarded at their kennels. They are also significantly lower than the cost recharged by private kennels which provide a service to neighbouring local authorities, such as Merthyr Tydfil CBC. There will be no additional cost to owners if their dog is taken into the kennels outside normal opening times.

- 4.6 The schedule of costs to be repaid by owners to Hope Rescue is as follows (plus vaccination and veterinary treatment costs if necessary).

| <b>HOPE RESCUE COSTS AND STATUTORY FINES FROM 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017: Number of days in kennel or part any day</b> |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <b>DAYS IN KENNEL</b>   | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> |
| <b>STATUTORY FEE</b>  | £25      | £25      | £25      | £25      | £25      | £25      | £25      |
| <b>KENNEL CHARGE<br/>(inc handling fee)</b>   | £15      | £25      | £35      | £45      | £55      | £65      | £75      |
| <b>TOTAL PAYABLE<br/>(plus VAT if applicable)</b>   | £40      | £50      | £60      | £70      | £80      | £90      | £100     |
| <b>TOTAL PAYABLE IF DOG<br/>NEEDS TO BE MICRO CHIPPED<br/>(plus VAT if applicable)</b>                                | £50.25   | £60.25   | £70.25   | £80.25   | £90.25   | £100.25  | £110.25  |

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time. The screening form can be accessed by contacting the author of the report or the Cabinet Business officer

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 6.1 The Council will continue to meet the costs of kennelling and caring for stray dogs that are not reclaimed within the statutory 7 days period and these costs will be met through the existing Council budget at no additional cost. The direct costs of transferring the stray dog kennelling service to Hope Rescue are likely to be cost neutral for the Council.

## **7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to deal with stray dogs (Section 149 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990). The Act requires that the Council makes provision to seize and detain any stray dog and charge a fee for dogs that are claimed by their owners within a statutory 7 day period. The statutory fee that must be charged by Councils for the seizure of dogs is set by law and is £25 per dog. The Council has discretion to charge an additional fee for the detention of any dog. Any dog that is not claimed after 7 days must be disposed of by the Council, either by selling it, giving it away or destroying it humanely.
- 7.2 The Environmental Protection Act does not stipulate the arrangement the Council must have to detain dogs.

## **8. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP**

- 8.1 In line with the "Living within our means" Priority, the Council needs to explore different ways of delivering services in order to ensure they are cost effective in the future. The demand for kennelling dogs at the Animal Shelter is likely to decrease in coming years and outsourcing the kennelling requirements while maintaining an Animal Warden Service, provides a cost effective solution for the future.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The kennels operated by Hope Rescue Animal Charity will provide an improved service for detaining dogs. There are increased costs to owners associated with keeping the dogs at Hope Rescue kennels. The costs incurred in kennelling a dog will be passed on to the owner when they reclaim their dog as they are deemed responsible for the welfare of their animal.

### **Other Information:-**

#### **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny





**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017**

**TRANSFER OF STRAY DOG KENNELLING SERVICE TO HOPE RESCUE  
AT CYNLLAN KENNELS, LLANHARAN**

**Background papers:**

**Cabinet – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Cabinet – 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**Contact Officer:**

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