

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
16<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor John Powell, Portfolio Holder for  
Highways and Environmental Health**

**SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Russell George**

**Can the Cabinet member provide an update on how the authority is carrying out enforcement?**

**The council of 5th March 2014, agreed "that the Council holds a full review of civil enforcement powers by the relevant Scrutiny Committee and also extends the powers relating to dog fouling to CEO's to combat the issue of dog fouling across the county". Please can the cabinet member provide an update on the progress of this?**

(a) The Authority has continued to carry out enforcement through the Environmental Health Team with practical support from LE staff (cleaning, signs, bins) when required.

(b) The issue of dog fouling has been considered by:

- the Environment, Infrastructure and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 when the County Council's intentions were noted alongside a response to the Community Safety Partnership. An outcome of the meeting was the establishment of a working group, comprising three Members, to commence the review. [Cllrs. Viola Evans (Lead), Arwel Jones and Dai Jones];
- the Enforcement of Dog Fouling Working Group which met on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and the outcomes of that meeting were notified to all Members, primarily to assess the extent of local problems and whether reports were being made;
- the Joint Chairs and Vice Chairs Steering Group – Scrutiny, Audit and Democratic Services Committees, which considered feedback from the Working Group on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and determined that the Group's remit should extend to considering the impact of dog fouling controls on current enforcement activity;

- the Enforcement of Dog Fouling Working Group met on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 to receive a presentation from Keep Wales Tidy and to review issues arising from the Steering Group's recommendations;
- the Environment, Infrastructure and Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 when it considered [item 8.3] a progress report.

**Please can the Cabinet Member inform me if the authority has contacted Dyfed Powys Police to discuss the possibility for Police Officers and Community Police Support Officers, to be given authority to enforce Fixed Penalty Notices and if so, what was the outcome of this discussion?**

The recent progress report noted that the police want this issue to be dealt with on a common basis across the force area. The Scrutiny Committee has agreed that the Police Commissioner should be contacted in support of PCSOs undertaking enforcement duties.

**I am aware that other local authorities have contracted external organisations to enforce Fixed Penalty Notices. I am advised that the cost to the County Council can be negated by the income received from Fixed Penalty Notice fines. Has the Cabinet Member considered contracting external organisations to enforce Fixed Penalty Notices for the problem of dog foul and litter?**

External organisations could undertake enforcement though it has not been established that the likely income would meet the enforcement costs. The Working Group will no doubt consider this aspect as part of their review.