



## RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

**SUBJECT:** Consultation on the future provision of dog kennelling arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf

**PURPOSE OF ATTACHED REPORT:**

To seek approval for a focused consultation to be undertaken with stakeholders about the options of future provision of dog kennelling arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

**DELEGATED DECISION (Date):**

That the Service Director Public Health and Protection be authorised to undertake a focused consultation with stakeholders on the options for future provision of dog kennelling arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

  
**Chief Officer Signature**

R. ISINGRINI  
**Print Name**

8.05.16  
**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

A. Morgan

**CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE**

31/5/16

**DATE**

PJ Lee

**OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE**

31/5/16

**DATE**

Directorate:	Community and Children's Services Group
Contact Name:	Louise Davies
Designation:	Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Community Safety
Tel. No.	01443 425385

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17**

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF  
GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**Part 1**  
**(Non-Confidential)**

**Consultation on the future provision  
of dog kennelling arrangements for  
Rhondda Cynon Taf**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval for a focused consultation to be undertaken with stakeholders about the options of future provision of dog kennelling arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the decision of the Group Director Community and Children's Services as described below.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Service Director, Public Health and Protection, be instructed to undertake a focused consultation with stakeholders on the options for future provision of dog kennelling arrangements for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The operation of the Council Animal Shelter is no longer cost effective. In addition, the Civic Amenity Site in Porth requires redevelopment and the cost benefits of extending the existing Civic Amenity Site in Porth are significant when compared with relocating that facility.
- 3.2 Dealing with stray dogs is the core activity of the Animal Control Service. The Council has a statutory duty to deal with stray dogs and legislation 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 legislation does not stipulate the arrangement the Council must have to detain dogs therefore it is not necessary for the Council to have its own kennelling facility.
- 3.3 The Council currently operates its own Animal Shelter at Dinas Depot in Porth which has capacity for 36 dogs. Of the dogs seized by the Animal Control Service, some are found to be micro-chipped and are returned to the owner free of charge on the first occasion they are found straying. For those that are detained, some will be

reclaimed by owners but the majority are given to a third sector charity for rehoming. Due to the success of this partnership, the number of dogs the Council has euthanized has reduced significantly from 144 in 2012-13 to only 10 in 2015-16.

- 3.4 There has been a steady reduction in the number of dogs seized and requiring detention at Dinas Animal Shelter over the last 3 years. This trend is set to continue in line with the requirement for compulsory micro-chipping of dogs by their owners, whereby on establishing ownership details, Animal Wardens will be able to return more dogs directly to the owner on the first occasion they are found straying. Any further reduction in the numbers of dogs detained will increase further the cost per day of detaining a dog in the Council facility.
- 3.5 In addition to the likely increasing costs of operating our own kennels, there is a need for redevelopment of the Porth Civic Amenity Centre, which is next to the Animal Shelter. There are current plans to redevelop and make improvements to the Council's Civic Amenity Site. The Council has a strategic goal of increasing levels of recycling by residents. The current site is too small for the number of users and there is a negative impact on the highways at peak times when users of the site have to queue on the main road before gaining entry to the facility. The closure of the Animal Shelter would enable the land to be utilised for the benefit of the required improvements at the Civic Amenity Site.
- 3.6 Two viable options have been identified for the future arrangements for dog kennelling for the Council. These are

**Option 1: RETAIN THE EXISTING SERVICE AND INCREASE FEES/CHARGES**

The cost per day of kennelling a dog at the Council facility can be recovered through fees payable by owners who reclaim their dog. Approximately 25% of dogs detained are reclaimed by their owners. These fees could be increased.

**Option 2: OUTSOURCE THE KENNELING FACILITY AND RETAIN A STATUTORY ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICE**

The majority of local authorities in Wales use a private kennel to provide kennelling facilities for detained dogs. A scoping exercise has been undertaken with the Procurement Team to identify alternative provision for kennelling facilities for Rhondda Cynon Taf.

- 3.7 Both of these proposals will have an impact on how the Animal Control Service deals with stray dogs in the County. Option 1 will also have an impact on whether the Civic Amenity facilities in Dinas can be improved for residents. As a result, it is necessary to undertake a focused consultation with stakeholders so that their views can be taken into account as part of the decision making process.