

# Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 4/15

Date: 18 August 2015

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Community and Culture  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## **Purpose:**

To inform Members of the various dog controls in place in Medway in accordance with Minute 180 of the record of the meeting of the Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 August 2015.

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There are a number of Dog Control Orders in effect in Medway. These are made under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

The first order relates to dog fouling and makes it an offence for a person in control of a dog to fail to remove faeces from any land in the open air to which the public have access.

The second order applies to all footpaths within the borough which are adjacent to a carriageway and states that dogs must be kept on leads. This has obvious road safety benefits.

The third order applies to all areas in Medway where there is no carriageway such as parks, green spaces and pedestrianised shopping areas. This order states that a person in charge of a dog must place the dog on a lead if directed to do so by an authorised officer.

This recognises that parks are the proper place to exercise a dog and that it should be expected that dogs will be let off of their leads in these areas. However, it also gives officers the ability to deal flexibly with issues of nuisance.

The fourth order excludes dogs from certain sensitive areas such as children's play areas and paddling pools.

Authorised officers include Community Wardens, Street Scene Enforcement Officers, Greenspaces staff and Police.

Dangerous dogs are covered by the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and is enforced by the Police.

Admission rates for dog bites in this area are 8 per 100,000 of population. This is among the lowest in the country. Source – Health & Social Care Information Centre.

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