

Responsible Dog Ownership Strategy Review 2018-2022

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2018 Recommendations

It was recommended the Council:

- ▶ Notes the findings of the report on the Responsible dog Ownership Strategy and associated enforcement pilot; - **COMPLETED**
- ▶ Agrees to an updated Responsible Dog Ownership Strategy 2018-2022, as a publication, to be prepared based on outcomes and findings of the Pilot and reflective of the new Corporate Plan and that this will be available within six months; - **COMPLETED**
- ▶ Instructs the Service Director Assets and Infrastructure to enter into negotiations for a contract for the future provision of dog bags from a third party, which has no costs to the Council in their provision or maintenance; - **COMPLETED***
- ▶ Agrees to the delivery of enforcement activity via the Police Community Action Team under the agreed Terms of Reference as part of a responsive, intelligence-led and prioritised service integral to the Local Policing Plan; - **COMPLETED**
- ▶ Consider the establishment of an Information and Education Officer post to develop and implement an educational programme in conjunction with Protective Services personnel to support the Responsible Dog Ownership Strategy and to act as an intelligence liaison officer between SBC and the Community Action Team - **COMPLETED**

Key Objectives of Strategy



Key Objectives

The Responsible Dog ownership Strategy set out the following key objectives across six delivery action areas:

- ▶ To educate dog owners in the principles of responsible dog ownership.
- ▶ To raise awareness of the legal responsibilities associated with dog ownership.
- ▶ To reduce the number of dog fouling instances through education, partnership working and enforcement.
- ▶ To improve the use of information and intelligence and share this with key partners.
- ▶ To clarify and raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of Scottish Borders Council and those of our key partners including Police Scotland.
- ▶ To improve and simplify the way in which members of the public can report instances of dog fouling.
- ▶ To work more closely with communities on developing local solutions.
- ▶ To ensure that robust enforcement action is taken, where appropriate.

Delivery Action Areas

- 1) Education and Awareness
- 2) Promotion and Events
- 3) Community Empowerment
- 4) Information and Intelligence
- 5) Enforcement
- 6) Partnerships

To educate dog owners in the principles of responsible dog ownership.

- ▶ Created a new permanent 'Dog Education Officer' post in 2019.
- ▶ Updated SBC's Responsible Dog Ownership Webpage so all information concise and in one place.
- ▶ Created dog education posters which show on all Council screens in contact centres, libraries and HQ.
- ▶ Worked with our partner Dogs Trust to provide free dog poo bags.
- ▶ Winner of Dogs Trust Partnership Scheme Award 2018/19 on Responsible Dog Ownership.

Dogs Trust Partnership Scheme
2018/2019

WINNER 

To educate dog owners in the principles of responsible dog ownership.

Young Person's Guide to

SAFETY WITH DOGS

Dogs should always be treated with respect and they rarely ever bite for no reason. Stay safe and know the signs.

Never approach an unknown dog or shout loudly near a strange dog - it may scare him and he could react angrily.

Do not tease a dog.

Never approach a dog that is tied up.

Do not disturb a dog while he's sleeping.

Do not take a bone or a toy away from a dog if they're playing with it.



Calmly walk away from a dog if he growls at you or seems unfriendly. Don't run.



Always be a respectful, responsible dog owner



"It's OK, my dog is friendly..."



It's NOT OK!



Your dog may be friendly, but not all dogs are.

Please remember...

Never let your dog run up to a dog on lead - they could be scared or become reactive.

If someone asks you to put your dog back on lead, it may be because their dog is anxious or reactive.

Try to respect other owners and their need for space - owners with reactive dogs are always on high alert.



If you have no voice control over your dog off lead, **always** keep them on lead.



Always be a respectful, responsible dog owner

BEEN CAUGHT SHORT?

FREE DOG POO BAGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT COUNCIL CONTACT CENTRES



BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER, PLAY #YOURPART AND PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.SCOTBORDERS.GOV.UK/DOGS



#yourpart



To educate dog owners in the principles of responsible dog ownership.

Education Activity	2019	2020	To date 2021
School Visits	6	14	0
Walks	7	4	10
Community Councils	5	2	0
Clubs	0	2	0
Events	3	0	0

To raise awareness of the legal responsibilities associated with dog ownership.

DID YOU KNOW...

UK Law requires that your dog must wear a collar and tag when out in public.

A microchip does not replace the requirement of a collar and tag.

For your dog's safety, ensure your tag includes your address and contact details and that your microchip details are up-to-date.

Exceptions to the collar and tag laws include:

- Working dogs
- Guide & Hearing dogs
- Assistance dogs
- Police dogs
- Sporting dogs
- Search & Rescue dogs

For more information go to legislation.gov.uk



Always be a respectful, responsible dog owner



WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR DOG STRAYS

If your dog strays, it will be collected and taken to designated kennels by Council Officers.

It will then be scanned for a microchip - so make sure your current details are up to date so the Council can contact you.

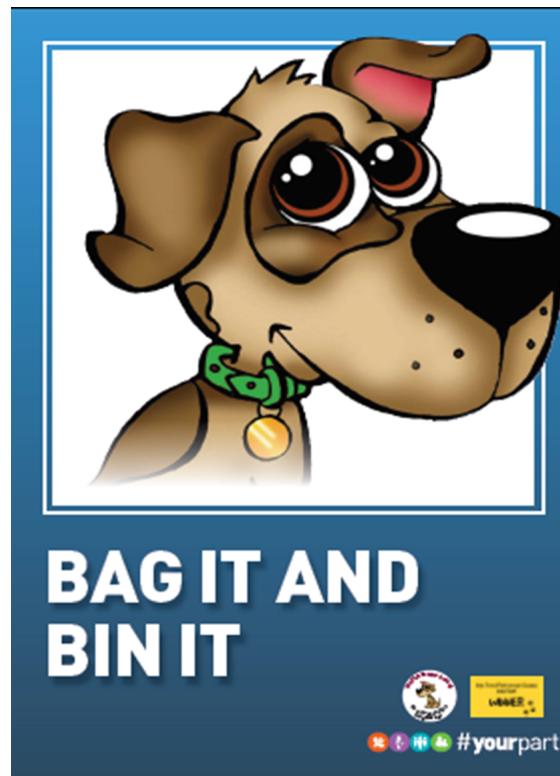
Stray dogs will be taken to our holding kennels and kept for 7 days. During this time the owner can contact us to reclaim their dog, which will be returned to the home address once a claiming fee is paid.

Stray dogs not claimed within the 7 day period will become property of Scottish Borders Council and will be transferred for rehoming.



Always be a respectful, responsible dog owner

To raise awareness of the legal responsibilities associated with dog ownership.



To raise awareness of the legal responsibilities associated with dog ownership.

IS YOUR DOG MICROCHIPPED?

ALL DOGS MUST BE MICROCHIPPED AND YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL HAS TEAMED UP WITH CHARITY DOGS TRUST TO OFFER FREE MICROCHIPPING.

BE A RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER, PLAY #YOURPART AND MICROCHIP YOUR PET

FIND OUT MORE AT
WWW.SCOTBORDERS.GOV.UK/DOGS



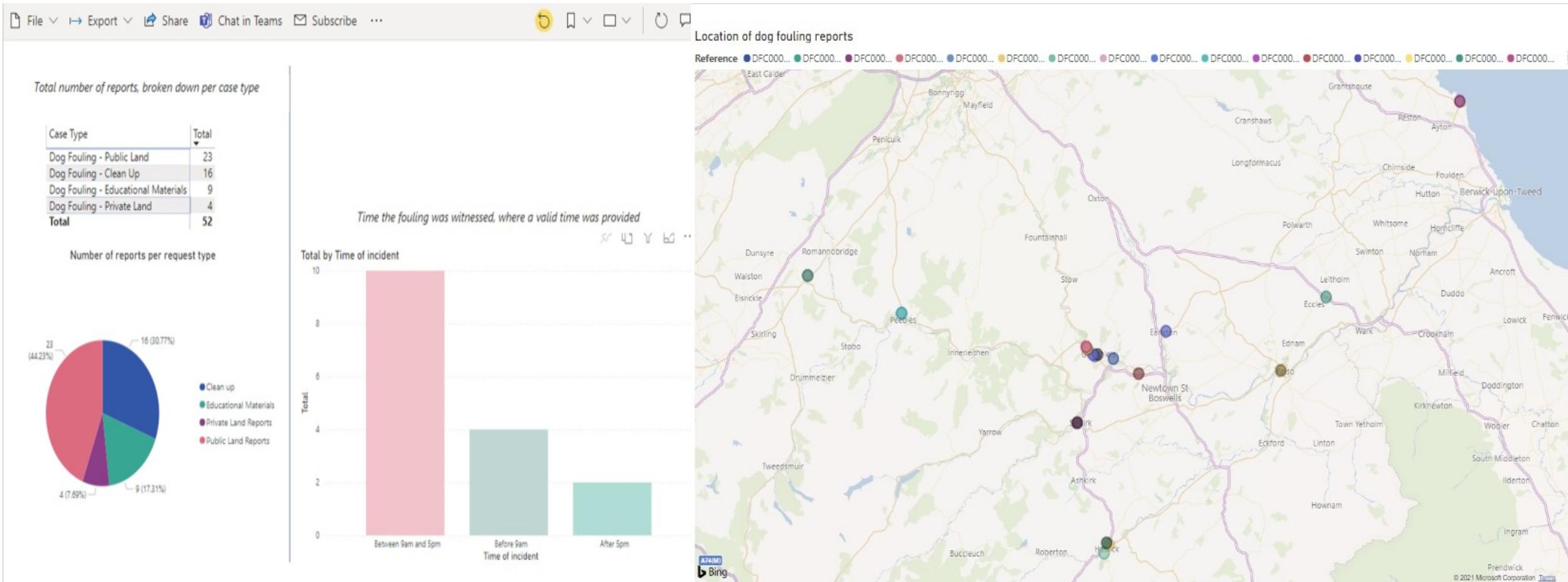
#yourpart



To reduce the number of dog fouling instances through education, partnership working and enforcement.

- ▶ Dog Fouling posters and stencils – with posters available for the public to download from SBC website.
- ▶ New reporting process to allow Neighbourhoods cleansing teams to remove dog fouling.
- ▶ Power BI reports to target anti-fouling resources.
- ▶ Free dog poo bags* from our partner Dogs Trust.
- ▶ Dog Education Officer visits and walks.
- ▶ Child education prioritised to change parental / adult behaviour to picking up after their dog.
- ▶ Fixed Penalty Notices to be served as default position if supported by a willing witness.

To reduce the number of dog fouling instances through education, partnership working and enforcement.



To improve the use of information and intelligence and share this with key partners.

- ▶ Worked with Scottish Improvement Service on a dog control notice database proof of concept.
- ▶ Respond to all Scottish Government consultations in relation to companion animals.
- ▶ Share intelligence with Police Scotland and the SSPCA.
- ▶ Updated internal reporting codes on Uniform database for more accurate recording and reporting on activities.
- ▶ Improved working relationship with CAT Team, Community Safety and Neighbourhoods.

To clarify and raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities of Scottish Borders Council and those of our key partners including Police Scotland.

- ▶ Rolled out a hugely successful online PowerPoint training package to Police Scotland;
 - Improved communication
 - Improved sharing of intelligence
 - All new officers are required to complete the training
- ▶ Details roles and responsibilities of Scottish Borders Council and those of Police Scotland in relation to:
 - Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
 - Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010
 - Environmental Protection Act 1990 (stray dogs and barking)
 - Microchipping of Dogs Regulations (Scotland) Regulations 2016
 - Control of Dogs Order 1992
 - Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982
 - Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953
 - Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003



To improve and simplify the way in which members of the public can report instances of dog fouling.

- ▶ New online dog fouling reporting form went live 22 April 2021.
- ▶ <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/xfp/form/665>
- ▶ Streamlined and saves officer times as online report generates a witness statement containing all the collated details from the online fields and emailed direct to Police Scotland.
- ▶ Improved customer service as allows for email updates to be sent to the customer as their fouling complaint is progressed.
- ▶ Generates Power BI Report of fouling incidences so we can target resources.
- ▶ New QR code on anti - dog fouling posters which will take you straight to the reporting form.
- ▶ Fouling can still be reported in person or by telephone.



To work more closely with communities on developing local solutions

- ▶ Implemented a free dog microchipping service – 82 dogs chipped.
- ▶ Introduced a new procedure to resolve dog barking complaints before they are investigated as a statutory nuisance.
- ▶ Worked with housing associations to provide guidance leaflets and advice in relation to responsible dog ownership.
- ▶ Attendance at Community Council meetings to highlight the services we provide.
- ▶ Green Dog Walkers Scheme and anti-dog fouling toolkit.
- ▶ Use of social media to highlight campaigns e.g. dog control and dogs die in hot cars.
- ▶ Amalgamated all animal related services into one department for ‘one stop shop’ for members of the public.



To ensure that robust enforcement action is taken, where appropriate

- ▶ Fixed Penalty Notices issued for dog fouling as a default where supported by evidence and within time limits.
- ▶ Recordable Police warnings (police record) as a secondary option.

Date	Complaints Received	Complaints Referred to Police	FPN Served	Police Warnings
From 22 April 2021	22	11	2	6
1 Jan -21 Apr 21	25	5	1	unknown
2020	37	5	1	unknown
2019	70	8	3	unknown

To ensure that robust enforcement action is taken, where appropriate

- ▶ All dog control complaints are investigated by the Dog Control Officer.
- ▶ All breaches of Dog Control Notices reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

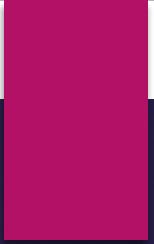
Date	No. Dog Control Complaints	No. of DCNs Served	No. of DCN Breaches reported to PF	No. of Written Warnings
2020	116	4	0	34
2019	119	1	0	45
2018	116	6	0	21

To ensure that robust enforcement action is taken, where appropriate

- ▶ All dog barking complaints referred to Environmental Health as a statutory noise nuisance are investigated and action taken in line with the Council's enforcement policy.



	2019	2020	2021 to date
Complaints Received	91	83	60
Resolved	68	54	36
Referred to ASBU	5	7	7
Referred to Environmental Health	1	12	12
Referred to Housing	15	3	2
Referred to Police	2	5	0
Referred to SSPCA	0	2	3



Thank You.

QUESTIONS?