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| <b>6 February 2014</b>  |                                 | <b>ITEM: 7</b> |
| <b>Standards and Audit Committee</b>  |                                 |                |
| <b>Update Report on Stray Horses</b>  |                                 |                |
| <b>Report of:</b> Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection  |                                 |                |
| <b>Wards and communities affected:</b><br>All   | <b>Key Decision:</b><br>Non-Key |                |
| <b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection                                    |                                 |                |
| <b>Accountable Director:</b> Darren Henaghan, Director of Environment   |                                 |                |
| <b>This report is</b> Public  |                                 |                |
| <b>Purpose of Report:</b> to update members of the committee of responsibilities in relation to stray horses. |                                 |                |

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Following a report on a green yard scheme for stray and abandoned horses in Thurrock at the last meeting, members of Standards and Audit committee requested an update in relation to stray horses. Responsibility for stray horses within Thurrock rests with Essex Police.

### **1. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1.1 Members of Standards and Audit Committee note the contents of the report.**
- 1.2 Member of Standards and Audit Committee note that Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny have Animal Welfare Policy on the forward plan and this will encompass the responsibilities of the Council in relation to horses.**

### **2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 2.1 At the last meeting of Standards and Audit Committee the client manager for audit services presented a report to the committee on green yard scheme for stray and abandoned horses in Thurrock.**
- 2.2 Following the presentation of the report members of the committee requested an update report on stray horses.**

### **3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 It should be noted that the report on the Green Yard referred to work carried out between 2002 and 2011.
- 3.2 The situation with regards to stray horses is now that Essex Police have responsibility for dealing with all aspects of stray horses.
- 3.3 Thurrock Council will remove dead horses from public highways or council owned land.
- 3.4 Responsibility for horse welfare rests with the RSPCA.
- 3.5 Thurrock Council Trading Standards have responsibility for ensuring horses have passports. The Trading Standards team are currently carrying out a focused audit on horses within Thurrock to ensure that they have horse passports and are compliant with the relevant legislation.
- 3.6 Thurrock's Animal Welfare Policy is in the process of being rewritten. Through that refresh officers will ensure that the policy is clear on responsibilities in relation to horses.
- 3.7 Once rewritten the Animal Welfare Policy will be presented to Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview and Scrutiny.

### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

- 4.1 The information requested by the committee at their last meeting is presented within the report.

### **5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 A meeting with all statutory agencies involved with horses in Thurrock was held in 2013 to clarify the responsibilities which are outlined within the report.

### **6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

- 6.1 The work carried out by the Council in relation to horses assists in ensuring the Council priority of protect and promote our clean and green environment is met.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Sean Clark**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652010**  
**sclark@thurrock.gov.uk**

Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report as it is for information purposes only, it is worth noting that additional resources have been given to Trading Standards to carry out work in relation to horse passports. This will be met from the existing budget envelope or, should it be necessary, from reserves set aside for this purpose.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**  
Telephone and email: **01375 652087**  
**David.Lawson@BDTLegal.org.uk**

As it is for information only, there are no adverse legal implications arising from this report.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Teresa Evans**  
Telephone and email: **tevans@thurrock.gov.uk**

There are no direct diversity implications arising from this report as it is for information purposes only.

### **7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

Through working with partners on this matter the Council is ensuring its Section 17 responsibilities are met.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):**

- Thurrock Council Website.

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