

6th June 2016

Community, Health and Leisure Committee

The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015

Report of: *David Carter, Environmental Health Manager*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the powers introduced to require all dogs over 8 weeks to be implanted with a microchip and the powers available to the Council to deal with keepers of dogs that have not been microchipped.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Members agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive and to the Environmental Health Manager and officers nominated by them to take appropriate action if dogs are found not to have been microchipped**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 came into force on 6th April 2016. The Regulations require a keeper of a dog which is older than 8 weeks to ensure that it is microchipped by a vet or suitably trained person.
- 3.2 The microchip implanted will record a unique number and manufacturer's code, and details of the full name and address of the keeper (and where applicable the breeder), and the name, breed, sex, colour and date of birth of the dog will be recorded and kept on a database maintained by a database operator.
- 3.3 Where a dog is transferred to a new keeper, the new keeper must record their full name, address and contact telephone number and any change in the dog's name on the database.

- 3.4 A local authority in whose area a dog is kept may authorise in writing any person to act for the purpose of enforcing these Regulations in its area. Any police constable or community support officer is also an authorised person for the purposes of these Regulations.
- 3.5 An authorised person may serve a notice on the keeper of a dog requiring the keeper to have the dog microchipped within 21 days.
- 3.6 If the keeper of the dog fails to comply with a notice, the Council may arrange for the dog to be microchipped and recover the costs from the keeper.
- 3.7 It is an offence to fail to comply with a notice, punishable on summary conviction by a fine of up to £500.
- 3.8 A microchip must be fitted by a trained professional, e.g. a vet, which will cost about £15-£20, but there are several organisations where a dog can be microchipped free of charge, including the Dogs Trust, Blue Cross Centres and Battersea Dog's Home

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 The options available are to:
 - 1. Authorise officers to use the available powers under The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 to ensure that dogs are microchipped in accordance with the law.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 To ensure that dogs are microchipped in the Borough and can be identified in case they are lost or stolen.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Consultation has already been undertaken by the Government prior to introducing the legislation.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 Community and Health
Provide advice, support, guidance and enforcement

8. Implications

Financial Implications

Name & Title: Ramesh Prashar, Financial Services Manager

Tel & Email: 01277 312513 / ramesh.prashar@brentwood.gov.uk

8.1 All costs will be met from existing budgets.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Daniel Toohey, Monitoring Officer and Head of Support Services

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8.2 The relevant legislation and legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.3 None identified

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015

10. Appendices to this report

None

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