

Date . Dyddiad 13th March 2017

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Pembrokeshire County Council Cyngor Sir Penfro

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Please ask for
Os gwelwch yn dda gofynnwch am

Lesley Griffiths AM
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Sustainable Dog Control and Welfare

The Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Pembrokeshire County Council met recently to discuss issues with dogs, including fouling.

Dog fouling is a recurring issue for almost all urban areas in Pembrokeshire and indeed across Wales. This is not just an unpleasant issue but can cause blindness especially to young persons through *toxocariasis*. Evidence and information provided by Members and Officers showed the scale of the issues that *irresponsible* dog ownership presented. Recent Welsh Government figures provided showed that the numbers of dogs in Wales had increased to approximately 550,000, up from 450,000 a few years ago. Issues ranged not only regarding dog fouling but also stray dog numbers, micro chipping legislation and enforcement, dealing with dangerous dogs, admissions to Accident and Emergency for dog bites, the shocking and tragic deaths of persons from dog attacks, noisy dogs and collection and removal of dog waste. The problems of dog breeding were also mentioned. It is estimated that in Pembrokeshire alone approximately £300,000 was spent on dealing with dogs (not including breeding of dogs). Members of the Committee agreed that this figure was far too high and fell disproportionately on those that did not own a dog or who were responsible dog owners.

The recent resource reductions in real terms and future resourcing reductions to local government means that the funding of Dog Warden services were not likely to be sustainable. In some local authorities in Wales Dog Wardens are no longer employed.

The Committee considered solutions and recognised that a mixture of education and enforcement were necessary. In Pembrokeshire an "Envirocrime" initiative has targeted problem areas with the resources available and works with the RSPCA and Dogs Trust to abate issues and promote responsible dog ownership. This has had some time limited effect in these areas.

The Committee was very concerned that the resources available to tackle dog issues were not sustainable and were in full agreement with the findings of the RSPCA

Report 'Review of Responsible Dog Ownership in Wales' (March 2016) commissioned by Welsh Government. In particular the Committee fully supported paragraph 9.4.2 and the introduction of a reasonable annual dog registration fee, hypothecated to dog control and welfare, to ensure these services are sustainable in the future. Consultations with responsible dog owners showed support, provided the fee was reasonable and the monies collected were pledged to dog control and welfare. In Northern Ireland a dog licence is a legal requirement.

The RSPCA Report was presented to the previous Minister and a written statement by Rebecca Evans AM on 16th March 2016 stated that the Chief Veterinary Officer would be tasked with considering the next steps. I would be grateful to learn what progress has been made and what proposals there are to introduce an annual dog registration fee to provide sustainable dog control and welfare services in Wales.

Yours Sincerely

B. Hall

Councillor B J Hall
Chair of Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Lesley Griffiths AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a
Materion Gwledig
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Annwyl Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet

Rheolaeth a Lles Cynaliadwy Cŵn

Mi wnaeth Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Gwasanaethau Cyngor Sir Penfro gyfarfod yn ddiweddar i drafod materion yn ymwneud â chŵn, yn cynnwys baeddu.

Mae cŵn yn baeddu yn fater sy'n digwydd yn barhaus bron ym mhob ardal drefol yn Sir Benfro, ac yn wir ledled Cymru. Mae'n fater amhleserus ond mae hefyd yn medru achosi dallineb, yn enwedig i bobl ifanc drwy tocsocariasis. Dangosodd tystiolaeth a gwybodaeth a ddarparwyd gan Aelodau a Swyddogion beth yw maint y broblem a achosir gan berchnogion anghyfrifol. Mae ffigurau diweddar gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn dangos bod y nifer o gŵn yng Nghymru wedi cynyddu i tua 550,000, o 450,000 rai blynnyddoedd yn ôl. Mae'r materion yn amrywio o faeddu, i gŵn crwydr, i ddeddfwriaeth a gorfodaeth *micro chipping*, mynd i'r afael â chŵn peryglus, derbyniad i adrannau Damweiniau ac Argyfwng o ganlyniad i frathiadau, marwolaethau trasig o ganlyniad i ymosodiad gan gŵn, cŵn swnllyd, a chasglu a chael gwared ar wastraff cŵn. Trafodwyd y problemau yn ymwneud â magu cŵn hefyd. Amcangyfrifir bod £300,000 wedi ei wario yn Sir Benfro yn unig ar ddelio â chŵn (heb gynnwys magu cŵn). Roedd Aelodau'r Pwyllgor yn cytuno fod hyn yn llawer rhy uchel ac yn disgyn yn anghyfartal ar rai nad oeddent yn berchen cŵn neu sydd yn berchnogion cyfrifol.

Mae'r lleihad diweddar mewn adnoddau mewn termau real, a lleihad pellach mewn adnoddau i'r dyfodol i Lywodraeth Leol yn golygu bod cyllid ar gyfer Warden Cŵn yn annhebygol o fod yn gynaliadwy. Mewn rhai Awdurdodau Lleol yng Nghymru, nid oes wardeiniaid cŵn yn cael eu cyflogi bellach.

Ystyriodd y Pwyllgor atebion posib ac adnabuwyd bod angen cyfuniad o addysg a gorfodaeth. Yn Sir Benfro mae menter "Envirocrime" wedi targedu ardaloedd problematig gyda'r adnodd sydd ar gael ac wedi gweithio gyda'r RSPCA a'r Ymddiriedolaeth Cŵn i leihau'r problemau ac i hyrwyddo perchnogaeth gyfrifol o gŵn. Mae hyn wedi cael rhywfaint o effaith (cyfyng o ran amser) o fewn yr ardaloedd yma.

Roedd y Pwyllgor yn poeni'n ddirfawr nad yw'r adnoddau sydd ar gael i fynd i'r afael a materion cŵn yn gynaliadwy ac roeddent yn cytuno'n llwyr ag adroddiad y RSPCA

'Adolygiad Perchnogaeth Gyfrifol o Gŵn yng Nghymru' (Mawrth 2016) a gomisiynwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Roedd y Pwyllgor yn cefnogi paragraff 9.4.2 a chyflwyniad ffi cofrestru resymol. Mae ymgynghoriadau gyda pherchnogion cŵn cyfrifol wedi dangos cefnogaeth, cyn belled â bod y ffi'n rhesymol a bod yr arian a gesglir yn mynd tuag at reolaeth cŵn a lles. Yng Ngogledd Iwerddon mae trwydded ci yn ofyniad cyfreithiol.

Cafodd Adroddiad y RSPCA ei gyflwyno i'r Gweinidog a nododd datganid ysgrifenedig gan Rebecca Evans AC ar 16 Mawrth 2016, y byddai'r Prif Swyddog Milfeddygol yn cael y gwaith o ystyried y camau nesaf. Byddem yn gwerthfawrogi dysgu pa gynnydd a wnaed a pha gynigion sydd i gyflwyno cofrestru cŵn blynnyddol i ddarparu rheolaeth a lles cynaliadwy yng Nghymru.

Yr Eiddoch yn Gywir

B. Hall

Y Cyngorydd B J Hall
Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu