

CITY SERVICES - ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Operational Policy Subject: **Dangerous Dogs**

Approved By: R Brown - Director City Services

Date: 31st March 2004

1 **Scope**

- 1.1 This policy describes how the authority deals with dangerous dogs which are either loose or under the control of a person.

2 **Objective**

- 2.1 To ensure that the safety of the public of Leeds is not threatened by dangerous dogs. To project a zero tolerance approach within communities regarding dog owners who allow their dogs to behave in a manner deemed dangerously out of control.

3 **Link to Council Plan**

- 3.1 Reducing crime and the fear of crime, therefore creating better neighbourhoods and more confident communities, is one of the aims within the plan.

4 **Application to the Enforcement Policy**

- 4.1 "Paragraph 5.3 - Prosecution", "paragraphs 5.3.1 Community Benefit and par 5.3.2 Flagrant Breach of the Law" apply to the problem of Dangerous Dogs. Legal action will be taken where public safety is at risk.

5 **Legislation**

- 5.1 The local authority and/or the Police have a duty to investigate allegations of dogs which are dangerously out of control in a public place, or a place that is not a public place where the owner/person in charge has allowed the dog to enter, and may cause a nuisance or threat of injury to a person under the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

- 5.2 The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Section 3 - Keeping dogs under proper control. If a dog is dangerously out of control in a public place the owner/person in charge shall be guilty of an offence if the dog injures any person (an aggravated offence) or there is reasonable apprehension that it may injure a person (an offence)

6 **Policy**

- 6.1 The Department will respond to and investigate any complaint that is made to them in the first instance where a dog is indicated to be dangerously out of control.
- 6.2 The Police will deal with complaints made to them in the first instance, and those made outside of the Departments working hours.
- 6.3 All complaints will be responded to within 1 working day. Urgent cases will include dogs which have attacked a person and are still at large, or dogs which are likely to attack a person and will be dealt with immediately.
- 6.4 Legal action should be considered in all cases where there is sufficient evidence.
- 6.5 If a person is using the dog as a weapon the Police will be notified immediately.
- 6.6 Anonymous complaints shall be responded to where public interest factors are high.
- 6.7 Departments who request help when faced with a dangerous dog preventing them from carrying out their work will be supported. The dog wardens will act as a contractor upon the instructions of the department who is the client, and who will cover any costs incurred.