

NONSUCH PARK COMMERCIAL DOG-WALKING LICENSING POLICY & DOG-WALKING CODE OF CONDUCT

Head of Service:	Ian Dyer, Head of Operational Services
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Wards affected:	Nonsuch Ward;
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	
Appendices (attached):	Appendix One – Draft Nonsuch Park Dog Walking Code of Conduct Appendix Two – Draft Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Policy

Summary

This report presents a draft Dog Walking Code of Conduct and a Commercial Dog Walking Policy for Nonsuch Park.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee is asked to:

- (1) Agree and adopt the draft Dog Walking Code of Conduct as set out in Appendix One.**
- (2) Agree and adopt the draft Commercial Dog Walking Policy as set out in Appendix Two.**
- (3) Nominate and authorise the Assistant Head of Service (Streetcare) to determine applications for, and to suspend/revoke, licenses for Commercial Dog Walking in Nonsuch Park, in accordance with the Policy.**
- (4) Nominate and authorise the Assistant Head of Service (Streetcare) in consultation with the Chair of the Committee to make minor amendments to the Dog Walking Code of Conduct and Commercial Dog Walking Policy as appropriate.**

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- 1.1 At the meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on 14 October 2024 it was agreed to implement a 12-month pilot Commercial Dog Walking Licencing Scheme and a Dog Walking Code of Conduct for Nonsuch Park commencing 1 April 2025.
- 1.2 Ahead of the launch the Committee asked to receive a draft of both documents for their review and approval.

2 Background

- 2.1 Over the course of the last year, the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee have responded to increasing concerns about dog walking in the park, by reviewing current byelaws, carrying out a public consultation on dog walking, holding a forum with commercial dog walkers and ultimately resolving to introduce a 12-month pilot Commercial Dog Walking Licencing Scheme and Dog Walking Code of Conduct for the Park to be launched on 1 April 2025.
- 2.2 This decision will help to regulate dog walking activity and ensure that the park is safe and enjoyable for all visitors.

3 Dog Walking Code of Conduct

- 3.1 The Dog Walking Code of Conduct set out in Appendix One, has been developed to capture the key messages about responsible dog walking in the park. The code of conduct for Nonsuch Park has drawn inspiration from all leading dog walking organisations such as The Dogs Trust and RSPCA and organisations who manage public spaces.
- 3.2 The Code of Conduct is not designed to be exhaustive, rather it is a reminder of their duty to consider other visitors, the health and safety of their dogs and the environment.
- 3.3 The Code of Conduct is for all dog walkers not just those who walk multiple dogs or walk for commercial purposes.

4 Commercial Dog Walking Policy

- 4.1 The Commercial Dog Walking Policy set out in Appendix Two, details the framework for this new policy. The policy describes how applicants can apply, the charges and the terms and conditions of the licence.

5 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 5.1 Equality Impact Assessment
 - 5.1.1 This proposal will bring commercial dog walking in line with other commercial activities in the park, creating a fairer system of charging for commercial activity.

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5.1.2 The proposed scheme has considered the cost of a license to ensure it remains affordable for Commercial Dog Walkers. This consideration aims to prevent a significant increase in their overheads, which could severely impact end users of this service, such as the elderly, disabled, or those on low incomes who rely on dog walking services for their animals' welfare.

5.2 Crime & Disorder

5.2.1 The introduction of a Dog Walking Code of Conduct and Commercial Dog Walking Policy will help to address safety concerns around dog walking in Nonsuch Park.

5.3 Safeguarding

5.3.1 This proposal will help to safeguard the public against the fear of badly behaved dogs and unregulated groups of multiple dog walkers in the park.

5.4 Dependencies

5.4.1 This scheme is dependent on effective communications and developing on-going relationships with the dog walking community.

5.5 Other

5.5.1 None

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There will be some initial expenditure to launch the scheme which can be covered by existing revenue budget.

6.2 The cost of running the scheme will be covered by the income generated from licence fees.

6.3 All income raised through the scheme will be ringfenced to Nonsuch Park.

6.4 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** Financial Implications are included in the body of the report.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

7.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

8 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

8.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:

- Safe & Well

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- Opportunity & Prosperity

8.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

8.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:**

8.3.1 The Dog Walking Code of Conduct will help to prevent the environmental impact of dog walking in Nonsuch Park.

8.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:**

8.4.1 The Dog Walking Code of Conduct and the Commercial Dog Walking Policy will help to improve safety in the Park.

8.5 **Partnerships:**

8.5.1 The success of this scheme will rely on building robust partnerships with members of the dog walking community.

9 Background papers

9.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- Commercial Dog Walking in Nonsuch Park Licensing Scheme – 14 October 2024
- Commercial Dog Walking Consultation Results – 17 June 2024
- Report on Commercial Dog Walking in Nonsuch Park – 25 March 2024

Other papers:

- None