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EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD

A1 Service Area	Regulatory Services
A2 Title	Dog Bag Stations
A3 Decision Taken By	Deputy Leader/ Chief Officer
A4 Chief Officer	Please print name: Mark Rizk Please sign name: 
A5 Deputy Leader	Please print name: Cllr Greg Hall Please sign name: 
A6 Date of Decision	22 nd February 2018

Confidentiality

A7 Is this Decision confidential by containing exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972?	No
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Scrutiny

A8 Which Scrutiny Committee should this decision be submitted to?	(Please tick as appropriate) ✓
Scrutiny (Audit & Value for Money Council Services) Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scrutiny (Economic Growth, Communities and Health) Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

B1 What is the Decision?

To work with Tikspac UK Ltd to implement a low cost solution to dog fouling issues throughout the Borough. The stations provide the public with dog bags in an emergency, although the onus is still very much on the dog owner to take their own dog bags out with them.

B2 What are the reasons for the Decision?

Background

Within East Staffordshire, dog fouling is a persistent issue. In general, dog fouling accounts for the highest percentage of jobs reported to the Community and Civil Enforcement (CCE) team each month. See Table.

Month	Dog Fouling Monthly Percentage
Jul-17	27%
Aug-17	21%
Sep-17	24%
Oct-17	35%
Nov-17	31%
Dec-17	44%

Overall between July 2017 and December 2017, dog fouling accounted for 30% of all jobs reported in total, again the highest percentage. Fly-Tipping, at 20% accounts for the second highest percentage of jobs reported.

Working with Tikspac Ltd the Council could provide a low cost solution to dog fouling, which aims to tackle this issue in a positive way, earning the trust and support of local communities.

The Tikspac scheme supplies a maximum of 25 dog bag stations (see Attachment A) along with an unlimited supply of dog bags, both free of charge. In the unlikely event that a station is vandalised, Tikspac also replace the station free of charge. The service is supported through the sale of council approved advertisement slots on the dog bag stations.

Feedback has been obtained from nine other local authorities, all of whom support the Tikspac approach. The benefits of this scheme include but are not limited to the following:

- Acts as a permanent visible deterrent.
- Low cost scheme with potentially high benefits.
- Dealing with dog fouling from a positive perspective; emphasising dog owner's responsibility in a positive manner.
- Biodegradable high quality poo bags.
- Stations designed to only release 2 to 3 bags at a time
- High quality professional signs.
- Advertisements show partnership with local businesses; tackling the dog fouling issue from a united front.
- Awarded the 'Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative' at the prestigious Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards 2017.

Operational Considerations

Based on our experience as a team, hotspot areas which we will consider for the project are as follows:

- Bitham Clay Pitts
- Bramshall Park
- Branston Water Park
- Horninglow Community Park
- Kingfisher Trail
- Pennycroft Park
- Shobnall Fields
- Stretton Woodland
- The Jinny Trail
- Washlands

As the stations will be placed in hotspot areas that are already visited regularly by the CCE Officers, there will be no additional cost to refill the stations.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council initiate a 12 month trial period with Tikspac, where 25 stations are installed at selected dog fouling hotspot areas.

	<p>The performance can then be closely monitored throughout by the CCE team, and a decision made as to whether coverage will be extended after the trial concludes.</p>
<p>B3 What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?</p>	<p>Protecting and Strengthening Communities.</p>
<p>B4 What are the Human Rights considerations?</p>	<p>There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.</p>


Financial Implications

<p>B5 What are the financial implications?</p>	<p>ESBC are responsible for installing the stations at our own cost. Council approved contractors would carry out the necessary work.</p> <p>To install 25 stations for the proposed 12 month trial period inclusive costs would amount to £1925.00 plus VAT.</p> <p>Costs associated with this project are an initial one-off and relate to the start-up of the Tikspac's scheme.</p> <p>In the event that we decide not to continue with coverage of the scheme after the trial concludes, costs to remove the 25 stations would equate to £900.00 plus VAT.</p> <p>See Attachment B for written quote.</p>
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Revenue	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
25 Machines (exc VAT)	£1925	£0	£0
Removal of Stations (exc VAT)	£0	£900	£0

These costs will be met from the existing Open Spaces Budget.

Capital	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
N/A			

<p>The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:</p>	<p>Please print name: Lisa Turner</p> <p>Please sign name: </p>
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Policy Framework

B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?	Yes
B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	N/A
B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes
B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?	Yes
B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	N/A
B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	Yes

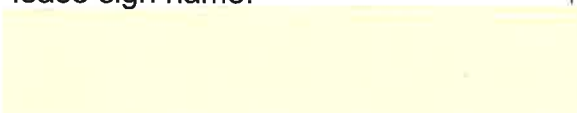
Equalities Implications

B8 What are the Equalities implications: N/A
B8.3 The subject of this decision is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment is not required.

Risk Assessment

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications: N/A
B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:	
B10.1 The main legal issues arising from this decision are as follows: ESBC are liable for any claims as a result of the stations being incorrectly installed or installed in an unsafe condition. Therefore the council's insurance would need to reflect this.	
This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:	Please print name: Angela Wakefield Please sign name: 

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications: N/A

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications: N/A

B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Harriet for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision.

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision?	No
Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where: 1. REVENUE – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000 2. CAPITAL – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000 3. A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.	
B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would <u>seriously</u> prejudice the public interest?	N/A
B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?	N/A

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

Please send the original signed document to andrea.davies@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk