

SERVICES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES

(Open to the public)

Monday 16 October 2017

Council Chamber, 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell.

Commencement 7.30pm

Attendance

Councillor Garry Thompson (Chairperson)
Councillor Phillip Healey (Mayor)
Councillor Lisa Hollingsworth
Councillor Steve Hurd
Councillor Jim Parke
Councillor Coral Ross
Councillor Felicity Sinfield
Councillor Jack Wegman

Apologies

Councillor Jane Addis (Leave of absence)
Councillor Cynthia Watson

Officers

Phillip Storer	Chief Executive Officer
Shiran Wickramasinghe	Director City Planning
Andrew Birks	Acting Executive Manager Communications and Customer Experience
Michael Somerville	Manager Local Laws
David Thompson	Manager Governance
Belinda Crockett	Coordinator Local Laws Projects and Strategy
Elizabeth Manou	Governance Projects Officer

Table of contents

1.	Adoption and confirmation of the minutes	3
2.	Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer	3
3.	Presentation of officer reports	3
	SC1 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021	3
3.	General business	4
	GB1 End of Chairperson's term	4
4.	Urgent business	5
5.	Confidential business	5

1. Adoption and confirmation of the minutes

MOTION

Moved Councillor Parke

Seconded Councillor Sinfield

That the minutes of the Services Special Committee meeting held on 9 October 2017 be adopted and confirmed.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of conflict of interest of any councillor or council officer

Nil

3. Presentation of officer reports

SC1 Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021

A draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021 (DAMP) was publically exhibited for 28 days for the purpose of seeking submissions. Twelve completed written submissions have been received (ten via an online survey and two via email, including one from the RSPCA). Council is now required to consider those submissions before considering adoption of the DAMP.

Overall, the feedback received through the twelve submissions was positive and in support of the planned actions. The key issues considered through the submissions related to dog parks and Council's approach to community education. One submitter raised concerns about the management of cats, making the suggestion that Council pursue a cat curfew. However, officers believe it would be premature to introduce a cat curfew in the absence of demonstrated need and without sound understanding of the nature of the local cat population.

Further comments by submitters related to the need for more access to free doggy bags and bins, as well as fenced off dog parks, through to compulsory de-sexing. Each comment has been addressed through the report. With respect to access to free doggy bags and waste bins, Council continues to disseminate free doggy bags with new registrations. Council does not provide doggy bag dispensers in parks based on previous experience which demonstrated dispensers were subject to regular acts of vandalism as were the doggy bags which were damaged, misused and/or thrown on the ground to create waste and amenity issues. With respect to overflowing waste bins, the collection of waste remains an operational matter which can be addressed separately rather than a specific action in the DAMP.

On the matter of dog parks, the draft DAMP includes an action (4.1.3) to conduct further investigation to determine the feasibility of creating a dedicated enclosed dog off-leash park.

In relation to compulsory de-sexing to address overpopulation, the evidence of effectiveness for this intervention is not convincing and neither is there demonstrated need. Cat overpopulation is not a widespread problem within the municipality. It is the recommendation of officers therefore that mandatory de-sexing not be pursued. Rather, Council will continue to promote the benefits of voluntary de-sexing, considered in the draft DAMP.

With respect to the issue of barking dogs, there are a number of actions in the draft DAMP designed to address nuisance barking, including dissemination of the newly created Barking Dog Guide. Furthermore, Council provides information and advice for dog owners via the website and active park patrols.

In addition to the twelve submissions received in response to the public exhibition of the draft DAMP, a review of a further 91 community responses (relevant to animal management) received through the Boroondara Community Plan consultations was undertaken. The review evidenced among other things, support for the establishment of dog parks.

As a result of further review of the draft DAMP by officers, two minor changes have been made. The changes include the clarification of wording to action 3.1.6 on page 30, and additional explanation given in the methods section to reflect the public consultation process.

This report provides a summary of the combined data from the responses received via the online survey and email responses, in order to facilitate discussion and consideration before progressing to a future Council meeting for determination.

One speaker opposed to the officers' recommendation addressed the meeting.

MOTION

Moved Councillor Sinfield

Seconded Councillor Parke

That the Services Special Committee resolve:

- 1. To receive and note the submissions on the draft Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021.**
- 2. To refer the matter to the Council meeting on 23 October 2017 for determination.**

CARRIED

3. General business

GB1 End of Chairperson's term

The Mayor, Councillor Healey acknowledged the meeting was the last Services Special Committee in Councillor Thompson's current term as Chairperson, and thanked Councillor Thompson and Councillor Hurd on behalf of Council for their work chairing the Committee over the past year.

4. Urgent business

Nil

5. Confidential business

Nil

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm

Confirmed

Chairperson

Date
