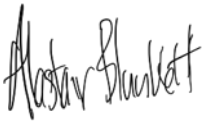


**RECORD OF EXERCISE OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY OFFICER PURSUANT TO
REGULATION 13 OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS)
(MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2012 &
THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014**

<u>SUBJECT OF DECISION</u>	
Award of Stray Dog Kennelling and Collection Services	
<u>DECISION REFERENCE</u>	<u>SOURCE OF AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE</u> (i.e. Committee/Constitution/Minute No. etc.)
DO/25/2026 (AB)	The NBBC Constitution April 2026 : Part 3D and 3E.5
<u>DATE OF DECISION</u>	<u>DECISION MAKER (Name and Job Title)</u>
21/07/2026	Alastair Blunkett  Assistant Director – Environment and Enforcement
<u>RECORD OF THE DECISION</u>	
a) The issue The provision of a service to collect stray dogs and kennel them for 7 days is a statutory Council service under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environmental Protection (Stray Dogs) Regulations 1992. The current kennelling contract ends on 1st August 2026. The provider has confirmed that it will not continue the service beyond that date under the existing terms and has proposed revised terms. Market testing has confirmed that the market for stray dog kennelling remains extremely limited. There are very few providers within a reasonable travelling distance for officers and members of the public. A supplier has been identified who will take on the contract. An exemption from Contract Procedure Rule 24 to directly award the contract has been approved. b) The Decision To award a contract to Central Animal Control for the provision of stray dog collection and kennelling services for the Council, for a period of two years from 1st August 2026 with an option to extend for a further 12 months.	

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The identified provider is willing to undertake the contract and offers best value for the Council and its customers. Kennelling of stray dogs is a statutory duty and this contract will meet this requirement.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED IN MAKING THE DECISION

- 1) REJECTED To continue with the incumbent provider, on its proposed revised terms. This was rejected due to substantial cost increases, reduced service provision, including removal of rehoming responsibility and refusal to accept certain categories of dogs, and ongoing operational pressures.
- 2) REJECTED To appoint an alternative provider or re-tender. Market testing found no other provider able to deliver the service
- 3) REJECTED To provide our own kennels. The costs of this would be greater than the contract.
- 4) REJECTED Not to set up a contract with a kennelling provider. The collection of stray dogs is a statutory service. To not have dedicated kennels puts the Council at risk, should stray dogs be picked up and no kennels are available.

WARD RELEVANCE

Borough wide

FINANCIAL AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The estimated annual cost of the contract is £23,000, plus daily kennelling fees of £16 per dog where dogs are not reclaimed, estimated at £5,000 per annum. To run from 1st August 2026 to 31st July 2028, with an option to extend to 31st July 2029. Estimated total lifetime cost £84,000.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN WITH MEMBERS/OFFICERS

[Cabinet Member and officers consulted to be confirmed.]

ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY MEMBER CONSULTED

None

IN RESPECT OF ANY DECLARED CONFLICT BY A CABINET MEMBER, ANY DISPENSATION GIVEN BY THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE (Note if the decision is a non-executive decision, no dispensation can be given).

N/A

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

No specific implications.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any expenditure pressures for 2026/27 to be met from within the Environmental Health team budgets. A spend pressure arises from 2027/28, to be addressed through the budget setting process.

Contract to run from 1st August 2026 to 31st July 2028, with an option to extend to 31st July 2029.

HEALTH EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this decision.

SECTION 17 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

None

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Enables the Council to meet its statutory responsibilities regarding stray dogs.
Reduces social and environmental problems associated with stray dogs.

SME (SMALL/MEDIUM ENTERPRISES) & LOCAL ECONOMY IMPLICATIONS

No specific SME & local economy implications.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The collection of stray dogs and holding for 7 days falls to the local authority and is a statutory requirement under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Environmental Protection (Stray Dogs) Regulations 1992. The Council must also comply with the Animal Welfare Act 2006 in respect of dogs in its care. The contract is to be awarded under an exemption from Contract Procedure Rule 24 of the Contract Procedure Rules.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

None.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE MONITORING OFFICER AS SOON AS A DECISION IS MADE OR AS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE THEREAFTER