|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Animal Welfare Oversight Committee**  **Minutes of Meeting held on 13th November 2023** |

Conference Room 233 Block 2 Floor 3, Civic Offices and via Teleconferencing (Zoom)

9.00 am – 10.00am

**Members In Attendance:**

Cllr. Deirdre Heney, Chair (DH)

Cllr. Caroline Conroy (CC)

Cllr. Donna Cooney (DC)

Chief Superintendent John Gordon, An Garda Síochána (CS,JG)

Martina Kenny (MK) (My Lovely Horse Rescue)

**Dublin City Council Representatives**

Frank D’Arcy, Acting Assistant Chief Executive (FD)

Ursula Donnellan, Senior Executive Officer (UD)

Richie Herlihy, Administrative Officer (RH)

Maeve Furlong, Animal Welfare Inspector (MF)

**Minute Taker**: Gareth Matthews, Staff Officer (GM)

**Apologies:**

Inspector Peter Woods, An Garda Síochána

Cllr. Cieran Perry (CP)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Discussion** | **Matters Arising / Actions** |
| 1 | **Minutes of last meeting (04/09/23)** |  | Minutes agreed. |
| 2. | **Manager’s Report and Updates** |  | |
|  | Dog Control Statistics | YTD statistics presented and noted.  Euthanisation statistic queried and explained. Cases are a mix of court orders and euthanisation on welfare grounds. |  |
|  | Dog Shelter Facility | Dublin Dog Hub VEAT notice successfully published.  Contract negotiations to commence following the 23rd November deadline for third party challenge. | U.D) Process in place pending a receipt of contest to avoid delay in proceedings. |
|  | Horse Control Statistics | YTD statistics presented and noted. | Noted. |
|  | Procurement Process for New Control of Horses Contract | Education Procurement Service at approval stage of final documentation.  The RFT will be issued within a fortnight to advertise to all stakeholders Tender for the Horse Seizures Procurement.  Process is onerous but tailored to attract a competitive market | National procurement process, centrally procured. DCC are in a position to ensure service requirements are continued to be met.  Committee members to be updated on proceedings. |
|  | Horse Carriage Multi-agency checkpoints | CS,JG) Planned horse carriage multi agency checkpoint rescheduled from Saturday to midweek due to an increase in protests.  New Garda roster allows for checkpoints to take place midweek. | Two horse carriage multi agency checkpoints scheduled before Christmas. |
|  | DCC Animal Welfare & Control Services - Staffing | In excess of 150 applications were received. Interviews for 5 no. Animal Warden positions to commence Wednesday 15th November.  F.D) Thanked the Animal Welfare team and the Chair for their consistency in performance and progression of the unit. | Noted |
|  | Joint Training Programme | R.H) Identified speakers to attend.  Legal representative speaker for training in court cases to be identified.  Training will be tailored for the attendees with multiple targeted sessions to be arranged. | Divisional Garda Representatives with an interest in animal welfare from each jurisdiction to attend  Rollout of training programme start date within Q1 2024 in Wood Quay Venue |
| 3. | Meakstown-Dublin City Council Capital Programme 2024-2027 | Further to discussion at the last meeting a submission has been made in respect of proposed municipal dog shelter on a DCC owned site at Meakstown.  Capital Budget funding application submitted. 20k allocation in 1st year for professional feasibility study | Further investigations to be carried out in Q1 2024, subject to DCC budgetary approval. |
| 4. | Budget 2024 | An increase in revenue Budget allocations 2024 has been requested to fund increase in no. of Animal Wardens and shelter services of Dublin Dog Hub  Financial aid to Animal Welfare charities are currently processed as financial contributions. | Consideration to be given to a formal Grant Scheme for Animal Welfare Charities. This will require annual budget approval. |
| 5. | Animal Welfare Charter | R.H) Document to be uniquely Dublin.  Celebrity figures to feature and express their support for Animal Welfare alongside photos with their pet.  Schools art competition to feature | MK) to engage with Dublin celebrities to feature in the animal welfare charter.  Draft document to be circulated for committee member’s feedback at next O.C meeting. |
| 6. | Members update | Concerns relating to the age profile of carriage drivers and disregard for animal and public safety.  Concerns on Meakstown Equine Centre. | Noted. |
| 7. | A.O.B | Notification received of €79K allocation from Department of Rural & Community Development under the Dog Control Support Initiative.  Expenditure will be subject to qualifying criteria. | Noted. |
|  | **Next meeting TBC** | | |