

Extract from letter from Scrutiny Programme Committee to Cabinet Member Mark Child on 27th July 2016

Tethered Horses

We had received written questions from a member of the public in relation to the recent Tethered Horses Scrutiny Working Group and your response to that work. The questions were from Mr David Grimsell, on behalf of Friends of Swansea Horses, who was concerned about the amount of horses kept on public spaces, particularly Council land, without authorisation, with many kept tethered and suffering poor welfare. The questions were accompanied by comments about the number of horses that have had to be seized, impounded and destroyed by the Council, and complaints that are made to the Council about horse welfare and management issues. He wanted the committee to ask you:

- how is it that the Council presumes to do nothing and to continue with a reactive approach that has proved entirely ineffective in addressing the needs of the horses and the concerns of the community that has allowed these problems to continue year-in year-out without change?
- how is it that it presumes to disregard the recommendations of the 'Tethered Horses Working Group' for fundamental change?

You provided some assurance to the committee that you are keen to meet with all interested groups in order to make progress, but drew attention to financial pressures on the service that may affect possible investment to deal with this issue. You pointed out that improved partnership working has already seen a big fall in the number of stray horses having to be put down.

You told us that a full written answer would be sent to Mr Grimsell, and copied to Members of the Committee. We note that you have already done so.

One of the issues discussed during the Working Group had been signage put up by the council at hotspots in Swansea deterring people from tethering horses. Members understood that signage was in place however this was called into question by some committee members, for example in Mynyddbach. We asked you to check on this matter.

Extract from response letter from Cabinet Member Mark Child to Scrutiny Programme Committee on 17th August 2016

Tethered Horses

Notices have been placed at the site known locally as the racecourse in Penlan as a trial. Four notices were placed at the site at points where roads intersected. Three of the four had gone by the following morning. Currently more permanent adhesives are being investigated for these notices up so that they are more difficult to remove. Notices will be placed at all known locations when the next planned inspection is undertaken which is scheduled to take place during week commencing 15th August 2016.