



DOGS IN THE LAWFORD PARISH COMMUNITY HUB POLICY

INTRODUCTION

This policy aims to clarify the parish council's approach to dogs in the Lawford Parish Community Hub.

AIMS AND SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

To give clarity to residents, room hirers, councillors and staff concerning the circumstances in which dogs can be brought on to council premises.

To ensure that a safe environment for residents, room hirers, councillors, staff and visitors is provided in the council's premises.

POLICY STATEMENT

Assistance dogs are allowed into council premises to support their owners navigate and use the premises.

Non-assistance dogs are not permitted into council premises, and when left outside are the responsibility of its owner, including ensuring it causes no harm or hinders anyone accessing the council's property.

The definition of an assistance dog is a dog that has been specially trained to live with and accompany a disabled person, carrying out tasks as to assist their owner. This covers assisted dogs trained by Guide Dogs Association, Dogs for the Disabled, Support Dogs, Canine Partners for Independence and Hearing Dogs Association.

It is the responsibility of the Clerk to:

1. ensure all staff and users of the hub are aware of the policy and that it is adhered to;
2. manage the presence of assistance dogs and to provide a safe environment for residents, councillors, staff, hirers and visitors

IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY

A member of staff, councillor, hirer and visitor may be challenged if it is evident that a dog on council premises is not an assistance dog, and evidence might be requested to show it is an assistance dog.

If a non-assistance dog is within council premises the owner will be asked to remove it from the premises. If they refuse, the relevant action below will follow:

- A resident will be banned from the relevant premises for a month
- The member of staff involved could face disciplinary action
- The Chair will raise the issue with the councillor involved

It is the responsibility of the owner to leave the dog in a safe environment where it cannot cause any harm to itself or others.

MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE POLICY

This policy was adopted on 15 June 2026 and will be reviewed after one year initially and thereafter every 3 years.

The policy will be monitored through feedback via comments and complaints regarding dogs in council buildings.