

**Culture Recreation and Economic Services
Block 2, Floor 6,
Civic Offices,
Dublin 8.**

23rd November 2016.

**To Each Member of the
Environment Strategic Policy Committee**

**Report by Dublin City Councils Parks and Biodiversity Services on action to protect
Seals on Bull Island / Dublin Bay.**

Dublin City Councils Parks and Biodiversity staff work closely with the Irish Seal Sanctuary, and have done so for many years. However, the issue of seals being disturbed, particularly by dogs is not new or unique to this species.

The management of the North Bull Island for biodiversity conservation (it has several protected species) is a key objective of the City Biodiversity Action Plan and the UNESCO Dublin Bay Biosphere conservation strategy.

Traditional measures to promote dog control have proven to be ineffective so the City Council is proposing to trial new methodologies for informing and engaging with dog owners to promote more responsible ownership.

We are currently carrying out a review of current issues and measures, including site surveys and mapping, facilitated stakeholder workshops, the development of options for static and interpretative signage, and resource and training plans for staff. Our intention is to develop and sustain a policy which is informed by local stakeholders and which provides timely information for those who use the island so that species and habitats are better protected.

We will also shortly be advertising for volunteers from local communities to apply for opportunities to promote the island to visitors and to get involved in conservation activities. While the volunteers will not be expected to take a role in enforcing any byelaws or regulations it is envisaged that the volunteers will facilitate a better engagement with people who use the island.

There are regular litter clean ups around Bull Island. The litter situation is monitored and we intend to continuing to address litter issue at this location.

**Declan Wallace
Assistant Chief Executive**