

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER 2009

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To review the Animal Welfare Charter adopted in 1996. A copy of the Charter is at Appendix A to this report.
- 1.2 To update, the said Charter, making sure it is fit for purpose in line with the changes to animal welfare legislation.
- 1.3 To carry out consultation with interested parties.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council are not statutorily obliged to adopt an Animal Welfare Charter, however it is felt there is a need to review the Charter, adopted in 1996. This will set the standards that the local community will need to ensure they understand the importance of providing a safe environment, free from unnecessary suffering, for all animals within the scope of the Authority.
- 2.2 The Charter, adopted in 1996, needs to be reviewed due to changes in animal welfare legislation.
- 2.3 The implementation of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, has strengthened animal welfare law and is considered to be the most important development in animal protection law for a century. The Act aims to reduce animal cruelty and promote animal welfare by enabling enforcers to take preventative action where those who are considered responsible for animals have failed to fulfil their duty of care. It also aims to simplify legislation for both animal keepers and enforcers by bringing together and modernising previous outdated legislation.
- 2.4 The Charter will cover every aspect of animal welfare legislation enforced by the Licensing Division, areas such as Dog Breeding Establishments and Pet Shops.

- 2.5 The Charter will also cover Trading Standards and Environmental Health legislation, areas such as the exhibition or display of animals on any council land or the promotion of sensible dog ownership. The Charter will be an invaluable, up to date, working document for Neighbourhood and Environmental Services, which will embrace the forthcoming changes to animal welfare legislation.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To review the existing Charter and start consultation with interested parties.
- 3.2 To retain the current Charter with no changes.

3. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Charter has existed unchanged for thirteen years. A review would coincide with recent changes in animal welfare legislation.
- 4.2 To retain the current Charter would mean we are not keeping pace with new legislation.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 There are no implications expected.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 Although not a legal requirement, establishing an Animal Welfare Charter complies with animal welfare legislation and supports the aims of the council in that it will empower people to do the most important things better.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation will be carried out following approval by the Licensing Committee.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the review of the Animal Welfare Charter be approved.

SERVICE DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: -
North Lincolnshire Animal Welfare Charter