

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 September 2024

Report Title: Proposed Animal Welfare Charter
Submitted by: Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery
Portfolios: Sustainable Environment
Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To present the committee with a draft Animal Welfare Charter for Newcastle-under-Lyme.	
<u>Recommendation</u>	
<p>That Committee:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive the draft Animal Welfare Charter and provide comments on its content. 2. Forward the draft Animal Welfare Charter to Cabinet and subsequently to Full Council, for approval and adoption, subject to any proposed amendments. 3. Decide if it wishes to canvas other local authorities to collectively write to the UK Government urging a ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on public and private land. 	
<u>Reasons</u>	
To reiterate the commitment to animal welfare in the Borough, in relation to the scope of the Council’s powers and duties in this area of work.	

1. Background

1.1 At the meeting of Full Council on 24th January 2024, a motion was passed to:

- Ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council land
- Develop an Animal Welfare Charter for Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land

1.2 While there is no knowledge of any current practices of giving live animals as prizes on Borough Council land, an Animal Welfare Charter would reiterate and emphasise the Council's position on this matter.

1.3 Therefore, a draft Animal Welfare Charter has been prepared, based on the scope of the Council's powers and duties in this area of work and on good practice gleaned from other Local Authorities.

1.4 It is important to acknowledge the limit of the Council's powers and duties with regard to animal welfare issues, and to recognise that other partner organisations play a significant role in dealing with these matters eg the police and the RSPCA, especially in relation to instances of animal cruelty or neglect.

2. Issues

2.1 The draft proposed Animal Welfare Charter is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and the committee is invited to consider the draft and make suggestions for any amendments.

2.2 If the committee is satisfied with the draft, it is proposed that it is forwarded to Cabinet, and subsequently Full Council, for approval and adoption.

2.3 The committee is also invited to consider canvassing other Staffordshire local authorities, to determine appetite for a collective letter to the UK Government, urging a ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on all public and private land.

3. Recommendation

1. Receive the draft Animal Welfare Charter and provide comments on its content.

2. Forward the draft Animal Welfare Charter to Cabinet and subsequently to Full Council, for approval and adoption, subject to any proposed amendments.

3. Decide if it wishes to canvas other local authorities to collectively write to the UK Government urging a ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on public and private land.

4. Reasons

4.1 To reiterate the commitment to animal welfare in the Borough, in relation to the scope of the Council's powers and duties in this area of work.

5 Options Considered

5.1 No other options were considered.

6 Legal and Statutory Implications

6.1 The Council, the police and other agencies all play a role in animal welfare via licencing and enforcement powers and duties.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 N/A.

8 Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 There are no additional financial or resource implications directly relating to this report.

9 Major Risks & Mitigation

6.1 There are no major risks relating to this report.

10 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

10.1 The proposal contributes towards the UNSDGs

11 Key Decision Information

11.1 Not applicable.

12 Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

14.1 None.

13 List of Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1: Draft Proposed Animal Welfare Charter for Newcastle-under-Lyme

14 Background Papers

14.1 None

