

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM’S REPORT TO CABINET**

**15 October 2024**

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

<p><b><u>Purpose of the Report</u></b></p> <p>To present the Cabinet with a draft Animal Welfare Charter for Newcastle-under-Lyme.</p>	<p><b><u>Key Decision</u></b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>That Cabinet:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive the draft Animal Welfare Charter and note the comments from the Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee.</li> <li>2. Forward the draft Animal Welfare Charter to Full Council, for approval and adoption, subject to any proposed further amendments.</li> <li>3. Authorises officers to canvas other local authorities to establish the appetite for collectively writing to the UK Government urging a ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on public and private land.</li> </ol>	
<p><b><u>Reasons</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>	

**1. Background**

1.1 At the meeting of Full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 1.5 The Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Animal Welfare Charter at the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and resolved to approve the draft as presented for forwarding to Cabinet and Full Council. The committee also resolved to request Cabinet to authorise officers to canvas other local authorities in the region to establish whether there is an appetite to collectively write to the UK government urging a ban on the giving of live animals as prizes.

## 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The draft proposed Animal Welfare Charter is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and the Cabinet is invited to consider the draft and make suggestions for any further amendments.
- 2.2 If the Cabinet is satisfied with the draft, it is proposed that it is forwarded to Full Council, for approval and adoption.
- 2.3 The Cabinet is also requested to authorise officers to canvas 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 Full Council, for approval and adoption, subject to any proposed amendments.**

**3. Authorise officers to canvas other local authorities to establish the appetite for collectively writing 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**

**9.1** 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**

**12.1** None.

#### **13 List of Appendices**

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

**14** **Background Papers**

**14.1** None