

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM’S REPORT TO COUNCIL

20 November 2024

Report Title: Proposed Animal Welfare Charter

Submitted by: Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery

Portfolios: Sustainable Environment

Ward(s) affected: All

<p><u>Purpose of the Report</u></p> <p>To seek the approval of Council to adopt an Animal Welfare Charter for Newcastle under-Lyme.</p>	<p><u>Key Decision</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>That Council:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Approves and adopt the Animal Welfare Charter, subject to any further amendments, noting the comments from the Health Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet. Authorises officers to canvass 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. 	
<p><u>Reasons</u></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 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 to the Council's knowledge there are no current examples 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 16th 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.
 - 1.6 Cabinet considered the draft Animal Welfare Charter at its meeting of 15th October 2024 and resolved to approve the draft for forwarding to Full Council for adoption, subject to any further amendments. Cabinet also resolved to 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.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 The proposed Animal Welfare Charter is attached to this report at Appendix 1 and the Council is invited to approve the draft and make suggestions for any further amendments.
- 2.2 If the Council is satisfied with the draft, it is proposed that it is approved and adopted.
- 2.3 The Council 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. **Approve and adopt the Animal Welfare Charter, subject to any further amendments, noting the comments from the Health, Wellbeing and Environment Committee and Cabinet.**
2. **Authorise officers to canvass 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 play an operational 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 Health, Wellbeing and Environment Committee – 16th September 2024.

12.2 Cabinet – 15th October 2024

13 List of Appendices

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

14 Background Papers

14.1 None