

Report to Environment & Licensing Committee

Subject: Fees for Dangerous Wild Animal (“DWA”) Licensing

Date: 7th July 2026

Author: Director of Place

Purpose

To approve the proposed fees for the processing and enforcement of licences issued by the Council under Dangerous Wild Animal Act 1976 (the “Act”)

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) Members approve the fees attached at Appendix 1 for a DWA Licence**

1 Background

- 1.1 The Act regulates the keeping of certain wild animals to ensure public safety and animal welfare, requiring individuals to obtain a licence for specific species. The Act was enacted in 1976 and last updated in 2010 to address the growing trend of individuals keeping potentially DWA’s as pets in private settings. It aims to minimise risks to public safety and ensure the welfare of the animals by imposing regulations on their care and management. The Act has an accompanying Schedule that specifies the kinds of DWA’s for which a person must obtain a licence. The Schedule of animals where a licence is required was last updated in 2007.
- 1.2 Changes with the introduction of a mandatory Primate Licence has prompted a review of the current arrangements for DWA licences and subsequent fees due to cross over. It has been established that there has been no fee set for DWA licences since 2019. Currently there are no

Dangerous Wild Animal licences granted within the Gedling area.

1.3 **Inspection**

The Act require a 'qualified inspector' to carry out these inspections. The service will be carried out by suitably qualified Officers within the team.

- 1.4 Additionally, in the case of the dangerous wild animal licences the council officers must be accompanied by a qualified veterinary surgeon who will also complete the inspection.

- 1.5 The Act allows for the granting of licenses for a duration of 2 years.

- 1.6 Having undertaken an inspection of a premises the Council must attach relevant activity specific conditions before granting the licence.

- 1.7 When considering the conditions that are placed on a licence the Regulations state that the licensing authority may: vary or revoke a licence if they are satisfied that a) The licence conditions are not being complied with b) There has been a breach of the Regulations c) Information provided by the applicant was false or misleading d) It is necessary to protect the welfare of an animal

1.9 **Fees**

The Act allows the Council to charge a licence fee to meet the direct and indirect costs to the Council for granting a DWA licence. The fee proposed is based on the same basis as those for existing animal activities licences, they shall consist of an application fee (payable on application) and a licence fee (payable on approval of application). This process ensures an applicant who applies for, but is ultimately refused, a licence pays only for the time spent considering that application and not for the full duration of the licence.

- 1.10 It is not lawful for the Council to make a profit from its licensing functions, and the proposed fees have to be set, based on cost recovery and a reasonable estimate of the costs of undertaking this.

- 1.11 The fees are split into two parts. An 'application fee' payable at the time of submitting an application to cover the Councils costs in considering and determining the licence, and a 'grant fee' payable on the grant of a licence to cover ongoing costs incurred by the Council for enforcement and compliance. The proposed fees are set out in Appendix 1. In addition to the appendix 1 licence fees the applicant will also have to pay separately for the costs of a specialist vet to assist with the inspection.

- 1.12 In cases where a Dangerous Wild Animals Licence is required and a Primate Licence is required then an additional small fee will be charged for

the administration aspect of the second licence in question as set out in Appendix 1. Should an applicant wish to exhibit a dangerous wild animal then a separate full application for an exhibiting animals licence will be required.

2 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed;

- That Members approve the DWA licence fees attached at Appendix 1.

3 Alternative Options

3.1 Members could decide to retain the existing fee which would not cover the costs of the council providing the service.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 The proposed fees and charges are designed to ensure that the service operates on a full cost recovery basis. The previous fee has not been updated since 2018/19 and does not cover the current costs of providing the service. The proposed fee is comparable to the proposed primate licensing fee and fractionally greater than the currently established animal licensing fees due to the increased work involved. A reconciliation will take place to ensure that the fees do meet full cost recovery and does not generate a surplus. The fee will be reviewed annually in line with other General Licensing fees.

5 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council's powers in relation to Dangerous Wild Animals derive from the [Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976](#). The Act requires the application to be accompanied by a fee sufficient to meet the direct and indirect costs incurred by the Council as a result of the application; accordingly, the proposed fees must be set on a cost recovery basis and not so as to generate a profit.

6 Local Government Reorganisation Implications

6.1 Once LGR has been implemented and the new council has been established the licence fees will be reviewed to reflect the new costs of providing the service. The licence conditions should remain the same as the council proposes to use the conditions in the legislation until these are updated by Government.

7 Equalities Implications

7.1 No implications have been identified.

8 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

8.1 No implications have been identified

9 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Proposed Fees

10 Background Papers

10.1 None

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Approved by:

Date:

On behalf of the Monitoring Officer