

Report to Cabinet

Subject: The Adoption of an Animal Welfare Charter for Gedling

Date: 25th March 2015

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Wards Affected:

Borough Wide.

Purpose

To seek the adoption by Cabinet, of a Gedling Borough Council Animal Welfare Charter.

Key Decision: This is not a Key Decision

Background.

- 1.1 The Animal Welfare Charter enclosed in Appendix 1. Has been written to ensure that in carrying out its functions the council promotes the welfare of animals.
- 1.2 As a district, the Council has statutory powers to regulate certain activities such as the licensing of pet shops, which directly affect the welfare of animals. Formal responsibility for animal welfare as laid out in the Animal Welfare Act 2006 lies with the County Council.
- 1.3 The enclosed animal welfare charter has been developed by officers in consultation with members over a series of meetings, to ensure that animal welfare matters are taken into account by the authority when carrying out activities that are not covered by statutory responsibilities.
- 1.4 Paragraph 5 of the charter states: “The Council believes that it has a moral responsibility for the welfare of all captive and domestic animals and all wild animals in-so-far that its activities impinge upon them. The role of the Council to influence derives from its status as a democratically elected body able to reflect the view of the community. As a large organisation the Council has the ability to influence the animal welfare debate and by supporting and encouraging other organisations with similar interests who operate

peacefully and within the law”.

Proposal

- 2.1 The proposal is to adopt and publicise the enclosed charter, to ensure that in carrying out its functions Gedling Borough Council promotes the welfare of animals and also does not inadvertently damage their wellbeing.

Alternative Options

- 3.1 An alternative is to not proceed with the adoption of the charter. This approach could mean that the council may damage the welfare of animals, either directly through its actions or inadvertently.

Financial Implications

- 4.1 None

Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1. Gedling Borough Council Animal Welfare Charter

Background Papers

None identified

Recommendations

THAT Cabinet:

**Adopts the Animal Welfare Charter enclosed in
Appendix 1.**

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that in carrying out all its activities Gedling Borough Council shall, pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.

Appendix 1.



GEDLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHARTER FOR THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS

1. Animals are capable of feeling, of enjoying a state of well-being and are capable of suffering. The Council recognises the needs of animals as sentient beings (as defined by the European Union Protocol under the Lisbon Treaty which came into force in December 2009) and that they should have a life free from cruel treatment and unnecessary suffering.
2. In formulating and implementing all relevant policies and in the use of its enforcement powers the Council shall, since animals are sentient beings, pay due regard to the welfare requirements of animals.
3. Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, people have a duty of care towards animals in their charge.
4. In considering the welfare of domestic or captive animals due regard should be had to the principles (known as the 5 freedoms) that the animals must be accorded as developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council:
 - Freedom from hunger and thirst – by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.
 - Freedom from discomfort – by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
 - Freedom from pain, injury or disease – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
 - Freedom to express normal behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
 - Freedom from fear and distress – by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.
5. The Council believes that it has a moral responsibility for the welfare of all captive and domestic animals and all wild animals in-so-far that its activities impinge upon them. The role of the Council to influence derives from its status as a democratically elected body able to reflect the view of the community. As a large organisation the Council has the ability to influence the animal welfare debate and by supporting and encouraging other organisations with similar interests who operate peacefully and within the law.