

<b>1 October 2020</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Public Protection work involving Animals</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No	
<b>Report of:</b> Gavin Dennett - Strategic Lead Public Protection		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Leigh Nicholson - Interim Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Public Protection		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Andy Millard - Director of Place		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## **Executive Summary**

The Public Protection service of undertake a limited number of functions which involve the regulation and permitting of animal movements in relation to the control of diseases of livestock, the detention and quarantining of pets in relation to rabies control and the licensing of some animal related activities.

### **1. Recommendation(s)**

**1.1 Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of this report.**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 Teams within the Council's Public Protection Service undertake a limited number of functions which involve animals. The two teams within Public Protection undertaking these functions are Licensing and Trading Standards.

2.2 The Licensing team deal with the licensing of selling pet animals, boarding for cats and dogs, hiring horses, dog breeding, keeping or training of animals for exhibition, the keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals and the operation of a Zoo.

2.3 The Trading Standards team are responsible for farmed animals in the borough with the key focus being the principles of "Farm to Fork", ensuring any animal that is bred for human consumption meets set criteria in relation to animal health. The team monitor animal movements in order to prevent the spread of disease such as Foot and Mouth and ensure there are plans in place in the event of an outbreak. Similarly, the team are responsible for the

enforcement of properly recorded animal movements, including imported mammals for the purposes of preventing Rabies into the country. The Trading Standards team also oversees the delivery of the Council's Stray Dogs Service which is contracted out to a third party.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 3.1 The work of the Licensing Team relating to animals are fee based activities and are carried out by a combination of in house staff and contractors (for instance vets are contracted for some licensing inspections).
- 3.2 The work of the Licensing team relating to animals is governed by the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 and the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.
- 3.3 The work of the Trading Standards team in relation to animals is governed by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005), the Animal Health Acts 1981 and 2002, the Disease Control (England) Order 2003 and the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974.
- 3.4 Aside from the specific work carried out by these teams, the Authority controls the keeping of domestic animals in Council accommodation through tenancy agreements. Tenancy agreements typically require occupiers to seek prior permission before keeping any animal, bird or reptile at the property and where approved, strict controls are put in place.
- 3.5 Regeneration and Assets manage non domestic council properties. Some activities involving animals (for example their use as part of a performance at the Thameside Theatre) are undertaken in council properties. Such events are managed on a case by case basis with animal welfare often dealt with by specialist external companies that provide the animals and have the expertise to manage their welfare.

### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 This report has been drafted at the request of Members of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee so they can be informed on the work that Public Protection undertake on behalf of the Council that involves animals.

### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 Internal consultation was undertaken with the Housing Department to determine any provisions within the Council's housing tenancy agreement that relates to animals.

5.2 Internal consultation was also undertaken with Regeneration and Assets to determine any stipulations applied to the letting or use of Council property that relates to animals.

## **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The work of Public Protection with animals impacts on two Council priorities, the people priority relating to the safety of people and the prosperity priority to provide opportunities for business.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**  
**Interim Senior Management Accountant**

The current work of Public Protection relating to animals is funded via a combination of fee income and existing budget provision. There are therefore no financial implications concerned with this report.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Courage Emovon**  
**Senior Contracts Lawyer**

The current work of Public Protection is governed by the legislation detailed in the body of this report. There are no additional legal implications associated with this report.

### **7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**  
**Team Manager Community Development**

There are no diversity or equality implications associated with this report.

### **7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)**

None

## **8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):**

- The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018
- The Animal Health Acts 1981 and 2002
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- The Disease Control (England) Order 2003
- The Animal Welfare Act 2006
- The Zoo Licensing Act 1981
- The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

**9. Appendices to the report**

None

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