

<b>14 July 2021</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Thurrock Council Animal Welfare Review</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key	
<b>Report of:</b> Gavin Dennett – Strategic Lead Public Protection		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Leigh Nicolson – Assistant Director - Planning, Transport and Public Protection		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Andy Millard – Director of Place		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## **Executive Summary**

During the political year ending in May 2021 the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the work of Public Protection that related to animals.

As a result of this report the Committee determined that it should form a working group to review the Councils Animal Welfare Policy.

This work group was formed and comprised of Cllr E Rigby (Chair) and Cllrs Van Day and Fletcher. The work group met on several occasions to review the Council's Animal Welfare Policy.

A revised Animal Welfare Policy for Thurrock Council is attached as appendix 1.

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

**1.1 The Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet to adopt the revised Animal Welfare Policy for Thurrock Council.**

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

**2.1** The current Thurrock Council Animal Welfare Policy dates back to 2007. In the intervening period animal welfare issues around the keeping of pets and the public perception of animal welfare has evolved.

2.2 In light of the change in public perceptions around animal welfare issues and the passage of time since the last review of this policy the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided that a review of Thurrock's policy was due.

2.3 A working group was established and this review was undertaken over the period from late 2020 to early 2021 and a revised animal welfare policy was devised. The subsequent elections in May 2021 delayed the reporting of this work to the committee.

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

3.1 The Committee can recommend that the policy attached at appendix 1 is adopted as the Animal Welfare Policy for Thurrock Council. Alternatively the Committee can reject the revised policy and determine that Thurrock should continue to apply the existing policy.

3.2 The preferred option of officers and the working party is the adoption of the reviewed policy as it refreshes and updates the Councils policy on Animal Welfare.

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

4.1 To provide an up to date Animal Welfare Policy for Thurrock Council.

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

5.1 The policy review was undertaken under the direction of elected members on the working party formed by Overview and Scrutiny. No additional consultation was undertaken.

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

6.1 The provision of an up to date Animal Welfare Policy helps to support the Councils priorities around Place and People.

### **7. Implications**

#### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Jonathan Wilson**  
**Assistant Director Finance**

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendation of this report.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Tim Hallam**  
**Deputy Head of Legal and Deputy**  
**Monitoring Officer**

There are no direct legal implications associated with the recommendation of this report.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Natalie Smith**  
**Strategic Lead Community Development and**  
**Equalities**

There are no diversity and equality implications associated with the recommendation of 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):

- Thurrock Council Animal Welfare Policy 2007

## 9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 - Proposed Reviewed Animal Welfare Policy

### Report Author:

Gavin Dennett

Strategic Lead – Public Protection

Planning, Transportation and Public Protection