

13 October 2021		ITEM: 11 Decision: 110586
Cabinet		
Thurrock Council Animal Welfare Review		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Councillor Rob Gledhill, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour		
Accountable Assistant Director: Leigh Nicholson – Assistant Director, Planning, Transport and Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers – Director Public Realm		
This report is 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.

Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the revised Animal Welfare Policy at the meeting of 15 July 2021 and accepted the officer recommendation that the revised policy be reported to Cabinet at an upcoming meeting for Cabinet to adopt the policy for Thurrock Council.

1. Recommendation(s):

1.1 The Cabinet 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 Cabinet can adopt the policy attached at appendix 1 as the Animal Welfare Policy for Thurrock Council. Alternatively Cabinet can reject the revised policy and determine that Thurrock should continue to apply the existing policy.
- 3.2 The preferred option of officers, the working party and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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. The policy was considered at the meeting of the Cleaner Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 15 July 2021. The committee discussed the policy and accepted the officer recommendation that it should be sent to Cabinet for adoption as Council Policy.

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, Health Inequalities and Impact on Looked After Children

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.