Pendle
Borough Council

REPORT FROM:	**Head Housing and Environmental Health Services**
TO:	**Executive**
DATE:	**28th November 2024**

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ANIMAL WELFARE LICENSING POLICY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that the Executive consider the adoption of the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy. The Policy has been developed in line with legislation, best practice and statutory guidance and aims to aid applicants, licence holders and decision makers in the understanding of the licensing requirements under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1)   That the Executive adopt the policy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

(1)   It is recommended that a new Animal Welfare Licensing Policy is adopted, to ensure the Council provides a clear, consistent, transparent and current approach for animal welfare licensing.

ISSUE

1. The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 came into force in October 2018. The Regulations update and replace several pieces of legislation which apply to establishments where animals are sold, bred, boarded or hired out.

    The Council's responsibilities under animal welfare legislation are currently discharged via licences issued for various activities, and through the conditions applied to each individual licence.

2. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to introduce an Animal Licensing Policy. Whilst introduction of the legislation has been established for a number of years; allowing for officer training, development and best practice. It's felt that this is an appropriate time to introduce an Animal Licensing Policy. This Policy will ensure that the Council carries out its animal

licensing responsibilities in a fair, consistent and transparent manner and aims to provide greater clarity to aid both applicants and decision making by officers. The proposed Policy will guide both the Environmental Health and the Licensing Teams when licensing animal welfare activities.

3. This proposed policy sets out the general principles that the Council will follow in relation to the enforcement of animal welfare legislation and describes the types of animal licensing matters that are likely to occur and how the Council will deal with them.

4. The proposed policy and the conditions included represent guidance on details of the service provided and the general principles that the Council follows in relation to the enforcement of animal licensing legislation and the discretionary functions it undertakes.

5. The policy has been developed to cover licensable activities as set out in the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations 2018. The licensable activities under the 2018 Regulations are:

    a) Selling animals as pets;
    b) Providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs;
    c) Hiring out horses;
    d) Breeding of dogs; and
    e) Keeping or training animals for exhibition.

6. The policy covers clarification on the application of the business test, application process, the determination of standards and star ratings, refusal of applications, the powers of inspectors, and if a licence holder dies.

7. The full proposed policy can be found at Appendix 1.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None directly arising from this report.

Financial: There are no new financial implications.

Legal: The adoption of the policy reduced the risk of successful legal challenges.

Risk Management: An approved policy will help reduce the risk of reputational damage arising from inconsistent decisions or lack of transparency.

Health and Safety: None directly arising from this report.

Sustainability: None directly arising from this report.

Community Safety: None directly arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity: None directly arising from this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Animal Welfare Licensing Policy

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
There is no background papers associated with this report.