

Board/Committee:	Full Council
Date of meeting:	13 December 2023
Title:	Animal Welfare Charter
Author:	Animal Welfare Charter Task and Finish Group
Status:	For Decision

Purpose

This report sets out the proposed Animal Welfare Charter as recommended by the Animal Welfare Working Group.

Recommendation

That the Council approves the adoption and implementation of the Animal Welfare Charter including an online resource of animal welfare support groups.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Council previously considered an Animal Welfare Charter in 1992 and it is long overdue renewal as there has been change in legislation.

1.2 The Animal Welfare Act in 2006 largely repealed and replaced the 1911 protection of Animals Act, consolidating and updating several pieces of animal welfare legislation.

2.0 Report

2.1 Following the identification of the change in legislation the Charter approved in 1992 is in need of renewal to reflect changes and updated practices.

2.2 The original Charter from 1992 cannot be located, however there is record that the Council also banned shooting, snaring, trapping and baiting on its land that year.

2.3 At the Council meeting on 19th July 2023, following a motion to Council, a cross party working group was established to consider the updated legislation and best practice, with a requirement to report back to Full Council with an updated charter.

2.4 The working group met three times and invited representatives from Cats Protection Gosport and the Head of Environmental Health and undertook research into other Local Authority charters and animal welfare charities.

2.5 The Group considered the Council's powers of enforcement and the current terms of conditions on Council land bookings and other Council land such as allotments.

2.6 The Group requested that the updated Allotment Tenancy agreement make reference to the banning of shooting, snaring, trapping and baiting on its land.

2.7 The Group have produced an updated Animal Welfare Charter (appendix a) as a result of their findings and are seeking the approval of Full Council for its adoption.

2.8 The Group also requested that the Council website be updated to include a resource of the charter and animal welfare charities.

3.0 Risk Assessment

3.1 The Council have statutory obligations with regard to the licensing provisions concerned with the protection of animal welfare in activities such as pet shops, and breeding and boarding establishments. The Council also have a statutory duty to provide dog warden services.

3.2 In prohibiting activities on Council land that can harm animals the Council is proactively protecting the welfare of animals and promoting best practise.

4.0 Conclusion

This reports seeks approval of an updated Animal Welfare Charter to reiterate and reinforce the Council's commitment to protecting the welfare of both wildlife and domestic animals.

Financial Services comments:	None
Legal Services comments:	None
Equality and Diversity:	None
Climate Change implications:	None
Crime and Disorder:	
Service Improvement Plan implications:	
Corporate Plan:	A cleaner and greener place
Risk Assessment:	Contained within the report.
Background Papers:	Council resolution 29 April 1992
Appendices:	Appendix A - Animal Welfare Charter
Report Author/Lead Officer:	Lisa Young