

# Cheltenham Borough Council

## Council – 11 December 2023

### Adoption of Cheltenham's Animal Welfare Charter

---

**Accountable member:**

Councillor Martin Horwood, Cabinet Member for Customer & Regulatory Services

**Accountable officer:**

Louis Krog, Head of Public Protection

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

---

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive summary:**

This report seeks the adoption of a proposed animal welfare charter that aims to set the benchmark for animal welfare standards in the borough. The charter sets out actions the authority will take but also calls on residents, businesses and voluntary organisations to play their part in ensuring animal welfare standards are maintained throughout the borough. The charter also formalises two specific Council motions in respect of animals as prizes and animal welfare issues arising from fireworks displays.

**Recommendations:**

1. To adopt the proposed Animal Welfare Charter for Cheltenham attached at Appendix 2.
- 

#### 1. Implications

##### 1.1 Financial, Property and Asset implications

No financial implications directly arising from this report.

**Signed off by:** Andy Taylor, [andy.taylor@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:andy.taylor@cheltenham.gov.uk)

## 1.2 Legal implications

None arising directly from this report.

**Signed off by:** Vikki Fennell, Senior Lawyer, Vikki.fennell@onelegal.org.uk

## 1.3 Environmental and climate change implications

None arising directly from this report.

## 1.4 Corporate Plan Priorities

This report contributes to the following Corporate Plan Priorities:

- Being a more modern, efficient and financially sustainable council

## 1.5 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

The draft charter applies equally to every citizen, business and visitor to Cheltenham. There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implication arising from this report.

## 1.6 Performance management – monitoring and review

Monitoring and review will be measured in delivering these recommendations and the impact of the welfare charter on improving animal welfare in the borough.

---

## 2 Background

2.1 Through the proposed Animal Welfare Charter (“the charter”), Cheltenham Borough Council (“the authority”) aims to set the benchmark for animal welfare standards in the borough.

2.2 The charter confirms the important role the authority plays in maintaining high animal welfare standards through the delivery of its services, ranging from its licensing, enforcement and regulatory functions, pest control services, procurement, decision making, use of green spaces and awareness through its planning function.

2.3 To demonstrate the authority’s role and commitment to this, the charter outlines specific actions that authority will take to promote animal welfare as the local authority.

2.4 However, the charter also acknowledges that high animal welfare standards is not solely the responsibility of the authority. The charter also calls on residents, businesses and voluntary organisations to play their part including a civic duty to draw to the attention of the authority any contraventions of the provisions contained within it.

2.5 More specifically, the charter also formalises two Council motions in respect of animals as prizes and animal welfare issues arising from fireworks displays.

### Specific Welfare Standards

2.6 Whilst the charter covers a broad range of activities, cases and circumstances, below is a brief overview of a number of specific issues included:

- 2.7 Circuses, performances, exhibitions and display of animals on land owned by the authority will generally not be authorised under a land use agreement. The exception to this will be where the authority has no discretion in law (i.e. licensing) or where the owner(s) can demonstrate to the authority's satisfaction high standards of animal welfare for each species.
- 2.8 Giving away of live animals as prizes is prohibited on any land owned by the authority. On private land, where the authority has no formal powers to prohibit the giving away of live animals as prizes to anyone over the age of 16, we will work to discourage the practice.
- 2.9 The authority does not support the keeping of primates as pets.
- 2.10 Hunting is prohibited on land owned by the authority.
- 2.11 The authority has given a commitment to do whatever it reasonably can to rehome stray dogs there is veterinary advice to the contrary.
- 2.12 The authority opposes puppy farming in any form and will do what we reasonably can to encourage responsible pet ownership
- 2.13 The authority will not support the killing of animals unless they present a risk to human health and safety. Where there is a need for the authority to kill and control animals, it will seek to employ safe and humane methods where reasonably possible and practicable.
- 2.14 The authority supports measures and campaigns to reduce the harm caused to animals through the use of fireworks. Recognising the fact that the authority has no formal powers to stop or control the use of fireworks, we will take every opportunity to lobby Government on the issue and to support campaigns that seeks to eliminate or mitigate the effect on animals.

### **3 Reasons for recommendations**

- 3.1 To ensure high levels of animal welfare is maintain throughout the borough of Cheltenham.

### **4 Alternative options considered**

- 4.1 Council can resolve to not adopt the proposed charter. This would weaken the authorities commitment and ability to influence matters of animal welfare in the borough.

### **5 Consultation and feedback**

- 5.1 Informal consultation has been undertaken internally with officers whose service areas touch on matters outlined in the charter.

### **6 Key risks**

- 6.1 As outline in Appendix 1.

---

#### **Report author:**

Louis Krog, Head of Public Protection, [louis.krog@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:louis.krog@cheltenham.gov.uk).

#### **Appendices:**

- i. Risk Assessment
- ii. Proposed Animal Welfare Charter

*[please add/delete as appropriate]*

**Background information:**

- Motion A : Proposed by Councillor Horwood, seconded by Councillor Harvey, Meeting of Council, Monday, 7th December, 2020 2.30 pm
- Motion Proposed by Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Mason, Meeting of Council, Monday, 19th July, 2021

## Appendix 1: Risk Assessment

Risk ref	Risk description	Risk owner	Impact score (1-5)	Likelihood score (1-5)	Initial raw risk score (1 - 25)	Risk response	Controls / Mitigating actions	Control / Action owner	Deadline for controls/ actions
	If Council does not resolve to adopt the proposed charter, it will weaken the authority's position and would lead to an increased risk of reputational damage.	Head of Public Protection	2	4	8	Accept	Approve resolution.	Council	Oct 2023