



**REPORT of
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
12 JUNE 2025**

ANIMAL WELFARE LICENSING POLICY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For Members to consider and approve the introduction of a new Animal Welfare Licensing Policy (the Policy) to provide stakeholders with clear guidance on the processes, steps and controls that will be considered by the Council when licensing a relevant animal activity.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members agree to adopt and publish the proposed Animal Licensing Policy (as presented in **APPENDIX A**).

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 On 1 October 2018, The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 replaced disparate animal licensing legislation. It provided a single licensing regime for the following Animal Licensing Activities.
- Selling animals as pets;
 - Providing or arranging for the provision of boarding for cats or dogs (including day care);
 - Hiring out horses;
 - Breeding dogs;
 - Keeping or training animals for exhibition.
- 3.2 It is good practice for a Council to develop a local policy which outlines how it will implement its responsibilities under this legislation, as well as outlining specific information pertaining to the Animal Welfare Act 2006, Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. This draft Policy is provided for consideration at **APPENDIX A**.
- 3.3 The aim of the Policy is to ensure that relevant stakeholders including Council officers, current and potential licence holders, and the public are familiar with how the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 are implemented within the Maldon district.
- 3.4 The Policy outlines the criteria that Maldon District Council will consider when determining whether an applicant or existing licence holder is suitable to be granted a licence, have their licence renewed or continue holding a licence.

- 3.5 The policy will be reviewed every three years after its initial approval, and may also be updated as needed, for example, to reflect significant changes in relevant legislation or guidance.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The implementation of the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy is considered good practice for ensuring that licensed establishments within the Maldon District, operate in a manner that prioritises animal welfare, public safety, and compliance with legal standard. By implementing this policy Maldon District Council will be able to provide clear and consistent guidelines to licence holders.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027

5.1 Supporting our communities

- 5.1.1 The Policy safeguards public safety, promotes animal welfare, and supports responsible business practices for licensed establishments by establishing clear guidelines and expectations, thereby enhancing trust and confidence.

5.2 Enhancing and connecting our place

- 5.2.1 The Animal Welfare Licensing Policy enhances and connects our place by fostering a community that values safety, responsibility, and care for both animals and people.

5.3 Helping the economy to thrive

- 5.3.1 The Policy provides clear guidelines to already licensed establishments and creates a structured framework for new businesses to adhere to.

5.4 Smarter finances

- 5.4.1 The Policy provides clear guidance on the fee structure in accordance with the statutory requirements of Regulation 13, with the goal of achieving full cost recovery in order that the Council can provide services without relying on the use of reserves in future.

5.5 A greener future

- 5.5.1 Regulation of licensed establishments ensures that waste management at these premises do not negatively impact the local environment.

5.6 Provide good quality services.

- 5.6.1 Establishing clear standards and expectations for licensed establishments while ensuring that high animal welfare standards are maintained.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – The implementation of the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy has no direct impact on customers.

- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – The implementation of the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy has no impact on equality considerations.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – No impact.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Implementing the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy has no financial implications.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Implementing the Animal Welfare Licensing Policy has no human resource implications.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – No impact on devolution other than the policy demonstrates the authority's compliance with Animal Welfare Legislation.

Background Papers:

APPENDIX A - Draft Animal Welfare Licensing Policy

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