

ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider the formation of a Sub-Committee to look at the issues and oversee the drafting of the Council's animal welfare charter.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Council has previously agreed that an animal welfare charter should be drawn up, recognising both the direct regulatory functions for which it has responsibility and also the wider community leadership role.
- 2.2 In order to provide a better understanding of best practice in this policy area, agreement has been reached in principle for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Senior Local Government Advisor, to attend a meeting to brief Members.
- 2.3 It is also suggested that some Members may wish to visit a cross-section of premises in respect of which the Council has a direct regulatory involvement, for example, pet shops, riding schools and boarding kennels. Such visits would need to be undertaken during normal trading hours.
- 2.4 There would be advantages in nominating a smaller Sub-Committee to conduct such visits and any other interviews and enquiries Members consider would be helpful in producing a draft charter for discussion and consultation. The conclusions of the 'task and finish' Sub-Committee would be reported back to this Committee.

3 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 If formation of a Sub-Committee is agreed, its membership will need to follow pro-rata rules.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to form an Animal Welfare Charter Sub-Committee. (HHHCC)

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Background Papers:

None.

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