

Item 05 – Animal Welfare – Review of Fees and Charges

The attached report was considered by the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on 23 November 2023. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee (23 November 2023, Minute 36)

The Head of Licensing presented the report, which set out proposed changes to the fees and charges for licenses relating to animal activities, to allow for full cost recovery. The current schedule of fees was from 2018 and no longer recovered the cost of operating the services. Members were advised that the A review was initially planned for 2021 when the licenses issued under the new Animal Welfare Regulations 2018 expired, but that changes in the Environmental Health service, such as the termination of the partnership with Dartford, had delayed it. The updated time and cost analysis indicated that there had been significant increases, as a result of the staff pay award, rises in the cost of administration, and the professional qualification of the Animal Welfare Officer.

In response to questions, the officer explained that the fees for licenses needed to cover the parts of the service that did not generate income, such as enforcement. Officers did not find that fees drove businesses to operate without a license; enforcement officers often found multiple other infringements when they investigated unlicensed businesses.

Resolved: That the adoption of the new fees for the licensing of activities under the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 by Cabinet be supported.