

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 2 November 2016	Meeting name: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing
Report title:		Southwark Council Animal Welfare Charter	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing approves the Southwark Council Animal Welfare Charter (Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Animal Welfare Charter was developed in response to requests from residents. In creating the document, the council recognises the need for the wider promotion of animal welfare across the borough.
3. The charter applies to all residents and their pets regardless of the type of accommodation they live in.
4. The charter was developed in close consultation with the RSPCA; a senior RSPCA advisor has reviewed drafts of the charter and provided advice. The charter also draws on good practice in the form of the animal welfare charters of several other local authorities.
5. In terms of resident consultation, the charter was presented to the Area Housing Forums where it generated positive comments.
6. Additionally, during the charter's development, consultation was undertaken with colleagues from community safety, SASBU and the wardens team in the environment department, and area management in the housing and modernisation department. It therefore has input from a range of officers who are experienced in dealing with animals and their associated issues.

Policy and resource implications

7. There are no policy or resource implications arising from the implementation of this charter. The charter does not replace any policy; rather it supplements existing guidance on animal welfare that is available from a range of sources such as the Tenants' handbook and conditions of tenancy, and on the Southwark website.

Community impact statement

8. The Animal Welfare Charter will have a positive impact on the people of Southwark, regardless of whether or not they are pet owners. By providing

guidance and promoting animal welfare, animals and their owners will be less likely to cause a nuisance and generate complaints. The charter will benefit the community and contribute to making the borough a better place in which to live.

9. The Council will continue to take account of the needs of people who require assistive animals (e.g. guide or hearing dogs). However it is still important to ensure the protection of the welfare of the animals involved, in line with this charter.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

10. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The proposed charter provides advice to residents on pet ownership and summarises the relevant requirements.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

11. The adoption of this charter will be contained within existing resources. As such there are no other specific financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None.		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Council Animal Welfare Charter 2016

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Gerri Scott, Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	
Report Author	Richard Harrington, Service Development Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	26 October 2016	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		26 October 2016