

## EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

**Name of decision maker:** Cllr Margaret Griffiths

**Portfolio:** Housing

**Date of Portfolio Holder Decision:** 28/08/2012

**Title of Decision:** Pet Policy

**Decision made and reasons:** That the Housing Pet Policy is approved to enable operational decisions to be made.

**Reports considered:**

The Housing Pet Policy is attached to this decision record sheet.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that it is for this reason that prior permission must be obtained to keep any pet.

In some circumstances tenants will be unable to keep certain types of domestic pet due to the impact on the animals and the potential for them to cause a nuisance to neighbouring residents.

**Has budget been approved?** No changes are requested to existing budgets. No additional budget is requested.

**Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:**

Staff members from within the Council's Housing Landlord Service and Regulatory Services have worked together to compile the policy. The Council's Legal Team have commented on the policy and have advised on the relevant legislation contained within the policy document.

The policy has been developed from best practice within the housing industry. The content of the policy has been commented on a national animal law specialist from the Dog's Trust.

Consultation was undertaken with tenants on the content of the policy during the animal welfare week at the beginning of July and the Tenant and Leaseholder Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> July.

A number of local ward Councillors attended the animal welfare week and commented on the content of the policy.

**Monitoring Officer comments:**

This decision is made under delegated authority from Cabinet.

**Deputy Section 151 Officer comments:**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the policy. Maintaining a standing policy on keeping household pets in Council property is good practice and minimises the risk to the council

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of claims for compensation from members of the public who may be adversely affected by nuisance from animals.

**Implications:** The development of a Housing Pet Policy is designed to ensure that any household keeping a domestic pet should be doing so in accordance with the highest possible welfare standards and to ensure that the duty of care is complied with under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. It will also assist the Council in dealing with those tenants that breach their tenancy conditions regarding nuisances caused by pets.

**Risk:** By developing a policy and ensuring that the council deals with animal welfare issues sensitively and swiftly will minimise complaints. Failure to deal with cases appropriately may result in claims being made against the Council; the development of a policy minimises this risk and the likelihood of any negative publicity and any compensation payments being made as a result of poor service.

**Value for Money:**

**Options Considered and reasons for rejection:**

**Portfolio Holders Signature:**

**Date:**

**Details of any interests declared and any dispensations given by the Standards Committee:**

### For Member Support Officer use only

Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 23/08/2012

Date Decision Published: 28/08/2012

Decision No: PH/12/053

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 04/09/2012

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented:

## BACKGROUND

The Housing Pet Policy is the background to this executive decision sheet. The policy document is attached to this report.