

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member - Environmental

DATE: 6th April 2011

SUBJECT: **A FRAMEWORK FOR THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE 2011/12.**

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Peter Moore
Environmental & Technical Services Director

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EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

For the Cabinet Member – Environmental to endorse the revised framework agreement between Sefton Council’s Trading Standards Service and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) for the delivery of animal health and welfare service provision.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The National Performance Framework for Trading Standards (NPF) requires that such initiatives be considered and approved by the Council’s elected representatives.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member – Environmental

- a) Notes the content of this report and:
- b) Approves the Animal Welfare Service Delivery Plan 2011/12.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: N/A

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately following the expiry of the “call-in” period for this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None - Statutory Function. The Framework for the Delivery of Services in Animal Health and Welfare is the national accepted scheme for ensuring animal health and preventing disease.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None arising from this report – limited grant funding is available from DEFRA

Financial:

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Funded by:	-	-	-	-
Sefton Capital Resources	-	-	-	-
Specific Capital Resources	-	-	-	-
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Funded by:	-	-	-	-
Sefton funded Resources, within existing budget	-	-	-	-
Funded from External Resources	-	-	-	-
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N				
How will the service be funded post expiry?	N/A			

Legal: Legal Department LD/74/11 No comment

Risk Assessment Asset Management Enforcement of the Animal Health legislation is a statutory duty
N/A

Consultation Undertaken/Views
DEFRA – Animal Health Divisional Office

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability		√	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		√	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

“A framework for the delivery of service in Animal Health and Welfare’ published jointly by LACORS, DEFRA and Welsh Assembly Government.

Legal Department – LD 74/11 No comment

Background

1. The Cabinet Member - Environmental approved a previous report entitled "A Framework for the Delivery of Services in Animal Health and Welfare (The Framework)", dated 1st September 2004. That report advised members of the local framework agreement agreed by DEFRA and Sefton Council Trading Standards Service. This report serves to update the previous commitments.

A Framework for the Delivery of Services in Animal Health and Welfare

2. The framework document "Animal Welfare Service Delivery Plan 2011/12", Annex 1 to this report, sets out the delivery arrangements for animal health and welfare services provided by the Trading Standards Section. It has been developed with detailed consideration of local needs, corporate objectives and reference to the national framework model developed by LACORS, DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government.
3. The framework deals mostly with farmed livestock, where the problems are seen as most serious. It also covers horses and touches on pets and wildlife.
4. The Framework addresses the following strategic outcomes:
 - A clear understanding of roles and responsibilities;
 - A partnership approach;
 - Promotion of animal health and welfare: prevention better than cure;
 - A clearer understanding of costs and benefits of animal health and welfare; and
 - Effective delivery and enforcement.
5. Much of the discussion of animal health and welfare in recent years has focused on the role of Government. However, Government should intervene only where there is a clear public interest in doing so. The four primary reasons for intervention are public health, impact on the wider economy and society, trade, and animal welfare.
6. The Framework establishes a set of principles for local decision-making and therefore decisions on animal health and welfare should:
 - Be based on sound science and evidence;
 - Lead to proportionate action through an assessment of costs and benefits;
 - Be guided by the precautionary principle;
 - Be based on risk assessment (which should include the use of veterinary advice);
 - Be made in partnership with key stakeholders;
 - Be consistent with Government's reason for intervention;

- Promote sustainable development, including a sustainable food and farming industry;
 - Be consistent with EU and International obligations; and
 - Seek to promote British interests in the EU and internationally.
7. In order to address all these issues the Framework sets out proposed actions to improve the health and welfare of animals kept by man, and to address public health protection from animal disease. These actions include:
- Definition of the Council's enforcement structure and plan;
 - Analysis of Commercial premises and agricultural holdings;
 - Preparation of risk assessment of premises within the Sefton area;
 - The intelligence gathering process;
 - Consultation with the local Divisional Veterinary Manager;
 - Liaison with other agencies;
 - Training and continuing professional development of staff;
 - Provision of Advice to clients and animal licence applications;
 - The monitoring of animal movement activities and attendance at critical control points;
 - The response, standby and on-call arrangements;
 - The investigation of offences;
 - Identification of training and advice needs for farmers and vets and others who advise animal keepers; and
 - Developing indicators and targets for success.

Implications

8. The Animal Health and Welfare Agenda places a statutory duty on the Council that will be carried out by Environmental Protection services.
9. In addition to the licensing of local pet shops, kennels and riding establishments current estimates suggest the activity will involve visiting approximately 50 'agricultural' premises per annum, the administration of local animal movement and a lead role in contingency planning with respect to animal diseases.