

# Equality Impact Assessment

**Service Area:** Licensing

**Head of Service:** Jeremy Mann

**Lead Officer:** Katy Nicholls

**Date of Assessment:** 14/09/2022

**Person responsible for completing the assessment:** Katy Nicholls

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**Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:** Report outlining proposed amendments to the draft Animal Licensing Policy.

**Brief description of proposal to be assessed:** Proposal to introduce a number of minor amendments to the draft animal licensing policy applicable to existing and prospective animal license holders following the period of public consultation on the draft policy between 20th June and 15th August 2022.

**Proposed implementation date of project/proposal:** After the meeting of Licensing and Community Safety Committee on 11th October to examine the results of the public consultation and following a recommendation made and approved by Strategy and Resources Committee.

**Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:**

| Provision                                                                                                                           | Current Arrangement                                       | Proposed Arrangement                                                                                                                   | Comment                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Consolidated animal licensing policy to cover the five animal activity licences, Zoo licensing, and dangerous wild animal licenses. | No current consolidated policy for this area of licensing | Consolidated policy taking into account statutory guidance to Licensing Authorities and relevant animal welfare standards              | Equally applicable to all persons/ groups. Neutral impact expected across all protected characteristic groups.                                   |
| Policy to contain details on the interpretation of the suitability of applicants                                                    | No current policy                                         | Details on the suitability of applicants, and the relevance of any convictions disclosed detailed in section 7 of the proposed policy. | Equally applicable to all applicants as policy requirements relate principally to criminal convictions rather than any protected characteristic. |

**Impact:**

**Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic.** (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Neutral impact largely perceived due to the nature of the above policy proposal.

**Consideration of Alternatives:**

**Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):**

The Licensing and Community Safety Committee have the option to reject the draft policy, in favour of further amending the draft policy.

**Consultation:**

**Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:**

Consultation proposed as part of the May LCSC report, and undertaken between 20th June and 15th August 2022. Minor amendments to draft policy proposed following review of consultation feedback.

**Funding Considerations:**

No funding considerations relevant in terms of the proposals.

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 20/09/2022

**Reporting and Publication:**

**Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.**

The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.

A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.

**Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.**

12 months after initiation of this tranche of policy changes, on date to be confirmed. We are at an early stage in this project.

**Monitoring Arrangements:**

**Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.**

Monitoring of animal licence applications, appeals, and complaints.

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 20/09/2022

**Corporate and Community Services Use Only:** Received 03/10/22 Date of publication to NDC Website: 05/10/2022