

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Leona Mantle Tenancy Services Manager	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All containing Council Housing	28 th January 2020	
Title	PET POLICY		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Committee of a new policy on Keeping of Pets within Kettering Borough Council Tenancies.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 Studies have shown that pet ownership can enhance the owner's mental and physical health and encourage exercise, plus pets make great companions.
- 2.2 However, while pets can have a very positive impact on their environment, irresponsibly owned pets can be the cause of much misery and suffering to the animals themselves and to those who live around them.
- 2.3 The challenges – ranging from the high-profile issues of animal hoarding and intimidation with dogs, to the lower level but equally problematic issues of cat spraying and barking dogs – can be improved by having a clear and well-enforced pet policy.
- 2.4 The policy is a document that outlines the expected behaviours of tenants with regard to pets, it includes legal obligations, what is required of pet owners, and the potential consequences of failing to comply with the policy. The policy document is included at **Appendix A**.
- 2.5 The policy is linked to the tenancy agreement and ASB policy.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 The Pet Policy will impact on all tenants, leaseholders and residents within council properties and on council estates.
- 3.2 The policy is supported by Wood Green Animal Shelters, who we partner with to provide support to our pet owners and follows good practice guidance from the RSPCA.
- 3.3 The policy takes into account feedback from service users and staff. A consultation process has been undertaken within Housing Management team and is supported by the Tenants Forum.

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4. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 We have approximately 3800 homes within our management and a key priority is tenancy sustainment, allowing tenants and residents peaceful enjoyment of their homes. By having a robust pet policy, a proactive neighbourhood management team and stringent and transparent processes aimed at dealing effectively with supporting responsible pet ownership and dealing with problems and non-adherence to the policy, our communities will continue to be places or tenants want to live in.
- 4.2 The Pet Policy is consistent with the Tenancy Agreement and the ASB Policy.

5. **FINANCE and HR RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The policy can be implemented using existing Neighbourhood Management resources.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This policy supports clauses within the Tenancy Agreement relating to pets and nuisance

7. **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None as a result of this report.

8. **RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is asked to consider and approve the new Pet Policy for recommendation to the Executive Committee.

Background Papers:
Previous Reports/Minutes: