

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Cabinet – 06 July 2026

Report Title

Primate Licensing

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

Yes

Executive Director Approving Submission of the Report

Andrew Bramidge, Executive Director of Regeneration and Environment

Report Author(s)

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Ward(s) Affected.

All

Report Summary

Recent changes to Animal Health legislation include the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 which provide for the licensing of primate keeper. This report seeks to set an appropriate fee for the Primate Licence application.

Recommendations

That Cabinet Recommend to Council that the fees in respect of Primate Licences, in accordance with the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, be set at £199 for Licence applications and any variation or renewal applications.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Screening Assessment

Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[The Animal Welfare \(Primate Licences\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#)

[Licensing process for keeping primates - GOV.UK](#)

[Statutory guidance on the use of penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences - GOV.UK](#)

[Penalty notices for animal health and welfare offences - GOV.UK](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel
None

Council Approval Required
Yes

Exempt from the Press and Public
No

Primate Licensing

1. Background

- 1.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 came into force on 6th April 2026. It requires all private keepers of primates to be licensed by the relevant Local Authority.
- 1.2 It is estimated that up to 5,000 primates are being kept privately as pets in the UK. At this stage, the number of keepers in Rotherham is not known.
- 1.3 The legislation, introduced through secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and passed into law on the 5th of March 2024, prohibits the keeping of primates as pets unless individuals can meet the rigorous conditions of a new licensing scheme, which includes the requirement for licence holders to seek veterinary input on the appropriate care of their animals. Primates have complex welfare and social needs, and the standards are designed to ensure that only those who can demonstrate the highest levels of animal welfare will be permitted to keep primates.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 stipulates that where primates are kept outside of premises covered under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, that activity is licensable.
- 2.2 An individual who keeps, or is proposing to keep, a primate may apply for a Primate Licence. The application must specify a range of details including the species of primate, and the number of primates of each species to be kept under the licence. It must detail the sex, species, date of birth (or if not known, the approximate date), and the number of any microchips implanted, for each primate.
- 2.3 Before issuing a licence, a suitable officer must inspect the premises specified in the application to determine whether the licence conditions are likely to be met if the application were to be granted. If licence conditions are likely to be met, then a licence can be issued. Conversely, if licence conditions are not likely to be met, then the application must be refused.
- 2.4 Where the Council is satisfied that a licence can be issued, the licence can be issued for three years unless the applicant specifies a shorter period. The Regulations make further provisions for renewal, variation, revocation and surrender of licences, together with provisions in the event of the death of a licence holder.
- 2.5 Where a three-year licence is in place, a suitable officer from the Local Authority must inspect the premises at least once during the licence period in respect of compliance.
- 2.6 The Council may set a fee for the application and a fee for any inspections. There is already a fee set for Dangerous Wild Animal Licences which cover

the same direct and indirect costs of licensing as proposed for Primate Licensing. Consequently, the same fee of £199 is proposed for the Licence fee along with any variation or renewal applications.

- 2.7 It is an offence, under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, to own a primate and not be licensed under these Regulations. Where conditions of a licence are breached, this is an offence and the Council may serve a Rectification Notice to detail a timeframe in which compliance must be achieved.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 The Council is statutorily obliged to consider applications under the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024, for which a fee of £199 for Licence applications and any variation or renewal applications will be charged.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 There has been no public consultation in relation to the proposal however relevant officers have been engaged in developing the proposals within this report.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The recommendations, if agreed, will be applied following the decision being made.
- 5.2 The Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement is accountable for implementing the decision.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

- 6.1 This report proposes introducing a £199 Primate Licence which will be subject to approval at Council. The level of income this fee will generate is not known.
- 6.2 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations detailed in this report.

7. Legal Advice and Implications

- 7.1 The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 ('the Regulations') introduced a licensing regime to protect the welfare of primates kept in England. The Regulations apply to the keeping of any primate in England on or after 6 April 2026 unless the primate is kept under a Zoo Licensing Act 1981 licence or an Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 licence.
- 7.2 The Local Authority is responsible for administering and enforcing the licensing regime and must also comply with the Statutory Guidance: Licensing Process for Keeping Primates.

- 7.3 Section 6 makes provisions to allow primate keepers to apply for a licence to keep primates. Section 13(6) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 does provide for offences for failure to licence licensable activities.
- 7.4 Section 7 details the means by which any applications should be determined with Section 8 describing the details to be contained within any licence granted together with a three-year licence period, or shorter if requested by the applicant.
- 7.5 Section 14 makes it an offence for a Primate Licence holder not to comply with licence conditions, for which upon summary conviction a fine might be imposed.
- 7.6 Regulation 13 addresses fee setting; a Local Authority is able to charge a fee in respect of an application and may also charge a fee in respect of any inspection. In accordance with the Statutory Guidance the Local Authority must set fair and reasonable fees and in doing so give consideration to Open for business: LGA guidance on locally set licence fees, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (now Department for Business and Trade) and guidance for business on the provision of services regulations, Principles in the Regulators' Code and Local Government Animal Welfare Group guidance.
- 7.7 Local authorities must provide information to applicants and licence holders on payment options.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 A screening assessment has been carried out in Appendix 1.
- 10.2 There are no equalities or human rights implications.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 An assessment has been carried out in Appendix 2.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1 There are no implications for partners.

13. Risks and Mitigation

13.1 If fees were not set for primate licences the Council would not be fully utilising provisions provided to support regulatory work.

14. Accountable Officers

Lewis Coates, Service Manager Regulation and Enforcement

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	John Edwards	19/06/26
Executive Director of Corporate Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	15/06/26
Service Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phil Horsfield	17/06/26

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