

COMMITTEE REPORT

23/06/2026

Primate Licensing

GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

PART I

PRIMATE LICENSING (ADE)

1 Summary

- 1.1 To inform Members of the introduction of the Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 and the enforcement provisions which commenced on 1st April 2026.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the implementation of a licensing regime for the keeping of primates within Three Rivers.
- 1.3 To approve a schedule of fees to enable the Council to recover the reasonable costs associated with administering the regime.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Members:
- 2.2 Note the introduction of the Regulations and the Council's duties as the licensing authority.
- 2.3 Approve the adoption of a primate licensing scheme in accordance with the Regulations.
- 2.4 Approve the proposed fee structure set out in 3.7 of this report, which will then form part of the annual fees and charges process.

Report prepared by: Jennie Probert, Environmental Services Manager

3 Details

- 3.1 The Regulations introduce a mandatory licensing regime for the keeping of primates in England. The most common kept species are believed to be marmosets, tamarins and squirrel monkeys and the Council's Animal Welfare Licensing Inspector (AWLI) has had two enquiries in relation to marmosets.
- 3.2 This new regime covers all primates not specified in the Dangerous Wild Animals license, although some larger primates may require both.
- 3.3 On 5 March 2024, The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2024 ('the Regulations') became law and introduced a licensing regime to protect the welfare of primates kept in England. The Regulations apply to the keeping of any non-human primate in England on or after 6 April 2026 unless the primate is kept under a Zoo Licensing Act 1981 licence ('zoo licence') or an Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 licence ('ASPA licence'). The Regulations requires any person who keeps any such primate to hold a primate licence.
- 3.4 From 6 April 2026, it is an offence to keep a primate without a licence, unless exempt.
- 3.5 The Regulations and associated guidance aim to ensure that primates are kept to zoo-level welfare standards, reflecting their complex needs. They set out an

application, renewal and compliance process, including that inspections must be conducted by a 'suitable person' which is defined by the Regulations as being a veterinarian or any other person, in the view of the local authority, is suitably qualified and competent to carry out the inspection. At the current time the Council's AWLI is completing the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 (LAIA) qualification and City of London are providing licensing cover in the mean time. The AWLI has already completed a primate training course.

3.6 Fees must be set on a cost recovery basis, must not generate a surplus and must be reviewed annually.

3.7 Any veterinary fees incurred will be charged, at cost, on top of the fee set by the Council.

3.8 It is proposed to set the following fees

New licence application – 1 species	£580*
New licence application – 2 or more species	£675*
As this is a new fee structure fees for renewals and variations will be considered during the annual fees and charges process.	TBC

*Noting that any vet fees will be charged, at cost, as well as the fee set by the Council.

4 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended to implement a licensing regime, as per the Regulations and associated guidelines to ensure the Council is meeting its animal welfare obligations in relation to primates.

4.2 It is recommended to approve the fees, which are designed to meet cost recovering, but not make a surplus, as outlined.

4.3 No further alternative options have been considered as this is legal requirement.

5 Policy/Budget/Financial Implications

5.1 The number of applications is likely to be minimal and, as the fee should be set for cost recovery, there should be no impact on the overall budget for the service, however this will be monitored during the budget monitoring cycle.

6 Legal Implications

6.1 The Council has a statutory duty to enforce the Regulations.

6.2 Failure to implement a licensing regime may expose the authority to legal and reputational risk.

6.3 Fee setting must comply with the principle that charges do not exceed the cost of providing the service.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 As outlined in the Equality Impact Assessment there may be an impact in relation to age, disability and race, however there are mitigating actions in place to address potential issues. Mitigating actions include having clear information on the Council website, use of the Recite Me tool and that the AWLI can answer specific queries.

8 Staffing Implications

8.1 This function falls under the remit of Council's Animal Welfare Licensing Inspector and, as it's likely there will be minimal applications, can be met within existing resources.

9 Environmental Implications/Community Safety/Public Health/Customer Service Implications

9.1 None specific.

10 Communications and Website Implications

10.1 The website will be updated, which can be met within existing resources.

11 Risk and Health & Safety Implications

11.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

11.2 The subject of this report is covered by the Waste and Environment service plan(s). Any risks resulting from this report will be included in the risk register and, if necessary, managed within this/these plan(s).

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (tolerate, treat, terminate, transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of likelihood and impact)
Legal Implication	Legal implication to the Council for not having a regime in place to license correctly, as this is a statutory function.	Implement a licensing process, with fee	Treat	1
Animal welfare	Animal welfare at risk if there is no process in place	Implement a licensing process, with fee	Treat	1

11.3 The above risks are scored using the matrix below. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

Very Likely ----- Likelihood ----- Remote	Low 4	High 8	Very High 12	Very High 16
	Low 3	Medium 6	High 9	Very High 12
	Low 2	Low 4	Medium 6	High 8
	Low 1	Low 2	Low 3	Low 4
		Impact		
		Low -----> Unacceptable		

Impact Score

- 4 (Catastrophic)
- 3 (Critical)
- 2 (Significant)
- 1 (Marginal)

Likelihood Score

- 4 (Very Likely (≥80%))
- 3 (Likely (21-79%))
- 2 (Unlikely (6-20%))
- 1 (Remote (≤5%))

11.4 In the officers' opinion none of the new risks above, were they to come about, would seriously prejudice the achievement of the Strategic Plan and are therefore operational risks. The effectiveness of the management of operational risks is reviewed by the Audit Committee annually.

Data Quality

Data sources:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/licensing-process-for-keeping-primates>

<https://www.gov.uk/licence-wild-animal>

Data checked by:

Emma Sheridan, Associate Director for Environment

Data rating:

1	Poor	
2	Sufficient	X
3	High	

