

Place Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2026

Scrutiny Review – Animal Welfare	
Achieved since last meeting	The Scope and project plan was considered and agreed at the May 2026 meeting. The Animal Welfare service performs several critical functions and interventions to protect the public and ensure the welfare of animals, however, it is facing increasing pressures on demand, complexity of cases, and increasing costs. The aim of the review will therefore be to address the challenges to the long-term sustainability and cost of services and thereby continue to provide excellent care for animals and ensure the safety and well-being of the community. A range of Council services and partners were identified as contributors to the review, including Licensing, Adult Social Care, Cleveland Police, animal charities and veterinary practices. The committee also received background information regarding the service, which outlined the statutory duties regarding stray dogs, along with discretionary duties to protect animal welfare and public safety, how these duties are carried out and high standards achieved, and a breakdown of the increasing pressures. In June, the Committee received evidence from the Licensing Service regarding their role in regulating activity through administration and enforcement of licenses and how this supports animal welfare within the borough. A star rating system was in place, assessed on welfare standards and risk levels, which helps the public make informed choices and encourages better standards. There has been a steady increase in licensed premises, and licenses are granted for one, two or three years depending on their star rating. Adult Social Care also attended in June to give evidence regarding their role in looking after residents' pets when taken into temporary care or hospital under their temporary protection of property statutory duties. The majority of pets being looked after are cats and dogs, but has also included birds, fish, rabbits and snakes. The pets are either supported through commissioned kennels, separate to the ones used by Animal Welfare Services, or a pet sitting service when kennel capacity is limited, and the cost of this recharged to the pet owner.
Problems or concerns	None
Planned next month	Cleveland Police will be attending the July meeting to give evidence regarding their roles and responsibilities for dangerous dogs and animal welfare, along with their partnership role with the Council. A site visits to the two kennel services the Council uses will also be arranged.

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On track – yes / no	Yes
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Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	A progress update on affordable housing was received in May, and two recommendations were agreed as fully achieved, with the website being updated to provide regular updates to applicants regarding properties available and demand, and changes to the Common Allocation Policy not resulting in any unintended consequences. However, demand from priority applicants continues to exceed the supply of available properties advertised through Tees Valley Homefinder. Only one recommendation was outstanding, regarding the investigation of a hybrid model to address the borough's affordable housing need and this was due to the impact being long term. A further progress update was requested in six months. Progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows: • Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections (July 2026) • Muslim and Faith Burial (October 2026) • Burial Provision (December 2026) • Affordable Housing (December 2026)
Requests for more information	None

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	No reports received since previous update.
Requests for more information	None

Next Scrutiny Review	
• TBC	
Remaining 2026 - 27 Meetings (all 4.00pm unless stated)	
Monday 13 July 2026 Monday 14 September 2026 Monday 12 October 2026 Monday 9 November 2026 Monday 14 December 2026 Monday 11 January 2026 Monday 15 February 2027 Monday 15 March 2027	