



Subject:	Motion : Lucy's Law – Response from Minister
Date:	21st February, 2020
Reporting Officer:	Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to a motion on Lucy's Law which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 6th January.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 6th January, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Alderman Rodgers, was passed:</p> <p>“This Council recognises the important work carried out by local animal charities, including the Dogs Trust, which recently suspended its adoption service over the holiday period to highlight the fact that dogs are for life and not just for Christmas.</p> <p>The Council notes with concern that unethical breeders and profit-driven third party commercial traders of young animals has led to an industry rife with serious neglect</p>

	<p>and abuse of animals across the United Kingdom and Ireland and has led to the unnecessary suffering of animals bred in dissolute puppy farms.</p> <p>The Council recognises the successful campaign for the introduction of Lucy’s Law in England, which will come into effect from April 2020. This new legislation will ban the sale of puppies and kittens from third parties, ensuring that buyers deal directly with registered breeders.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council resolves to write to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to express its concerns, affirm its support for Lucy’s Law and request that preparatory work be undertaken to allow for Lucy’s Law to be legislated for in Northern Ireland.”</p>
3.2	A response has now been received from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, a copy of which is attached.
3.3	The Minister explains that his Department is monitoring changes in the legislation in England in relation to amendments to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, as a result of the campaign for Lucy’s Law. He points out that the new rules, which are due to come into effect in England in April, will mean that puppies and kittens can no longer be sold by a third party seller, such as a pet shop or commercial dealer, unless they have bred the animal themselves. Anyone seeking to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten under six months old must either deal directly with the breeder or an animal rehoming centre.
3.4	The Minister confirms that he intends to monitor the changes being implemented in England, with a view to considering the most appropriate way forward for Northern Ireland. He concludes by stressing his commitment to ensuring that Northern Ireland has high welfare standards and that the wellbeing of pets remains protected.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs