Bishop Auckland Town Council
Poultry Keeping Policy

1. Purpose and Scope
This policy outlines the conditions under which tenants of Bishop Auckland Town Council allotments may keep poultry. It applies to all allotment sites managed by the Council and is based on the Allotments Act 1950, the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908, and the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

2. Permitted Poultry
Tenants may keep hens and ducks, subject to approval. cockerels, geese, and other noisy or large birds are not permitted.

Poultry may only be kept for eggs, pets or meat. It is not permitted to use them for any form of business, i.e. selling eggs, breeding or commercial sales.

The following quantities are a maximum number of birds to be kept per tenant:

- 6 Ducks, ensuring a provision of adequate space.
- 50 Chickens, ensuring a provision of adequate space.
    - Reduced to 25 Chickens if the plot is on a site perimeter that is facing towards nearby houses.

3. Application Process
Tenants must submit a written request to the Council. A site inspection will be conducted prior to approval. Permissions are subject to annual review.

4. Housing and Welfare Standards
Poultry must be housed in secure, weatherproof structures with clean bedding. Adequate space and outdoor access must be provided. Feed and water must be available at all times.

The Tenant is responsible for any such structure to keep poultry; this includes the materials, construction and any repairs or associated maintenance required.

The Tenant is responsible for the dismantling and removal of all structures and materials at the end of their tenancy.

5. Biosecurity and Health
Tenants must implement measures to prevent disease and report any illness or death. Restrictions may apply during avian flu outbreaks.

6. Nuisance and Complaints
Tenants must manage noise, odor, and vermin. The Council reserves the right to revoke permission if complaints are substantiated.

7. Monitoring and Enforcement
Council officers may conduct inspections. Breaches of policy may result in removal of poultry and termination of tenancy, as set out in the Tenancy Enforcement Procedure. *(Continued overleaf)*

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA)

In addition to this Council Policy, the Tenant must also register their poultry with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

The Tenant is responsible for ensuring they meet all Central Government **legal requirements** for registering any poultry or other captive birds with the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) **within one month** of keeping poultry or other captive birds at any premises in England or Wales.

This includes any birds you keep as pets.

Once registered, APHA will provide you with a County Parish Holding (CPH) Number.

The Tenant must follow all advice and guidance, including alerts, notices, or housing orders and must implement any actions that are required by APHA.

Further information is available on the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) website.

Important: This is a legal requirement and you will be **breaking the law** if you do not register with APHA.

GOV.UK Information sources:

Keeper of less than 50 poultry or other captive birds:
www.gov.uk/guidance/register-as-a-keeper-of-less-than-50-poultry-or-other-captive-birds#how-to-register

Keeper of 50 or more poultry or other captive birds:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms

Bird flu (avian influenza): latest situation in England:
www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-latest-situation-in-england