

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**16 March 2016**

**Report of Director of Central Service and Monitoring Officer**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Council**

**1 PROPOSED LICENCE CONDITIONS FOR THE HOMEBOARDING OF DOGS AND CATS AND DOG DAY CARE ESTABLISHMENTS**

**This report details proposals to adopt licensing conditions in respect of the home boarding of dogs and cats.**

**1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 Section 1 of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 requires that any person keeping a boarding establishment for other people's dogs or cats must be licensed by the Local Authority. This applies to traditional boarding establishments (i.e. kennels and catteries).
- 1.1.2 A new style of boarding is becoming increasingly popular whereby pet animals are home boarded in a domestic environment for a traditional holiday period or for the day. Recently the Council has become aware of one home boarder who would like to be licensed.
- 1.1.3 Existing animal boarding licence conditions are not wholly suited to the home boarding environment.
- 1.1.4 The proposed licence conditions (**Annex 1, 2 and 3**) are based on the Local Government Regulation and British Kennel and Cattery Association model conditions and provide a relevant set of standards and controls for the regulation of home boarding of cats and dogs and dog day care establishments.
- 1.1.5 The applicant would be required to re-apply for their licence annually.
- 1.1.6 If non-compliances are found, the Licensing Authority would have the following enforcement options:
- i) To advise the license holder in writing of non-compliances and encourage necessary improvements;
  - ii) If the matter is serious, to consider taking legal proceedings against the licence holder;

- iii) If the matter is very serious or if there is repeated non-compliance, to make representation to have the licence revoked.

## 1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 As set out above

## 1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 The current annual licensing fee for an Animal Boarding Establishment is £262. The proposed fee for new home boarding, dog day care licences and for annual renewals is £150 to cover licensing administration and inspection costs. For first time applicants a veterinary inspection will be conducted at an additional cost to the applicant. Otherwise veterinary inspections would be undertaken at the officer's request and the applicant would be charged an additional fee.

## 1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 Failure to regulate home boarding and dog day care establishments will mean that people choosing to board their animals in a domestic setting are not covered by similar controls governing traditional kennels and catteries.

## 1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

## 1.6 Recommendations

- 1.6.1 The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to:
  - i) adopt the licence conditions detailed in Annex 1 & 2 and 3;
  - ii) agree the annual fee of £150 to cover the costs associated with the administration and inspection regime; and
  - iii) agree to cost recovery of additional veterinary fees.

Background papers:

Nil

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