

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE

18 March 2015

Report of the Director of Central Services 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 homeboarding 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 homeboarded in a domestic environment or a boarded just for the day. Recently the Council has become aware of one homeboarder who would like to be licensed.
- 1.1.3 Existing animal boarding licence conditions are not wholly suited to the homeboarding environment.
- 1.1.4 The proposed licence conditions (**Annex 1 & 2**) 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 homeboarding 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 homeboarding, dog day care licences and for annual renewals is £150 to cover licensing administration and inspection costs. If in the inspector's opinion a veterinary inspection was also required, the applicant would be charged an additional fee.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 Failure to regulate homeboarding 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

Background papers:

Nil

contact:

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Adrian Stanfield

Central Services Director and Monitoring Officer

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	All applicants requiring a home boarding licence are subject to the same licence conditions.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	All groups are treated equally through the adoption of new licensing conditions.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.