

TO: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
15 JUNE 2016

PET SHOP LICENCE CONDITIONS
Chief Officer: Environment and Public Protection

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider adoption of the Model Licence Conditions for Pet Vending Licensing as published by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) in 2013, which can be found at Annex A.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Committee approves the adoption of the Model Licence Conditions document at Annex A as follows:**

- i) **with immediate effect for any new licences issued, and**
- ii) **from 1 January 2017 for any existing licence holders.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 The contents of the CIEH Model Licence Conditions are widely accepted as representing the minimum standards to be applied in order to ensure appropriate standards of health, safety and welfare. The current conditions appear to date back to 1998, and have not been reviewed since the Model Licence Conditions were published in 2013. The current licence conditions can be found at Annex B.
- 3.2 At the meeting on 7 January 2016, this Committee approved a consultation exercise with existing licence holders on the Model Licence Conditions document. This consultation commenced on 25 January 2016, and closed on 19 April 2016. No responses were received to the consultation and it is therefore assumed that there are no concerns in respect of the adoption of the Model Licence Conditions.
- 3.3 The existing pet shop licences are next due for renewal on 1 January 2017. Should the recommendation in 2.1 be approved, officers will ensure licensed pet shops are aware of the new conditions that would be applied so that they can ensure compliance by the time of the licence renewal process.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None, officers are of the view that the Council's current licence conditions are outdated and the Council's Animal Health Inspector has strongly recommended adoption of the Model Licence Conditions.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Pet shops are licensed once a year, following an inspection which is currently carried out by a City of London Animal Health Inspector. The licence specifies the species of animals permitted to be sold at the licensed premises.

Unrestricted

5.2 Under section 1(3) of the Pet Animals Act 1951, a local authority can attach licence conditions to ensure:

- i) that animals will at all times be kept in accommodation suitable as respects size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness;
- ii) that animals will be adequately supplied with suitable food and drink and (so far as necessary) visited at suitable intervals;
- iii) that animals, being mammals, will not be sold at too early an age;
- iv) that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread among animals of infectious diseases;
- v) that appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

5.3 Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, those responsible for animals including pet vendors must take reasonable steps to meet the welfare needs of animals in their care which would include

- i) its need for a suitable environment
- ii) its need for a suitable diet
- iii) its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- iv) any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
- v) its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

5.4 The Model Licence Conditions document at Annex A covers both the requirements of the Pet Animals Act and the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The legal implications are identified within the report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 General public and existing licence holders.

Method of Consultation

7.2 A consultation was carried out on the Council's portal, and letters were sent to all existing licence holders.

Representations Received

7.3 None.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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