

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Arrangements for Animal Welfare Licensing

17 November 2011

Report of the Head of Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to consider minor amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to streamline the issuing of animal welfare licences.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the proposed operational arrangements for issuing animal welfare licences be noted.
- (2) That the Scheme of Delegation be amended to authorise the Head of Health and Housing and any officer designated in writing by her to grant, transfer or renew any licence under the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, Dangerous Wild Animals Acts 1976, Pet Animals Act 1951, Breeding of Dogs Act 1973, Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970 and Zoo Licensing Act 1981, except where any objection or adverse comment has been received or a member of the Committee has requested that the matter be referred to Committee.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The issuing of licences for animal boarding establishments, dog breeding establishments, riding establishments, pet shops, zoos and dangerous wild animals fall within the terms of reference of this Committee.
- 1.2 The current arrangements are that applications are administered within the Licensing Section within Governance. However, applications are passed to the Environmental Protection Team in Health and Housing who arrange for the premises to be inspected, and advise as to whether a licence should be issued, and, if so, the terms and conditions of the licence. Their recommendations are then passed back to Licensing, who issue the actual licence.
- 1.3 Discussions have taken place between the two Services, and it is felt that the system could be improved by transferring responsibility for the whole licensing process for these licences to Health and Housing. This would fit comfortably with the other animal welfare related functions already carried out by that Service, and would mean that when any premises are being

considered from an animal welfare point of view, licensing requirements can more readily be taken into account, and, where appropriate, any enforcement action can be more streamlined.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 It is intended therefore that responsibility for all aspects of animal welfare licensing will pass to Health and Housing from the 1st December 2011.
- 2.2 This means that an amendment to the Scheme of Delegation is required to authorise the Head of Health and Housing and officers designated by her to issue licences under the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, Dangerous Wild Animals Acts 1970 and 1991, Pet Animals Act 1951, Breeding of Dogs Act 1973, Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970 and Zoo Licensing Act 1981. The current delegation is to the Head of Governance.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 There has been consultation between the Head of Governance and Head of Health and Housing, who both agree that the proposed arrangements are desirable from an operational point of view.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The amendment to the Scheme of Delegation is required to formalise the proposed operational arrangements so that there is formal authority for the Head of Health and Housing to issue these licences.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The additional work of receiving applications, issuing licences and any associated enforcement can be dealt with by existing staff resources in Health and Housing and once approved the relevant budgets will be transferred across from licensing

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has prepared this report in her capacity as Head of Governance.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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