

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Proposed Animal-Related Licensing Fees 2014/15 13 February 2014

Report of Chief Officer (Health and Housing)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report is to enable Members to consider the level of animal-related licensing (excluding dog home boarding) fees to be charged for 2014/15.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) **Members are recommended to approve an increase of 2% for animal-related licences as set out in Appendix A.**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Members will recall that as of 1 December 2011 the responsibility for carrying out the licensing function in relation to animal welfare transferred to Environmental Health Services, in Health and Housing. These licences still fall within the remit of this Committee.
- 1.2 The report is concerned with the setting of the licence fees for animal-related licences issued by the Council except for dog home boarding which is the subject of a separate report. The setting of such fees is by law a non-executive function, and therefore a matter for this Committee.
- 1.3 The annual revision of fees seeks to ensure that the costs of the service will, so far as possible, be met from the income. It is not lawful however for the Council to seek to make a profit from licence fees that are within its discretion.

2.0 Proposals

- 2.1 The Chief Officer (Health and Housing) has recommended that there be an increase in the fees charged for 2013/2014 of 2% in line with the increase in other fees and charges approved by Cabinet, with the exception of dog home boarding licences which have been reviewed and are the subject of a separate report submitted to this Licensing Regulatory Committee. The recommended Fees sheet is attached as appendix A to this report

3.0 Options and Options Analysis

- 3.1 The options proposed are:

Option 1

With regard to the animal welfare licences administered by Health and Housing to approve a 2% increase as set out in Appendix A.

Option 2

With regard to the animal welfare licences administered by Health and Housing to approve a different level of percentage increase as decided by the committee.

Alternatively, it would be open to the Committee to consider alternative fee structures.

3.2 The Officers' recommended option is Option 1, a 2% increase for animal-related licences.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Cabinet has already approved a general 2% increase in the levels of other fees and charges within Health and Housing (with exceptions). Approving Option 1 would be consistent with this position.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The officer preferred option will generate a small additional income of £100 (rounded) over and above the current draft 2014/15 draft budget, demonstrated by the following table:

Licence Type	Licence No's	Current Fee Income £	Proposed Fee Income at 2% £	Difference £
Horse Riding Establishments	8	1,102	1,124	22
Dog Breeders	4	551	562	11
Pet Shops	12	1,714	1,749	35
Animal Boarding (Commercial)	10	1,433	1,462	29
Total	34	4,800	4,897	97

Should Members opt for a different option / percentage, then subject to how material they are, these would need to be further appraised and fed into the annual budget process.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Legal Services have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated in the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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