

AGENDA ITEM 10

RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2nd SEPTEMBER 2015

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

HOME BOARDING OF DOGS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To introduce the fee and conditions to be applied to a licence for home boarding of dogs.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That Members approve the conditions relating to the home boarding of dogs and delegate to the Head of Regulatory Services authority to determine applications for such licences and to make minor amendments to the conditions as necessary.**
- 2.2 **That Members agree to an annual fee for the licence, to take immediate effect (future fees will be the subject of annual fee setting reports).**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The home boarding of dogs is becoming more prevalent as more dog owners are looking for places to look after their animals whilst they are out at work or to place their pets in a 'home' environment when they are on holiday.
- 3.2 Environmental Health is beginning to receive enquiries from people hoping to begin a business of home boarding of other people's dogs and from dog owners as to whether there are any licensed premises in the Borough.
- 3.3 To commence the licensing process we need to have conditions agreed and to set an appropriate fee.
- 3.4 There is CIEH (Chartered Institute of Environmental Health) guidance in place with regard to boarding of dogs in kennels. As home boarding is a different set of circumstances the existing guidance is not appropriate, but controls are necessary to ensure the welfare and safety of dogs and humans.
- 3.5 The GOV.UK website states "*You still need to apply for a licence even if you're only looking after a small number of animals in your own home*". Applicants must demonstrate that the animals looked after are:
- kept in suitable accommodation
 - provided with adequate food, drink and bedding
 - regularly exercised
 - safeguarded in an emergency
 - protected from infectious disease – this includes providing isolation facilities.

The Council may also add conditions covering these matters and any other relevant

issues to the licence. The proposed conditions are attached in appendix 1.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This will help to provide homes and environments which meet local needs.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The fee proposed for the current financial year is £70, it is based on full cost recovery calculated on the anticipated staff time. It will be reviewed when we have an understanding of the actual staff time once experience is built up. As fewer dogs are involved it is projected to take less time than a boarding kennel inspection.

5.2 In future years the fee will be determined using the same assessment criteria as other fees and charges for the Environmental Health and Licensing services.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 The Local Government Act 2003 enables a Council to charge for discretionary services.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 Dogs may currently be home boarded within the district without any controls in place. The conditions which will be applied take into account community safety and safety of the family in whose home the dogs will be boarded.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

9.0 RISKS

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant				
	D	Low			1	
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				

		Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4
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IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Dogs could be being home boarded without any conditions applied. Licence conditions will reduce risks involved

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 There have been discussions with potential applicants and dog owners with regard to adoption of conditions.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards may be affected as applications could come from anywhere in the Borough.

Contact Officer Victoria Clarke

Date: 12th August 2015

Appendices : Appendix 1- MBC Home Boarding Conditions

Background Papers:

Reference : X : Committees\?