

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Amendments to Animal Welfare Policy

Report of Executive Member for Neighbourhoods

Officer contact: John Garforth – Trading Standards & Licensing Manager

7th June 2022

Executive Summary

This report requests that Members approve an amendment to the Council's animal welfare licensing policy in relation to use of Council land.

Recommendations

That Members:

- 1) Note the report; and
 - 2) Approve the policy
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1. **Purpose of the report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that Members approve an amendment to the Council's Animal Welfare Licensing Policy.

2. **Introduction**

2.1 The introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018) brought about new legislation, guidance and a tougher and wider licensing regime for commercial businesses involved with animals in the course of their business.

2.2 Since October 2018 around fifty licences have been in force within the Borough of Oldham covering regimes including:

- Sale of pets
- Hiring our Horses
- Commercial boarding of Dogs and Cats
- Animal Exhibitions
- Breeding of Dogs
- Home boarding of dogs

2.3 The above Regulations set out a system of regulation and enforcement which has been incorporated into local policy together with an inspection regime. Alongside that comes a need to provide a range of business documents and practices.

2.4 The policy also deals with applications made under different legislation which covers:

- Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
- Zoo Licensing Act 1981

3. Proposed Amendment

3.1 Upon reviewing current practices against the policy Officers wish to request that Members approve the following addition to the policy.

3.2 To insert a new Section 16 to the policy relating to the use of council land for licensable activities and for connection purposes which would read:

The Council does not approve the use of its land for animal licensable activities as a general rule. Neither does it approve of any commercial activities on its land without express permission. This includes the sale or giving away of animals/pets/fish as prizes. Interested parties are asked to communicate with the animal welfare team to discuss any such requests.

On land not owned by the Council the Council's position is that it does not approve of land uses that it would not permit on its own land as outlined above.

4 Legal Services Comments

4.1 Licences issued by the Council must be in accordance with the relevant conditions specified in Schedules 2 to 7 of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. (A. Evans)

5 Co-operative Agenda

5.1 Not applicable

6 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

6.1 None

7 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

7.1 None

8 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

8.1 No

9 Key Decision

9.1 No

10 Key Decision Reference

10.1 N/A

11 Background Papers

12.1 None

13.0 **Appendices** - None