

1. **HEADING** Review of Licensing Standards for Kennels & Home Boarders
Submitted by: David Beardmore, Environmental Health Team Manager
Dog & Pest Control
- Portfolio:** Operational
- Ward(s) affected:** All

Purpose of the Report

To seek Committees support to adopt updated licensing standards for kennels & home boarders.

Recommendations

That Public Protection Committee supports the adoption of the CIEH 2016 Standard in full for all new businesses, require existing business to comply with practice and procedural elements, but accept compliance with the 1999 standard for existing structures where refurbishment is not viable. Refurbishment of accommodation in line with the CIEH 2016 standard would be required if the ownership of the business changes.

Reasons

To ensure that premises licenced by the borough council operate to appropriate animal welfare standards.

1. **Background**

- 1.1 The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 requires anyone who wishes to keep a boarding establishment to be licensed by the local authority and abide by the conditions of the licence.
- 1.2 We currently licence 14 sites where dogs are boarded. Six of these are kennels with purpose built accommodation blocks and eight of these are home boarders, where dogs stay within the family home. A full list of sites is on our website.
- 1.3 The council adopted its current kennelling licensing standards in 1999. Since then there have been developments in the understanding of animal welfare and also the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Approximately 12 months ago Members agreed to adopt updated model licence conditions for catteries. Equivalent model standards have now been published for kennels (CIEH Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments May 2016).
- 1.4 Licensing standards set the criteria which officers check when determining if premises should receive a licence from the borough council. All our businesses meet or exceed the required standards for our current conditions.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Officers have undertaken a desktop review to establish the impact of changing licencing conditions, based on our knowledge of sites, and experience making equivalent changes to cattery standards approx 12 months ago. It has been identified that some existing businesses may not be able to comply with all the conditions of the new model standard without replacing their kennel accommodation. Whilst some are already planning to

refurbish their pens and enclosures, and can use the new standards as their blueprint, others will not be able to make changes without considerable expenditure potentially forcing them to cease trading.

- 2.2 The 2016 do not specifically set standards for 'Home Boarders'. Officers would have to identify relevant portions of the standard, but not apply provisions relating to kennel unit and run sizes.

3. **Options Considered**

- 3.1 Three options are now available:

- 3.1.1 OPTION ONE Retain existing 1999 licensing standards ('Do Nothing' option)

- 3.1.2 OPTION TWO Adopt and implement in full the CIEH 2016 standard

- 3.1.3 OPTION THREE Adopt the CIEH 2016 Standard in full for all new businesses, require existing business to comply with practice and procedural elements, but accept compliance with the 1999 standard for existing structures where refurbishment is not viable. Refurbishment of accommodation in line with the CIEH 2016 standard would be required if the ownership of the business changes.

4. **Proposal**

- 4.1 Officers request Committee confirms its support for **option three** described above

5. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 5.1 This is a pragmatic compromise, ensuring businesses with a proven track record of high standards of animal welfare can continue to operate, whilst ensuring that all new businesses meet current national best practice standards.

6. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 6.1 Considering the impact changes will have on businesses when making decisions aligns with the councils stated aim to be a co-operative council.
- 6.2 Businesses operating at a higher standard are likely to attract more clients which aligns with our priority of creating a borough of opportunity

7. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 7.1 Any business which operates as a boarding establishment must hold a licence. The authority can set appropriate licensing conditions

8. **Equality Impact Assessment**

8.1 No issues have been identified

9. **Financial and Resource Implications**

9.1 No issues have been identified.

10. **Major Risks**

10.1 Requiring inappropriate changes which have a detrimental impact on businesses would damage the councils reputation

11. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

11.1 No implications have been identified.

12. **Key Decision Information**

12.1 Adopting revised model conditions is not a key decision.

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

13.1 Our current standard was adopted in October 1999, Minute Number 466/00

13.2 Committee agreed in March 2014 that an impact assessment should be undertaken before deciding whether or not to adopt updated model conditions for catteries.

13.3 CIEH 2013 model conditions for catteries were agreed by Committee in September 2015, with implementation proposed as recommended in this report.

14. **Background Papers**

List of licensed kennels within Newcastle Borough

<https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/all-services/environment/dog-wardens/animal-welfare-licensed-premises>

Current Standard: Newcastle Borough Council Manual For Licensed Establishments, Adopted October 1999 (Min No 466/00)

<https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Environment/DogWarden/Policy%20Manual%20%28colour%20print%29.pdf>

Proposed Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments 2016

https://www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IMCE/Environment/DogWarden/CIEH_Dog_Boarding_June_2016.pdf

