
DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING AND HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

25 NOVEMBER 2014

Present –

MEMBERS:

Councillors Mrs Green (Chairman), Bhinder, Conway, Fantham, Hearn (Vice-Chairman), Link, Peter, Ryan, G Sutton, R Sutton and Whitman

OFFICERS:

B Lisgarten	Legal Governance Team Leader
R Hill	Licensing Team Leader
S Taylor	Lead Licensing Officer
T Coston	Member Support Officer

OTHERS:

Mrs Sandiford – Item 5

The meeting began at 7.30 pm

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2014 were confirmed by the Members present and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Taylor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman asked Mrs Sandiford if she would like to comment on the outcome of consultation on proposed update of standard conditions for animal related licences. Mrs Sandiford said she didn't wish to speak at this meeting but would like to return to a future licensing meeting that related to dog boarding licences.

5. OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED UPDATE OF STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR ANIMAL RELATED LICENCES

S Taylor introduced the report and welcomed any questions from the committee.

Councillor Fantham asked what control the council had over breeding a dog under one year old. S Taylor said the conditions were a tool to guide establishments towards good operating

practices and record keeping so that when premises were inspected there would be evidence of compliance.

Resolved:

The Licensing and Health & Safety Enforcement Committee approved the adoption of the Council's standard conditions for licensing of cat boarding establishments, dog breeding establishments and pet shops derived from the updated 2013 and 2014 model conditions published by the CIEH, as set out at Annexes 4 to 6 of the report.

6. TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE STANDARDS – MPV'S

R Hill highlighted that this matter had been discussed by this committee on two prior occasions, however there were a number of issues and inconsistencies with the Policy. He said they had discussed the matter with the proprietors and they all had agreed the safety concerns needed to be addressed and therefore the committee were asked to consider amending the Policy as detailed in the recommendation.

Resolved:

The Licensing and Health and Safety Enforcement Committee modified the Council's vehicle standards for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles with effect from 1 December 2014, by omitting paragraph 5 from the current hackney carriage standards, and paragraph 6 from the current private hire standards (in both cases, paragraphs titled 'Egress from rear seating').

7. LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES 2015-16

R Hill advised that the licensing fees and charges were reviewed annually and these changes would take effect from 1st April 2015. He said that there were a small number of changes in animal licences to gradually recover some of the largest undercharges prior to 2012. He explained that they were also proposing an increase of 6% for vehicle and driver licensing fees as the average time taken to process the applications had increased; this was due to a majority of applicants failing to fully complete the application forms or provide the necessary supporting documentation. He advised it would be the first increase in fees for two years.

Resolved:

The Licensing and Health and Safety Enforcement Committee instructed officers to commence consultation on the proposed fees for 2015/16, and report the results back to the committee at its meeting in February 2015

The meeting ended at 7.38 pm