

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Licensing Committee

### Meeting held 21 March 2013

**PRESENT:** Councillors Clive Skelton (Deputy Chair), Jillian Creasy, Neale Gibson, George Lindars-Hammond, Nikki Sharpe and Philip Wood

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#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nikki Bond, John Robson (Chair), Ian Saunders, Geoff Smith and Stuart Wattam.

#### **2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

4.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 and meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, were approved as correct records.

#### **5. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963 - PROPOSED NEW STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR DAY CARE BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS FOR DOGS**

5.1 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report informing Members of proposed new conditions for day care boarding establishments for dogs under the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 and for the proposed conditions to be approved.

5.2 Present at the meeting for this item were Jane Greatorex and Tom Greatorex, Interested Parties; Nick Chaplin, Environmental Protection Manager; Shaun Bell, Animal Control Officer; Louise Slater, Solicitor to the Committee, Carolyn Forster, Legal Services; Shimla Rani, Principal Licensing Officer and Jennie Skiba, Democratic Services.

5.3 Jane Greatorex outlined her concerns to the Committee with regard to some of the proposed conditions and referred to similar dog boarding facilities in other cities. She informed Members of the plans she and her son had for setting up a "dog day crèche" and felt that there were too many conditions to be attached to licenses which would result in

licence holders being unable to operate a viable business. One of the conditions causing the greatest concern was the “shared exercise areas shall be sufficient to allow at least 100ft<sup>2</sup> of space per dog”. She felt that this was too restrictive and that the business they were hoping to start would be safer in the long run for dogs rather than existing “dog walker” businesses.

- 5.4 Nick Chaplin stated that there were no common standards for day care boarding establishments but in securing the objectives outlined in the report, each licence would be granted subject to compliance of standard conditions which are proposed to be in the best interests of animal welfare and to improve kennel management. He said that Animal Health Officers had consulted with and visited licensed establishments within other local authorities and had also held discussions with other operators, the outcome of which was that the conditions were derived in a generic manner so that they could be used across the city and promote consistency.
- 5.5 RESOLVED: That the public and press and attendees be excluded from the meeting before further discussion takes place on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if those persons were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as described in paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.
- 5.6 The Solicitor to the Committee reported orally, giving legal advice on various aspects relating to this issue.
- 5.7 At this stage in the proceedings, the meeting was re-opened to the public and press and attendees.
- 5.8 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-
- (a) notes the contents of the report now submitted, together with the comments and representations now made and the responses to the questions raised; and
  - (b) approves the conditions for day care boarding establishments for dogs, as outlined in the report and requests that the conditions be reviewed in two years' time to see if any changes needed to be made.

## **6. LICENSING FEES REVIEW - DETERMINATION OF A SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR THE LICENSING SERVICE**

- 6.1 The Committee received a report of the Chief Licensing Officer regarding the determination of a schedule of fees for the Licensing Service.
- 6.2 Shimla Rani, Principal Licensing Officer, stated that there had been a review of the fees charged in July 2012 and it was the opinion of the Licensing Service that

the fees are non-profit making but recover the reasonable costs of administering the individual licensing systems.

- 6.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee determines that the fees for the Licensing Service be maintained at the current level as detailed in the report now submitted and the attachments to it.

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