

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

28 May 2019

### **Present:**

Councillor Keith Owen (Chair)

Councillors Buswell, Begley, Mitchell, K, Oliver, Vizard, Warwick, Wood and Wright

### **Apologies:**

Councillors Branston, Henson, D, Newby and Quance, I

### **Also present:**

Litigation Solicitor, Principal Licensing Officer and Democratic Services Officer (MD)

## **9 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

## **10 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976**

## **11 Update to the Animal Licensing Policy**

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report which considered the updated Animal Licensing Policy. He informed Members that, following the changes made by the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), a revised policy had been developed, which updated the existing Animal Licensing Policy, which had been approved by the Licensing Committee on 31 October 2017. The original policy had been developed following a consultation process with DEFRA in 2015, and had earned Exeter City Council a silver award from the RSPCA in October 2018.

Exeter City Council licensed a variety of animal establishments across the city, which included pet shops, riding schools and animal breeding establishments and that inspections would be undertaken by Licensing Officers with approved vets. Members were given an overview on the proposed changes to the Animal Licensing Policy, which included:-

- Conditions for animal boarding, dog breeding, riding establishments, dangerous wild animal and pet shop establishments;
- Additional conditions for dog day care establishments and the keeping of animals for training or exhibitions;
- The introduction of a scoring and risk matrix for grading establishments, to determine the length of licences from one to three years;
- The introduction of a minimum standard to a higher standard for establishments.

In response to questions from Members, the Principal Licensing Officer explained that:-

- Following national guidance, a public consultation had not been required, which had been also agreed by the Exeter City Council Legal team.
- Licensed establishments would be graded under the new regulations for minimum standards and that no licence would be given to an establishment that fell under this requirement. Some establishments may seek to attain a higher standard, to support their business. In these circumstances, further inspections would be required, but at no extra cost to the business.

**RECOMMENDED** that the updated Animal Licensing Policy be approved and Executive and Council be requested to adopt the Policy.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 5.45 pm

Chair