

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2011

ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENT LICENCES – ANNUAL REVIEW OF FEES 2011/2012

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Status: For Decision

Executive Summary: The Council has a statutory duty to license boarding establishments for cats and dogs, dog breeding establishments, pet shops, riding establishments, owners of dangerous wild animals, zoos and register performing animals.

Since 2010 licence fees are now reviewed annually and this year a small inflationary increase is proposed.

This report supports the Key Aim of safe communities and effective management of council resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Bracken

Head of Service Head of Environmental & Operational Services - Richard Wilson

Recommendation to The Licensing Committee: It be RESOLVED that the proposed fees in respect to animal welfare licences as detailed in paragraph 6 below, be approved with effect from 1 April 2011, and that an inflationary increase be applied to the annual fees in subsequent years.

Background

- 1 Councils have a duty to licence business or individuals involved in the keeping, breeding, or showing of certain animals. Licences must be issued, or premises or activities registered where these animals are kept. Zoo Licences which can be paid by instalment, run initially for four years and then are renewed every six years, all other Licences run for one year.
- 2 The Council currently licenses 42 premises.
- 3 A full review of fees was undertaken in 2009 and they were raised to current levels in April 2010.
- 4 Fees are now reviewed annually taking into account guidance on local fee setting issued by Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS).
- 5 Fees can only be based on cost recovery and not set artificially high.

6 The table below shows the current and proposed fee levels.

Sevenoaks District Council	Animal Boarding Licence	Home Boarding Licence	Dog Breeding Licence	Pet Animals Licence (keeping a pet shop)	Riding Establishment licence	Dangerous, Exotic and Wild Animals	Performing Animals Registration	Zoo Licence
Current	£205.00	£190.00	£205.00	£205.00	£235.00	£280.00	£80.00	£2,353 or £2,445 (£407.50) if paid in instalments
Proposed wef 01.04.2011	£209.00 Plus vets inspection fee if required	£194.00 Plus vets inspection fee if required	£209.00 Plus vets inspection fee if required	£209.00 Plus vets inspection fee if required	£240.00 Plus vets inspection fee	£286.00 Plus vets inspection fee if required	£82.00 Plus vets inspection fee if required	Unchanged Plus vets inspection fee as required

Key Implications

Financial

- 7 The rise in fees will contribute towards the cost of this particular service, and an inflationary increase only is proposed (2%), for 2011/12, with inflationary increases proposed for subsequent years.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 8 The purpose of the licence is to impose conditions concerned with the welfare of animals, the spread of disease and the health and safety of the public.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

- 9 There are none arising.

Value For Money and Asset Management

- 10 The proposed fees ensure the costs of administering the licence are fully covered by the fee in accordance with Local Authority co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) Guidance on local fee-setting.

Equality Impacts

- 11 Equality is not affected by the setting of the Animal Welfare Licensing fees.

Conclusions

- 12 Licence fees reflect the real cost of administering and providing the animal welfare licence service. This proposed increase reflects a small inflationary cost.

Risk Assessment Statement

- 13 This is a statutory function. The aim of the licensing system is to ensure that high standards of animal welfare are maintained. By not fully covering the costs of administering the licences, this service will become subsidised.

Background Papers:

Licensing Committee Minutes from 26 January, 2010 Animal Establishment Licences - Review of Fees 2010/11 (26 January 2010).

The EU Services Directive.

Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) guidance on local fee setting.

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