



Policy and Resources Committee – 05 December 2016

The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 - Model Licence Condition and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments 2016

Purpose of report

This report is to consider the adoption in full of the new Model Licence Condition and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments 2016 (the new Model Conditions), associated with the provision for licensing animal boarding establishments under the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 (the Act). Implementation will allow for a graduated period of compliance and conditional exemptions where the full application will be prohibitive for established businesses; new businesses will be expected to comply in full subsequent to the adoption of the conditions.

1.0 Background

1.1 East Northamptonshire Council is the licensing authority for the Animal Boarding Act 1963, and regulates the safety and welfare of the establishments licensed under this Act. The new model licence conditions aim to improve the administrative management of each establishment and raise the standards of welfare for the boarded animals and safety for the public and animals.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 The new Model Licence Condition and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments 2016 requires an improvement in the minimum acceptable standards permitted in all licensed establishments to a prescribed standard. The changes apply mainly to the requirements for documented staff training and animal safety and welfare provision and for some structural changes for the kennels, exercise areas and site drainage.

2.2 The proposal is to adopt the Model Licence Conditions. New licence applications will be expected to meet the model licence conditions prior to the granting of a licence whilst existing establishments will be permitted a reasonable and graduated period to comply. In exceptional cases where full compliance is seen to be prohibitive, managed exemptions will be considered.

2.3 The proposed period for the graduated introduction of the conditions will be:

- Up to 2 years for the documented procedures for staff training and animal safety and welfare;
- Up to 5 years for the minor structural alterations to the kennels;
- Up to 10 years for the significant structural alterations required to meet the standards for drainage, kennelling and exercise arrangements.

3.0 The Licensing of Animal Boarding Establishments

3.1 The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

Section 1(3) requires the Licensing Authority to set conditions relative to the safety and welfare provisions for the boarded animals. The new Model Conditions set out a standard of safety and welfare to improve the conditions for boarded animals.

The conditions were developed by the recognised veterinary associations, respected animal welfare organisations, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and licensing authorities, and are intended to improve the standards considered as acceptable in boarding establishments.

3.2 The administration and implementation of the new Model Conditions will be as part of the existing licensing procedures already in place for the licensing of animal boarding establishments.

3.3 Consultation was carried out involving all of the existing licenced animal boarding establishments during August and September 2016. Most responses showed support for the new Model Conditions. The area of concern referred to the timescale for implementation; the graduated implementation with permitted exemption proposed by this proposal addresses this concern.

3.4 The full Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments 2016 can be found at the following link <http://www.cieh.org/policy/dog-guidance-2016.html>. Copies can be provided upon request.

4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed. There are no substantive changes to the equality and diversity implications as a result of this report, although it is expected that as the welfare and safety of boarded animals improve, this will have a beneficial impact on the owners of the animals.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no additional legal implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

6.0 Risk Management

6.1 There are no risk implications for East Northamptonshire Council with the adoption of this proposal.

7.0 Resource and Financial Implications

7.1 There are no additional resource or financial implications as a result of the recommendations of this report.

8.0 Constitutional Implications

8.1 There are no constitutional implications as no delegated powers for officers are required as provision to enforce the requirements of the new conditions remain under the enabling Act.

9.0 Customer Service Implications

9.1 There are no additional Customer Service implications as a result of the recommendation of this report.

10.0 Corporate Outcomes

10.1 The Corporate Outcomes are:

- Good Quality of Life – by improving the safety and welfare conditions of the animals boarded in licensed animal boarding establishments will lead to the improvement in the quality of life for the owners of the animals
- Effective Partnership Working – by adopting this proposal the Council will be able to show an effective lead in the adoption and implementation of the higher standards for licensed animal boarding establishments
- High Quality Service Delivery – by adopting the model conditions and proposed timetable and exemptions, the Council clearly presents its intention to improve the standard of businesses in the area Strong Community Leadership – by adopting these conditions the Council is showing its intention to improve the standard of businesses in the area
- Knowledge of Customers and Communities – by adopting the conditions with the exemptions shows the intention to improve the conditions yet enable existing businesses to gradually comply with the changes

11.0 Recommendation

11.1 The Committee is recommended to

1. Consider the Equality Implications relating to this report (see section 4 of the report).
2. That the Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments 2016, with the associated implementation timetable and managed exemptions be adopted.

Legal	Power: Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963				
	Other considerations: The Model Licence Condition for Dog Boarding Establishments, 2016				
Background Papers:	The Model Licence Conditions and Guidance for Dog Boarding Establishments 2016				
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Date: 23/11/16					
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