

161. URGENT MATTERS OF INFORMATION TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR AND THE COMMITTEE

With the permission of the chair the Lead Licensing Officer informed the Committee that on the 22nd October 2024, Torridge District Council had a successful prosecution for an unlicensed dog breeder. The breeder pled guilty to four charges of breeding dogs without a license. They were fined a total of £17,163. The Lead Licensing Officer explained how the case was reported to the Council and the process which led to prosecution.

There was a brief discussion between Members and the Lead Licensing Officer about when a license is needed. It was suggested by Members that the criteria should be publicised for clarification.

Concerns were raised about the perception that prosecution only happens when there is evidence of ill health or abuse. The Lead Licensing Officer explained that initially, enforcement will try and resolve the issue. In return, the Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) told Members that this case was prosecuted as there was evidence of genetic health issues and false advertisement.

162. PAVEMENT LICENSING POLICY

The Lead Licensing Officer presented the report to the Committee, the purpose of which was to seek approval from the Licensing Committee to commence a consultation exercise for the introduction of a Pavement Licensing Policy.

Councillor P Hackett moved the recommendation in the report.

Members had questions about the application fee. Members were worried that businesses may have to reapply if their first application is refused, therefore pay the fee again. The Lead Licensing Officer noted that there can be negotiations within the consultation period and if successful, there is no need for another application. However, if there is a period of time between applications then the full fee would apply.

Members and Officers identified that disabled access needs to be a priority.

The Lead Licensing Officer noted that advertisement boards are the responsibility of Devon County Council. Torridge District Council are only in control of the license. This information can be made clear within the policy.

It was proposed by Councillor P Hackett, seconded by Councillor C Wheatley and –

Resolved:

- That Members approve the consultation process;
- That consultation on the draft policy be carried out over an 8 week period and the responses reported back to this committee at a future date.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

163. CONSIDERATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN

With permission from the Chair, the Licensing meeting scheduled for Wednesday 15th January 2025 is cancelled.

Taxi Licensing will be moved to the meeting on Wednesday 26th February 2025. Pavement Licensing will also return to the February meeting to report feedback from the consultation.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 6.46 pm

Chair:

Date: