

# Licensing Committee

**Tuesday 8 October 2024**

## **PRESENT:**

Councillor Hendy, in the Chair.

Councillor Stephens, Vice Chair.

Councillors Dingle, Holloway, Krizanac, Lawson, Ricketts, Simpson, M.Smith and Ms Watkin.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Allen, Tippetts and Tofan.

Also in attendance: Rosie Brookshaw (Democratic Advisor), Jamie Davies (Environmental Health/Trading Standards Officer), Nicola Horne (Environmental Health (Environmental Protection) Manager) and, Ian Wills (Senior Lawyer).

The meeting started at 10.02 am and finished at 10.32 am.

*Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

### **1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. Minutes**

The Committee agreed the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 11 December 2023 as a true and accurate record.

The Committee agreed the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meetings held on 24 January 2024, 5 February 2024, 8 May 2024, 29 July 2024, 02 September 2024 as a true and accurate record.

### **3. Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

### **4. To note the Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair**

The Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Hendy as Chair and Councillor Stephens as Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee.

### **5. Animal Licensing Policy Consultation**

Nicola Horne (Service Manager for Children, Young People and Environmental Protection) introduced the report, providing a summary of what was contained within the policy;

- a) If approved, the policy would go out to public consultation for six weeks;

In response to questions it was explained:

- b) The policy only applied to businesses, not domestic pet owners;
- c) The policy was due to be brought before the Licensing Committee before, but due to staff changes there had been a delay;
- d) There was enough resource within the Licensing department to fulfil the requirements the policy put in place;
- e) Pet owners could save money in the long run by buying their pets from responsible breeders as the pets would be less likely to have diseases, and the policy and legislation ensured the animals were cared for;
- f) The cost of the licence was variable and costs could be found on the Plymouth City Council website;
- g) The aim of the policy was to provide clarity;
- h) Plymouth was on par with other cities of its size with regards to the amount of prosecutions for animal welfare within the past few years;
- i) Prior to COVID-19 there had been, on average, one animal welfare case a year brought to the Licensing department;
- j) The Licensing department were made aware of illegal breeding through Facebook and other social media, as well as the public buying animals which subsequently got sick;
- k) The Licensing department shared intelligence with officers in other Local Authorities;
- l) The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had outlined in their guidance that in the event of death of a registered animal licence holder, the Local Authority needed to be informed within 28 days, and a representative could carry on the responsibility of the animals for up to three months;
- m) Communications would be put out on social media to make the public aware of the policy and the public consultation period.

The Committee agreed for the policy to go out to public consultation.