

## **Licensing Committee**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2018**

#### **Present**

Councillor Longsden (in the Chair)  
Austin-Behan, Barrett, Cookson, Evans, Grimshaw, Hassan, Hughes, Ludford,  
Madeleine Monaghan, Paul and Stone.

#### **Apologies**

Councillors Connolly, and Loughman.

#### **LC/18/3      Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 26 February 2018 were submitted for consideration.

#### **Decision**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018.

#### **LC/18/4      Banning third party sales of pets in England**

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was presented to the Committee. The government has issued a call for evidence on proposals to ban third-party sales of puppies and kittens.

A ban would mean that pet shops, pet dealers and other outlets and licensed sellers of puppies and kittens would be unable to sell these pets unless they themselves have bred them.

This proposed ban is a response to the “Lucy’s Law” campaign, named after a cavalier spaniel called Lucy who was rescued from a Welsh puppy farm in 2013 with a curved spine from being kept in a cramped cage, epilepsy and other problems. Despite being nursed back to health she died in 2016.

The Committee asked whether a possible ban on third party sales of pets could be expanded to include Exotic Pets such as snakes and lizards, and officers confirmed that the sale of such pets was governed by different legislation to that that applied to dogs and cats, so was unlikely. Officers also confirmed that the call for evidence was restricted to cats and dogs.

The Committee also queried whether any legislation would have an impact on other outlets such as Dogs Homes and Charities. Officers confirmed that rescue organisations would be exempt, but that there were still unanswered questions about how such organisations would be monitored and control. In addition, the Committee raised concerns about private sales of puppies and imports from overseas, and how this aspect of the trade could be monitored.

The Committee concluded that the imposition of legislation at the current time would be flawed, as not enough thought had been given to how the more unscrupulous

people involved in the third party sales of puppies and kittens would be monitored and controlled, and that unless very carefully thought out could lead to the trade being driven even further underground with less control measures than at present.

### **Decision**

To note the report.

### **LC/18/5      Review of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013**

A report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing was presented to the Committee. The report provided the Committee with a brief overview of the Review of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 published by the Home Office to assess the objective the Act was intended to achieve.

Officers highlighted some areas in the report that indicated where improvements could be made, but added that overall the levels of metal theft and crime had fallen since the legislation went live in October 2013. The committee asked how enforcement is carried out, and officers confirmed that this is mainly done by Trading Standards officers, and very rarely by GMP. Scrap Metal Dealers have to clearly display their licences, both on any vehicles that they use to collect Scrap Metal and in any premises that is used to process Scrap Metal. Officer also confirmed that since the introduction of the legislation, there have been no local prosecutions for non-compliance.

The Committee also commented that in many instances Scrap Metal Dealers remove fly tipped items much more quickly than the Council's officers are able to.

### **Decision**

To note the report.