

Further comments on the draft Animal Licensing Policy V1 submitted for consideration by the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee of South Kesteven District Council on 4 June 2024

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Date: 30 May 2024

Version: 1

Here are my further submissions on the current draft of the policy:

Governance issues missing from the policy

The draft policy does not describe how the licensing system will operate.

It is for the Council to determine how it operates the licensing system required by the law. Under the cabinet scheme of governance operated by South Kesteven District Council, it is either for the full Council or for the Cabinet to pass a resolution implementing the licensing regime that will implement the legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

The policy should describe the intended model of governance intended to be operated. For example, by specifying that the decisions to be taken which the Animal Welfare Policy will cover, are to be taken by the Licensing Committee of the Council acting as the Licensing Authority for the District.

The policy should also describe the scheme of delegation where and if that committee delegates some or all of the decisions to Officers of the Council. It should also describe the situations in which the Licensing committee can review and amend or overrule decisions of Officers.

The policy should specify whether decisions on suspension or revocation of a licence are delegated to Officers or reserved to the Licensing committee. The policy should also specify whether decisions on granting a licence are reserved to the committee or are delegated to Officers.

Where decisions have been delegated to Officer the policy should specify how and when those decisions should be reported to the Licensing committee, and what other information ought reasonably to be provided to the members of the Licensing committee and at what intervals.

The policy should also cover regulation of the training and competence of Officers to ensure that all Officers carrying out delegated functions from the Licensing committee or Officers carrying out specified roles under the legislation have the knowledge, experience and qualifications necessary to perform the particular function.

The policy should also cover the management information that should be regularly reported to the Licensing committee and what that management information should cover.

In addition, the policy should contain a section on how the policy is to be reviewed, at what intervals, and how its operation and effectiveness is to be monitored by the Licensing committee.

END