

## **Durham County Council**

### **General Licensing and Registration Committee**

At the **Meeting** of the **General Licensing and Registration Committee** held in the **Council Chamber** at **County Hall, Durham** on **Thursday 8 July 2010** at **10.00am**.

#### **Present:**

**Councillor L Marshall** in the Chair

#### **Members of the Committee:**

Councillors J Bailey, J Blakey, D Boyes, D Brown, P Gittins, J Gray, G Huntington, D Marshall, P May, J Shiell, L Thomson, R Todd and A Wright.

#### **Other Members:**

Councillors B Graham, B Alderson, P Charlton and D Farry

#### **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Councillors B Arthur, D Bowman and C Carr.

#### **A1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

#### **A2 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 January 2010 and of the Special Meeting held on 13 May 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **A3 Zoo Licensing Act 1981**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services in relation to an application for a zoo licence, a copy of which had been circulated.

J Kevan, Team Leader – Licensing, advised that the Authority had recently received notification from the owners of an animal farm of their intention to apply for a zoo licence and it was considered appropriate for the General Licensing and Registration Committee to determine such applications.

A report would be submitted in the near future to allow the Committee to determine such applications and the purpose of this report was to inform Members of the main provisions of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 and the associated procedure for dealing with applications for zoo licences.

Members were advised that the purpose of the Act was to ensure that where animals were kept in caged surroundings, they were provided with a suitable environment to provide an opportunity to express their most normal behaviour. The report provided a definition of a zoo within the meaning of the Act.

The Council worked in close partnership with the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on all aspects of zoo licensing.

An applicant for a licence would need to consider whether planning permission was required and the Council may refuse or defer a decision on an application until the planning issue had been decided.

The report outlined the procedure for dealing with an application and the criteria for making a decision to grant or refuse a licence.

A zoo licence would remain in force for four years and consecutive renewals for six years.

The Zoo Licensing Act specified conservation measures that must be undertaken by the zoo and these were listed in the report for Members consideration. Specific conditions would also be attached to a licence where these had been identified as being necessary during the inspection by the specialist vet.

A Member commented that the penalties for not complying with the conditions of a zoo licence seemed low. C Greenlay, Principal Solicitor (Litigation) responded that these related to a breach of the licence only and there were other statutes with more stringent penalties for offences relating to, for example, the welfare of the animals.

**RESOLVED:**

That the information contained within the report, be noted.