

Title of Report:	Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963
Report to be considered by:	Licensing
Date of Meeting:	3 June 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	n/a

Purpose of Report: To inform Members of a minor change to animal boarding licences

Recommended Action: To acknowledge the changes

Reason for decision to be taken: N/A

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priorities:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CSP1 – Caring for and protecting the vulnerable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CSP2 – Promoting a vibrant district
The proposals will also help achieve the following Council Strategy principle:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CSP7 - Empowering people and communities
The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the above Council Strategy priorities and principle by:	
CSP1 - There are elements of the policy which aim to recognise vulnerable groups and ensure that they are protected from the impacts of excessive alcohol consumption.	
CSP2 - There are elements of this policy which aim to encourage good business practices and ensure that there is reliable decision making when considering regulated entertainment.	
CSP7 - The policy will protect the rights of the local community through their ability to keep the licensing trade accountable for their actions using representations.	

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Dominic Boeck - Tel (07956) 546506
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Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	Emailed 21 May 2014

Contact Officer Details	
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Implications

Policy: Minor changes to existing policy
Financial: None
Personnel: None
Legal/Procurement: Minor changes to conditions will be enforceable under the Act
Property: N/A
Risk Management: N/A

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes	Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:			
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)			
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 is administered and enforced by the Council. The Act provides for a person keeping a boarding establishment to be required to hold a licence from the Local Authority.
- 1.2 Traditionally the Council has licensed establishments for the boarding of dogs or cats at commercial premises.
- 1.3 There is a national trend towards Council's extending the boarding remit to allow for the boarding of dogs in particular, to be kept in domestic dwellings, these are known as Home Boarders.
- 1.4 The Act interprets "boarding" as the keeping by any person of a boarding establishment for animals including a private dwelling, where the premises are a business providing accommodation for other people's animals.
- 1.5 Applications for home boarding are now being invited and licences will be issued with conditions which are only appropriate to the premises and surroundings in which animals are being kept.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 2.1 This item is not relevant to equality.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 Home Boarding is still considered to be Animal Boarding under the provisions of the 1963 Act and as such is legally enforceable, albeit the boarding takes place in a person's home. There are no changes to the way in which licences are considered or in the way that inspections are carried out.
- 3.2 A fee has been set for home boarding which is considered to be proportionate to the work necessary to issue the licence and carry out the Council's standard inspection/enforcement regime.

Consultees

- Local Stakeholders:** The Council holds a list of persons who have expressed an interest in applying for a home boarding licence.
- Officers Consulted:** Paul Anstey Joint Service Delivery Manager, Julia O'Brien Principal Licensing Officer, Amanda Ward Licensing Officer
- Trade Union:** N/A