

## **AGENDA FOR**

### **LICENSING AND SAFETY PANEL**

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**To: All Members of Licensing and Safety Panel**

**Councillors** : P Adams, N Bayley, R Caserta, D Cassidy, J Grimshaw, R Hodgkinson, T Holt, D Jones (Chair), Kelly, N Parnell, Southworth, Walker and M Wiseman

Dear Member/Colleague

#### **Licensing and Safety Panel**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Licensing and Safety Panel which will be held as follows:-

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, 11 April 2016
<b>Place:</b>	Meeting Rooms A & B - Town Hall
<b>Time:</b>	7.00 pm
<b>Briefing Facilities:</b>	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
<b>Notes:</b>	

## **AGENDA**

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Licensing and Safety Panel are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any of the matters on the agenda, and if so, to formally declare that interest.

### **3 MINUTES** *(Pages 1 - 6)*

Minutes of the last meeting held on 29 February 2016 are attached.

### **4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Questions are invited from members of the public present at the meeting on any matters for which this Panel is responsible.

Approximately 30 minutes will be set aside for Public Question Time if required.

### **5 OPERATIONAL REPORT** *(Pages 7 - 8)*

Report from the Assistant Director (Localities) attached.

### **6 CONDITIONS RELATING TO A DOG CRECHE** *(Pages 9 - 18)*

Report attached.

### **7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To consider passing the appropriate resolution under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business since it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information stated.

### **8 SUSPENSION/REVOCAION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCES** *(Pages 19 - 24)*

Report attached.

### **9 APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCES** *(Pages 25 - 36)*

Report attached

### **10 URGENT BUSINESS**

Any other business, which by reason of special circumstances, the Chair agrees may be considered as a matter of urgency.



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**Minutes of:****LICENSING AND SAFETY PANEL****Date of Meeting:**

Monday 29 February 2016

**Present:**Councillor D Jones (in the Chair),  
Councillors: P Adams, N Bayley, R Caserta  
D M Cassidy, J Grimshaw, R Hodgkinson, T Holt,  
J Kelly, Sarah Southworth, J Walker and  
M Wiseman**Apologies for absence:**

Councillor N Parnell

**Public Attendance:**There were no members of the Public in  
attendance

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**LSP.732 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest raised in relation to any items on the agenda.

**LSP.733 MINUTES****Delegated decision:**

That the Minutes of the Licensing and Safety Panel meeting held on 14 January 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**LSP.734 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no Public questions raised under this item.

**LSP.735 OPERATIONAL REPORT**

The Assistant Director (Localities) submitted a report advising Members on Operational issues within the Licensing Service.

The Licensing Unit Manager informed Members that a Licensing Hearings Panel had considered an application for the grant of a Premises Licence on 4 February 2016, in respect of Ethane Convenience Store, Bolton Street, Bury, following representations from Greater Manchester Police and interested parties and the application had been refused.

Also, it was explained that the Licensing Service had received a complaint on 26 June 2015 from a Member of the Public in relation to a Private Hire Driver's conduct which had resulted in him being prosecuted. He appeared before Bury Magistrates' Court on 27 January 2016 and changed his plea to guilty. The Licence holder was found guilty of assault by beating and using threatening abusive or insulting words or behaviour and was sentenced to 16 weeks imprisonment suspended for 12 months with a requirement to attend rehabilitation with the Probation Service within 12 months. He was ordered to pay £500 compensation to the victim with £200 Court costs and £80 victim surcharge.

Following this conviction, the Licensing Unit Manager liaised with the Assistant Director (Localities) and the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Panel and it was agreed to revoke, with immediate effect, his Private Hire Driver's badge.

Licensing and Safety Panel 29 February 2016

## **LSP.736 OBJECTION TO INCREASE IN THE VEHICLE LICENCE FEES**

The Licensing Unit Manager informed the Members of the Licensing and Safety Panel that following the advertisement within the Bury Times of the fee increase from £47 to £48 from 1 April 2016, the Licensing Service had not received any objections to this increase and therefore this issue did not need to come before the Panel. The Licensing Service had fulfilled its obligation in advertising the increase and therefore the increase would take effect from 1 April 2016.

## **LSP.737 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business to report.

## **LSP.738 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

### **Delegated decision:**

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business since it involved the likely disclosure of information relating to individuals who hold Licences granted by the Authority or Applicants for Licences provided by the Authority.

## **LSP.739 SUSPENSION/REVOCAION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENSES**

**(E)**

The Licensing Unit Manager presented a report submitted by the Assistant Director (Localities) on the proposed suspensions of Private Hire Drivers' Licences.

1. Licence Holder 07/2016 attended the meeting and was unaccompanied. The Chair outlined the procedure to be followed and the Licensing Unit Manager read the report, which was accepted by the Licence Holder, and explained that on 16 December 2012, the Licence Holder had received a Simple Caution from Greater Manchester Police for battery. The Licence holder had not made this known to the Licensing Service on 19 December 2012 when his first Private Hire Driver's Licence was granted nor was it declared when the Licence was renewed in December 2013 and December 2014.

The Licence holder explained that the Simple Caution was in relation to a domestic dispute with his wife in the family home on 15 December 2012, when he pushed her onto the settee and held her down. His wife reported the matter to the Police which resulted in him being issued with a Simple Caution. The Licence Holder stated that he asked the Police Officer who administered the Simple Caution if it would appear on a DBS Disclosure Certificate and if it would prevent him from obtaining a Private Hire Driver's Licence and was told that the Simple Caution was not a conviction and would not appear on a DBS Certificate nor prevent him from being a taxi driver and therefore the Licence Holder did not disclose the Simple Caution to the Licensing Service. However, in October 2015, on his latest DBS Certificate, the Simple Caution was identified.

The Licence Holder explained to the Licensing and Safety Panel that he had not hidden any information from the Licensing Service and that he genuinely did not realise he should declare the Simple Caution, as he had understood from the police officer that it was not a serious matter. On questioning he accepted that the renewal forms did set out the fact such matters should be reported and declared. However, the Licence Holder stated he still believed based on the police officer's advice that he did not need to declare the Simple Caution.

### **Delegated decision:**

After carefully considering the written report, the oral statements from the Licence Holder and pursuant to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Panel resolved, unanimously, **to admonish the Licensee as to future conduct and to take no further action.** The Panel noted that the offence, although serious, had been committed over 3 years ago. He had received a Simple Caution and had no other convictions.

2. Licence Holder 08/2016 attended the meeting and was accompanied by his wife. The Licensing Unit Manager read the report, which was accepted by the Licence Holder which explained that based upon information received by the Licensing Unit, enquiries of Bolton Council's Licensing Service revealed that Bolton Council had revoked the Licence Holder's Private Hire Driver's Licence with immediate effect on 16 September 2014 on the grounds of Public safety, following information received from members of the public, regarding the Licence Holder's behaviour.

The Licence holder had failed to declare to Bury Council that his Licence at Bolton had been revoked when submitting his application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence.

The Licence holder and his wife addressed the Panel and explained that he is a good person and of no risk to the public. They explained that the Licence Holder disputes all the allegations made against him and stated that he felt 'ganged up' against from previous employers following a dispute over money after a road accident in a Private Hire vehicle. Also, the Licence Holder's previous occupation was as a Security Guard and he felt that people did not like him. He had fallen out with a number of individuals and there was a conspiracy against him which had subsequently led to his Licence being revoked following these false allegations.

The Licence Holder also presented a written statement and brought with him several written references from customers, past and present. He was currently working in Bury and had received no complaints about his conduct and also produced a reference from his current employer. He has been a Private Hire Driver for 10 years.

Following questions from the Panel, the Licence Holder accepted he had failed to declare the revocation on his application form, but stated this was based on advice from a third party that had helped him complete the form. He apologised to the Panel for this error and assured the Panel this would not happen again.

## **Delegated decision:**

After carefully considering the written report, oral statements from the Licence holder and his wife, taking into consideration the written statement and character references and pursuant to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Panel resolved, on a majority decision, **to admonish the Licensee as to future conduct and to take no further action.** The Panel noted that although the allegations made against the Licence holder were serious, they accepted that he seemed honest and of genuine character and had the full support of his wife and family. He had been a Private Hire Driver for 10 years and since working in Bury there had been no complaints about him, and appeared remorseful in relation to his failing to declare the revocation. The Chair stressed to the Licence holder that Public Safety was paramount and that if his conduct was not exemplary he would have his Licence revoked with Bury Council.

## **LSP.740 APPLICATIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES**

**(E)**

The Licensing Unit Manager presented a report submitted by the Assistant Director (Localities) regarding applications for Public/Private Hire Vehicles Drivers' Licences.

The Applicants were invited to attend the meeting for separate hearings and the Chair outlined the procedure to be followed. The Applicants were invited to address the Panel separately on their applications and any matters referred to in the Officer's report.

1. Applicant 24/2015 did not attend the meeting and the Licensing Unit Manager informed the Members of the Panel that after liaising with his Solicitor, he had been notified by the Cousin of the Applicant that he was currently in Pakistan, however, he still wanted to proceed with the application. The Applicant had already been permitted two adjournments from previous Panel meetings in order to allow him to arrange a representative to accompany him.

## **Delegated decision:**

It was agreed unanimously that, in view of the facts that the matter had been adjourned previously and the Applicant appeared content for the matter to proceed in his absence, the hearing go ahead in the absence of the Applicant based on the written report submitted.

After considering the written report, the Panel noted that the Applicant had been convicted of the following:

- 1 February 2012 at Manchester and Salford Magistrates' Court for offence of failing to provide information as to the identify of a Driver  
Licensing and Safety Panel 29 February 2016

and had been sentenced with 6 penalty points on his DVLA Driving Licence and fined £165.00;

- 25 May 2012 at Macclesfield Magistrates' Court for using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks and had been sentenced with 6

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penalty points on his DVLA Driving Licence and fined £220.00;

- 5 August 2015 at Bury and Rochdale Magistrates' Court for Tobacco Products Duty Act 1979 Section 8G(4)(a) and (6) – sell/offer for sale/otherwise deals in unmarked tobacco products otherwise than as prescribed and had been sentenced to 12 months conditional discharge with £85.00 costs and £15.00 victim surcharge, forfeiture and destruction of the tobacco.

The Panel carefully considered the report and taking into account the relevant Policy and the Council's Conviction Guidelines, the Panel determined the Applicant not to be a fit and proper person in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and therefore resolved that **the application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence by Applicant 24/2015 be refused.**

The Panel noted that the offences were of a serious nature and pursuant to the Convictions Guidelines amounted to 2 major traffic offences and an offence of dishonesty. There was no further explanation or mitigation presented by the Applicant and the latter offences was very recent.

The Applicant would be notified of their right to appeal to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days.

2. Applicant 05/2016 attended the meeting and was unaccompanied. The Licensing Unit Manager informed the Panel that after speaking to the Applicant earlier in the day, he had stated that he had not received any of the paperwork for the hearing. Therefore, all of the documentation had been emailed to the Applicant and the Licensing Unit Manager clarified with the Applicant that he was happy to proceed with the meeting. The Applicant confirmed he had now received and read all the information and was content to continue.

The Licensing Unit Manager read the report, which was accepted by the Applicant, which stated that he had been convicted at Burnley Crown Court on 3 September 2010, in relation to being Concerned in the supply of a class B controlled drug (Cannabis) s4 (3)(B) Misuse Drugs Act 1971 and was sentenced to a confiscation order under the proceeds of Crime Act for £29.81 and given 100 hours Community Service.

The Applicant addressed the Panel and thanked them for giving him the opportunity to explain himself and stated that this offence was 6 years ago and he had learnt by this mistake. He explained that he is now married with a child and he is the main financial earner. He is currently a delivery driver in Bacup but has friends and family within the Bury and he and his family are considering moving into the area. The Applicant has been in contact with Uber Taxi Service, Manchester, who confirmed that if he obtains a Private Hire Driver's Licence then he will be able to gain employment within the Company. The Applicant also produced 2 references for consideration.

### **Delegated decision:**

The Panel considered the written report, the oral representations and references, and in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and taking into account the relevant Policy and the Council's Conviction Guidelines, the Panel determined

that Applicant 05/2016 was a fit and proper person and resolved, on a majority decision, to **grant the application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence.**

The Panel noted that although the offences were of a serious nature, it was satisfied they were some time ago and that there had been no further convictions since that time.

3. The Licensing Unit Manager informed the Licensing and Safety Panel that Applicant 06/2016 had now withdrawn their Application.
4. Applicant 09/2016 attended the meeting and was unaccompanied. The Licensing Unit Manager read the report, which was accepted by the Applicant, which explained that he had been convicted at Manchester Magistrates' Court on 22 September 2011 for offence of using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks, for which he had been sentenced to disqualification for 6 months.

The Applicant addressed the Panel and explained that the offences were unintentional and that he had believed he was covered to drive the vehicle in question. He went on to explain that his licence was not taken from him at court in 2009, albeit it was endorsed with 6 penalty points. His Licence was returned.

He did not realise that as the offence was within the first 2 years of driving, that the endorsement also resulted in DVLA revoking his Licence until he re-sat and passed the driving test and therefore, when he was caught by the Police driving his friend's car in 2011 his Licence was still revoked and therefore his Licence was then endorsed with another 6 points and therefore added to the 6 points already on his Licence and on the totting up system, he was disqualified from driving for 6 months.

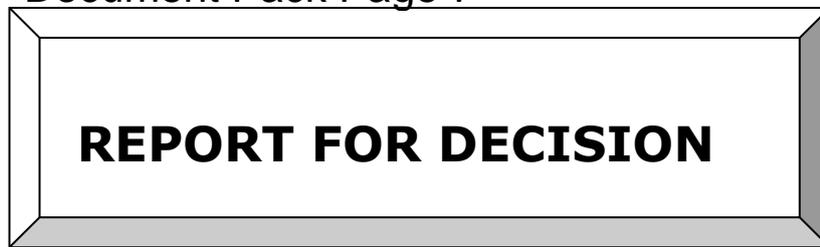
The Applicant also explained that he was now married with children and needed to financially support his family. He had previously been a Security Guard but being a Private Hire Driver, would result in more stable employment for him. He also pointed out that he had now had his licence for 3 years without any further convictions.

### **Delegated decision:**

The Panel considered the written report and the oral representations made by the Applicant and in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and taking into account the relevant Policy and the Council's Conviction Guidelines, the Panel determined that Applicant 09/2016 was a fit and proper person and resolved, on a majority decision, to **grant the application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence.**

**COUNCILLOR D JONES  
CHAIR**

**(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and finished at 8.55 pm)**



Agenda Item	
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<b>DECISION OF:</b>	<b>LICENSING &amp; SAFETY PANEL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL REPORT</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LOCALITIES)</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>M BRIDGE</b>
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	N/A – Report for information only
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	This paper is in the public domain
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	A report to advise members on operational issues within the licensing service.
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	N/A
<b>Scrutiny Interest:</b>	Internal Scrutiny Panel

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The report advises Members on operational issues within the licensing service.

## 2.0 Immediate Suspension/Revocation of Private Hire Drivers Licences

2.1 The licensing service received information in relation to a private hire driver who had been involved in two accidents, one of which was whilst conveying passengers in his vehicle since the granting of his licence on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

As a result of this information being received, the licensing service had serious concerns about this licence holder's ability to drive, the Head of Service of Trading Standards and Licensing spoke to the Chairman of the Licensing and Safety Panel and it was decided that his private hire driver's badge should be suspended with immediate effect until such time that he undertakes and passes

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a Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency "taxi driving standard driving test" known as a Hackney and private hire saloon vehicle test.

- 2.2 The licensing service received a complaint on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 from a member of the public in relation to a private hire driver's inappropriate conduct which resulted in the complainant reporting the matter to Greater Manchester Police.

As a result of the above complaint, the Head of Service of Trading Standards and Licensing spoke to the Chairman of the Licensing and Safety Panel and it was decided that his private hire driver's badge should be revoked with immediate effect.

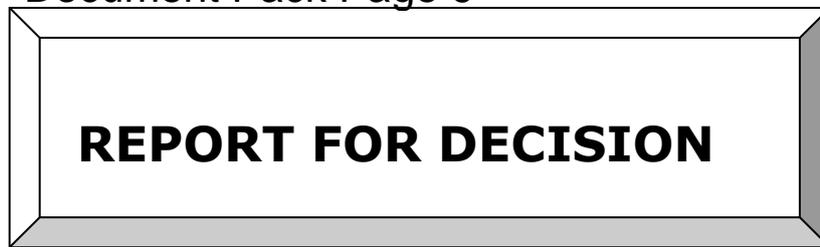
### 3.0 **Statistics of the Licensing Service**

- 3.1 The Licensing Service during the financial year 15/16 have dealt with the following:-

Type of Work	Number
Number of Licences/Registrations/Consents/Permits processed	5692
Number of applicants/Licence holders considered by the Licensing and Safety Panel Suspension / Revocation - 14 New Applicants - 27	41
Number of applications considered by Licensing Hearing Panels Of these:- Grant applications – 7 New premises licences Grant application – 1 new club premises certificate Variation application - 1 Review application – 1 local resident Expedited Reviews – 1 (two hearings interim steps and full review)	12

#### **Contact Details:**

M Bridge  
Licensing Unit Manager  
3 Knowsley Place  
Duke Street  
Bury  
BL9 0EJ  
Tel: 0161 253 5209  
Email: m.bridge@bury.gov.uk



<b>DECISION OF:</b>	<b>LICENSING &amp; SAFETY PANEL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CONDITIONS RELATING TO A DOG CRECHE</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (PLANNING, ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES)</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>MR M BRIDGE</b>
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	This paper is in the public domain
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	This report relates to a request from a licence holder to remove a condition from her Animal Boarding Establishment licence.
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove condition 28 from the licence</li> <li>• Refuse to remove Condition 28 from the licence</li> </ul>
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</b>	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? <b>Yes</b> No
<b>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</b>	There are no specific issues from the report other than potential costs/risks associated with legal appeals
<b>Statement by Executive Director of Resources:</b>	The cost of the licensing function are funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.
<b>Equality/Diversity implications:</b>	<b>Yes</b> No (see paragraph below)
<b>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</b>	Under the legislation the Council is required to determine applications. The report is in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Scrutiny Interest:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**TRACKING/PROCESS**

**DIRECTOR:**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Executive Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Animal Boarding Establishment Act 1963 is the relevant legislation which relates to the boarding of dogs and cats. The Council has specific conditions which relate to Kennels, catteries and boarding of animals at domestic premises.

1.2 On 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010, the Licensing & Safety Panel considered and approved licence conditions relating to dog crèches in order to give more specific control in this growing market area. A copy of the conditions are attached at Appendix 1. This report is specifically concerned with Condition 28 which states as follows:

*'Full males, bitches in season and puppies under six months of age must not be boarded with other dogs'.*

1.3 Bury Council adopted this particular condition in order to ensure the safety of all dogs attending a crèche. If a pup was to sustain any damage or injury inflicted by an older dog, then the responsibility would rest with the licence holder for accepting a pup under 6 months old.

**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 On 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016, in response to a complaint received from a member of the public concerning a Mrs Carol Plumridge, the holder of the Animal Boarding Establishment licence in relation to 'Goody 4 Paws', Unit 1, Block 3, Albert Close Trading Estate, Whitefield, Manchester, M45 8EM, the Council's Animal Health Inspector visited the establishment. During her conversation with Mrs Plumridge, the licence holder admitted that she had recently breached condition 28 by accepting a pup into the crèche which was approximately 12 weeks old. This resulted in a formal warning letter being sent to the licence holder (copy attached at Appendix 2) which also advised her that if she felt that she was unable to comply with this licence condition or that it should not be a condition attached to her particular licence, that she should submit a written request to Bury Council explaining why the condition should be removed from her licence.

## **3.0 REQUEST TO REMOVE CONDITION 28 FROM THE LICENCE**

- 3.1 A request was subsequently received from Mrs Plumridge (copy attached at Appendix 3). It will be seen that she is an 'Academy of Dog Training and Behaviour Approved Instructor' at all levels and a registered Member of the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers. She has demonstrated her Continued Professional Development (CPD) in this field and states that both she and her husband have worked with and trained dogs for over 25 years. She currently employs 3 qualified and experienced members of staff at the crèche. In view of her training qualifications and considerable experience, Mrs Plumridge requests that the Council's Licensing and Safety Panel consider removing condition 28 from her licence. This will ensure that if she continues to operate her business in the way that she desires, that she will no longer be in breach of this particular licence condition.
- 3.2 Mrs Plumridge has sent a number of letters of support, photographs and copies of handouts to assist her request that will be available at the hearing.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider the request from Mrs Plumridge.

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### **List of Background Papers:-**

Dog crèche conditions

Warning letter to Mrs Plumridge

Written request from Mrs Plumridge and supporting documentation.

### **Contact Details:-**

Mr M. Bridge

Licensing Office

Town Hall

Bury

BL9 OSW

Telephone: 0161 253 5209

Email: [m.bridge@bury.gov.uk](mailto:m.bridge@bury.gov.uk)

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**Stephen Kenyon CPFA**  
*Interim Executive Director of Resources and Regulation*

**Bury**  
 COUNCIL

*Our Ref* SRU151608  
*Your Ref*  
*Date* 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
*Please ask for* Mrs S.H.Coombes  
*Direct Line* 0161 253 5525  
*Direct Fax* 0161 253 5547  
*E-mail* s.h.coombes@bury.gov.uk

Department for  
 Resources and Regulation

David Fowler  
 Assistant Director  
 (Localities)

Mrs C. Plumridge  
 Goody 4 Paws  
 Unit 1 Albert Close,  
 Whitefield  
 Manchester  
 M45 – 8EF

Dear Mrs Plumridge,

## **The Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963** **Re; Breach of Licence condition**

I write with regard to a complaint received by this department concerning a breach of the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963 licence conditions. The complaint relates to the acceptance of a puppy of 12 weeks of age at the day crèche.

The licence condition states:-

- that full males, bitches in season and puppies under six months of age must not be boarded with other dogs.

Bury Council has adopted these particular conditions in order to ensure the safety of all dogs attending the crèche at your premises. The reasons for this are as follows:-

- If a puppy were to sustain any damage or injury inflicted by another dog, then the responsibility would come back to you for accepting a puppy of that age at the crèche.

You informed me that you have breached that condition recently, I must inform you that you are responsible for ensuring that all licence conditions are complied with; Failure to do so may result in further action being taken.

However, if you feel that you are unable to comply with the licence condition by accepting puppies less than six months of age and you feel that this particular condition should be removed from your licence. In order to do this, you need to make your request in writing to the Licensing Unit Manager explaining the reasons why this should be considered. This may result in you having to make representations to the Licensing and Safety Panel for them to consider the removal of the condition.

Until a decision has been made on this matter, you are required to comply with the conditions of your licence.



Electronic or fax service of  
 Legal Documents is not accepted

3 Knowsley Place  
 Duke Street  
 Bury BL9 0EJ  
 www.bury.gov.uk

For the attention of Mrs. S Coombes,  
Bury Council.  
3 Knowsley Place,  
Bury BL9 0EJ

Dear Mrs. Coombes,

With reference to your letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> February relating to a breach of the Animal Boarding Establishment Act licence conditions at Goody 4 Paws Dog Day Care Centre.

I feel that the complaint has been made, not by a customer but by someone who has little knowledge of dog behaviour and how puppies develop. I have extremely strong views on this subject and hope that we can remove this condition from our Licence for the reasons stated below. I would be happy to make representation to the Licencing and Safety Panel to answer any questions regarding how we operate within Day Care and the safety of dogs in our care.

Puppies have periods of development which can be thought of as windows of opportunity which open and close during the first year of life. It is extremely important to introduce puppies' to different situations and environments, this also includes play and social behaviour with dogs of all shapes, sizes and ages during the first window of opportunity usually 12 – 26 weeks of age.

A puppy that has a positive experience through play with dogs of all ages and sizes is less likely as an adult to react badly in a challenging situation or an unfamiliar environment. If this is done properly we end up with a relaxed, confident adult who is at reduced risk of aggression because play and correct body language with other dogs of all ages has already been learned. There are no separate areas of play in the local park which can be stressful for both dog and owner if socialisation has not been handled properly.

At ~~at~~ approx. 6 months of age puppies go through the second window of development. During this time puppies can show extreme fear of new and even familiar situations. It is important that this stage of development is handled carefully as it can have a lasting effect on the dogs' future behaviour. For this reason it would be wrong to isolate younger pups and then put them

into a group of adults at this age, this would have a negative effect on both puppies and older dogs, they would not know how to interact and could be fearful when placed in this situation resulting in exactly the behaviour we are trying to avoid. At 6 months they are also teenagers and have to cope with all the hormonal changes which can also cause stress for the youngster (especially males)

At around 12 – 14 months the window of socialisation closes making it much harder to integrate and help a dog to get over his now established fear.

Socialisation from the earliest age possible is vital to development. Many dogs that develop problems through lack of socialisation end up in Rescue or at worst euthanized because their owners can no longer handle them.

Puppies are introduced into Day Care in a caring, positive way, making sure it is a pleasant and rewarding experience. We allow puppies to interact with all ages and encourage their interaction and reward confident behaviour. Puppies very quickly learn good 'dog manners' and dog body language this then makes walks in the park not such a scary thing for dog or nervous and sometimes over protective owner.

It is our aim to make sure all the dogs in our care are happy, well socialised and cause their owners little or no stress. Happy owner = happy dog. We try to help new owners understand how their dog thinks and learns and provide handouts dealing with the most common problems. I have enclosed a selection of our handouts also letters of support from customers whose dogs have started as very young puppies and have now grown into social happy dogs because of correct socialisation from an early age.

A little bit about me, my family and Goody 4 Paws.

Goody 4 Paws was the first Dog Day Care in North Manchester. We opened in 2007 and have not had an injured puppy in all this time. Unlike most Day Care Centres we do not have a disclaimer regarding injury which states owners are responsible for Veterinary bill for accidents incurred whilst in our care. Only vaccinated dogs are allowed into both Day Care and Training Classes.

We are family owned and operated, no volunteers or work experience students are employed as we feel this would compromise the safety of the dogs in our care if persons without behaviour qualifications were allowed to supervise play.

My qualifications are as follows- The Academy of Dog Training and Behaviour Approved Instructor at all levels. Written and practical.

Puppy socialisation, Puppy starter class, Bronze, Silver and Gold training for life classes.

What makes dogs tick.

Member of the British Institute of Professional Dog Trainers – Membership Number M/125/09

Canine Aggression Diploma – Myerscough College

Think Dog Diploma Int.

Think Dog Diploma adv.

Understanding Canine Body Language – Sarah Whitehead  
Diploma

Dog Emotion and Cognition – Prof Brian Hare.

Cognitive strengths and origins

How dogs think and feel about us.

Humans and dogs working together.

My husband and I have worked with and trained dogs for over 25 years. Our son Tom has a behaviour certificate from the Academy of Dog Training and Behaviour and is currently working to further his knowledge.

We also have three members of staff all are PDTI qualified and have instructed for many years.

I hope you will consider our request favourably, at the end of the day our aim is exactly the same as the Licence states. We both want dogs to play and develop in a safe environment.

At Goody 4 Paws we consider our many years of experience working and understanding dog behaviour to be of great benefit to dogs of all ages.

Dog Day Care is NOT somewhere where dogs can go and 'just play' without qualified supervision and I believe that it is more important to make sure dogs are safe and taught how to interact correctly by qualified staff .

Dogs should never be left in the care of volunteers or junior staff without knowledge or experience in dog behaviour. This not only put the dogs at risk but the staff if they do not have the knowledge to see problems arising resulting in injury through incorrect handling of a situation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my appeal. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



C.A. Plumridge (MRS)

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