
Licensing Committee

Report of the meeting held on 29th October 2013

Matter for Information

1. SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 2013 – DELEGATIONS

The Licensing Committee has been made aware of changes to the regulatory regime for controlling scrap metal dealing and the associated delegations that are required to enable the Council to discharge its duties and obligations under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.

The Committee has been advised that the Act, which came into force on 1st October 2013 as a consequence of the increase in metal theft, replaced the previous registration scheme for scrap metal dealers. Local authorities, as the principal regulator, will now have the power to better regulate these industries by refusing to grant a licence to unsuitable applicants and to revoke a licence where the dealer becomes unsuitable. The licensing regime introduced by the Act will be similar to that of the Licensing Act 2003 and whilst it was expected that straight forward applications would be decided under delegation to Officers, any disputed decisions would need to be considered by a Licensing Sub-Committee.

Administration and monitoring of the licences will be carried out by the Environmental and Community Health Division and the licensing authority is required to set licence fees which reasonably reflect the work involved. It is estimated that the total income from issuing the licenses, which last for three years, will be approximately £10k (£3.3k per annum). The Committee has been advised that enforcement will be undertaken by the Police.

Having expressed concern that action had already been taken with regard to the setting of fees prior to appropriate changes being made to the Constitution, a decision on these matters was deferred to enable the Council to consider the impact of the Act on the Committee's terms of reference and scheme of delegation. Therefore, the report now appears elsewhere on the agenda.

J W Davies
Chairman