

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

10.30am, Tuesday, 26 June 2018

Zoo Licence Renewal: Edinburgh Zoo

Item number	5.3
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Council Commitments	N/A
Wards	Corstorphine/Murrayfield (6)

Executive Summary

An inspection of Edinburgh Zoo, 134 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh was carried out at on 20 and 21 March 2018, with respect to the Zoo Licensing Act 1981.

It is recommended that the Committee renews the licence for Edinburgh Zoo with standard conditions and also applies an additional condition requiring the replacement or full repair of the Monkey House heating system.

Zoo Licence Renewal: Edinburgh Zoo

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - 1.1.1 notes the inspection report at Appendix 1;
 - 1.1.2 approves the renewal of the zoo licence for Edinburgh Zoo with standard licence conditions (Appendix 2); and
 - 1.1.3 attaches the proposed additional condition outlined in paragraph 3.3 below.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) has applied to renew its licence issued under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended) ('the Act') to operate Edinburgh Zoo, 134 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh.
- 2.2 The Act requires Edinburgh Zoo to be licensed. The licence runs for six years. Edinburgh Zoo's licence was last renewed on 14 September 2012 and expires on 30 September 2018. Within the current licence any condition that required additional work by RZSS has been met during the period of the licence.
- 2.3 The Act provides for a licensing and inspection regime for zoos covering proper accommodation and care for animals, record keeping, taking measures to prevent escapes, and conservation work. The scope of the Act does not extend beyond considerations of health and safety, conservation and animal welfare.

3. Main report

- 3.1 On 20 and 21 March 2018 a full renewal inspection of Edinburgh Zoo was carried out. The inspection team included two zoo inspectors nominated by the UK Government's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Council's veterinary adviser and an Environmental Health Officer. A copy of the inspection report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 DEFRA has produced guidance for local authorities on the implementation of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, including standard licence conditions. Appendix 2 lists these standard licence conditions.
- 3.3 The inspection report (Appendix 1, page 12) highlights concern about the Monkey House heating system and recommends that this matter should be covered by an additional licence condition. It is therefore recommended that an additional

condition should be added to Edinburgh Zoo's licence conditions, e.g. "The heating system serving the Monkey House shall be replaced or undergo a full repair to bring it up to a reliable, modern standard by 1 November 2018". The committee is required to consider the inspection report prior to determining the licence application.

- 3.4 In July 2016 there was an incident, which was subsequently reported in the media 2017, where a Giant Panda came back into its house when a keeper was in the same room. No member of staff or animal was harmed. RZSS reported the incident to Environmental Health at that time, carried out an in-house investigation and revised procedures. Environmental Health Officers dealing with the licence were satisfied with the measures which were promptly taken and there is no need for any amendment to the conditions of licence.
- 3.5 The inspection report has been sent to the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, and its representatives have been invited to attend the Committee meeting.

4 Measures of success

- 4.1 The premises are licensed in a proportionate and effective manner.

5 Financial impact

- 5.1 The Council's scale of fees for licensing applications was approved with effect from 1 April 2017.
- 5.2 The Council recovers its costs from the licence holder.

6 Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 There is no delegated power for officers to grant the application and it is referred to the Committee for a decision.

7 Equalities impact

- 7.1 There is no equalities impact arising from the contents of this report.

8 Sustainability impact

- 8.1 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

9 Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 The zoo inspection team discussed the licensing requirement and the inspection report with the applicant.

10 Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [City of Edinburgh Council licence application fees list 2017/18](#)

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11 Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - Inspection report dated 15 April 2018
11.2 Appendix 2 - Conditions