

Impact and Needs/Requirements Assessment (INRA)
Initial Screening

Initial screening needs to take place for all new policies, strategies, procedures and functions. This stage must be completed at the earliest opportunity to determine whether it is necessary to undertake an INRA for this activity.

Name of Policy, Strategy or Function:	Zoo Licensing Policy
Lead Officer (responsible for assessment):	Lin Bagwell, Licensing Officer (Enforcement)
Department:	Environmental Services
Others Involved in the Assessment (i.e. peer review, external challenge):	Liz Bailey, Principal EHO (Commercial)
Date Initial Screening Completed:	2 June 2011

(a) What is the activity trying to achieve? i.e. what are its aims and objectives? Is it affected by external drivers for change?

East Cambridgeshire District Council is the Licensing Authority under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended by the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002).

The Act enables the Licensing Authority to control and regulate the operation of zoo premises within the East Cambridgeshire district and no zoo can operate in the district unless it has been granted a licence by the Licensing Authority.

The objectives of the policy are to promote East Cambridgeshire District Council's visions and values and protect the rights and health and safety of the zoo animals, general public, workers, residents, small businesses, minority and vulnerable groups.

The policy sets out how the Licensing Authority will administer the Act locally, and sets out the Licensing Authority's approach for both applicants and operators. It also aims to guide and reassure the general public and other public authorities, ensuring transparency and consistency in decision-making. When the Licensing Authority's decision-making powers are engaged, each application will be considered on its own merit.

(b) Who are its main beneficiaries? i.e. who will be affected by the policy and the way the service is delivered?

The policy will have effect on licence holders, members of the community and persons involved in running zoo premises in the East Cambridgeshire district, including persons carrying on or proposing to carry on the business of a zoo premises; persons employed in the business of a zoo premises; persons likely to be affected by or otherwise have an interest in the policy, such as the Police, Planning Authority, Fire Authority, Community Safety, Environmental Protection and Child Protection; interested parties such as members of the public, resident associations, trade associations, ward councillors and town and parish councils.

(c) Does this activity have the potential to cause an impact (positive, negative or neutral) on different groups in the community, on the grounds of:
(please tick all that apply):

Ethnicity
Gender
Disability

x
x

Age
Religion and Belief
Sexuality

x
x

Please explain any impact identified:

Age

Individuals under the age of 18 years are not permitted under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended by the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2002) to apply for a licence.

Disability

Legislation dictates that applications must be made on the prescribed form in the prescribed manner with the relevant associated documents attached. An applicant may be blind for example therefore unable to complete the application forms his/herself.

Ethnicity

Where licence applications are made, public hearings are held in relation to contested application, or where a licence holder is interviewed under PACE, English may not be the first language of the person the service is working with. A translation/interpretation service can be provided if required.

Religion and Belief

The licensing of zoo premises may be viewed negatively by certain individuals, groups and organisations who believe in animal rights and oppose the use of cages and cramped enclosures. Although the Licensing Authority is not required to consult with those people and organisations raising representations in respect of any application as set out in the Act, the Licensing Authority will act reasonably regarding representations raised and in doing so will determine applications on a case by case basis.

(d) If you have identified an adverse impact, does it disadvantage or discriminate unfairly against any of the groups in a way that is unlawful? This is more likely to occur in services that are customer facing, particularly where judgements need to be made by Council staff about access or entitlement to services or opportunities.

No

(e) What Information or background data is currently available to assist with making the judgements above?

This impact assessment has been informed by the following:

- consultation with those involved in East Cambridgeshire District Council's local strategies on crime prevention, planning, transport, culture, tourism, community, eGovernment and economic development, to ensure the proper co-ordination and integration of the aims and actions of these policies.
- Consideration of the needs of the local tourist economy to ensure that these were reflected in its considerations.
- Local statistical data e.g. number of licensable premises.
- Published advice from Central Government and other relevant agencies.
- East Cambridgeshire District Council's Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan.

If the answer to question (d) is **YES**, then it is necessary to proceed with a full equality impact assessment. If the answer is **NO**, then this judgement and your response to the above questions will need to be countersigned by your Head of Service/Executive Director, and then referred to the Council's Equal Opportunities Working Group (EOWG) for scrutiny and verification. Please forward completed and signed forms to Nicole Pema, Principal HR Officer.

Signatures:

Completing Officer: Lin Bagwell **Date:** 02/06/11

Head of Service: Liz Knox **Date:** 02/06/11