



**PORTFOLIO AREA: Environment Infrastructure and Transport**

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**Date of Meeting:** 19<sup>th</sup> July 2004

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**Public/Private\*** Public

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**Key Decision:** Yes

**Recorded in Forward Plan:** Yes

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**Inside Policy Framework**

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**Title:** LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 REGULATION OF COSMETIC  
PIERCING AND SKIN COLOURING BUSINESSES  
**Report of:** HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SERVICES  
**Report reference:** EPS.39/2004

**Summary:** The report sets out details of additional powers which have become available to local authorities to more effectively regulate skin piercing businesses.

**Recommendations:** Members are recommended to approve

- 1) The adoption of powers contained within Section 120 of the Local Government Act 2003 together with the model bylaws, to require the registration of cosmetic piercing and skin colouring businesses, and to set a registration fee, for 2004/05, of £49-00 and
- 2) Council be recommended to adopt the powers and bylaws.

**Contact Officer:** Richard Speirs

**Ext:** 7325

**Note:** in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

## **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS**

- 1.1. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 introduced specific controls for certain skin piercing activities such as ear piercing, tattooing, acupuncture and electrolysis. The controls enable Local Authorities to require the registration of such activities to ensure that operators meet hygienic standards. The principal reason for the introduction of the controls was related to the risks of transmission of blood borne diseases such as Aids and hepatitis.
- 1.2. Since the initial controls were introduced there have been a number of developments in skin piercing primarily associated with fashion trends. Consequently the current practices of what are known as cosmetic body piercing for studs, rings etc., and also semi-permanent skin colouring are in effect unregulated. Local Authorities have expressed concern for a number of years that these practices also pose potential health risks for the transmission of blood borne diseases.
- 1.3. In recognition of these concerns the Government introduced, through Section 120 and Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act 2003, powers to require the registration of businesses which provide cosmetic piercing and skin colouring services. The powers have firstly to be adopted by a Local Authority and regulation will be subject to compliance with a set of model bylaws.

## **2. PROPOSAL**

- 2.1. Because of the inherent risks for the transmission of blood borne diseases through improper techniques and lack of sterile practices there is an ever-present concern that unregulated operators represent a risk to the public's health. It is recommended therefore that the Council adopts the provisions of Section 120 of the Local Government Act 2003 to implement the local regulation of cosmetic piercing and skin colouring. Specific guidance has been issued by the Department of Health and includes model bylaws to be followed by Local Authorities that adopt the powers of registration. As this Authority had already adopted the 1982 Local Government Act in relation to tattooing, ear piercing and electrolysis the introduction of the new bylaws is much more simplified in that the Council is automatically enabled to apply the registration and bylaws regime to cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring.
- 2.2. The Council is able to charge a reasonable fee for the registration of these additional skin-piercing businesses and it is recommended that the registration fee

should be that charged for the other skin piercing businesses. This registration fee is currently set at £49-00

- 2.3. The model bylaws associated with the new requirements are attached to this report at Appendix 1 and it is recommended that these be adopted as drafted by the Government. The bylaws are intended to ensure adequate controls over health and safety and hygiene within skin piercing businesses. The model bylaws and their implementation have already been the subject of discussions between Environmental Protection Services and the Head of Legal Services. Should Members agree to the adoption of the powers and the model bylaws these will then be drafted to make specific reference to Carlisle City Council prior to formal adoption by Council.

### **3. CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Consultation to Date. Adoption of the powers has been discussed with Legal Services.
- 3.2 Consultation proposed. Nil

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to approve

- 1) The adoption of powers contained within Section 120 of the Local Government Act 2003 together with the model bylaws, to require the registration of cosmetic piercing and skin colouring businesses, and to set a registration fee, for 2004/05, of £49-00 and
- 2) Council be recommended to adopt the powers and bylaws.

### **5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To ensure that all skin piercing businesses are registered and meet hygiene and safety standards.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- **Staffing/Resources** – Initial staff resources will be required to contact and register affected businesses. This can be met within existing resources.
- **Financial** – The income raised through registration will assist in the costs associated with enforcement.
- **Legal** – The adoption of the powers and associated model bylaws will be undertaken in accordance with the Government guidance.
- **Corporate** – Nil
- **Risk Management** – No identified risks in the adoption of the powers.
- **Equality Issues** – Adoption will ensure equality of treatment to all skin piercing operators.
- **Environmental** – The potential health impacts associated with un-regulated practitioners will be minimised.
- **Crime and Disorder** – No implications.
- **Impact on Customers** – Adoption of the powers will result in improved health protection.

## Draft model byelaws

### Cosmetic piercing

Byelaws for the purposes of securing the cleanliness of premises registered under section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and fittings in those premises and of registered persons and persons assisting them and the cleansing and, so far as appropriate, sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the business of cosmetic piercing made by ..... in pursuance of Section 15(7) of the Act.

1. Interpretation:

- a. In these byelaws, unless the context otherwise requires –

“The Act” means the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982;

“Client” means any person undergoing treatment;

“Operator” means any person giving treatment;

“Premises” means any premises registered under Part VIII of the Act;

“Proprietor” means any person registered under Part VIII of the Act;

“Treatment” means any operation in effecting cosmetic piercing;

“The treatment area” means any part of the premises where treatment is given to clients.

- b. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of these byelaws as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises and fittings in such premises a proprietor shall ensure that –

- a. All internal walls, doors, windows, partitions, floors and floor coverings, and ceilings are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;
- b. All waste materials, and other litters, arising from the treatment should be handled and disposed of as clinical waste in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;
- c. All needles used in treatment are single-use and disposable, as far as is practicable; and are stored and disposed of as clinical waste in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;
- d. All furniture and fittings in the premises are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;
- e. All tables, couches and seats used by clients in the treatment area, and any surface on which the items specified in 3b below are placed immediately prior to treatment, have a smooth impervious surface which is disinfected immediately after use and at the end of each working day;
- f. Where tables and couches are used, they are covered by a disposable paper sheet which is changed for each client;
- g. No eating, drinking or smoking is permitted in the treatment area and a notice or notices reading “No Smoking”, “No Eating or Drinking” is prominently displayed there.

3. For the purpose of securing the cleansing and so far as is appropriate, the sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the treatment –
  - a. An operator shall ensure that, before use in connection with treatment, any gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, cloth or other such article used in the treatment –
    - i. is clean and in good repair, and, so far as is appropriate, sterile;
    - ii. has not previously been used in connection with any other client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleaned and, so far as is appropriate, sterilized.
  - b. An operator shall ensure that any needle, metal instrument, or other item of equipment, used in treatment or for handling instruments and needles used in the treatment is in a sterile condition and kept sterile until it is used;
  - c. A proprietor shall provide –
    - i. adequate facilities and equipment for the purpose of sterilization (unless pre-sterilized items are used) and of cleansing, as required in pursuance of these byelaws;
    - ii. sufficient and safe gas points and/or electrical socket outlets to enable compliance with these byelaws;
    - iii. an adequate constant supply of clean hot and cold water readily available at all times on the premises;
    - iv. adequate storage for all items mentioned in byelaw 3 a and b above, so that those items are properly stored in a clean and suitable place so as to avoid, as far as possible, the risk of contamination.
4. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of operators –
  - a. A proprietor shall ensure that –
    - i. any operator keeps his hands and nails clean and his nails short;
    - ii. any operator wears disposable surgical gloves that have not previously been used with any other client;
    - iii. any operator of the premises wears a gown, wrap or protective clothing that is clean and washable, or alternatively a disposable covering that has not previously been used in connection with any other client;
    - iv. any operator keeps any open boil, sore, cut or open wound on an exposed part of his body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing;
    - v. any operator does not smoke or consume food or drink in the treatment area.
  - b. A proprietor shall provide;
    - i. suitable and sufficient washing facilities for the sole use of operators, including hot and cold water and sanitising soap or detergent;
    - ii. suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for operators.

COUNCIL'S SIGNATURE

COUNCIL'S SEAL

The foregoing byelaws are hereby confirmed by the Secretary of State for Health

on \_\_\_\_\_ and shall come into operation on \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the Senior Civil Service  
Department of Health

**NOTE – THE FOLLOWING DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE BYELAWS**

- A. Proprietors must take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these byelaws by persons working on the premises. Section 16(9) of the Act provides that a registered person shall cause to be prominently displayed on the premises a copy of these byelaws and a copy of any certificate of registration issued to him under Part VIII of the Act.
- B. Section 16(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 provides that any person who contravenes any of these byelaws shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale. If a person registered under Part VIII of the Act is found guilty of contravening these byelaws the Court may instead of or in addition to imposing a fine, order the suspension or cancellation of his registration and of the registration of the premises in which the offence was committed if such premises are occupied by the person found guilty of the offence. It shall be a defence for the person charged under sub-sections (1), (2), (8) or (10) of Section 16 to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid commission of the offence.
- C. Nothing in these byelaws extends to the practice of cosmetic piercing by or under the supervision of a person who is registered as a medical practitioner or to premises on which the practice of cosmetic piercing is carried on by or under the supervision of such a person.

## Draft model byelaws

### Semi-permanent skin-colouring

Byelaws for the purposes of securing the cleanliness of premises registered under section 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and fittings in such premises and registered persons and persons assisting them and the cleansing and, so far as appropriate, sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the business of semi-permanent skin-colouring, made by ..... in pursuance of section 15(7) of the Act.

1. Interpretation:

a. In these byelaws, unless the context otherwise requires –

“The Act” means the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982;

“Client” means any person undergoing treatment;

“Operator” means any person giving treatment;

“Premises” means any premises registered under Part VIII of the Act;

“Proprietor” means any person registered under Part VIII of the Act;

“Treatment” means any operation in effecting semi-permanent skin-colouring;

“The treatment area” means any part of the premises where treatment is given to clients.

b. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of these byelaws as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises and fittings in such premises a proprietor shall ensure that –

a. All internal walls, doors, windows, partitions, floors and floor coverings, and ceilings are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;

b. The treatment area is used solely for giving treatment;

c. The floor of the treatment area is provided with a smooth impervious surface;

d. All waste materials, and other litters, arising from the treatment should be handled and disposed of as clinical waste in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;

e. All needles used in treatment are single-use and disposable, as far as is practicable; and are stored and disposed of as clinical waste in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority;

f. All furniture and fittings in the premises are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;

g. All tables, couches and seats used by clients in the treatment area, and any surface on which the items specified in 3b below are placed immediately prior to treatment, have a smooth impervious surface which is disinfected immediately after use and at the end of each working day;

h. Where tables and couches are used, they are covered by a disposable paper sheet which is changed for each client;



- i. No eating, drinking or smoking is permitted in the treatment area and a notice or notices reading "No Smoking", "No Eating or Drinking" are prominently displayed there.
  3. For the purpose of securing the cleansing and so far as is appropriate, the sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the treatment –
    - a. An operator shall ensure that, before use in connection with treatment, any gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, cloth or other such articles used in the treatment –
      - i. is clean and in good repair, and so far as is appropriate, is sterile;
      - ii. has not previously been used in connection with any other client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleaned and, so far as is appropriate, sterilized.
    - b. An operator shall ensure that –
      - i. any needle, metal instrument, or other item or equipment, used in treatment or for handling instruments and needles used in treatment, is in a sterile condition and kept sterile until it is used;
      - ii. all dyes used for semi-permanent skin-colouring are sterile and inert;
      - iii. the containers used to hold the dyes for each customer are either disposed of at the end of each session of treatment, or are cleaned and sterilized before re-use;
    - c. A proprietor shall provide –
      - i. adequate facilities and equipment for the purpose of sterilization (unless pre-sterilised items are used) and of cleansing, as required in pursuance of these byelaws;
      - ii. sufficient and safe gas points and/or electrical socket outlets to enable compliance with these byelaws;
      - iii. an adequate constant supply of clean hot and cold water readily available at all times on the premises;
      - iv. adequate storage for items mentioned in byelaw 3 a and b above, so that those items are properly stored in a clean and suitable place so as to avoid, as far as possible, the risk of contamination.
  4. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of operators –
    - a. A proprietor shall ensure that –
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      - iii. any operator of the premises wears a gown, wrap or protective clothing that is clean and washable, or alternatively a disposable covering that has not previously been used in connection with any other client;
      - iv. any operator keeps any open boil, sore, cut or open wound on an exposed part of his body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing;

- v. any operator does not smoke or consume food or drink in the treatment area.
- b. A proprietor shall provide –
  - i. suitable and sufficient washing facilities for the sole use of operators, including hot and cold water, sanitising soap or detergent;
  - ii. suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for operators.

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on \_\_\_\_\_ and shall come into operation on \_\_\_\_\_

Member of the Senior Civil Service  
Department of Health

**NOTE – THE FOLLOWING DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE BYELAWS**

- A. Proprietors shall take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these byelaws by persons working on the premises. Section 16(9) of the Act provides that a registered person shall cause to be prominently displayed on the premises a copy of these byelaws and a copy of any certificate of registration issued to him under Part VIII of the Act.
- B. Section 16 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 provides that any person who contravenes any of these byelaws shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale. If a person registered under part viii of the Act is found guilty of contravening these byelaws the Court may instead of or in addition to imposing the fine, order the suspension or cancellation of his registration and of the registration of the premises in which the offence was committed if such premises are occupied by the person found guilty of the offence. It shall be a defence for the person charged under sub-sections (1), (2), (8) or (10) of Section 16 to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.
- C. Nothing in these byelaws extends to the practice of semi-permanent skin-colouring by or under the supervision of a person who is registered as a medical practitioner or to premises on which the practice of semi-permanent skin-colouring is carried on by or under the supervision of such a person.