

Minutes of Licensing Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2012, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J Alcock (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	J Holgate
I Brown	G Scott
P Dowson	R Swarbrick
R Hargreaves	

In attendance: Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Solicitor, Enforcement Officer, Community Development Officer.

276 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Horkin, S Knox, C Ross and M Thomas.

277 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

278 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

279 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

280 MARSHALLING ARRANGEMENTS

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services asked Committee to confirm the proposals set out in her report in relation to how the Council administers the grant of an operators licence.

She referred to minute 118 of Committee dated 19 June 2012 and now commented that there was a lack of clarity relating to the requirement for an operating licence in certain circumstances:

- Where a business makes the arrangement for a private hire journey on behalf of the customer of that business.
- Where the private hire operator stations a member of staff in the premises of another business and the operator's member of staff makes the arrangements.

- Where the private hire operator has a second office eg a small additional booking office in a central location to attract customers at busy times.

The Council was regularly asked to give advice about alternative methods of providing private hire operating service. It had allowed some leniency where the operator had a satellite or secondary base which was only used on very limited basis. However the practice of having a second base was becoming more common as was the development of business relationships eg a hotel or a nightclub and an operator leading to an exclusive provision of a service by the operator for customers of that business. Committee's approval was therefore sought for the proposal that all operators when their operating licence was next renewed to be made aware of the requirements to licence all locations where they carry out their business. This would mean that a separate operating licence would be required for the circumstances set out above.

RESOLVED: That Committee confirm that a separate operator's licence must be obtained where:

1. a private hire firm places a member of staff on the site of another business for the purpose of the invitation or acceptance of bookings for a private hire vehicle; and
2. where the private hire firm have a second office whether freestanding or located in the premises of another business.

281 LICENSING ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services gave a brief background history to licensing enforcement within her section, and introduced David Laskey who was covering the work whilst the permanent postholder was on maternity leave. David then reported on a number of inspections and interventions he had been involved with. He was also co-operating with the Taxi Enforcement Officer on taxi enforcement issues.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

282 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by nature of the next item of business being exempt information under Category 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

283 COMMUNITY ALCOHOL NETWORKS AND TEST PURCHASING

The Community Development Officer gave a report on the recent introduction of Community Alcohol Networks and also recent test purchasing operations in Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley.

Community Alcohol Networks involved a significant element of enforcement insofar as they utilized special constables working alongside Trading Standards Officers to target specific hotspot areas. Local Police, other partner agencies and communities would provide the local intelligence on where those hotspots were. These operations had commenced on the weekend of 4/5 August and results so far have been very encouraging.

Another encouraging aspect of Community Alcohol Networks was that where young people had been found drinking underage they were returned to parents who were then invited to take part in parent alcohol workshops.

Members then commented on specific locations which they felt were worthy of a visit by the Community Alcohol Network.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.05pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Diane Rice (414418).