

## Minutes of Licensing Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 19 March 2013 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor J Holgate (Chairman)

Councillors:

P Ainsworth	K Hind
I Brown	S Knox
S Brunskill	C Ross
P Dowson	G Scott
R Hargreaves	

In attendance: Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Solicitor.

Also in attendance: Inspector Graham Lister and Sergeant Jason Middleton.

### 704 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Alcock, R Swarbrick and M Thomas.

### 705 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 706 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

### 707 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 708 RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Council's Solicitor referred to Minute 490 of Committee dated 27 November 2012 and now reported that there had been no representations since its inception and there had been no responses to the consultation exercise which had taken place between 3 December 2012 and 31 January 2013.

\*\*\* RESOLVED: That Committee approve the Gambling Statement of Policy and refer to Full Council for approval. \*\*\*

### 709 REVIEW OF COUNCIL STANDARD CONDITIONS LICENCE AND INFRINGEMENT SCHEME FOR PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS, DRIVERS AND VEHICLES

The Council's Solicitor informed Committee of the review which had been carried out of the standard conditions of licence and infringement schemes for private

hire operators, drivers and vehicles and sought Committee's approval of the revised standard conditions and infringement scheme.

She commented that on the 20 March 2012 the Head of Legal and Democratic Services had been authorised by committee to consult private hire drivers on various proposed changes to the standard conditions, which had been discussed at Committee. As a result of that consultation, a complete review of the standard conditions and corresponding infringement scheme had now been carried out. The revised versions were submitted as an Appendix to the report and incorporated all the changes that had previously been approved by Committee updated the legislation referred to within the conditions, simplified and clarified the drafting and ensured that all the conditions were included in the infringement scheme and vice versa.

Members then welcomed this report and the tidying up of the various conditions and infringement scheme.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised standard conditions and infringement scheme for private hire operators, drivers and vehicles.

#### 710 VEHICLE TESTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Council's Solicitor sought Members' views on an approach which had been made by the Council's testing centre to increase their fees for testing and to seek Committee's views on whether they considered it still appropriate to have only one testing centre.

She reminded Committee that currently all private hire and hackney carriage vehicles were tested at an independent garage within the Ribble Valley. The Council did not set the fee for this as it was set by the garage itself and had been £20 for the last 15 years. The owner of the garage was free to review the fee at any time and had indicated recently that he may do so.

The Licensing Officer had made enquiries with surrounding authorities and established their current fees which were considerably above the rate charged by the Ribble Valley testing centre.

She reminded Members that they had considered this issue previously and had felt that to have more than one testing centre could give rise to inconsistency or put pressure on centres to be more lenient to secure a greater share of the business. However, in the light of potential increase in fees, Committee was asked to consider whether it still wished to retain the current arrangements for testing or whether it required a more detailed report to be submitted to next Committee meeting to allow it to explore other options. Members then discussed this matter in some detail.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the contents of the report; and
2. confirm that it is content to retain the existing testing arrangements with one vehicle testing centre.

711

## CLITHEROE TOWN CENTRE ISSUES

Committee considered a report on Clitheroe Town Centre issues and received Geographic Inspector Graham Lister and Sergeant Jason Middleton. The report highlighted that Councils had the power to make an early morning Alcohol Restriction Order, under Section 172a to 172e of the Licensing Act 2003. This power enabled the licensing authority to prohibit the sale of alcohol for a specified time period between the hours of 12am and 6am in the whole or part of its area, if it is satisfied that this would be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Inspector Lister and Sergeant Middleton both commented on the booming night-time economy in Clitheroe compared to neighbouring towns such as Blackburn with Darwen and Accrington. They also highlighted the problems which this posed the Police, particularly at weekends. Clitheroe in particular was receiving many visitors from surrounding areas and this in itself could create tensions.

Members were keen to see more Police presence on the streets but Inspector Lister reminded them of the impact of recent budget cuts. He did however refer to the opportunity to bring in Police from the Divisional Support Unit.

Members were also concerned about on-street drinking, the use of glasses rather than plastic glasses and the incidents of smoking outside pubs.

Sergeant Middleton commented on the good relationship which the Police had with local licensees via local Pubwatch schemes. The use of polycarbonate glasses was currently being discussed with them and he commented that all Police officers knew about no alcohol zones and would enforce these wherever appropriate. The issue of smoking outside pubs would be taken up with the licensees at future Pubwatch meetings.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee note the report;
2. Inspector Lister and Sergeant Middleton be thanked for their attendance and contribution to the debate; and
3. the Head of Legal and Democratic Services keep the question of early morning restriction orders under review and report back to a future meeting if appropriate.

712

## MINUTES OF RIBBLE VALLEY SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP 20 FEBRUARY 2013

Committee received the minutes of the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group held on 20 February 2013.

Councillors commented favourably on this reconfigured group, and welcomed in particular the presence of Councillors on the group.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

713

## TRAINING

Committee received a training presentation on the subject of Police closure powers at licensed premises. Sergeant Middleton provided useful local examples of how these powers had been and would be used.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

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