

Minutes of Licensing Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2017 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J Alcock (Chairman)

Councillors:

A Brown	K Hind
S Brunskill	J Holgate
P Elms	S Hore
M Fenton	G Mirfin
G Geldard	G Scott
L Graves	

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

429 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Hargreaves and S Hind.

Councillor A Knox was not in attendance.

430 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Committee received the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 25 September 2017.

431 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

432 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

433 RECOMMENDATION ON ADOPTION OF TAXI LICENSING POLICY

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the results of the consultation on the Taxi Policy, and seeking approval for the adoption of the Taxi Licensing Policy. There had been a considered and detailed response on five aspects of the proposed policy submitted on behalf of 27 Hackney Carriage drivers. Each of these points had been carefully considered and advice given to Committee of the view taken in respect of each factor, and the justification for inclusion of each of those aspects as drafted in the policy.

Members expressed their appreciation for the response and considered the various points made, taking into account the priority of public safety.

*** RESOLVED: That Committee approve the Taxi Licensing Policy as consulted upon and recommend its adoption to Full Council. ***

434 FEES AND CHARGES

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to determine the annual fees for hackney carriage and private hire licences, scrap metal dealers licences and sex establishment licences. The Council has the power to charge for licences subject to statutory provisions which both give rise to the power to charge and specify the way the charge for certain licences has to be calculated. The legislation provides that the fees should be set at a level which provides such a fee as they consider reasonable with a view to recovering the costs of issue and administration. The report outlined the current fees charged alongside the proposed fees to be charged; the uplift in fees was approximately 2% rounded up or down as most appropriate.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to set the fees for

1. Hackney carriage and private hire licences for the year 2018/2019 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;
2. Scrap metal dealers licences for the year 2018/2019 as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and
3. Sex establishment licences for the year 2018/2019 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

435 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE TRAINING FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee about training relating to Licensing Sub-Committees.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

436 NOTES OF SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP DATED 19 OCTOBER 2017

Committee received the notes of the meeting of the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group meeting held on 19 October 2017.

437 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the following items 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.

ENFORCEMENT AND COMMUNITY ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the enforcement activities carried out by the Council and the Community Alcohol Partnership.

On 20 July 2017, a Community Alcohol Partnership was launched in Clitheroe aimed at tackling underage drinking and anti-social behaviour. The partnership consisted of the Council, Lancashire County Council Trading Standards, the Police, schools, shops and the health sector, and sought to tackle alcohol related harm to children by reducing sale of alcohol to under age purchasers, advising children on the dangers of drinking and promoting alcohol free activities. Concerns had arisen with regard to groups of children congregating in certain parts of Clitheroe, and because of this Lancashire County Council Trading Standards had carried out test purchases. Whilst certain shops and supermarkets in Clitheroe had failed on test purchases of alcohol by an underage volunteer, Committee were advised that those premises had not failed on a follow-up visit, and that the Council's Planning/Licensing Enforcement Officers had carried out a licencing inspection of those premises. The Planning and Licensing Enforcement Officers had been invited to attend all Community Alcohol Partnership meetings.

Members were also advised of the current position with regard to taxi enforcement, and the arrangements made.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting finished at 6.52pm and was followed by a training session which concluded at 8.20pm.

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