

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Monday, 21st September 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Wright (in the Chair), Councillors Ali, Casey, I. Hussain, S. Hussain Humphrys McFall, and Vali.

RESOLUTIONS

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillor Hollings, Gee, Rehman, Mulla and Tapp

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2015

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th July be approved as a correct record.

4 Declarations of Interest in items on this agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Proposed Penalty Scheme for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Operators and Drivers.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Leisure informing members of the feedback from the proposals to introduce a penalty point system for dealing with breaches of law or conditions attached to Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Drivers and operator licences.

The Committee were informed that the proposed scheme had been discussed with the trade. The Committee were informed that a similar scheme was in operation in Preston. Following discussions it was suggested that the scheme operate for a period of one year to enable the outcome of the scheme to be evaluated and adjusted if necessary.

Resolved-

That the Executive Member be recommend introduce a revised Penalty point scheme as now submitted and that following a year of operation the scheme be evaluated and reviewed.

6. Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees.

The committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Leisure informing members of the proposed variations in private hire and Hackney Carriage Licence Fees. The Licence fees relating to Hackney

Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees were last increased on 1st April 2012. The proposed fees were to be submitted to the Executive Member, subject to consultation with this committee and advertising in accordance with section 7093) of the Local Government Act 1976. The Committee were informed that the Deregulation Act 2015 had made it mandatory for 3 year licences to be introduced for drivers and 5 year licences for operators. Annual Payment plans had been proposed to assist drivers and operators. Members discussed a number of concerns relating to the proposals and these would be raised with the Executive Member.

Resolved- that the report be noted and comments forwarded to the Executive Member for consideration when making his decision.

7. **The Impact of Alcohol Related Harm in Blackburn with Darwen.**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Public Health on the impact upon the Borough from alcohol harm. The Committee considered the implications of the work of Public Health on the licensing objectives of the Council and how the work of the Committee could assist in reducing alcohol related harm.

Resolved- That the presentation be noted and that the implications of the work on reducing Alcohol Related Harm be considered when reviewing licences in the Borough.

8. **Gambling Policy Triennial Review.**

The Committee received a report informing them of the current consultation being undertaken on the revision of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement Policy.

A number of changes had been made to the Operator's Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice by the Gambling Commission. These had been reflected in this review.

The Public Protection Service has consulted on a national and local level to businesses and organisations affected by this document. The residents of the borough have been consulted via the Council's website and through Resident Associations. The draft policy including the full proposed changes was on the Council's website. The consultation runs from 1st September to 17th November 2015.

Resolved- That Members note the report and put forward any recommendations that they wish to see included in the revised policy.

Exclusion of the Press and Public.

Resolved- That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in view of the fact that the business transacted was exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a Local Government Act 1972.

Minutes of the Licensing Sub Committees

Resolved – That the minutes of General Licensing Sub Committee held on 21st July 2015, and 18th August 2015 and the Licencing Act 2003 Sub- Committee on 18th August 2015 be approved as a correct record

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....