

Minutes of Licensing Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 28 January 2020, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor G Mirfin (Chairman)

Councillors:

R Baxter	S Hore	S Rainford
R Bennett	A Knox	M Robinson
D Berryman	D O'Rourke	G Scott
S Hirst	S O'Rourke	N Walsh

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

Also in attendance: Councillor B Buller.

559 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Alcock and B Hilton.

560 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

561 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

562 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

563 AMENDMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS

The Chief Executive submitted a report to seek Committee's approval for the further restriction on the drivers and vehicles that may be engaged by an operator providing private hire services in the Ribble Valley. Background to the report was given by the Council's solicitor, highlighting concerns raised by licence holders attending the public meeting of 12 November 2019 regarding vehicles other than Ribble Valley licenced Hackney Carriages plying for hire in the Ribble Valley. The issue also causes concern due to the disparity in conditions for vehicles and drivers imposed by different local authorities and the different levels of licensing fees.

Committee was asked to approve in principle the addition of a further condition regarding the use of Hackney Carriages licensed by another authority providing Private Hire services in the Ribble Valley to the licences of Private Hire operators. The Solicitor noted that there would be additional resources required in receiving and coordinating the additional information to be supplied by operators, although it was anticipated that the level of reporting of such out of borough hackney carriages would be relatively modest.

Committee was informed that Private Hire operators' licences are due to be renewed on 1 February 2020. The existing conditions would be attached at the point of renewal, with operators being made aware on renewal of the proposed changes which would have to be introduced later in the licence period, if the amendment was adopted by Committee following consultation.

Councillors discussed various aspects of the report including the length of required consultation and conditions used by other authorities.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve in principle of the proposed additional condition for Private Hire operators as set out in the report; and
2. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to consult licence holders and other statutory consultees (eg Police/LCC) upon the introduction of the proposed amendment.

564 MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING WITH LICENCE HOLDERS HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2019

The minutes of the public meeting with licence holders on 12 November 2019 were circulated for Committee's information. Councillors discussed issues arising from the meeting and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services reminded Committee of their ability to request reports to future meetings of the Committee to investigate items further as required.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

565 MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – 15 NOVEMBER 2019

The minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 15 November 2019 were received by Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

566 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following item of business be exempt information under Category 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

567 POLICE VISITS: CLITHEROE TOWN CENTRE

The Chief Executive submitted a report to inform Members about information received from the Lancashire Police Licensing Officer, Sgt Gary Hennigan. Following a pattern of activity in early December suggesting a problem with licensed premises in the vicinity of Clitheroe Market Place, Sgt Hennigan carried out a series of visits to licensed premises in the area and had reported on the outcome which was generally satisfactory. Sgt Hennigan had also been given an opportunity to comment on any problems arising over the Christmas and New Year period and had reported that there were no serious problems.

Members discussed various aspects of the report including their authority to communication the confidential aspects of this report to the Community Safety Partnership, and the ongoing status of the Pub Watch scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The Chairman and Members thanked the Head of Legal and Democratic Services for her work supporting the Committee and wished her a happy retirement.

The meeting closed at 7.07pm.

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