MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON

24 March 2015 7.30pm - 7.59pm

PRESENT

Committee Members
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop (Chairman)
Councillor Tony Durcan
Councillor Dennis Palmer
Councillor Edna Stevens

Officers
Michael Pitt, Environment and Licensing Manager
Dimple Roopchand, Assistant Solicitor
Jo Maskell, Governance Support Officer

APOLOGIES

Councillor Jacqui Cross
Councillor Nick Churchill
Councillor Emma Toal

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

44. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2015 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

45. MATTERS ARISING

None.

46. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

None.
47. COMMITTEE WORK PLAN

The Committee received its Work Plan for the current municipal year and discussed items for inclusion in the programme for 2015/16.

It was agreed to include a report on the Council’s Gambling Act Policy, which was due to be reviewed and republished by January 2016.

RESOLVED that the 2014/15 Committee Work Plan is noted and a Review of the Council’s Gambling Act Policy included in the Plan for 2015/16.

48. IMPACT OF DEREGULATION BILL ON LICENSING ACT 2003 AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE REGULATION

The Committee received a report on the impact on the Council of the proposed deregulation of certain licensing requirements. The Deregulation Bill, which was expected to become law by the end of March 2015, would relax nine of the current licensing functions implemented by the Council.

The Committee agreed that further consideration would need to be given to the licensing functions where the Council would have discretion on whether or not a licence were required (eg premises licensing for late night refreshment).

RESOLVED that

(a) the changes to the Licensing Act 2003 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, to be brought about by the Deregulation Bill, are noted;

(b) a report on the implementation of the Deregulation Act is submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

49. EMISSION CONDITION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Committee received a report proposing options for the amendment of the current policy on Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicle emissions.

Members of the Committee considered that Option 2 in the report offered the best balance of benefit and risk.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the policy condition requiring all Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicles licensed for the first time to comply with Euro 3 emissions standards, be amended such that the words ‘to comply with Euro 3 standards’ are replaced with the words ‘to comply with MOT test standards appropriate to Euro 3 compliant vehicles’.
OPTIONS FOR FUTURE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE MOT AND COMPLIANCE TEST

Further to Minute 40 (20/1/15), the Committee received a report on the feasibility of designating more than one provider as a Hackney Carriage and private hire testing station. A summary of the market research responses from the garage trade was tabled.

The Committee considered the various options for MOT and compliance testing outlined in the report. It was agreed to keep to a single provider for the contract renewal in April 2015, but to give further consideration to the delivery of compliance testing in future.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that the door stickers alluded to under ‘Miscellaneous Matters’ in the Private Hire Compliance Test Requirements appended to the report, were Council issued door stickers that displayed the name of the licensing authority (Harlow Council) and the vehicle plate number. It was noted that discussions would be held with the Trade regarding review of door sticker requirements building on experience with the current scheme.

RESOLVED that the current approach to MOT and compliance testing arrangements are maintained subject to further consultation and review in January 2016.

REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE