

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

17 November 2020

7.30 - 8.27 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Shannon Jezzard (Chair)
Councillor Nancy Watson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Nick Churchill
Councillor Tony Edwards
Councillor Michael Garnett
Councillor Maggie Hulcoop
Councillor Andrew Johnson
Councillor Lanie Shears

Officers

Chris Bennett, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Hannah Criddle, Governance Support Officer
Michael Pitt, Environment and Licensing Manager
Dimple Roopchand, Principal Solicitor

21. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

23. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

24. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

25. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

26. **COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

Michael Pitt, Environment and Licensing Manager, suggested that a "Department for Transport Statutory Vehicles and Private Hire Standards Action Plan" be brought to Committee in January 2021. The "Adoption of a

Street Trading Policy” and “Review of General Enforcement Policy for Environmental Health” items would be brought to Committee in March 2021. The “Review of Hackney Carriage Byelaws”, “Review of Licensing General Enforcement Policy” and “Updating Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles Conditions” items would rollover to the municipal year 2021/22.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan was noted.

27. **HARLOW COUNCIL FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT PLAN 2020/2021**

The Committee received the Food Safety Act Service Plan for 2020/21.

RESOLVED that the Committee approved the Food Safety Act Service Plan attached as Appendix A to the report.

28. **DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT STATUTORY VEHICLES AND PRIVATE HIRE STANDARDS**

The Committee received a report on the new Department of Transport Statutory Vehicle and Private Hire Standards (2020).

RESOLVED that the Committee:

A Noted the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards (2020) issued by the Department for Transport (DfT)

B Approved a full review of current policy and procedure to determine the necessary amendments required by the new standards

C Agreed that the required changes identified by Officers as a result of the review are brought before the Committee on 19 January 2021.

29. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

30. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

Councillor Nick Churchill expressed extreme concern over threats made by members of the public towards Council Officers in response to work that they had carried out. Councillor Shannon Jezzard confirmed that the Council had interacted with the social media service providers and the posts had been removed. The issue had been escalated with senior managers and was under review. The Officers involved had received support and did not feel further action was required at this stage. The Committee agreed that the Council would not tolerate threats made

against Officers and would be prepared to take further action in circumstances where considered appropriate.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE