

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

24 January 2017

7.30pm - 7.55pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Maggie Hulcoop (Chairman)
Councillor John Strachan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ian Beckett
Councillor Karen Clempner
Councillor Lanie Shears

Officers

Michael Pitt, Environment and Licensing Manager
Dimple Roopchand, Assistant Solicitor
David Taylor, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Jo Maskell, Governance Support Officer

APOLOGIES

Councillor Bill Pryor
Councillor Edna Stevens

30. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

31. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Edna Stevens in the list of Councillors present.

32. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

33. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

a) Written Question from Tony Foley: Licensed Drivers Medical Providers

“Would the Chairman of the Committee please advise me what progress has been made by the Licensing Team, further to meetings with trade

representatives, with regard to widening the choice of source for Group 2 medical examinations for applicants?”

The reply from the Chairman of this Committee was as follows:

“The Licensing Team has accepted the principle of widening choice and actively considered potential alternative providers nominated by trade representatives.

Unfortunately, of the two alternative providers initially identified by trade representatives, one was found (on enquiry) to be considerably more expensive for drivers than the current provider; and the second advised that they were unable to undertake additional work due to lack of capacity.

The Licensing Team met with trade representatives in November 2016 to discuss current licensing issues and this question was discussed again. A further provider was identified and the Licensing Team agreed to follow this up and to consider any further suitable suppliers identified in future.

The Licensing Team has brought forward a report later on the agenda of this meeting recommending an approach whereby drivers would be able to use any qualified provider.”

b) Any Other Written Questions or Petitions

None.

34. **COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

The Committee received its Work Plan for the remainder of the municipal year.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Committee’s Work Plan is noted;
- (b) the report ‘Disability Awareness Training’ be allocated to the March meeting of this Committee;
- (c) a review of the Taxi and PHV Licensing Criminal Convictions Policy be included in the Work Plan.

35. **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE: MEDICAL FITNESS TO DRIVE**

The Committee received a report on requirements for medical assessments to be provided by Hackney Carriage and private hire drivers; and options for them to obtain such assessments from medical providers.

It was agreed that option 2, whereby drivers could obtain their assessment from any qualified provider, would be the preferred way forward as it offered greater flexibility and fewer disadvantages for both the applicants and the Council.

RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that

- (a) the proposals set out in paragraphs 11 to 15 of the report be approved;
- (b) Option 2, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report, be approved.

36. **STATEMENT OF GAMBLING ACT POLICY - OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

In line with guidance from the Gambling Commission and following consultation with stakeholders, the Committee received a report proposing that the Council produced a 'Local Area Profile' (LAP). The LAP would help gambling operators fulfil their statutory requirement to produce risk assessments.

It was noted that, if the LAP were to be attached as an appendix to the Gambling Licensing Policy Statement, it could be updated as required (without invoking the statutory consultation process needed to amend the Policy Statement).

RECOMMENDED that a report proposing a Local Area Profile, to be appended to the Statement of Gambling Act Policy, be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

37. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

38. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE