

MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 5th February 2019

**Present: Councillor Hughes (Chair)
Councillors Cheetham, Eaton, Gill, Haworth, Johnson,
Lythgoe, Neal, and Smallridge.**

**In Attendance: Phil Morton, Public Protection Manager
Abigail Wrench, Legal Officer
Joanna Wood, Committee and Member Services Officer**

Also Present: Cllr Morris

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for Cllr Shipley and Cllr Stevens

2. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on the 13th November 2018 be approved as a correct record.

3. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Driver Sub-Committee meetings held on the 15th November 2018 and 6th December 2018 be approved as a correct record.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

6. LICENSING UPDATE REPORT

The Public Protection Manager introduced the report and provided the Committee with an update in relation to the content of the Report and the draft Statement of Licensing Policy for consultation.

Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires that the licensing authority prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy at least every five years.

The current statement of Licensing Policy has stood since 2014 and the amendments that have been found to be necessary are relatively minor and a result

of changes in legislation. We are required to go out to consultation as part of this process.

A revised Statement of Licensing Policy for a further five years will be presented at full Council for approval following completion of the consultation exercise, and any amendments noted.

Discussion took place on the item as summarised below:

- Wording of the Policy changes
- Allergens and voluntary code
- Acknowledgments for public when their views have put forward for policy changes
- Tobacco licenses, vending machines in public establishments
- Taxi drivers and the regulations in regards to wearing seatbelts
- Smoking in Vehicles
- Gold/Silver/Bronze ratings
- Electrical car charging points
- Press release
- Reduction in taxi vehicle and drivers licenses.

In response to questions raised, the Public Protection Manager advised that:

- Clarified that the wording would be changed when the report goes for Consultation and Council.
- Businesses are signing up in relation to a voluntary code regarding allergens in food.
- The report to Full Council in March 2019 will provide details regarding the consultation process and acknowledge the consultees.
- The Public Protection Manager confirmed the sale of Tobacco is only to people of the age of 18 and over and vending machines are no longer available in public establishments.
- In relation to seatbelts, clarification was given to advice that Hackney Carriage Drivers are not legally bound to wear a seatbelt. Private Hire Drivers are also exempt when they have a passenger.
- Clarification was given in relation to the Law and Policy in relation to smoking in vehicles.
- Gold/Silver/Bronze ratings for taxi drivers are still being investigated and this is something being considered in the future.
- An electrical charging point will be placed on the Rossendale Borough Council carpark. In addition, the council has worked closely with five other authorities in the area and collectively have been granted £630,000 to implement charging points to support cleaner and greener taxis.
- All the good news stories and information regarding the policy changes and consultation have been sent through to the Council's Media team.
- The Public Protection Manager confirmed the reduction in numbers of the vehicle and drivers licences.

Resolved:

Members noted the contents of the update report.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed 7.15pm.

CHAIR: _____