

MINUTES OF LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON

8 September 2008

7.30pm – 8.23pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Nick Churchill (Chairman)

David Carter
Manny Doku
Muriel Jolles

Joel Charles
Tony Hall

Sarah-Jane Dangerfield
Maggie Hulcoop
Linda Pailing

APOLOGIES

Bob Davis
Lesley Rideout

David Kirton
Robert Thurston

36. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

37. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2008 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

38. **MATTERS ARISING**

(i) **Minute 5(a)**

The Committee was informed that a query had arisen as to whether the proposed amendment to the Schemes of Delegation under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 was in accordance with Standing Orders. The matter was under investigation and the Resolution might need to be modified before being referred to the Environment and Community Committee.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Chairman be informed, as a matter of urgency, of any proposed modification to the Resolution;

- (b) that, if the proposed modification alters the substance of the Resolution, the matter be referred back to the Licensing Committee for further consideration, prior to referral to the Environment and Community Committee.

39. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

40. **LICENSING COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Committee received a report which proposed that sub-committees be set up to deal with licensing hearings, instead of these matters being dealt with by the full Licensing Committee. These sub-committees would be in addition to those which were already in place to deal with hearings under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

The proposed sub-committees would consist of three members of the Licensing Committee and would deal with matters such as hackney carriage and private hire licensing and Highways Act licensing. The conduct of hearings by a sub-committee rather than the full Licensing Committee would be more efficient, easier to set up and less daunting for appellants.

RESOLVED that the proposals, as set out in the report, be agreed and referred to the Environment and Community Committee for adoption.

41. **SAFER HARLOW PARTNERSHIP DRUG AND ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY GROUP**

Members received a report which provided information on the Safer Harlow Partnership and the work of the Drug and Alcohol Enforcement Priority Group, which was one of a number of Priority Groups set up by the Partnership.

The Committee considered the draft objectives and Action Plan which the Priority Group had developed to tackle crime and disorder related to substance misuse and alcohol, and sought additional information on how specific issues would be dealt with and how results would be measured.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) the draft Action Plan be amended as follows:
In Action Area 2, point 4 – the addition of “and safely” after “quickly”;
- (c) the Committee receives six monthly updates on the progress of the Action Plan.

42. **QUALITY TAXI PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee considered a report which set out proposals for the establishment of a Quality Taxi Partnership in Harlow. Members noted the proposed aims and objective of the Partnership and the criteria which hackney carriage and private hire drivers and operators would need to meet in order to become members of the scheme.

Members were informed that the hackney carriage and private hire trades were generally supportive of the establishment of the Partnership and that the next stage would be the setting up of a Management Committee to run the scheme.

RESOLVED that

- (a) officers continue to work towards the establishment of a Quality Taxi Partnership in Harlow;
- (b) the draft Passenger Charter be amended to include a requirement that hackney carriage and private hire drivers do not smoke in their vehicles.

43. **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE CONSULTATION MEETINGS**

The Committee received the minutes of consultation meetings with the hackney carriage and private hire trades, which had taken place on 27 August 2008.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the minutes of the hackney carriage and private hire consultation meetings held on 27 August 2008 be noted.

44. **HIGHWAYS ACT LICENSING - PRESENTATION**

The Committee received a presentation on the licensing implications of the Highways Act 1980, relating to tables and chairs and advertising boards.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the presentation be noted;
- (b) the presentation be included in the Licensing section of the council's website.

45. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

46. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE