

## MINUTES OF LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON

13 July 2009

7.30pm-8.49pm

### PRESENT

### COUNCILLORS

Nick Churchill (Chairman)

Sarah Jane Dangerfield (Vice Chairman)

Lee Dangerfield

Mark Gough

Jean Clark

Tony Hall

Maggie Hulcoop

Andrew Johnson

Muriel Jolles

Linda Pailing

Russell Perrin

### APOLOGIES

Bob Davis

Eleanor Macy

John Strachan

Robert Thurston

#### 1. WELCOME

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed new members of the Committee. He reiterated his ongoing commitment to tackle underage drinking and proxy sales and the Committee gave its continued support for a zero-tolerance approach in respect of this matter.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 3. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Tony Hall's apologies for absence.

#### 4. MATTERS ARISING

None.

5. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

6. **COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PLAN**

The Committee received the forward work plan for 2009/10.

**RESOLVED** to note the forward work plan.

7. **MODIFICATION TO PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONDITIONS**

The Committee received a report providing information on additional conditions required for private hire vehicles to take into account the use of roof lights and other agreed identification signage.

In response to a question about the proposed start date of the 12 October 2009, Officers confirmed that it had been identified as a suitable date given that the next ordinary meeting of the Environment and Community Committee, which would be asked to formally adopt the recommendations, was not scheduled until 15 September 2009.

The Committee agreed that an earlier start date would be preferable and asked the Chairman of the Licensing Committee to make a formal request to the Chairman of the Environment and Community Committee to hold a special meeting to receive the recommendations as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED** that the Chairman of the Licensing Committee would make a formal request to the Chairman of the Environment and Community Committee to hold a special meeting, as soon as possible, to receive recommendations from the Licensing Committee.

**RECOMMENDED** to the Environment and Community Committee:

- (A) the proposed addition to the private hire vehicle licensing conditions, as set out in Appendix B;
- (B) the start date for vehicles licensed for the first time to be the 12 October 2009 (or an earlier suitable date following a special meeting of the Environment and Community Committee meeting, if arranged);

- (C) existing private hire drivers to be fitted with roof lights during the 12 month period following the special Environment and Community Committee meeting (if arranged) or the 12 October 2009 at the time of the private hire vehicle licence renewal.

*\* The meeting was adjourned between 7.40pm – 7:48pm due to a fire alarm test and the need for the Committee to evacuate the building.*

8. **LICENSING COMMITTEE – SUB COMMITTEES**

The Committee received a report proposing amendments to the procedure for arranging Licensing Sub Committees.

The Committee welcomed the proposals and agreed that paragraph 14 of the report should be amended to read “.....will get agreement with the three Members whether the start time is to be 7.30pm or at an earlier time”.

**RECOMMENDED** to the Environment and Community that, subject to the change outlined above, the proposals for the arrangement of Licensing Sub Committee meetings be adopted.

9. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

10. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

Licensing Committee Training

The Chairman permitted Officers to present a report on Licensing Committee training so that a decision could be taken and appropriate arrangements made without delay.

The Committee welcomed the proposals to provide on-line, self-guided training, however agreed that it would also be appropriate to provide two in-house workshops, one of which should be delivered by the external Barrister used by the Council for Licensing Sub Committee hearings.

**RESOLVED** that Licensing Committee training for 2009/10 be provided as detailed above.

11. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following agenda item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified under Paragraph 1 of Part One of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

12. **REPORT BACK ON SUB COMMITTEE DECISIONS 1 JANUARY 2009 – 30 JUNE 2009**

The Committee received a report on the outcome of Licensing Sub Committees held during the period 1 January 2009 to 30 June 2009.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE