

LICENSING COMMITTEE

13 July 2021

Present – Councillors Myers (Chairman), Harbron, Heseltine, Ireton, Jaquin, Madeley, Ogden and Whitaker.

Officers – Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer), Licensing Manager and Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Moorby, Mulligan and Solloway.

Start: 6.32pm

Finish: 7.12pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 6 April 2021 were confirmed subject to Councillor Ireton being recorded as present at that meeting.

The Chairman and the Committee welcomed Councillor Ogden to his first meeting.

Minutes for Report

LIC.241

Statutory Taxi Hire and Private Hire Vehicle Standards

The Licensing Manager submitted a report informing Members of the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards issued by the Department for Transport and seeking Members' approval of the action proposed in response to its recommendations. The Department for Transport expected those standards to be implemented by Licensing Authorities unless there were local compelling reasons not to do so.

Craven's Taxi Policy met most, but not all, of the Department for Transport's standards, and the Licensing Manager's report recommended that all the new standards were adopted and to achieve this, a period of public consultation would be required.

Resolved – (1) That, the contents of the report now submitted, are noted.

(2) That, the Private Hire Operator Licence Conditions as set out Appendix Q of the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy is agreed and that the Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) is authorised to carry out a public consultation and present responses received to this Committee for further consideration.

(3) That, the Council subscribes to the National Register of Taxi and Private Hire Licence Revocations and Refusals and that a further report be submitted to this Committee on the options available to pay for the annual subscription.

Minutes for Decision

LIC.242

Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

The Licensing Manager submitted a report presenting an amended Statement of Licensing Policy, following a six weeks' public consultation exercise. The Licensing Authority was required to

prepare and publish a statement of its Licensing Policy at least every five years. The current statement expired on 2nd August 2021.

Two responses as set out in the Licensing Manager's report were received and considered by officers and it was recommended that the proposals from North Yorkshire County Council were incorporated into the Licensing Policy.

No amendments were proposed in relation to the individual response regarding licensing and planning applications as these were two distinct separate regimes dealt with under different legislation and Council committees.

RECOMMENDED – That, Statement of Licensing Policy appended to the report now submitted, is approved.

LIC.243

Any Other Business

The Chairman referred to a report on the review of caravan park licence conditions which should have been considered at this meeting. Due to staff shortages, the report had not been completed as previously anticipated but the Committee was assured that the report would be presented to the October meeting. The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) was pleased to report that a new Licensing Solicitor had been appointed and she would be responsible for finalising the caravan park licence conditions report.

The Licensing Manager updated the Committee on two positive accounts from members of the public with regard to the help they received from taxi drivers. In addition, a recent night time taxi enforcement operation had been a success with only a few minor issues found.

Chairman.