

## **Licensing Committee**

**Tuesday, 2nd March, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor B Garner in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, R Downes, B Flynn,  
A Garthwaite, H Bithell, P Drinkwater,  
C Knight, A Hutchison, J Lennox,  
A Marshall-Katung, A Wenham, P Wray  
and L Richards

### **11 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents**

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

### **12 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** – That the report entitled “Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths” as referred to Minute No. 21 be designated as exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(1) Information relating to any individual and 10.4(7) Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **13 Late Items**

There were no late items of business identified.

### **14 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests made at the meeting.

### **15 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Latty.

### **16 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Members considered the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**RESOLVED** –The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, were accepted as a true and correct record.

### **17 Matter Arising from the Minutes**

There were no issues raised under Matters Arising.

## 18 Licensing Annual Report

The Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory presented the Licensing Annual Report for 2021.

The Principal Licensing Officer, Entertainment Licensing together with the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Manager presented the report.

The report covered the 2021 calendar year for both Entertainment and Taxi & Private Hire Licensing. Issues highlighted from the report included the following:

### Entertainment Licensing

- Coronavirus Pandemic
- Business Support
- Office Arrangements
- Licensing Processing
- Gambling Statistics
- Large Casino
- Sex Establishments
- Outdoor Large Events
- Enforcement and Liaison
- Future Projects

### Taxi and Private Hire Licensing

- Coronavirus Pandemic
- Communications
- Vehicle Emissions and Free Licensing Grant
- Enforcement and Compliance
- The year ahead

### Entertainment Licensing issues/ queries

Members noted the dramatic reduction in Temporary Events Notices and that complaint handling was also down from previous years, both of which were a direct result of Coronavirus restrictions. However staff had been redeployed to support other areas including the Shielding Helpline and Environmental Health Services.

Members queried if “place shaping” would feed into Cumulative Impact Reviews.

In responding the Principal Licensing Officer said that consideration would be given to all data.

### Taxi and Private Hire Licensing issues/queries:

Members were informed that the Coronavirus Pandemic had impacted significantly on the Taxi and Private Licensing Service: 75% of taxi and private hire licensing staff were working from home, there had been a significant reduction in the number of taxi

journeys across the city and in excess of 700 taxi and private hire drivers were on furlough.

Members queried what kind of support was being provided to drivers and operators.

The Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Manager said a lot more of the services were now available on-line, some policies were being relaxed (the fitting of temporary driver's screens) with others becoming automated: driver renewals and vehicle MOT certificates. Members were informed that the trade had also adapted well to the on-line service, but some licence holders approximately 10% required more assistance.

Referring to the fitting of the temporary driver's screens, Members queried if removal of the screens would be sought once the social distancing restrictions were lifted.

In responding the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Manager said the screens would be checked at the next vehicle inspection, if they met the required standards they could be retained, if not they would be removed.

Members noted the proposed introduction of Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in Leeds was now not progressing, in the discussion that followed Members queried if the grant scheme for the purchase of low emission and low pollution vehicles was still going ahead.

The Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Manager confirmed the Council was offering support to taxi and private hire licence holders of low emission vehicles (ULEV) and vehicles which would have been exempt from the Clean Air Zone (CAZ). Details were still been finalised and would be circulated to Licensing Members as soon as they became available.

The Chair thanked officers for their attendance and contributions

## **RESOLVED –**

- (i) That the Annual Report 2019 be noted.
- (ii) That details of the support scheme for Taxi and Private Hire Licence holders of low emission vehicles be circulated to Members as soon as it becomes available

## **19 Review of the Gambling Act 2005 - Call for Evidence - Draft Response**

With reference to the last meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 when Members requested the Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory to prepare a draft response to the Call for Evidence, which would then be circulated to Members to allow an opportunity to comment/ provide feedback on the Call for Evidence.

The Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory submitted a report confirming that in accordance with the Committees instructions, Officers' from Entertainment Licensing, Financial Inclusion and Public Health had produced a draft response which had subsequently been distributed to Licensing Committee Members for

comment. The proposed response was included at Appendix A of the submitted report.

Members welcomed the thoroughness of the information provided in the draft response.

**RESOLVED** – That the draft response be endorsed as the City Council response to the Call for Evidence.

## **20 Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy Review**

The Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory submitted a report which informed Members of the requirement to undertake a three yearly review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy and to consult upon any changes.

Addressing the report the Principal Licensing Officer explained that the current policy was adopted by Council in November 2018 and would expire on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Members noted that approval of the policy was a matter for full Council, the approval process follows the Budgetary and Policy Framework and is set out in Section 3.2 of the submitted report.

Members were informed that Officers from Entertainment Licensing would work with Public Health and the council's Financial Inclusion Team to review the policy and to reflect findings from local research and surveys undertaken by both directorates. Members noted that the Licensing Committee would also be provided with an opportunity to participate in the Policy Review.

In the discussion that followed Members were of the view that providing feedback by email was the preferred method for participation.

**RESOLVED** – To note that a further report would be brought back to this Committee in May 2021

## **21 Licensing Act 2003 - Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths**

The Chief Officer Elections and Regulatory submitted a report which notified Members of the serving of a Regulation 28 Report on Leeds City Council, as the licensing authority for Leeds Festival, following the death of a teenager at the 2019 event.

Members noted that an Inquest was held at Wakefield Coroner's Court, which concluded on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The Senior Coroner, after hearing the circumstances of the death had set out his concerns in a Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths.

Members were informed that a working group has been established to consider the contents of the report. The Working Group included Members of the Licensing Committee with contributions from representatives of Leeds Safety Advisory Group, Safer Leeds, West Yorkshire Police, Health & Safety, Public Health, Yorkshire

Ambulance Service, Childrens & Families, Legal Services and Entertainment Licensing.

It was reported the first meeting of the Working Group took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 when it was agreed to ask the Senior Coroner for an extension to the original deadline of the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021, to allow for further information to be gathered and presented, including from the organisers of the event.

Officers reported that it had subsequently been confirmed that an extension for the response to be provided had been granted until the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

The second meeting of the working group took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020, representatives from Festival Republic (the event organiser) were in attendance at this meeting.

At this point the meeting agreed to move into closed session to receive an update on the discussions held at the Working Group on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

(The meeting returned to open session)

**RESOLVED** – That a further report be brought back to the next meeting of this Committee on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

## **22 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

**RESOLVED** - That the next meeting of the Committee be arranged for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 10.00am (Remote Meeting – Zoom)