

Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 6th March, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor B Selby in the Chair

Councillors R Downes, J Dunn, B Flynn,
B Gettings, M Harland, G Hyde,
G Wilkinson, A Garthwaite and J Pryor

86 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

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

87 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

Policing and the Night Time Economy – The report and supplementary information (See Minute No. 88 below) were deemed exempt from publication in accordance with Access to Information Rule 10.4 (3) as they included information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. In those circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information. (Minute No. 94 refers)

88 Late Items

Although there were no formal late items of business the Chair did accept the inclusion of Supplementary Information in respect of Item No. 9 "Policing and the Night Time Economy". The information was not available at the time of the agenda publication and it was considered that the information now submitted would provide more in depth details of the item to be considered (Minute No.94 refers)

89 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests made at the meeting.

90 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: N Buckley, A Khan, C Townsley and K Groves.

91 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 3rd April, 2018

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th January 2018 were submitted for accuracy and approval.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th January 2018 were accepted as a true and correct record.

92 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no issues raised under matters arising.

93 Licensing Annual Report 2017

The Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration submitted the Licensing Annual Report 2017 which provided a summary of the work undertaken in 2017 by Entertainment Licensing and Taxi and Private Hire Licensing.

The report provided information and statistics on the type and number of licensing applications processed by Entertainment Licensing and the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Sections. The report also set out details of enforcement activity and liaison work undertaken by both sections.

Appended to the report was a copy of the Licensing Annual Report 2017 (Appendix 1)

The Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration presented the report and responded to Members questions and queries.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report which included:

Entertainment Licensing

- Evening and Night time Economy
- Strategy and Policy
- Proactive work
- Reactive work
- Licensing Act Application Statistics
- Gambling Statistics
- Large Casino
- Sex Establishments
- Outdoor Events

Taxi and Private Hire Licensing

- Enforcement
- Safeguarding
- Service Improvement
- Licensing Statistics
- Decisions

- Refusals and Revocations
- Suspensions
- Complaints

It was noted there were 109 applicants and drivers from the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade who had yet to receive the compulsory safeguarding training (the vast majority of the 109 were applicants, not existing drivers). Members queried what actions were being taken to ensure all driver received the necessary training.

In responding the Section Head, Taxi and Private Hire Licensing said existing drivers would be invited to attend a training session on 3 different occasions, failure to attend may result in the suspension of their driver licence.

A number of Members expressed the view that three chances to attend a training session before a suspension letter was issued appeared to be too lenient on the part of the Council.

The Section Head, Taxi and Private Hire Licensing said failure to attend a training session may be because the applicants contact details were not up to date and care had to be taken because drivers have the right to appeal against the suspension of their licence. It should also be noted that approximately 70 new driver licence applications are received each month.

Reference was made to late night taxi and private hire journeys and the issue of customers being overcharged. Members queried which category of driver this mainly applied to.

In responding the Section Head, Taxi and Private Hire Licensing said predominantly it was Private Hire Drivers where such allegations were made but recently new tariffs had been introduced which may cause confusion to customers.

Members took the view that it was important that drivers confirmed the approximate fare before beginning the journey.

Referring to Taxi and Private Hire Licensing complaints Members queried the increase in Driver Conduct complaints rising from 92 in 2016 to 136 in 2017 and sought more clarity.

The Section Head, Taxi and Private Hire Licensing said that Driver Conduct covered a large range of issues including: Poor language skills, failing to comply with operator conditions, lack of stickers, parking complaints, radio should be switched off once the journey had begun and poor customer care. It was suggested that given the large number of journeys undertaken each year it was inevitable some complaints would be received.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the contents of the Licensing Annual Report 2017 be noted

- (ii) To note that the report will be considered by full Council on 28th March 2018

94 Licensing Committee Work Programme

Members considered the contents of the Licensing Committee Work Programme.

It was noted that currently that were no items listed for the meeting scheduled for 3rd April 2018.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Licensing Committee Work Programme for 2018 be approved

95 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 10.00am in the Civic Hall, Leeds.

Closed Session

(At this point on the agenda, the meeting went into closed session)

96 Policing and the Night Time Economy

Members received a Presentation from Sergeant Martin Mynard and PC Cath Arkle, West Yorkshire Police, who spoke about Policing and the night time economy.

A summary of the issues/ incidents involving licensed premises principally in City Centre was presented.

(Due to the confidential nature of the information being presented, this part of the meeting was held in closed session)

The Chair thanked Sergeant Mynard and PC Arkle for their attendance and presentation commenting that the session had been informative and interesting.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the contents of the presentation be noted
- (ii) That a further presentation on policing and the night time economy be scheduled for September 2018.

97 Chair's Closing Remarks

The Chair said that given the fact that there were currently no items of business scheduled for the 3rd April meeting, today's meeting may be the final one of this current Membership. Councillor Selby said he'd Chaired Licensing Committee for the

past two years and he had enjoyed and valued the support of both Members and officers.

Members joined the Chair in expressing their best wishes to those Members standing down and every success to those Members seeking re-election in the forthcoming Municipal Elections.