

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 5 October 2006

(7.30 pm - 9.15 pm)

Present:- Councillors Kendall (Chairman), Adams, Baily, Beadsley, Browne, Finch, Leake, Mihell, Osborne, Sargeant and Thompson

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Piasecki and Mrs Ryder.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 6 July 2006 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The Chairman gave notice that, pursuant to Section 100B of the Local Government Act 1972, he had agreed to the addition of two items of urgent business to the agenda for the meeting, in respect of the Health and Safety Law Enforcement Plan 2006/2007 and the Age of Licensed Drivers. The Council was required to produce an annual Health & Safety report and for it to be presented to Councillors, and the Age Discrimination Regulations 2006 that came into effect on 1 October 2006 provided for legal action where it was shown that a person had been discriminated against due to age in their employment or application for employment. The Chairman considered that both matters warranted urgent consideration.

17. HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN 2006-07 (URGENT ITEM)

The Committee considered a report from the Assistant Director of Environment and Leisure. The Committee was advised that the Council was required to produce an annual Health and Safety Law Enforcement Plan to meet statutory requirements, and the key priorities were highlighted.

RESOLVED that

- i) the Health and Safety Law Enforcement Plan for 2006-07 be adopted; and
- ii) the changed focus to topic inspections, project working and the option of alternative intervention strategies for low-risk businesses to ensure that resources were allocated to areas of greatest risk/impact be noted; and
- iii) the portfolio of Joint Working with the Health and Safety Executive designed to ease the burden on business in the Borough and to meet the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) targets to improve health and safety by 2010 be noted.

18. AGE OF LICENSED DRIVER (URGENT ITEM)

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environment and Leisure regarding whether a change should be made to the condition which placed restrictions on the age of a person who could hold a licence to drive a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle.

During discussion, the Committee raised concerns that, as it stood, recommendation 2.1 i) would remove both lower and upper age limits as a licensed condition. It was felt that, as the intention was to just remove the upper age limit, this recommendation should be amended to reflect this.

RESOLVED that

- i) the upper age restrictions should be removed as a licence condition; and
- ii) officers should prepare a report for the next Committee meeting that would set out competency standards for licensed drivers; and
- iii) proposals for checking those competencies should be part of the licensing process.

19. DRAFT STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environment and Leisure. A draft of this report had been presented to the previous meeting. Comments received since then had been incorporated into the consultation document. It was recommended that the report should be put to Full Council on 29 November, as it needed to be published by 31 January 2007.

During discussion, the Committee raised a number of minor alterations to the Statement of Gambling Principles which were noted. Members requested that these changes should be made before the Statement was published.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Chairman of the Licensing and Safety Committee be granted delegated authority to approve further changes prior to the amended draft Statement of Gambling Principles being put forward to Full Council on 29 November 2006 for approval; and
- (ii) the statement be checked by Counsel prior to adoption by Full Council; and
- (iii) the final version of the report be circulated to all members of the Licensing and Safety Committee.

20. HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environment and Leisure, which had been presented at the last meeting. It was noted that there had not been any objections or representations made to the advertised tariff charges.

RESOLVED that the Hackney Carriage Fares report be noted.

CHAIRMAN