

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
9 OCTOBER 2014
7.30 - 8.10 PM



Present:

Councillors Thompson (Chairman), Leake (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Baily, Brossard, Brunel-Walker, Davison, Finch, Finnie, Gbadebo, Porter, Mrs Pile and Mrs Temperton

Apologies for Absence were received from:

Councillor Mrs Barnard

17. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 12 June 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising:

Minute 8, Taxi Ranks Yorktown Road, Sandhurst:

Members reported that the signs at the taxi rank on Yorktown Road had not been removed. Officers agreed to look into this.

Minute 9, Authorised Garages for Testing of Licensed Vehicles

It was reported that eight firms had submitted completed questionnaires with a view to becoming authorised garages. An analysis of the responses would be completed shortly.

Minute 16, Licensing Panel Minutes:

It was reported that the appeal lodged by McDonalds would be heard on 10 November 2014.

19. Urgent Items of Business

There were no urgent items of business.

20. Notice of Public Speaking

It was noted that no members of the public had registered to speak at the meeting.

21. Fees and Charges

The Committee considered a report that set out the current and proposed fees for Licensing matters for 2015-16. Members noted that some charges had not increased

as the cost of administering these matters for the Council had remained unchanged. It was also noted that fees for scrap metal dealers had only recently been introduced.

It was **RESOLVED** that;

- i) except for the hackney carriage vehicle and private hire operator vehicle licence fees, that the Committee recommended to the Executive that the new fees and charges detailed in Annex A of the agenda papers be put forward for public consultation.
- ii) the Committee agreed that the proposed charges for operators and vehicle licence fees were:
 - a) advertised;
 - b) if no objections were received, implemented for any licences commencing from 1 April 2015; or
 - c) if objections were received that they be considered by the Committee at the meeting on 8 January 2015.

22. Annual Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Guidance Notes

The Committee considered a report that sought approval to go out to consultation on amendments and additions to the Council's Guidance Notes and Conditions for Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Vehicle Owners, Operators and Drivers.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee;

- i) approved the amendments and additions to the Guidance Notes and Conditions document as set out in Annex A of the agenda papers for consultation and
- ii) required officers to bring back a report to the next meeting on the results of that consultation.

23. Park Homes Licence Fee

The Committee considered a report that proposed the approval of fees applicable to the Licensing of Caravan Sites within Bracknell Forest which took due account of the consultation undertaken.

In response to Members concerns around the low response to the consultation, officers reported that they had spoken directly with residents, notices had been displayed at caravan sites and all site owners had been written to. The consultation was also available on the Bracknell Forest website portal. It seemed that most residents were aware of the changes being proposed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Committee approved the fees, reasoning and methodology as set out in Annex A of the agenda papers and that implementation of these new fees would be from 10 October 2014, with the exception of the Annual Fee which would come into effect on 1 April 2015.

24. Street Trading Policy: Request to Establish a Working Group

The Committee considered a report that proposed that a small sub-group of two or three committee members be established to work with officers to review current practice and consider whether any revisions were necessary to street trading policy in

Bracknell Forest. If any revisions were proposed, these would be submitted to the Committee for approval.

It was **RESOLVED** that a small sub-group be established to consider existing custom and practice with a view to producing an updated Policy for consideration by the Committee. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be responsible for establishing the membership of this sub-group. Early expressions of interest were received from the following Members: Councillors Allen, Brunel-Walker, Gbadebo, Porter, Finch, Finnie, Leake and Thompson.

25. **Hackney Carriage Surcharge Update**

The Committee noted the information report.

26. **Air Quality Feedback from DEFRA**

The Committee noted that Downshire Way continued to be recognised as an area that needed to be kept under review in terms of air quality. Officers reported that there was currently a programme in place to improve traffic flow around the borough, this was a two year programme and it was anticipated that it would positively impact the air quality around Downshire Way.

27. **Licensing Panel Hearings**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Licensing Panel held on 6 August 2014.

CHAIRMAN