

General Licensing Committee

A meeting of General Licensing Committee was held on Tuesday, 12th January, 2021.

Present: Cllr Paul Kirton(Chairman), Cllr Eileen Johnson(Vice-Chair), Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Julia Whitehill, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE

Officers: Peter Bell , Christine Bostock, Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Sarah Whaley (MD); Jonathan Nertney (HR, L&C).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Tina Large

GLC 5/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

GLC 6/20 Draft Minutes from the meeting which was held 8th September 2020

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the General Licensing Committee meeting which was held on 8th September 2020.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

GLC 7/20 REVIEW OF SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENSING POLICY

Members were asked to consider the Review of Sex Establishment Licensing Policy. The report updated Members on comments received on the proposal to readopt the current Sex Establishment Licensing Policy.

Since the adoption of the original policy in April 2011, no applications for a Sex Establishment Licence had been received by the Authority and no issues or concerns had been raised. There had been no changes to legislation or to the Home Office guidance which was issued in 2010.

As a result, it was proposed that the current policy remained relatively unchanged except for the proposed changes contained within the Officers report at Appendix 1.

The proposal to readopt the policy had been distributed to all Members and Responsible Authorities under the Licensing Act, namely Cleveland Police, Childrens Services, Environmental Health, Cleveland Fire Service Public Health and Planning.

Comments and additional information were detailed in Appendix 2 of the Officers report.

The adoption of a policy for Sex Establishments was not statutory but allowed the Council to outline its views for applicants about issues such as the suitability of applicants, the number of establishments and where they could be located. In determining applications Members and Officers would have due regard to the

Policy whilst considering each application on its merits. It was proposed that the review period should be every 5 years for this Policy.

The revised Policy would be considered by Cabinet on the 25 February 2021 and then Council on the 24 March 2021, with a final implementation date likely to be 1 April 2021.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Members note the content of the Officers report.
- 2) Members agree to recommend to Council that the current Sex Establishment Licensing policy is readopted with the proposed changes as detailed within the Officers report and appendices.

**GLC
8/20**

PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

Members were presented with a report which updated Members on a recent private hire and hackney carriage policy consultation regarding the implementation of the Department for Transport's statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards.

The current private hire & hackney carriage licensing policy was approved in 2016 and amended in 2018 and again in 2019.

In July 2020 the Department for Transport published the 'Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards', which it recommended all Local Authorities adopt.

The current licensed transport policy already included some of these statutory standards, and in this policy review it was proposed all the Department for Transport's standards were adopted in full.

A 31-day period of consultation was undertaken giving all stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. The public consultation survey was available online and links were directly sent to all licensees via the Trade Times. The link was also emailed to private hire operators and Stockton Hackney Carriage Drivers Association (SHCDA).

Other local authorities, responsible authorities including the Police and all Council Members were sent the link via email on the 7 December 2020 and given an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.

Details of the policy review and how to make comments was also advertised to the public. The consultation had now closed, there were 13 responses.

A summary of the consultation and any further licensing committee comments would be considered by Cabinet on 25 February 2021 and full Council on 24 March 2021. Following approval any changes agreed would come in to effect on 1 April 2021.

The trade would be informed of the new policy via email and via private hire

operators and the SHCDA. Changes would also be publicised on the trade Facebook page and via the Council website. In addition, the policy changes would be added to future trade meeting agendas.

RESOLVED that;

1) Members note the content of the Officer report.

2) Members agree to recommend to Council that the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy be adopted to come into effect on 1 April 2021.

**GLC
9/20** **Exclusion of the Public**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**GLC
10/20** **Private Hire Driver Application – 000913**

Members were asked to determine a Private Hire Driver Application from Applicant - 000913 who had a previous licence with this Authority revoked by the Committee.

Members were informed that Applicant- 000913 was unable to attend the Committee meeting as he was currently out of the country and due to the current pandemic was having difficulty returning to the UK.

The Committee agreed to defer the item to a future meeting of the 'General Licensing Committee'.

RESOLVED that the item be deferred to a future meeting of the 'General Licensing Committee'.