



Minutes

Name of meeting	LICENSING COMMITTEE
Date and time	MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2015
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Julie Jones-Evans (Chairman), Jonathan Bacon, Reg Barry, Ray Bloomfield, David Eccles, John Hobart, Richard Hollis, Colin Richards
Also Present (non-voting)	Cllr Paul Fuller
Officers Present	Kayleigh Bowers, Amanda Gregory, Justin Thorne, Kevin Winchcombe
Apologies	Cllrs John Howe, Daryll Pitcher

13. [Minutes](#)

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [16 February 2015](#) be confirmed.

14. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations received at this stage.

15. **Reports of the Chief Executive**

(a) [Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy](#)

The Committee was advised that the policy had been updated to include changes to taxi licensing introduced by the Deregulation Act 2015. This required that all drivers' licences be issued for a period of three years and all private hire operators' licences be issued for a period of five years, unless suitable cases were provided by the applicants as to why a shorter period would be more appropriate.

The revised policy also included a proposal in which all drivers be required to undertake safeguarding training before a licence would be issued as part of the council's assessment of whether a person be fit

and proper to hold a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire (HC/PH) licence. To ensure consistency, existing licenced drivers would undertake this training within six months of any amendments being approved.

Members were advised that the training would be available online and would take approximately an hour and a half to two hours to complete. This would be completed in the applicant's own time at no cost to the Council.

A question was raised around whether there would be an option to complete the training in parts rather than as a whole. This would be looked into.

Clarification was sought on the wording of the recommendation with regard to the use of the term 'consider', as members felt it unnecessary for the policy to be considered for a second time. It was agreed that the recommendation be amended to read as follows:

To approve the draft revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and to recommend its adoption by the Executive with an effective date of 1 April 2016.

Members questioned the approach to convictions and how they affected the process and potential for a HC/PH licence to be granted. It was noted that the council utilised their Convictions Policy in relation to this matter and an example was provided for clarification.

Members sought clarification on the requirement for the colour of taxis as two different options for HC/PH taxis were referenced. The Committee was advised that the body of all hackney carriages was required to be silver to ensure uniformity. However, private hire taxis were not required to be silver in colour.

RESOLVED :

THAT the draft revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be approved.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE EXECUTIVE :

THAT the draft revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be adopted with an effective date of 1 April 2016.

- (b) [To Consider the Revised Policy Statement of Principles Under Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 and Recommend it for Adoption by Full Council](#)

The Committee was advised that every three years, a licensing authority was required to renew its policy with regard to the exercise of its licensing functions and to publish a statement of the principles it proposed to apply. The policy was the primary document for specifying

the council's approach for the regulation of local gambling establishments, to ensure that gambling would only be permitted in a safe and responsible manner. As the policy was due to expire in January 2016, it had been revised to include an improved layout and additional information. Members were advised that the policy was still out to consultation and this was due to expire on 28 December 2015. No comments had been received thus far, but any comments received prior to the expiry date would be forwarded to members and included in the final report to Full Council in January 2016.

With regard to applications for lottery registrations, members questioned whether members of the public were aware of the requirement to register and whether there was any publicity in connection with this. Members were advised that the requirement to register was promoted through the Council's website. Due to the number of applications received, the Licensing Authority was satisfied that there was sufficient awareness.

Members raised concerns relating to whether winning odds were displayed on all slot machines in order to promote safe and responsible gambling. It was noted that it was a requirement for the actual percentage of pay out to be detailed on each slot machine and this was monitored through regular checks.

With regard to the geographical information provided, members questioned the reference to Yarmouth as a major town as its population was significantly smaller than other areas listed. Members were advised that this would be updated.

As the Committee was requested to approve the revised Policy Statement of Licensing Principles in draft form, concerns were raised regarding whether a final version would need to be considered by the Committee for a second time prior to its consideration by Full Council. It was noted that although it was felt appropriate for the Committee to view the draft Policy Statement of Licensing Principles, there was no legal requirement for any version to be considered by the Committee. In light of the consultation, any comments received would be assessed and if any major changes were required, this would be addressed appropriately.

RESOLVED :

THAT the draft revised Policy Statement of Licensing Principles be approved, subject to the removal of the reference to Yarmouth as a major town.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL :

THAT the revised Policy Statement of Licensing Principles be adopted by Full Council.

CHAIRMAN