

# LICENSING COMMITTEE (REGULATORY)

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee (Regulatory) held on Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 10.00 am

**Committee** Cllr P Bütikofer (Chairman)

**Members Present:**

Cllr T Adams

Cllr P Fisher

Cllr N Lloyd

Cllr E Spagnola

Cllr N Housden

Cllr G Mancini-Boyle

**Officers in Attendance:** Assistant Director for Environmental and Leisure Services (ADP)  
Licensing Enforcement  
Democratic Services Officer – Regulatory

## 1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Birch, Cllr H Blathwayt, Cllr C Cushing, Cllr P Grove-Jones, Cllr J Rest, Cllr E Vardy and Cllr A Yiasimi.

## 2 MINUTES

The minutes of the former Licensing & Appeals Committee meeting held 17th May 2022, the former Licensing Sub- Committee meeting held 26th May 2022, as well as the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee (Regulatory) held 27th June 2022, 18th July 2022, 27th September 2022 & 23rd November 2022 were approved as a correct record.

## 3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

## 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

## 5 PUBLIC PROTECTION - LICENSING UPDATE

The Assistant Director for Environmental and Leisure Services (ADP) introduced the officer's report and provided a brief summary for changes within the team including management.

### Animal Licensing

She confirmed the animal licensing regime contributed to a significant proportion of the team's work, details of which were contained within the officer's report. The ADP affirmed the Council had an ongoing Court Case against a resident for the housing of a dangerous wild animal, a serval cat, without a license, and the selling of those cats without the appropriate license. Sentencing was expected in June.

### Taxi Licensing

The ADP noted the significant increase in taxi applications following the relocation of

operations for one operator to the district. This had placed an increased demand on resources within the team. She advised that the taxi trade had approached the Council in the last year for a fare review, work be ongoing within the next year surrounding a fare review.

Officers were working on the delivery of knowledge tests for taxi drivers to improve the proficiency of the local service.

#### Caravan Licensing

A temporary post was currently held for the consideration of caravan licenses, this had provided the team the resource to better focus on caravan licenses with a particular interest on those sites on cliff edges which were at risk. The ADP stated that site visits had been undertaken and conversations were ongoing with site owners regarding issues. She confirmed this had been valuable work for the safety of users of caravan sites.

#### Sex establishment licensing

The ADP confirmed investigations previously reported to members had been completed and resolved with no further investigation required.

#### Street Trading

Officers were in the process of drafting a new street trading policy, this had been presented to business planning within the last 2 months. The new policy sought to establish seasonable of event-based licensing. The ADP advised the next step would be initiate a consultation, and to work with Town and Parish Councils and other key stakeholders with an interest in Street Trading.

#### Members debate

The Chairman expressed his and the Committees thank for officers continued hard work.

Cllr N Housden referred to piercing licenses detailed in the officer's report which had been identified as a high-risk activity. He asked what work was ongoing with government around this area.

The ADP advised the Council were a member of the chartered institute for environmental health who were lobbying central government regarding the change of regime for skin piercing, particularly demo-fillers and Botox which was highly unregulated.

Cllr P Fisher asked if the taxi license form, question 8, could be re-formatted to avoid the inclusion of additional sheets. This, he argued, would minimise the potential for missing documentation and provide greater clarity for the relevant sub-committee panel.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer agreed to these changes.

Cllr N Housden noted on a recent Licensing Sub-Committee in which the applicant had gone through stringent DBS checks for fostering. He asked if it could be ensured all DBS checks could be provided to Sub-Committees.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer advised that Applicants were asked to supply documentation as part of the application process. New filtering rules, implemented in 2020, would result in some offences being filtered out.

Cllr N Housden stressed the importance of sub-committee's report containing greater information about the applicant, to help inform decision making. He stated it was not a criticism of officers but felt that historic information on applicants including whether they had been through enhanced DBS checks (including fostering) was relevant and pertinent information.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer confirmed that within current policy's all new applications with relevant disclosures must be referred to sub-committee for decision making. She advised that in future, interviews with applicants could provide greater insight into the applicants' background.

Cllr P Fisher reflected that an update to the Street Trading Policy was long overdue. He commented that it was important to consider trading on the curtilage of businesses.

The ADP confirmed the consent and prohibited streets would be considered as part of the consultation process.

Cllr E Spagnola expressed her support for the caravan licensing post, and asked if efforts were being made to lobby government to support occupiers of caravan users.

The ADP agreed that licensing matters around caravans presented difficulties because of the current legal regime.

Cllr N Pearce asked if anything could be done to ensure scrap metal dealers left sites in a reasonable condition to minimise ground pollution.

The ADP advised land condition was a matter for the environmental protection team, if the dealer had vacated the site this would not be a licensing matter.

Cllr N Housden asked 'a fit and proper person' assessment related to caravan site owners, and how this would be treated.

The ADP confirmed it did. The Licensing Enforcement Officer outlined the procedure for 'fit and proper person'.

The meeting ended at 10.27 am.

---

Chairman