

## LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee held at 10.00 am on 11 September 2017 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer.

### Members Present:

Mrs A Claussen-Reynolds  
Mrs H Cox (Chairman)  
Mrs P Grove-Jones  
Mrs M Millership

Mr P Moore  
Mr R Reynolds  
Mr B Smith  
Mrs V Uprichard

Mr R Price (observing)

### Officers in attendance:

Public Protection Manager, Legal Advisor and Committee Officer  
(Regulatory)

#### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Dr P Butikofer, Mr N Coppack, Mr S Hester, Mr P Rice and Mr S Shaw sent apologies.

#### 2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

#### 3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 15 May 2017 and Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committees held on 15 May and 12 June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

#### 5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

#### 6 REPORT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION WORKLOAD

The Public Protection Manager presented a report relating to the workload of the Public Protection Team. The report gave information on the current licences issued by the team and total numbers held, licences processed each year, visits undertaken and the number of service requests and complaints investigated, including totals to date for the 2017 calendar year.

The Public Protection Manager gave further clarification of licence types and workload in response to Members' questions.

The Chairman stated that the team was busy. There were few complaints about premises and she considered that the work which had been done was very good.

The Committee discussed the food hygiene rating scheme "Scores on the Doors". The Public Protection Manager explained that this was a matter within the remit of the Commercial Team and not a licensing issue.

The Chairman stated that it was obligatory to display food hygiene ratings in Wales and Scotland but not in England. She considered that all food premises should be required to display their ratings.

The Legal Advisor confirmed there was no legal requirement in England to display food hygiene ratings. However, it was likely that the Government would consider making it compulsory to do so. She stated that a low score often resulted in prosecution and there were other actions which could be taken to stop those businesses continuing to trade.

The Public Protection Manager stated that over 90% of food premises in North Norfolk had a food hygiene rating of satisfactory or above. Very few premises fell short of the required standard and these were either served with an improvement notice or prosecuted.

The Committee agreed to refer this issue to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Health to consider what could be done to ensure that food premises in North Norfolk display "Scores on the Doors" and put pressure on the Government to make the display of food hygiene ratings compulsory in England.

The Committee noted the report.

### **30 UPDATE ON GENERAL LICENSING ISSUES**

The Public Protection Manager updated the Committee on the following matters:

#### Fees and Charges

Benchmarking was being carried out with other authorities and a report would be submitted to the November meeting of the Committee.

#### Current Cases

A number of cases were currently under investigation.

Successful mediation had recently taken place with regard to a premises licence. Mediation was a useful way of dealing with issues where no objection had been raised by statutory consultees but local residents had raised concerns.

#### Taxi Licensing – Equality Act 2010

Consideration was being given to producing a designated list of wheelchair accessible vehicles under the Equality Act.

#### Taxi Licensing – Medical Reports

The British Medical Association had written to the Local Government Association expressing concern that GPs were being asked to provide an opinion about the level

of fitness of a driver when they should only be asked to provide evidence. The Public Protection Manager had not yet seen the response of the LGA.

### Training

The Chairman, Corporate Director (SB) and Public Protection Manager would be attending the Institute of Licensing National Training Conference in November 2017.

Four Councillors had attended Member training at East Cambridgeshire Council on 14 September. The Public Protection Manager would keep the Committee informed about possible training, which could be offered at NNDC if necessary.

Training for new Members of the Committee had been arranged.

## **31 UPDATE ON TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

### Taxi Policy & Handbook

The draft revised Taxi Policy and Handbook would be available to Members of the Task and Finish Group following the meeting and the Public Protection Manager would set up a meeting to discuss it.

It was agreed to reappoint Councillor R Reynolds to the Task and Finish Group.

### Street Collections

Councillor Mrs P Grove-Jones was pleased that the number of street collections had dropped. Most people who were collecting for charity were obeying the rules.

The meeting closed at 10.50 am.

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Chairman