



Licensing Committee

Minutes - 18 June 2014

Attendance

Members of the Licensing Committee

Cllr Bishan Dass (Chair)
Cllr Alan Bolshaw (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Ian Claymore
Cllr Craig Collingswood
Cllr Harman Banger
Cllr Mark Evans
Cllr Milkinderpal Jaspal
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr Paul Singh

Employees

Linda Banbury	Democratic Support Officer
Andy Jervis	Head of Regulatory Services
Colin Parr	Licensing Manager
Elaine Moreton	Section Leader - Licensing
Robert Marshall	Solicitor
Jacky Bramley	Legal Executive/Assistant

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

1. **Apologies for absence**
An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Patricia Patten.
2. **Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of previous meetings**
Resolved:

(a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2014 be approved as a correct record.

(b) That the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 26 March, 2, 16 and 30 April be approved as a correct record and adopted.

4. **Matters arising**

Pursuant to minute 4 of the meeting of the Committee on 26 March 2014, Colin Parr referred to incidents in the city centre over the last year caused by tensions between hackney carriage drivers. These incidents had led to three revocations of licences and subsequent appeals to the magistrates' court. Two appeals had been deferred, one suspension appeal dismissed and a further appeal hearing was pending. The Licensing Sub-Committee had revoked and refused to renew a private hire vehicle operator's licence; the subsequent appeal had been dismissed in the Magistrates' Court and was due to be heard in the Crown Court. He further reported that issues of driver conduct had been discussed at the hackney carriage and private hire working groups.

Pursuant to minute 8 of the meeting of the Committee on 26 March 2014, Colin Parr advised that feedback from the police indicated that licensees in the City Centre had promoted responsible working practices during the relaxation of the of licensing hours agreed for the period of the FIFA World Cup 2014.

5. **Schedule of outstanding minutes**

A report was submitted, which detailed outstanding items for consideration by the Committee. Linda Banbury advised that item 5 (Scrap metal Dealers Act) should be withdrawn as the progress report had been considered at the previous meeting.

Resolved:

That the report be received.

6. **Review of decision making 2014/15**

Colin Parr presented a report, which sought endorsement and approval of a proposed decision making process and delegations in relation to category 2 and 3 decision making to the Strategic Director for Education and Enterprise. He referred to the decision tracking report, providing a summary of issues considered by the Licensing Committee during the 2012/13 municipal year which was presented in May 2013 and advised that a similar report would be produced for the 2013/14 municipal year.

Resolved:

(a) That the proposed decision making process and proposed delegations in relation to category 2 and 3 decision making powers to the Strategic Director for Education and Enterprise be endorsed and approved.

(b) That annual delegation update reports be presented at the beginning of each municipal year.

7. **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle testing at VOSA registered garages**

Elaine Moreton presented a report, which informed the Committee of the impact of the twelve month pilot scheme relating to the testing arrangements for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles at Council approved VOSA registered garages. The report sought approval to making the pilot scheme permanent and extension of the approval fee for existing garages until 31 March 2015. It was noted that VOSA's

compliance and enforcement division was responsible for carrying out any checks on the garages and would inform Licensing should the Green status of any of the establishments come into question.

Resolved:

- (a) That the twelve month pilot scheme relating to testing arrangements for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles at VOSA registered garages, adopted by the Licensing Committee on 17 April 2013, be made permanent.
- (b) That payment of an approval fee to the Council for the existing garages registered be extended until 31 March 2015 and included in the 2015/16 fees and charges report.
- (c) That the list of Council approved MOT testing stations for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles be emailed to the Licensing Committee members.

8. **City centre street trading designation of licensed streets**

Colin Parr presented a report, which sought approval to commence the statutory process to designate the streets within the ring road of the city centre as licensed streets rather than consented streets for the purpose of street trading. A further report would be presented at the end of the 28 day consultation period requesting the Licensing Committee to recommend full Council to adopt the resolution for the new street trading process, subject to any variations of the draft proposals as a result of the consultation process. This proposal formed part of the bigger picture for the city centre strategy and consideration would be given in the future to extending these street trading proposals to other areas of Wolverhampton.

Resolved:

- (a) That approval be given to the commencement of the process to re-designate the streets within the ring road of Wolverhampton city centre as licensed streets for the purpose of street trading.
- (b) That approval be given to the commencement of the process to rescinding the existing designation relating to consent streets within Wolverhampton city centre ring road for the purpose of street trading.
- (c) That a notice be published in a local newspaper containing the draft resolution on the proposed designations.
- (d) That a further report be presented at the end of the consultation period.