

# M M I N U T E S

meeting: **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

date: **17 APRIL 2013**

**PRESENT:-**

Councillors Angus, Banger, Bolshaw, Clarke, Claymore, Collingswood, Dass, Inston and Jaspal.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Patricia Patten, Neville Patten and Judith Rowley.

**IN ATTENDANCE:-**

R Marshall	-	Solicitor
E Moreton	-	Section Leader (Licensing)
C Parr	-	Licensing Manager
L Banbury	-	Democratic Support Officer

**Wolverhampton**  
City Council



**Declarations of Interest**

57. No interests were declared.

**Minutes**

58. Resolved:-  
(a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2013 be approved as a correct record.  
  
(b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 4 March 2013 be approved as a correct record and adopted.

**Review of a Premises Licence – Empire Suite, Ward Street, Wolverhampton**

59. Pursuant to minute 53 of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2013, the Licensing Manager advised that the Fire Service had visited the Premises on 28 March, in regard to fire safety issues provided for under their primary legislation. An enforcement notice had been subsequently served on the Premises, requesting the following action to be taken by 20 June 2013 in order to avoid possible prosecution:-
- production of a fire risk assessment;
  - identification of an occupancy figure in accordance with the above assessment;
  - the provision of a suitable fire evacuation procedure;
  - re-installation of emergency lighting, and
  - testing of the fire alarm system and continued maintenance in accordance with current standards.

**Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 23)**

The Democratic Support Officer submitted a report, which set out a schedule of outstanding minutes together with details of when it was expected that reports on individual items would be presented for consideration.

60. Resolved:-  
(a) That the report be received.  
  
(b) That representatives of Pubwatch be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee, scheduled to take place on 22 May 2013, for consideration of the Alcohol Strategy action plan in order to provide their perspective.  
  
(c) That, with effect from the next scheduled meeting, an annual report be presented to the Licensing Committee on the work programme for the previous municipal year, the report to also include information on matters delegated to officers.

**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Testing at VOSA Registered Garages (Appendix 24)**

The Licensing Manager presented a report, which sought approval to proposed testing arrangements and delegated authority to him to revoke approved garages status with a review process via the Licensing Sub-Committee. The report also sought delegated authority for compliance to the Licensing Officers, with a review process via the Section Leader (Licensing). Approval was also requested of an annual approval fee to the Council in the sum of £150.

Responding to Councillors' questions, the Licensing Manager advised that:-

- VOSA set a maximum charge of £57 for the mechanical safety tests, although the exact price would be the responsibility of the individual garage;
- approximately 75% of Wolverhampton garages were VOSA registered, although a number were dealer garages and would be unlikely to offer mechanical safety tests on a general basis;
- this proposal would form part of a broader review of the Council's Fleet Services;
- the provision for local authorities to provide services for mechanical testing was discretionary and not a statutory requirement, and
- the garages would be required to supply the Licensing Authority with information on vehicle failure rates, which would be monitored.

The Officer undertook to provide information to Councillor Jaspal on details of the statutory functions of the Council in regard to this area of work.

61. Resolved:-

(a) That the proposed testing arrangements for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, as detailed in section 3.3 of the report, be approved for implementation with effect from 3 June 2013.

(b) That the proposed criteria and process for VOSA registered garages to become a Council approved testing facility, as detailed in section 3.4 of the report, be approved.

(c) That authority be delegated to the Licensing Manager to approve and revoke approved garages status, with a review process of this decision via the Licensing Sub-Committee.

(d) That authority be delegated to the Licensing Officers for non-mechanical compliance checks of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, with a review process via the Section Leader (Licensing).

(e) That an annual approval fee of £150 be agreed, as detailed in section 3.4 of the report.

(f) That a report on the impact of this proposal be presented to the Committee in twelve months time.

**Twelve Month Review of Taxi Marshalling Scheme (Appendix 25)**

The Licensing Manager presented a report, which provided details of the twelve month pilot of the Taxi Marshalling Service. The report also apprised the Committee of the current position in respect of Taxi Marshalling provision in the City Centre and continuation of the scheme to the end of March 2014. The Officer advised that a further review of the Service would be undertaken in twelve months time.

62. Resolved:-  
That the report be received.

**Vote of Thanks**

63. The Committee joined the Vice-Chair in thanking Councillor Dass for his able and courteous conduct in the Chair during the current municipal year.