

# Public Document Pack



## Second Supplementary

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Borough Council of Newcastle-under-Lyme to be held in the **Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG** on **Wednesday, 25th November, 2015** at **7.00 pm**.

### BUSINESS

**11 REPORTS OF THE CHAIRS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEES (Pages 5 - 8)**

Chairs are requested to submit written reports to the Democratic Services Manager at least 2 clear days before the meeting.

- c) Licensing Committee
- d) Public Protection Committee

**15 URGENT BUSINESS (Pages 9 - 10)**

Motion - Asset Policy Committee

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. J. ...', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Executive

## **NOTICE FOR COUNCILLORS**

### **1. Fire/Bomb Alerts**

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately, following the fire exit signs. Do not stop to collect personal belongings, do not use the lifts.

Fire exits are to be found either side of the rear of the Council Chamber and at the rear of the Public Gallery.

On exiting the building Members, Officers and the Public must assemble at the car park at the rear of the Aspire Housing Office opposite to the Civic Offices. DO NOT re-enter the building until advised to by the Controlling Officer.

### **2. Attendance Record**

Please sign the Attendance Record sheet, which will be circulating around the Council Chamber. Please ensure that the sheet is signed before leaving the meeting.

### **3. Mobile Phones**

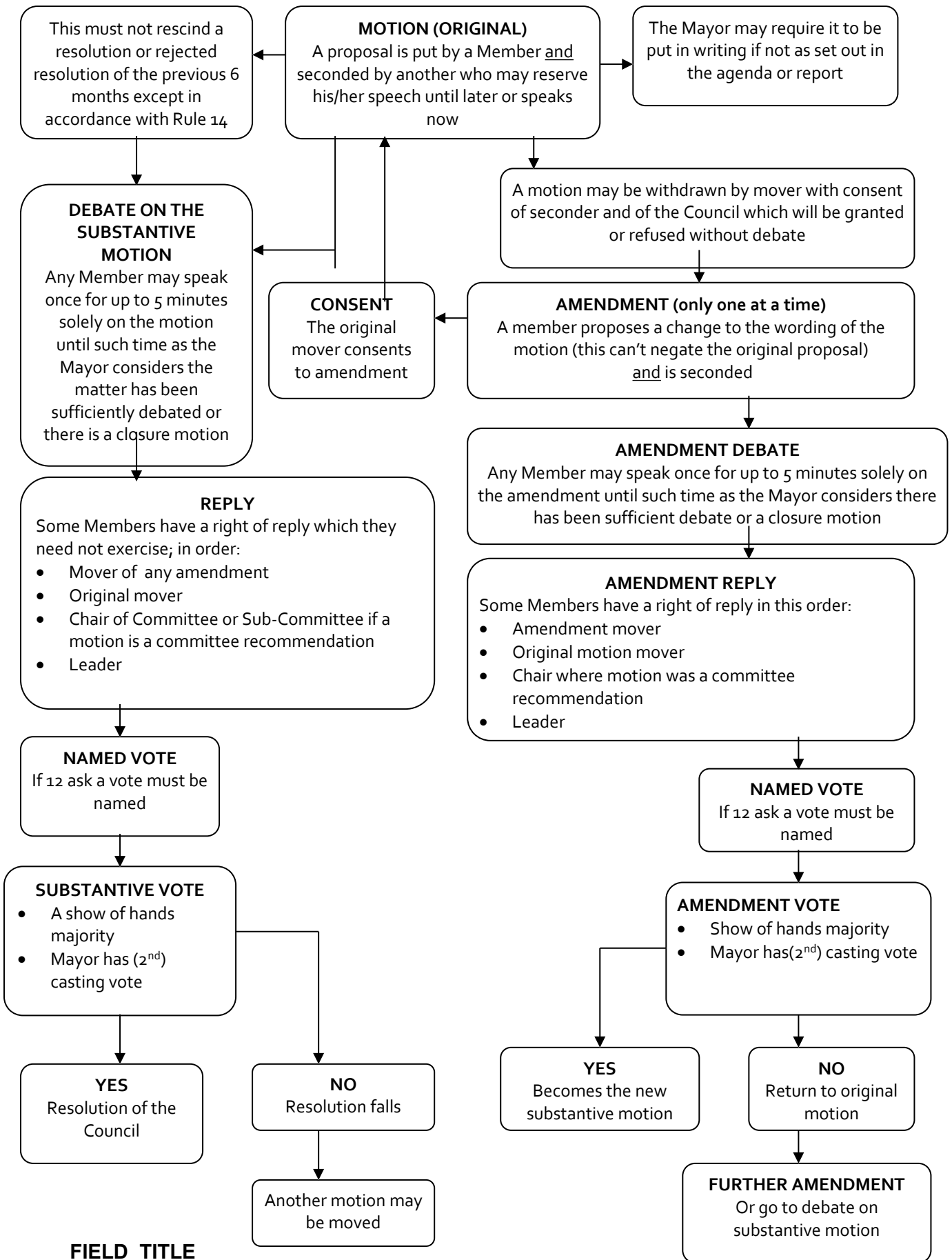
Please switch off all mobile phones before entering the Council Chamber.

### **4. Tea/Coffee**

Refreshments will be available at the conclusion of the meeting, or in the event of a break occurring, during that break.

### **5. Notice of Motion**

A Notice of Motion other than those listed in Standing Order 19 must reach the Chief Executive ten clear days before the relevant Meeting of the Council. Further information on Notices of Motion can be found in Section 5, Standing Order 20 of the Constitution of the Council.



**This page is intentionally left blank**

## Licensing Chairs report to full Council 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October the Licensing Committee considered the fees to be charged to the licensing of Gambling Venues.

It was the decision of the committee not to increase the fees.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October the Licensing Committee considered the fees to be charged to the licensing of Sexual Entertaining Venues.

It was the decision of the committee to set the fees at the level agreed by the Full Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

The fees for Sexual Entertainment Venues are:-

Application fee	£3,000	No change
Renewal fee	£2,000	No change
Variation fee	£1,000	No change
Transfer fee	£1,000	No change

A Sex Entertainment Venue licence is only valid for one year.

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November a sub committee met to consider two licensing applications.

Lamb Stores, 2 Lamb Street, Kidsgrove.

New premise licence application.

Premise licence granted.

Albion Inn, 99 High Street, Newcastle.

Variation to premise licence to extend licensable hours on Friday and Saturday by two hours from 2am to 4am.

Application refused.

Trevor Hambleton

Chair of Licensing.

**This page is intentionally left blank**

## **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Public Protection Committee**

### **Local Air Quality Management**

Officers updated the committee regarding air quality in the Borough and highlighted certain areas with greater pollution levels. In accordance with its statutory duties, the Borough Council has recently undertaken an update Assessment of Air Quality in the Borough.

Five locations in the Borough are still highlighted as areas with high levels of pollution and will continue to be monitored. These include:

- Kidsgrove Liverpool Road
- Newcastle Town Centre – A34 Holy Trinity, 1 to 34 London Road, 106 King Street and 52/54 London Road Newcastle.

Air quality action plans continue to be in place for these specific areas. Newcastle Borough Council will continue to work with partners, including Staffordshire County Councils highways department to find solutions. Existing budgets will be utilised to fund work identified in this report.

### **Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Fees 2016/2017**

The Public Protection committee considered the proposed fees and agreed for the fees to be sent out to consultation. These fees are purely to cover administration costs and by no means make a profit for the Council. These fees usually rise with inflation.

### **Amendment to Licensing Conditions of Dog Boarding Establishments**

The Committee were asked to add a clause to the present licensing conditions of dog boarding establishments. New legislation which comes into force on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 requires all dog owners to have their pet implanted with a chip and up to date details maintained on a register. The owners will face prosecution if they don't comply.

The Committee have agreed the following measures:

1. Proprietors should establish whether a boarded dog has a microchip. Where no chip is present they should remind owners of their obligations.
2. Where practical, proprietors should assist owners to have an unchipped dog microchipped and registered whilst it is boarded with them.
3. Where a dog is returned unchipped to an owner, the proprietor should inform the Borough Council, providing details of the owner's name, address and description of their dog.

### **Hackney Carriage Tariffs**

The Chairman of the Newcastle and Kidsgrove Hackney Carriage Association asked the committee to consider a change to the commencement time of tariff 2. This would mean that tariff 2 would come into effect at 10pm where as currently it is 12am. Tariff 2 is 50% more than Tariff 1. Without any supporting evidence or reason for this change, the committee rejected the proposal in its entirety. The committee had strong views and believed that an increase to tariff 2 at 10pm would in fact harm town centre night life and hit hardworking families in the Borough.

### **CSE and Safeguarding Awareness**

Officers reported that taxi drivers have responded positively to the compulsory awareness training for safeguarding and CSE introduced by this committee. Some authorities have not even looked into this issue, let alone introduce compulsory training. The committee reaffirmed that it believed the Council should be tough on this issue and ensure all our residents, young and old, are protected by these types of measures.

### **Scheme of Delegation**

The Committee was asked to consider a scheme of delegation, so that in an emergency, officers can take immediate action to refuse or revoke a private hire drivers' licence. On some occasions, immediate action is necessary to keep the public safe. As chair, I did raise some concerns about officers having this sort of power as it could be open to misuse. Therefore, the committee agreed that if an urgent decision was needed, the chair or vice-chair of the Public Protection Committee would need to be contacted to sign off any refusal or revocation of a license. A report would then follow and be presented to the committee for further consideration.



## Asset Policy Committee motion

Council believes that it is appropriate now that a policy should be formed, at the highest level, on a cross-party basis, to ensure fairness and transparency in the policy for management and disposal of council assets, but particularly with regard to disposal of green spaces for residential use.

Council resolves:

1. To establish an Asset Policy Committee that shall:
  - a) Begin work immediately and exist until the date of the next meeting of Full Council
  - b) Produce a completed report to a Special meeting of the Council by no later than the end of January 2016 so that this can inform the preparation of the Asset Management Strategy 2016/17 and the budget setting process
  - c) Be composed of seven councillors and have authority to co-opt up to two independent members (who shall be non-voting) to assist the Committee in its work
  - d) Have a remit to recommend a policy for the disposal of the Borough Council's land assets for residential use in future
  
2. To request that Cabinet suspends the sale of land assets solely for residential use and included in the Asset Management Strategy, while the Asset Policy Committee is undertaking its work.

Proposed by : Cllr Holland

Seconded by : Cllr Reddish

**This page is intentionally left blank**