

Public Protection Committee Chair's Report

22/12/14

Air Quality Management areas for Newcastle

A statutory progress report was presented to the committee in respect of air quality management in the borough and a discussion took place around what work would be required as a result. A previous report on this issue had been received in August 2014. Members were informed that technical guidance was given to identify appropriate locations and vehicle counts were also carried out to assess the weight of the traffic. The committee resolved that Air Quality management Areas be designated in the following areas:

- Liverpool Road Kidsgrove,
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre
- May Bank
- Wolstanton
- Porthill
- Little Madeley

It was also resolved that area specific Action plans be developed to manage the Air Quality Management Areas within 12 months of the designation.

26/01/15

Operator Fees 2015

The committee were asked to look at the proposals for an increase in the licensing fee for a private hire operator licence as part of the 2015/16 budget process, from £82 to £85 per vehicle. The report set out options for the future charging of this fee, which took into account the objections received and also sought to ensure that the costs to the Council of administering the process underpinning the setting and collection of the fee were covered by the amount charged, together with seeking to ensure – so far as is possible – that the setting of such fees was fair and equitable for all concerned. Members weighed up all of the options and took into consideration the representation from the trade. The committee decided to accept the small increase as set out in the budget proposals for 2015/16.

24.02.15

Draft Taxi Licensing Policy

The committee were asked to consider the responses received in relation to the Draft taxi Licensing Policy for Newcastle-under-Lyme and that a final agreed Taxi Licensing Policy be brought into practice from the 1st March 2015. Representation from the trade raised concerns with regards to the consultation process 15 minutes before the committee meeting. Due to legalities with regard to consultation processes, it was decided by the committee to defer this item to a future or special meeting. This would allow officers to check that the consultation was fit and proper, so that any decisions to change licence policy is fair.

Allotment Provision in the Parish of Silverdale

The committee were asked to endorse the decisions of Cabinet in respect of the Acre Allotments in the Parish of Silverdale. The Public Protection committee were also asked to endorse the lease of part of The Acre and the termination of the allotment tenancy agreements as resolved by Cabinet. The committee agreed that it was a positive step for the Parish Council to take on the management of the Allotments to allow some local ownership. The committee resolved to accept the recommendations and endorsed Cabinet decisions.