Report to Full Council (April 2019) from the Chair of Licensing & Public Protection

The Licensing & Public Protection Committee has met once since the last Full Council, on 22nd January. Members received reports on the following principle headings:

PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS:

Consideration was given to a report seeking Members' support for a full public consultation on matters affecting Newcastle Town Centre and the Queen Elizabeth Park and to support the publication of two draft Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) on these areas for consultation, comments and feedback from the public.

FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR THE LICENSING OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING 2019-20:

Consideration was given to a report for members to consider the fees to be charged in relation to the licensing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing for 2019/20.

This followed the previous report which was presented to this Committee on 23 October 2018 and it had been agreed to put the details out for consultation. No comments or representations had been received. Therefore, there were no changes to the previous report.

REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FIXED PENALTIES:

Consideration was given to a report looking at the current/planned fixed penalty values.

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS:

Consideration was given to a report seeking Members' approval for the arrangements of the Public Protection Sub-Committee.

The arrangements had been updated following comments from Members in respect of availability. The meetings would still be held on Wednesday's at 2pm or 6pm but they had been brought forward a week to avoid clashes with other Committees.

AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN 2019-2024:

Consideration was given to a report informing Members of responses and feedback received from members of the public and other bodies regarding the contents of the draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and to formally adopt the document.

In 2015, the Council's Public Protection Committee declared four areas in the Borough as air quality management areas (AQMA's), due to exceedances of nitrogen dioxide.

The draft AQAP had been agreed for public consultation and twenty-four responses had been received.

The next meeting of the Licensing and Public Protection Committee is scheduled for 19th March 2019.

Cllr Mark Olszewski

17th March 2019