

LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2nd November, 2021
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Simon White (Chair)

Councillors:	Graham Hutton	John Williams	Jill Waring
	Sylvia Dymond	Ruth Wright	June Walklate
	Tony Kearon	John Cooper	Trevor Johnson
	Mark Olszewski	Andrew Parker	John Tagg
	Gillian Williams	Gill Heesom	

Officers:	Matthew Burton	Licensing Administration Team Manager
	Geoff Durham	Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
	Nesta Barker	Head of Environmental Health Services
	Anne-Marie Pollard	Solicitor

Also in attendance:

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Stephen Sweeney.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO LICENSING MATTERS**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July, 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES (GAMBLING POLICY)**

The Council's Licensing Administration Team Manager, Matthew Burton introduced a report on the review of the statement of Licensing Principles of the Gambling Act, 2005.

Following the consultation, no changes had been made to the draft Policy that had been submitted to this Committee previously.

Resolved: That the updated Policy to be presented for approval to Full Council at its meeting on 17 November, 2021.

5. **FEES TO BE CHARGED FOR THE LICENSING OF SCRAP METAL DEALERS, GAMBLING, SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENSING 2022-23**

Matthew Burton introduced a report on the fees to be charged for the licensing of scrap metal dealers, gambling and sexual entertainment venues for 2022-23.

A table of the proposed fees was shown at paragraph 3.1 of the report.

Councillor John Williams stated that he was pleased that the mobile collection of scrap metal was now licenced.

Resolved: That the fees to be charged for the licencing of Scrap Metal Dealers, Gambling and Sexual Entertainment Venues for 2022-23 be agreed.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

7. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Resolved:- That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration if the following matter because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2 and 7 contained within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972

8. PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE FEES & CHARGES 2022/2023

Matthew Burton introduced a report on the proposed taxi and private hire fees for Members to consider prior to their going out for consultation.

The proposed fees were set out at paragraph 2.2 of the report.

Councillor Mark Olszewski asked where the price review left the Council in comparison to other Authorities as drivers may go to another Authority with lower fees for a licence but could still operate within the Borough. Matt Burton advised that no benchmarking with other Authorities had directly been carried out. Fees were based on officer time and any physical / purchase costs. Checking online, Matthew Burton stated that Wolverhampton had a wide range of fees depending upon the age of the vehicle running from £135 for a vehicle plus all of the testing, up to £300. Regarding Stoke City Council's fees, Newcastle was very much aligned with them.

Councillor Tony Kearon stated that this Committee needed a clear response from the Trade, through the consultation, about how they feel about the proposals. This would enable the Committee to understand how the proposed changes would impact upon the Trade.

Councillor Graham Hutton thanked Members of the Committee as, following the rejection of the proposed fee changes last year, the Chair, Vice-Chair and Portfolio Holder met to discuss the fees and this had resulted in some of the fees being decreased.

Resolved: (i) That the proposed fees be sent out for consultation.
(ii) That, following the consultation a further report be

brought to this Committee

9. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

10. **MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 28 July, 15 September and 6 October, 2021 be received.

Chair

Meeting concluded at 7.35 pm