

REGULATORY AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 NOVEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillors Derrick (Chairman), Yeates (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. Barnett, Constable, Mrs Constable, Drinkwater, Mrs. Eagland, Powell, Salter, Smedley, Mrs. Stanhope MBE, Taylor and Walker MBE

(APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Mrs Bacon and Warfield.)

136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

137 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2014 and special meeting held on the 25th June 2014, as printed and previously circulated were, with the inclusion of apologies for absence from Councillors Constable and Mrs Constable for the 20th May 2014 meeting, taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

138 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman gave the Committee an update on the Polling Places and Polling District review that was taking place and the consultation that was due to begin. It was requested that residents be notified at the earliest opportunity where the polling stations would be.

The Chairman then updated the Committee that he and Councillor Smedley had joined Police and Enforcement Officers to tackle illegal parking issues in Bird Street, Lichfield as well as illegal entry to the City Centre. It was noted that the evening was successful and had shown that some of the signage was confusing and this had been reported to Staffordshire County Council.

Councillor Smedley then reported that he and the Chairman had been on another exercise with the Police to observe the City Centre on a weekend evening and the enforcement measures taken. It was reported that they watched a drugs test of a premise after closing along with other licence condition checks. It was noted that the Members were impressed with the knowledge of all the premises and their licence conditions and felt confident in what the Police were doing.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

139 PROPOSED TEMPORARY DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AT MILESTONE WAY, BURNTWOOD - NO 15 AND NO. 0.333 IN THE PARISH OF BURNTWOOD

Consideration was given to an application received from Taylor Wimpey West Midlands for the temporary diversion of public footpaths No.15 and No. 0.333 in the Parish of Burntwood to enable the proposed development at Milestone Way, Burntwood to take place should the Planning Application be approved. It was noted that following the completion of the development, it was proposed that the temporary diverted routes become permanent and Public Footpath 0.333 be extinguished but that this would need to be subject to a further application

RESOLVED: (1) That following the granting of Planning Permission, a Temporary Public Footpath Diversion Order be made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to be known as The Lichfield District Council (Footpaths No. 15 and No. 0.333 in the Parish of Burntwood) Public Footpaths Diversion Order 2014;

(2) That the Strategic Director – Democratic, Development and Legal Services be authorised to take all necessary action.

140 RESPONSIBLE BODIES GROUP (RBG)

Members were advised of the role of the Responsible Bodies Group (RBG) and how a new Lichfield District RBG had been set up. It was noted that it would lead the strategic development around alcohol issues in the District as it had been identified as a priority for partners for some time.

It was reported that the Lichfield District RBG would report to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent RBG which in turn reported to the Staffordshire Alcohol and Drugs Executive Board. It was noted that it was proposed to incorporate the new Lichfield District RBG into the remit of the Safer Community Partnership.

The Committee agreed that it was best not to have businesses represented in the Group as there could be a conflict of interest and noted that they do have their own Group which aided an element of self governing.

RESOLVED: (1) That the proposal to incorporate the Responsible Bodies Group into the remit of the Community Safety Partnership be agreed;

(2) That a further report be brought to the Committee to update Members of progress.

141 THE FOOD SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2014-16

Members considered the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan for 2014-16. It was reported that it was essential that enforcement of Food Safety was undertaken in an approved and regulated manner in compliance with Government requirements. Members noted the areas of work the service hoped to deliver and improve upon in 2014-16.

It was reported that due to changes in the Food Standards Agency's Food Law Code of Practice, some premises would have their categorisation lowered and approximately 65 'category C' premises would become 'category D'. The consequence of this meant the frequency of inspections lengthened from 18 months to 24 months and could utilise an Alternative Enforcement Strategy. It was reported that to minimise any risk, only premises that had maintained a 'category D' rating on the last two visits could be subject to Alternative Enforcement Strategies.

The Committee was satisfied that resources were adequate to deliver the plan and staffing levels would be considered as part of the Fit for the Future Service Review.

RESOLVED: That the Food Safety Service Delivery Plan 2014-16 be approved.

142 NEW LICENCE CONDITIONS FOR CAT BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

The Committee received a report requesting adoption of new licensing conditions for cat boarding establishments. It was reported that the new conditions were based on the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Model Licence and Conditions and Guidance (November 2013). It was noted that premises in the District had been consulted with and were content with the proposed new conditions.

RESOLVED: (1) That the new cat boarding establishment conditions be adopted with immediate effect for new cat boarding establishments;

(2) That for existing cat boarding establishments, who will be given a suitable period of time to comply, the new cat boarding establishment conditions be adopted by 1st January 2015.

143 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING CRIMINAL DISCLOSURE AMENDMENT

Members were advised of a recently identified inconsistency between hackney carriage and private hire conditions and the Council's adopted criminal convictions policy regarding the timescales for existing drivers to disclose new criminal convictions. It was reported that currently conditions on a drivers licence stated seven days to disclose new convictions but the criminal convictions policy which was derived from national policy stated 28 days. Members agreed that the both licence conditions and the policy should state seven days to ensure the safety of taxi users.

RESOLVED: (1) That to resolve the inconsistency, both the 'Combined Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Conditions of Licence' and 'Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Criminal Convictions' Policy require existing drivers to report new convictions within seven days; and

(2) That the 'Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Criminal Convictions' Policy be amended accordingly.

144 STREET COLLECTIONS 2014

The Committee received a report on the allocation of Street Collection Permits for 2015. Members were satisfied with the list of organisations allocated permits.

RESOLVED: That the allocation for Street Collection Permits as submitted for 2015 be approved.

145 WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was considered and it was noted that there would be a special meeting on the 19th January 2015 to consider the review of Polling Places and Polling Districts with a special Council meeting scheduled for the 27th January 2015 for its ratification.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme as submitted be agreed.

(The meeting closed at 7.35pm)

CHAIRMAN