

REGULATORY AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

4th FEBRUARY 2015

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

There were no apologies for absence.

188 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

189 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 taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

190 CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE)

Members were updated on the situation regarding CSE following the issues experienced at Rotherham, South Yorkshire along with the role of the Taxi Trade in combating it.

Current partnership working with the Police and Staffordshire County Council was reported and it was noted that county wide awareness training through the 'Stop the Traffik' initiative. It was noted that this would provide Taxi drivers the skills to know what to look out for and how to report it along with visible adverts for their vehicles including stickers. It was also noted that it was hoped that awareness training would be rolled out to other areas including takeaway outlets and Bed & Breakfast establishments.

When asked, Members were notified of the application and enforcement processes that were in place regarding Taxi drivers from within and outside the District area. Members did however express the need to be sensitive towards drivers and remember that the majority were helpful and upstanding members of the community and trying to earn an income.

Members were pleased to see that CSE was such a high priority for the District Council as that it was part of the Corporate Top Ten list for 2015/16. Members also recognised that they too had a responsibility to be equipped with skills to tackle CSE and welcomed news that training would be provided to the new Council after the Election.

- RESOLVED:** (1) That the update be noted;
- (2) That the valuable assistance that Taxi Trade can provide in helping to protect children from exploitation be acknowledged; and
- (3) That the proposed partnership work to be developed across the District be endorsed.

191 REVISION OF THE COMMUNITIES, HOUSING & HEALTH AND LEISURE AND PARKS ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Members were advised that due to recent changes in national guidance, there was a requirement for the District Council's Enforcement Policy to be amended.

It was reported that along with the two key updates in national guidance, there was also the Council's corporate commitment to a new regulatory charter. It was noted that this had led to the policy becoming more generic and focused on the principles that would be used.

The process for dealing with dog fouling was discussed and Members noted that there was specific legislation to deal with offences and that included all public use land even if privately owned. Members expressed their gratitude for recent enforcement activity. It was also reported that in the results of the recent Community Consultation, residents wished for no cuts to the dog fouling enforcement service. It was noted that this would be considered during the forthcoming Fit for the Future Service Review for Environmental Health.

RESOLVED: That the revised Communities, Housing & Health and Leisure and Parks Enforcement Policy be adopted.

192 HIGH SPEED 2 (HS2) UPDATE

Members received an update of the progress made by the Committee of Environmental Health since the previous report in February 2014. It was noted that although a compromise had been reached regarding the route of Phase One through the District, there was still a separate petition happening in conjunction with other local authorities regarding noise matters.

RESOLVED: That the ongoing role of environmental health to represent residents throughout the HS2 proposal be noted.

193 REVIEW OF LICENCE AND OTHER FEES AND CHARGES BY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH 2015/16

Members considered the fees and charges for the Environmental Health functions for statutory consultation for the forthcoming financial year 2015/16. It was reported that following Audit reports and recommendations, work had been carried out along with colleagues from Financial Services to calculate fees so that they are more sufficient to cover costs and not make a surplus inline with European Union legislation.

It was noted that consultation would be required including with the Taxi trade.

RESOLVED: (1) That statutory consultation be approved for the fees and charges for the Environmental Health functions for the forthcoming financial year 2015/16;

(2) That the fees as proposed in appendix B of the report be approved as the fees and charges for the Environmental Health functions for the forthcoming financial year 2015/16; and

(3) That the Environmental Health Manager in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Regulatory and Licensing Committee be authorised to set or amend the fees and charges in consideration of any consultation responses received.

194 LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT - UPDATE

The Committee received a report updating progress and developments since the last report in October 2012. Members were notified of the progress in developing an Action Plan for the 2008 declared Air Quality Management Area at A5 Muckley Corner along with the recommendation to declare an Air Quality Management Area at A38 Fradley.

Members were also advised that the application for funding from the Department of the Environment for the Staffordshire wide ECO Stars project had been successful. It was reported that the Stoke and Staffordshire LEP had agreed to help source further funding.

Members requested if it could be investigated whether the A38 at Alrewas could also be considered as an Air Quality Management Area.

- RESOLVED:** (1) That the report be noted; and
- (2) That the approach to satisfy the Council's air quality statutory duty be endorsed.

195 WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was considered and it was noted that this was the last meeting of the municipal year.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme as submitted be agreed.

196 VOTE OF THANKS

In light of the meeting being the last of the municipal year, the Chairman wished to express his gratitude to Officers and members of the Committee for their help and support over the past year. The Committee also articulated the same and it was proposed, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That the sincere thanks of the Committee be recorded to all the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for their work during the past year.

(The meeting closed at 7.35pm)

CHAIRMAN