

LICENSING COMMITTEE

3 February 2015

Present:

Councillor Catherine Dawson (Chair)

Councillors Laws, Brimble, Choules, George, Fullam, Henson, Holland, Newby, Shiel and Tippins

Apologies:

Councillors Crew and Pearson

Also present:

Corporate Manager - Legal, Assistant Director Environment, Environmental Health Manager, Principal Licensing Officer, Solicitor and Democratic Services Officer (Committees) (HB)

1 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 July and 23 September 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct records.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

3 **Policy of Restriction and Quality Standards for Hackney Carriages**

The Assistant Director Environment had submitted a report on the findings of the consultation conducted with regard to the Council's policy of restriction in respect of hackney carriages.

A number of Members stated that, because of the size of the report and the significant amount of supporting documents, there had been insufficient time to properly consider all the issues and arguments for and against de-restriction. Councillor Newby moved and Councillor Choules seconded the deferral of the report for consideration at a Special Meeting of the Committee.

The Corporate Manager Legal advised that in the event that the motion to defer did not succeed, those Members who had not had sufficient time to read the report and documentation could not vote on the matter.

It was noted that two Members of the Committee had submitted their apologies.

On the casting vote of the Chair, it was agreed to defer the report.

RESOLVED that the report on a policy of restriction and quality standards for Hackney Carriages be deferred for consideration at a Special Meeting of this Committee.

4 **Responses to the consultation relating to the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy**

The Assistant Director Environment presented the report advising that the Licensing Authority was required to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy (the Policy) in order to determine applications for the grant of new licenses and variations to existing licenses. The City Council's current Statement of Licensing Policy had come into effect in January 2011 and it was a legal requirement to review such policy statements every five years. As the current policy had to be reviewed by 2016, a consultation had commenced in September 2014 and concluded on 12 December 2014. The responses to the consultation were set out in the report. The Policy document had been amended from the original draft to accommodate the responses received, all of which were set out in the report, together with the response of the Assistant Director Environment.

Amendments to the sections on saturation and cumulative impact (Section 11) and Variable Closing Times (Section 12) were tabled. For clarity, the Assistant Director Environment advised that the Policy may be amended in the future to include the cumulative impact of late night hot food premises but only if additional evidence is submitted to the Licensing Committee by the Police. Therefore, for the time being, the current cumulative impact policy remained as it was, and applied to all premises selling alcohol for consumption on the premises within and abutting to the boundary of the zone as shown in Appendix F of the circulated report.

The Policy would be considered by Executive on 17 March 2015 and by Council on 21 April 2015 for adoption.

RESOLVED that the Committee support the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy and recommend its adoption by Council to take effect from 22 April 2015.

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.04 pm

Chair