

LICENSING COMMITTEE

- * Councillor David Goodwin (Chairman)
- * Councillor Dennis Booth (Vice-Chairman)

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| * Councillor Tim Anderson | * Councillor Masuk Miah |
| * Councillor Gillian Harwood | * Councillor Marsha Moseley |
| Councillor Gordon Jackson | * Councillor Maddy Redpath |
| * Councillor Nigel Manning | * Councillor Will Salmon |
| Councillor Ted Mayne | * Councillor James Steel |
| * Councillor Ann McShee | Councillor Catherine Young |
| * Councillor Bob McShee | |

*Present

Councillor George Potter was also in attendance.

L1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gordon Jackson, Ted Mayne and Catherine Young.

L2 LOCAL CODE OF CONDUCT - DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No disclosable interests were declared.

L3 MINUTES

The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 6 January 2020 were confirmed as a true record of the meeting.

L4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had no announcements.

L5 LICENSING ACT 2003 - REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-26 for consultation for a period of twelve weeks.

The Licensing Team Leader explained that the current Statement of Licensing Policy, adopted by Council in December 2015, took effect from 7 January 2016 and was valid for a period of up to five years until 7 January 2021 and was therefore due a review. Following consideration by the Committee of the strategic direction in November 2019 an updated policy had been prepared for consultation. The 'Large Events' section of the policy had been updated to include the principles of the 'Martyn's Law' campaign to improve security at venues and public spaces in light of the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London in 2017. The Policy had also been updated in line with the Council's new Corporate Strategy as well as emphasising the importance of retaining the Purple Flag award.

Following public consultation, the Committee would be asked to review the results and approve the Statement of Licensing Policy at its meeting in November 2020 and recommend its adoption by Council at its meeting in December 2020.

The Committee having considered the report;

RESOLVED that the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-26 was approved for consultation for a period of twelve weeks.

L6 UPDATE ON THE TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

The Committee received an update from the Licensing Team Leader regarding the work being undertaken to review the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing policy. The policy was due for review having been adopted by Council in December 2015. The Committee agreed at its meeting in November 2019 that the policy should include additional measures to improve driver, vehicle and private hire operators' standards. The National Standards for Taxis and Private Hire Standards had not yet been issued and the Lead Councillor and officers felt that it was appropriate to wait until these were published before finalising a new draft policy for consultation.

The coronavirus pandemic had also involved the redeployment of officer time in responding to the provision of key services to residents. In addition, the licensed trade had experienced a significant reduction in trade during this period and may therefore not fully engage with consultation on a new policy at this time.

The Committee having considered the report;

RESOLVED to approve the delay in the review of the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy until September or later depending on publication of the national guidance and resource required to assist with the Council's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

L7 LICENSING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted its work programme and queried whether the delay in achieving Best Bar None until next year was owing to the coronavirus pandemic. The Licensing Team Leader confirmed that the scoring should have been completed in May but because of the closure of pubs and bars necessitated by the pandemic it had not been possible to undertake this work to date.

The meeting finished at 7.15 pm

Signed

Date

Chairman