

Item 4

Time Commenced: 6:00pm

Time Finished: 6:30pm

LICENSING COMMITTEE

29 June 2023

Present: Councillor A Holmes (Chair)
Councillors: Chambers, Evans, Hudson, Kaur, J Khan, Kozlowski, Lakin, Lindsey, Potter, Smale, Wilson and J Wright

In Attendance: Olu Idowu – Solicitor, Head of Legal Services
Mike Kay – Head of Service, Public Protection
Angela Rawson – Service Manager, Licensing

01/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Rawson and Sandhu

02/23 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

03/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

04/23 Minutes of the Meetings held on 30 March 2023

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

05/23 Boat & Boatman Licensing Policy

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Communities. The Service Manager - Licensing presented the report which was asking members of the Licensing Committee to consider the proposal for the review of the existing Boat & Boatman Licensing Policy following its commencement in April 2021. The Committee were informed that, under Section 94 of the Public Health Acts Amendments Act 1907, Derby City Council has the responsibility for licensing the use of pleasure boats/vessels for carrying the public within the City of Derby, together with the Boatmen in charge of those vessels and this had now been incorporated into Derby City Council's own Constitution allowing them to grant these licenses upon such terms and conditions as they feel fit and to charge an appropriate annual fee. It was confirmed that a policy had been developed specifically for this purpose.

The Service Manager – Licensing confirmed that the Licensing of both Boat and Boatmen was subject to relevant checks and surveys and in the case of the Boatmen relevant qualifications and DBS checks. It was confirmed that this policy came into force in April 2021, but it was now time to review this policy to determine its effectiveness in achieving its purpose and to look at if it needs amending.

Members discussed this matter and asked for clarification on what actually constituted a 'minor' change or a 'major' change. Clarity was given and confirmation that the addition or removal of requirements would constitute a major change. Any minor changes would need to be discussed with the Chair and the decision made whether the matter should come to the Committee then.

Discussion was also held on who the consultation would be sent to and where it would be published. Reassurance was given to the Licensing Committee members that Derbyshire Constabulary and the Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Services would both be consulted.

The Committee also debated what training crew/volunteers would need to undergo along with what ID should these people have. The Committee also questioned that, in the event of any complaints being made how would these would be dealt with. The Service Manager – Licensing confirmed that any complaints would be dealt with through the Enforcement Officer within the Licensing Team and could mean coming before a Sub-Committee.

Resolved to:

- **consider the draft Boat & Boatman Policy attached at Appendix 1**
- **release the draft Policy for a 12-week consultation period, following which the Policy will be approved as drafted should there be no objections received.**
- **delegate authority to make minor changes to the draft policy following any responses to the consultation, to the Head of Service for Licensing and the Licensing Manager in consultation with the Chair of Committee.**
- **Agree major changes to the Policy will remain the responsibility of the Licensing Committee with any minor changes being provided as an update to members at the next Committee sitting.**

06/23 Taxi Licensing Administration & Compliance
Activities 2022/23

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Communities. The Head

of Service, Public Protection presented the report providing the Committee with information on the activities the taxi licensing service has undertaken during the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. This included applications processed, Compliance Work, Knowledge Test Statistics, Vehicle Registration Breakdown, Derby Penalty Point Statistics and Sub-Committees and Appeal Statistics.

Concern was raised in relation to the high number of Hackney carriages that had serious defects. The Head of Service, Public Protection advised that this was because checks are carried out when Licensing are alerted to a vehicle as random checks aren't carried out as a matter of course. Concern was also raised as to the high number of private hire drivers that fail the knowledge test. Reassurance was given that licenses to operate are not given out if the driver fails this test.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

07/23 General Licensing Administration & Compliance Activities 2022/23

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Communities. The Head of Service, Public Protection presented the report providing information on the activities the general licensing service has undertaken from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

MINUTES END