

# Item 4

Time Commenced: 6:00pm

Time Finished: 6:40pm

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**4 November 2021**

**Present:** Councillor A Atwal (Chair)  
Councillors: Bettany, Cooper, A J Graves, Hezelgrave, Hussain, Jennings, J Khan, Pattison, Peatfield, A Pegg, Potter, Skelton and Testro

In Attendance: Olu Idowu – Head of Legal Services  
Mike Kay – Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity  
Angela Rawson – Team Leader – Licensing

### **14/21 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor A Holmes

### **15/21 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

### **16/21 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest

### **17/21 Minutes of the Meetings held on 16 September 2021**

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting held on 16 September 2021

### **18/21 Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity presented the report outlining that, as the designated Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act

2005, Derby City Council was required to produce a Statement of Principles showing how the Council would exercise its functions under the Act.

This statement must be widely consulted on every 3 years and The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity informed the Committee that, as a Licensing Authority, Derby City Council would need to adopt a new Statement of Policy from 31 January 2022.

The Committee were reminded that a draft Statement of Policy had been approved, by them, at their meeting on 18 March 2021 and had been released for a 12 week consultation period between 1 July 2021 and 22 September 2021. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity provided a full update on who had been contacted and how the draft statement had been made readily available for anyone to view and comment on.

The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity assured the Committee that all responses had been considered by the Head of Licensing and the Licensing Service Manager and amendments made to the proposed Statement of Principles where appropriate. These were attached to the report at Appendix 2. It was confirmed that the final revised Statement of Principles be published by the end of December 2021 and would come into force at the end of January 2022.

**Resolved to recommend that Council:**

- 1. Adopt the Statement of Principles attached at Appendix 1 to take effect from 31 January 2022.**
- 2. Authorise the Director of Communities & Place to comply with the relevant statutory requirements in relation to the advertisement and publication of the Statement**

## **19/21      CCTV in Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride, asking them to consider the need for a 12-week consultation on the installation of CCTV in taxi and private hire vehicles. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity presented the report confirming that the Government had suggested, as part of the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Standards, released on 21 July 2020, that all Licensing Authorities should consult on whether the installation of CCTV in taxi and private hire vehicles would be of any benefit in their local area.

Committee were advised that whilst some Councils had now made this a mandatory condition and the appetite was increasing nationally the CCTV would need to be of a high specification and the approximate cost to the owners of these vehicles would be £500.

Discussion was held over the pros and cons of having CCTV installed in taxis and private hire vehicles along with concerns of the costs and whether the Council could seek any grant funding to assist drivers with these costs. The Committee also discussed how the consultation would be made available to all.

It was confirmed that responses to the consultation would be brought to a future committee meeting.

**Resolved to approve carrying out a consultation on the installation of CCTV in taxi & private hire vehicles.**

## 20/21 Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards Update

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride. The Team Leader – Licensing presented the report which gave the Committee a progress update following the release by the Department of Transport (DfT) of the Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards intended to improve safety for taxi and private hire vehicle passengers.

This was first brought to the Committee on 6 August 2020 following the announcement of Statutory Standards by the Government. Committee were advised, in March 2021, that many of the suggested actions were already embedded within the existing processes, conditions and policies. Committee were also given a proposed timeline of works.

The Team Leader – Licensing updated the Committee on these works and confirmed that the short term licensing review is ongoing but taking shape. The Committee were informed that, in relation to the safeguarding of vulnerable persons, a consultation was due to be released, seeking views on additional conditions being added to licences. These results would be brought to a Committee in the New Year. The Team Leader – Licensing also gave reassurance on the progression of Safeguarding training that is given to all, not just the drivers, in the Taxi and Private Hire trade.

The Team Leader – Licensing also updated the Committee on work being done in relation to Information Sharing and Enforcement, managing data (including NR3 register), Multi agency operations and CCTV in vehicles. It was confirmed that a review of existing enforcement policies would be the next big project, which would include a review of the Convictions Policy and the Driver Penalty Point Scheme. It was confirmed this would be presented to the Committee in the New Year for release for consultation.

The Team Leader – Licensing stated that on completion of all reviews and consultations a comprehensive Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Policy would be produced, giving full details and information of the expected standards required by Derby City Council, along with other details and information for applicants, operators, customers and the public.

**Resolved to note the contents of the report**

**21/21      The Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride. The Team Leader – Licensing presented the report. It was confirmed that there were 3 licensed park homes sites in the Derby area. The Mobile Homes (Requirement for Manager of Site to be Fit and Proper Person) (England) Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”) came into force in July 2021 and from 1 October 2021, it became an offence for the site licence holder to cause or permit the land to be operated as a park home site, unless they are, or an appointed person is, a fit and proper person to manage the site.

To be appointed the applicant has to complete an application form, along with a basic DBS form, declaration and the relevant fee. These are then assessed by the Licensing Team, who may grant the license for a period of 5 years. These details are maintained on a register kept by the Council.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. consider the report and note the statutory powers the Council has under the Regulations.**
- 2. consider and approve the proposed amendments to the Mobile Homes Fees Policy at Appendix 1.**

MINUTES END