

Time commenced 6:00 pm
Time finished 7.18 pm

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE 19 SEPTEMBER 2013

Present: Councillor Jackson (Chair)
Councillors Barker, Harwood, Keith, S Khan, Poulter, Skelton, F Winter
and
L Winter

18/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atwal, Redfern, Sandhu and Whitby.

19/13 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the information
Chair agreed to admit the following items on the grounds that the information was not available at the time the agenda was published:

- Scrap Metal Policy and Consultation

20/13 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

21/13 Fees for Licensing Scrap Metal Dealers

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the proposed changes to the licensing of scrap metal dealers and collectors. It was reported that the Home Office have provided guidance on licence fee charges and the proposed fees were set out in the report. Members noted that these fees were renewable every three years.

Members raised concerns as to whether the cost of the licence could be justified. Officers reported that a detailed breakdown had been completed with input from the finance directorate, using the guidance provided. It was noted that officers were satisfied that the calculations could be warranted.

The Committee requested further clarification as to whether all collectors would require a licence. It was reported that the legislation

was unclear but the approach that Derby had planned was to licence each business.

It was reported that currently Derby had an estimated 32 dealers and collectors who had been contacted by the authority to inform them of the new legislation.

Members asked whether there would be ramifications for the department in enforcing these changes. It was noted that the extra activities would be absorbed by the department including the prioritisation of officer's workloads.

The Committee noted that there would be a need for a training session to be provided by officers on the new legislation. It was proposed that this be scheduled for Tuesday 5 November 2013.

Resolved

- 1. to approve the proposed fees for licensing regime for scrap metal as set out in the report applicable from 1 October 2013;**
- 2. to schedule a Member Training Session on Tuesday 5 November 2013.**

22/12 Scrap Metal Policy and Consultation

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the changes that were planned to the way scrap metal dealers were licensed which would commence on 1 October 2013. It was noted that as part of these changes, the Council needs to adopt a Scrap Metal Policy that set out how it would deal with applications and undertake relevant enforcement action. Members were informed that before the policy was adopted, comments were to be sought from key consultees. The proposed Scrap Metal Policy consultation and timetable was circulated to Members.

The legal advisor suggested the following amendments to the consultation document:

- Somewhere in Paragraph 9, include statement to the effect that 'Cash should not be accepted'
- Include a reference somewhere that 'Convictions must be notified to us within 14 days'
- Clarify the 'payment in kind' statement mentioned in the policy.

The Committee suggested that a Cross Party Working Group be formed to consider the consultation responses along with the Chair of the Committee. Members felt that the membership should include the Chair and Vice Chair and a representative from the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Skelton was nominated for this role.

Resolved

- 1. To note the Consultation Timetable set out in the report;**
- 2. To authorise the Service Director, Environmental and Regulatory Services, to go out to consultation with existing licence holders in the Council's administrative area, relevant trade associations and relevant enforcement agencies on the proposed Scrap Metal Policy set out in the report;**
- 3. To approve the setting up of a Cross Party Working Group to consider representations received during the consultation period;**
- 4. To request that the Service Director, Environmental and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the proposed Cross Party Working Group, report back to Committee with an agreed Policy.**

MINUTES END