

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE HELD
AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WIGSTON ON WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2015
COMMENCING AT 7:00 PM**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chair - Mrs H E Loydall
Vice Chair - Miss M V Chamberlain

Councillors: G S Atwal; G A Boulter; F S Broadley; Mrs L M Broadley; M H Charlesworth;
R F Eaton; B Fahey; and J Kaufman

Officers in Attendance: S Eyre; J Mortell; Miss S Illston; Miss G Ghuman

Min Ref.	Narrative	Officer Resp.
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence received from Councillors K Loydall, Ms K Chalk and R Thakor.</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 22 January 2015, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.</p>	
3.	<p>INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>The Chair introduced the new licensing team to the Members stating that the new Licensing Officer is James Mortell, the interim Licensing Team Leader is Stephen Eyre who is from North West Leicestershire District Council and the Legal and Licensing Assistant who is Sophie Illston.</p> <p>Councillor Atwal declared an interest in that he is a Taxi Driver by profession for Leicester City Council however he stated he came to the meeting with an open mind so was allowed to stay at the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>LICENSED VEHICLES INSURANCE CERTIFICATES</p> <p>The Licensing team leader outlined the report advising Members that some taxi drivers take out weekly insurance policies which creates extra data entry work for Officers. He advised that this extra work infringes on enforcement work and the general amongst taxi drivers is to take a 12 month policy but pay it on a monthly basis.</p> <p>He referred Members to Section 12 of the Taxi Licensing Policy which was adopted by the Committee in July 2013, where it is clear that only 12 month insurance certificates should be accepted with the exception</p>	

	<p>of a 6 month when a taxi license is first issued and occasionally a temporary cover note and so asked Members permission to enforce the policy as it stands.</p> <p>The Chair advised that she had asked for this to come to the committee as there have been issues with this previously, it is stated in the policy that the Council will only accept 12 month renewals (bar exceptional circumstances as mentioned above). She advised that Officers at the time reassured her that this was not an issue however it has now come to light that it is. She reiterated section 12 of the policy stating that it is clear that on first application the insurance should be 6 months/temporary followed by a 12 month policy which is then followed by an annual renewal.</p> <p>She recommended that the Council follows the policy and adheres to the 12 month renewal.</p> <p>A Member asked whether there was any benefit to the 7 day certificate to which the response from the Licensing Team Leader was that some drivers may have monetary issues so they opt for weekly insurance renewals despite it being potentially more costly in the long run.</p> <p>The Chair stated that cost should not be priority and that the main concern should focus on the safety of residents.</p> <p>A Member expressed his concern stating that Taxi Drivers are self employed and by enforcing the policy it may discourage new drivers to join the trade which may lead to a shortage of taxi drivers. He asked whether any leniency could be applied and have monthly renewals instead of annual.</p> <p>The Licensing Team Leader stated that he was mindful of the fact that some drivers may have cash flow issues but did not believe it was appropriate to do so as taxi drivers need to be insured all of the time.</p> <p>A Member noted that annual policies can be paid in monthly instalments so cash flow should not be a problem.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Taxi Drivers must ensure their vehicle is insured for 12 months and renewed annually and that the policy should be enforced in this regard.</p> <p>All Members in favour bar 1 against from Cllr G S Atwal.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (VERBAL UPDATE)</p> <p>The Chair advised that she had requested this to come to committee as she wanted an update as to how Leicestershire County Council are devolving information down to the districts.</p> <p>The Licensing Team Leader advised that this is a sensitive subject matter and that each Council/County has to organise their own way of ensuring the incidents in Rochdale and Rotherham are not repeated. He advised Members of a meeting to be held in August where he will be able to find out more information obtain information concerning a full</p>	

	<p>coherent and coordinated approach will be undertaken not only for taxi drivers but licensed premises on the whole. He advised Members that he will report back to the chair once this meeting had took place.</p> <p>He advised that a forum whereby taxi drivers will be made aware of such matters will take place at Oadby and Wigston Borough Council.</p> <p>The Chair asked for a report to come back to committee so that all are updated as to the most current position of the same.</p> <p>A Member advised that other authorities have introduced free courses for taxi drivers which not only improve the standards of service, but also enhance public safety.. He advised Members that the taxi drivers are obliged to attend such courses.</p> <p>The Chair asked Officers to look into this.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Officers report back to the October committee meeting with a report on this subject matter.</p>	
6.	<p>GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES (VERBAL UPDATE)</p> <p>The Licensing Team Leader advised Members that he will draft a new policy and have it go to consultation for a period of six weeks. He advised that it will need to be adopted at Full Council in December.</p> <p>A Member asked whether there had been many legislative changes to which he was advised that the changes have remained static and the Gambling Commission wanted risk assessments to be carried out on premises and the fact that Oadby has a racecourse needs to be taken into consideration.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That a draft statement will go out to consultation over the Summer with a report to be presented at the October committee. The finalised statement will then go to full Council in December to be approved for the next five years.</p>	

The Meeting Closed at 7:36 PM