

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 5 March 2014

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- Glenn Harwood MBE (Chairman)
Brian Northall (Vice-Chairman)

Tony Boto
Richard Gell
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith
Barbara Jenney

Anna Sauntson
Andy Mercer
Gill Mercer
Bob Nightingale

Inspector Vaughan Clark

Northamptonshire Police

399. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

400. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Pauline Bradberry.

401. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

402. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

403. LICENSING LEGISLATION - UPDATE

The Health Protection Manager (HPM) presented a report outlining changes to the licensing legislation and guidance and updated Members on licensing matters.

The Government had announced a series of changes to licensing legislation and guidance that would affect East Northamptonshire Council.

The Government were now proposing to keep personal licences and were recommending that licences would last indefinitely, rather than the 10 years covered by current legislation. Further details on implementation were awaited. It was noted that the Temporary Event Notices limits were set to be increased from 12 to 15 in April 2016 rather than from April 2014.

The Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 had come into force on 1 October 2013. All ENC licences had been issued and the numbers stood at 5 Site licences and 1 Collector's licence for the District. An increase in the number of complaints relating to unlicensed dealers had been reported.

It was noted that further training for the Committee would be provided once the Committee make-up arrangements had been put in place following the Annual Meeting in May. Members were requested to advise on any specific areas of training they would like included in any future training programme.

It was also noted that the Committee would be provided with further information regarding the number of complaints received about unlicensed traders and whether the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 was having a positive impact.

Consideration was given to a suggestion about utilising the proceeds of crime. It would present a challenge but may be beneficial.

It had been agreed at Policy & Resources Committee on 4 November 2013 to introduce boat licensing and detailed consultations had commenced with boat businesses to develop a local licensing scheme. A report would be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in May 2014.

Consultation had been carried out internally on the new licensing policy statement and would be going out to full consultation in April 2014. As the policy was county-wide, Corby Borough Council had been responsible for writing it and comments had been forwarded from East Northamptonshire Council. As soon as the document was finalised, members of the Committee would receive a copy.

On 10 March 2014, the Policy & Resources Committee would be consider the removal of the age limit on licences for taxi drivers. This was based on legal advice we had been given in that the condition of an age limit was considered to be *prima facie* unlawful as it did fetter the discretion of the district council when considering issuing drivers licences. The Council currently had a lower age limit of 25, however consideration would now need to be given to those who were age 17 and above. Each application for a taxi licence would be considered on its merits and a decision made accordingly, with any conditions as appropriate.

The draft bill for the new taxi licensing legislation deadline had been extended from December 2013 to April 2014. As soon as this was received, Members would be informed of the proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

404. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business because exempt information, as defined under paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 may be disclosed.

405. LICENSING ACTIVITY AND UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received a report detailing applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 in the previous six months, broken down into new licences and licence variations, Temporary Event Notices and personal licence applications received.

A representative from Northamptonshire Police attended to provide details on crime related activity and A & E statistics within the district of East Northamptonshire.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted

Chairman