

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 16 September 2015

Venue: East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

Time: 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors:- **Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Chairman)**
Barbara Jenney (Vice-Chairman)

Tony Boto

Richard Gell

Roger Glithero

Helen Howell

Dorothy Maxwell

Andy Mercer

Gill Mercer

Peter Wathen

131. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Barbara Jenney to her first meeting as Vice Chairman of the Committee. He also extended a welcome to PC Dave Bryan of Northamptonshire Police, as well as new committee members.

Reflecting on the retirement of the committee's most recent clerk, the Chairman reported that Louise Tyers would join the council on 21 September 2015 and would support the committee and its panels henceforth.

Reference was also made to the secondment of Jenny Walker to the role of Interim Health Protection Manager and the Chairman thanked her for her good work and welcomed her to the committee meeting.

132. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Anna Sauntson.

133. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

134. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

135. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

It was reported that no questions had been received under Procedure Rule 10.3.

136. LICENSING LEGISLATION - UPDATE

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

The report detailed the implications of the Deregulation Act 2015, the provisions of which had been previously discussed by the committee in March 2015 (minute 410 refers). It was noted that commencement dates for various parts of the Act were spread over a number of dates.

Reference was also made to the Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014 which had made change to regulations regarding live and recorded music entertainment. From 6 April, there would be no requirement for a licence for live (indoor and outdoor) and recorded music (indoor only) from 0800 hours to 2300 hours and with an audience not exceeding 500 people.

The committee discussed the issue of Child Sexual Exploitation at length and particular reference was made to the information leaflet on the subject which would be provided in all renewal and new driver applications. It was suggested that failure to attend compulsory training on and understand policies in respect of child sexual exploitation could be incorporated as a reason for refusing a licence application in the future.

In an update to the report, it was noted that applicants for new taxi licences would be required to sign two separate declarations giving permission to the council, Northamptonshire Police and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) to access and check their criminal record and DVLA records throughout the life of their licence.

The Chairman made reference to the imminent retirement of PC Kevin Murphy of Northamptonshire Police and members joined him in paying tribute to the work that PC Murphy had done to uphold the licensing objectives with the council across the district.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Chairman write to PC Kevin Murphy of Northamptonshire Police conveying the thanks and best wishes of the committee for a long and happy retirement.

137. 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 paragraph 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 may be disclosed.

138. 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.

Members discussed the licensing activity and reviewed the data made available within the report and sought clarification in respect of specific activity in respect of a number of licensed premises across the district. It was noted that the data lacked qualitative insight and that in future a more detailed breakdown analysing specific circumstances may be of greater benefit to the committee in reviewing activity in East Northamptonshire.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted

Chairman