

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date: 7 March 2016

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
Peter Wathen
Pam Whiting

375. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sylvia Hughes, Gill Mercer and Anna Sauntson.

376. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

377. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

378. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.3

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

379. TAXI POLICY REVIEW

The Interim Health Protection Manager presented a report which enabled the Committee to review and consider the proposed taxi policy and associated appendices.

Following a number of reports relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), in particular the Jay Report into issues at Rotherham Council, it was agreed to review the Council's taxi licensing policies and procedures to strengthen them with regards to CSE.

It was proposed to have an overarching Taxi Policy with all related policies and documentation provided as appendices to that policy. Some of the policies had been given minor amendments whereas others had been given a full review. Application guides for the taxi trade, to improve the understanding of the administrative process, had also been created.

All applicants and licence holders would be required to complete CSE training and a test at the same time as their knowledge test. The CSE test must be passed in order for the application to progress. A countywide CSE training video for the taxi trade was being developed and would be in place in the next few months and all councils would be seeking a mandatory requirement for CSE training to be undertaken.

The Committee considered the proposed taxi policy and appendices at length and particular reference was made that the condition that operators had public liability insurance in place should be strengthened to require minimum cover of £5 million.

RESOLVED:

To recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that, subject to amendments being made, the revised documents be released for consultation to the taxi trade for a period of six weeks.

380. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item 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.

381. LICENSING ACTIVITY AND UPDATE REPORT

The Interim Health Protection Manager presented a report which detailed the licensing activity and accident and emergency statistics.

Members were advised that the Public Health Team at the County Council were keen to work with licensing authorities around consultation on licensing applications. PC Bryan gave a verbal update on the work undertaken with Rita Groves, Licensing Enforcement Officer in the District since the last Committee meeting. He also advised that Northamptonshire Police were working with other forces in the region to introduce a region wide information system.

382. RITA GROVES

The Chairman announced that PC Bryan had provided a letter of commendation to Rita Groves to recognise all her help and her diligence in undertaking her duties. The Committee all agreed that this was well deserved recognition.

Chairman