

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the
MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
held in Committee Room Two, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon
at 10.00am on Tuesday 14 June 2016

PRESENT

Councillors: N A MacRae MBE (Chairman), M Brennan, E H James and G Saul

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings of the Sub-Committee held on 7 April and 18 May 2016 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S J Good.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers relating to matters to be considered at the meeting.

7. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

No submissions were received from the public in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Michelle Bignell to the meeting.

He advised Members that Licensing Officers had carried out an operation the previous weekend to check that the requirements of various licences were being adhered to. All licensed vehicles checked were found to be operating in compliance with the Council's conditions and no significant infringements had been evident when inspecting licensed premises in Witney and Carterton.

The Chairman advised that he had been made aware by some licensed taxi operators of concerns with regard to touting for trade in the Corn Street area of Witney. Officers undertook to investigate further.

9. AMENDMENTS TO LICENSING ADMINISTRATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND CONSULTATION ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TRAINING

The Sub-Committee received and considered the report of the Group Manager, Environmental and Regulatory Services advising Members of some administrative improvements to the application process and on-going administration of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver and Vehicle Licences in West Oxfordshire. In addition, the report sought approval to carry out consultation with the licenced trade regarding the introduction of Child Sexual Exploitation training.

The Chairman questioned whether the alignment of administrative processes between authorities in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire through the 2020 partnership would give rise to tensions when seeking to develop policy alignment between the Oxfordshire authorities.

In response, the Council's Legal Adviser indicated that retention of individual sovereignty was key to the ethos of the 2020 partnership. Whilst the 2020 Partnership sought to establish administrative uniformity where appropriate, each authority would retain political independence.

In response to a question from Mr Saul, the Licensing Officer advised that the proposed consultation with the licensed vehicle trade on the introduction of Child Sexual Exploitation training would be carried out by letter with a 12 week period in which to reply. Responses to the consultation would be reported to the Sub-Committee in due course.

The Chairman noted that the proposed administrative changes would be broadly cost neutral to applicants.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the information set out in the report be noted; and
- (b) That the proposed consultation with the licensed Taxi and Private Hire trade regarding the introduction of Child Sexual Exploitation training be approved.

The meeting closed at 10:10am

CHAIRMAN