

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN PART I

MEETING: General Purpose Committee Tuesday 22 October 2013 18:00, Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT D Kissane (Chair), L Chester, M Gardner, L Harrington, C Latif, J Lloyd CC, M Notley, G Snell, J Hollywell and V Warwick

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	ACTION/LEAD
<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Hurst, L Martin-Haugh and B Underwood.</p> <p>The Committee sent its best wishes to Councillor Underwood.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>With the agreement of the Chair Item 6, 'Changes to Street Trading Areas', was dealt with after Item 3.</p>	G Moody Ext 2203
2. MINUTES – 19 July 2013	
<p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>	G Moody Ext 2203

<p>3. PROCEDURE NOTE</p>	
<p>It was RESOLVED that the procedure note be noted.</p>	<p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
<p>4. THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING CONVICTIONS POLICY</p>	
<p>The Committee was advised that the consultation period had run from 24 June to 16 September 2013 and that no comments had been received.</p> <p>In reply to a question the Committee was advised that the anticipated date of introduction of the revised policy would be 2 January 2014.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Policy on Convictions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing (attached at appendix A to the report) be approved.</p>	<p>H Morris Ext 2175</p> <p>H Morris Ext 2175</p>
<p>5. TAXI LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES</p>	
<p>In reply to a question it was confirmed that the Council was not allowed to make a profit from its fees and charges regime and that implementation of the new scale of charges would stop the service having to be underwritten by the General Fund by approximately £6k per annum.</p> <p>A Member expressed concerns that the increase in fees for the Spoken English Test could alienate potential taxi drivers for whom English was not their first language. The Committee was advised that the revised fee accurately reflected the cost to the Council of providing the test and that it was considered essential from a safety perspective that drivers had an adequate grasp of the English language.</p> <p>In reply to a further question the Committee was advised that, if representations were received that they would be brought before the committee no later than 2 months after the advertisement was placed, and that the fees would then take effect, but no later than the 1 January 2014 dependant on the results of the</p>	<p>A Sanderson x2311</p>

<p>consultation exercise. Should any comments be received the report would be bought back to the Committee for further consideration.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the revised schedule of fees and charges (shown at Appendix 1 to the report) be agreed. 2. That a consultation period with the trade be undertaken for a period of 28 days. 	<p>S Baker Ext 2904</p>
<p>6. CHANGES TO STREET TRADING AREAS</p>	
<p>This item was dealt with after Item 3.</p> <p>The Officer drew the Committee's attention to a typographical error in the report and advised that the date of the report should read 22 October 2013.</p> <p>In reply to a question regarding implementation of the changes the Committee was advised that the agreed proposals would be advertised in the local press for two consecutive weeks and be implemented within 28 days of the original agreement.</p> <p>In reply to concerns about increased levels of pedestrian traffic in Basils Road and access to the Cromwell Hotel the Committee was advised that the proposals had been fully consulted with Herts Highways and the Council's engineers and that no objections to the scheme had been received.</p> <p>The Committee was further advised that the proposal did not deal with the management of the market and that any safety issues arising would be dealt with by the appropriate committee.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED:</p>	<p>S Baker Ext 2904</p> <p>S Baker</p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the proposals for a change to the street trading regime be agreed. 2. That it be noted that formal consultation had been undertaken regarding the proposed modification of the Street Trading regime. 	Ext 2904
7. URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
<p>The Licensing Manager advised the Committee that a notice had been received from East Herts Council regarding the offer of a half day seminar on the impact of alcohol on health. No other details had been received. Members were invited to express an interest to the Licensing Manager.</p> <p>Members were further advised that the Taxi Driver hearing scheduled for 14:00 on Thursday 24 October had been switched to the Council Chamber.</p>	<p>H Morris Ext 2175</p> <p>G Moody Ext 2203</p>
8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
<p>It was RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by SI 2006 No. 88. 2. That having considered the reasons for the following item being in Part II it be determined that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure. 	
PART II	
9. MINUTES – 19 JULY 2013	

It was RESOLVED that the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	G Moody Ext 2203
10. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None	