

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 14 November 2018

Attendees: Councillor Roger Buston, Councillor Simon Crow, Councillor Paul Dundas, Councillor Dave Harris, Councillor Mike Hogg, Councillor Darius Laws, Councillor Julie Young
Substitutes: Councillor Helen Chuah (for Councillor Nick Cope)
Also Present:

71 Minutes 29 August 2018 (with amendment)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 28 August 2018 (amended) and 3 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

72 Taxi Policy Consultation Responses

Have Your Say!

Mr Naish, Private Hire Driver, spoke to the Committee concerning the requirement in the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy for an annual medical once a driver reached the age of 65. Mr Naish questioned why it was necessary when the DVLA do not request any renewal of licence until the age of 70. Mr Naish asked why there was age discrimination towards taxi drivers when members of staff from other areas of work are not asked to complete a medical examination to carry on working.

The Committee sympathised with Mr Naish but acknowledged that, as Mr Ruder had pointed out, the annual medical certification for a Private/Hire Hackney Carriage driver from the age of 65 is a requirement of the Group 2 UK medical standards for driver licensing.

Mr Isbill, Chairman of the Colchester Hackney Carriage Association, addressed the Committee with regard to investigating quotes for CCTV systems that met the specifications currently required by the Policy. Mr Isbill informed the Committee that the cost was £1000 - £1200 which he felt was a substantial amount. The Committee thanked Mr Isbill for his assistance with regard to the quotes but would not comment at the moment as CCTV would be discussed at a future Committee date.

The Committee then considered a report from the Assistant Director Communities concerning the Taxi Policy consultation responses and were asked to consider those received following a further period of consultation on the Policy.

Mr Ruder, Licensing, Food & Safety Manager informed the Committee that, due to the

outcome of the consultation, officers were asking the Committee to approve the necessary changes to the Taxi Policy but not to include, at this stage, provisions relating to CCTV. He informed the Committee that officers had been working very closely with trade members and a number of important issues had been raised which required further detailed consideration and work. Amongst the issues raised were the ownership and storage of the data and cost of the equipment.

The Committee thanked officers and the Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire drivers, who had responded to the consultation, for all their hard work and co-operation.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the Policy, excluding Appendix 1, be recommended to full Council for adoption and implementation with effect from 1 January 2019.
- (ii) That full Council be recommended to delegate to the Licensing Committee authority to determine the provisions in relation to the installation of CCTV in hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

73 Gambling Policy

The Committee considered a report from Mr Ruder, Licensing, Food & Safety Manager, with regard to approving the Gambling Policy following the end of a consultation period.

Mr Ruder informed the Committee that no representations had been made within the consultation period and the Committee were therefore being asked to agree the draft Policy and propose its adoption to full Council on 6 December 2018.

RESOLVED that the draft Policy be agreed and recommended to full Council for adoption and implementation with effect from 31 January 2019.

74 Pavement Permits (Street Restaurant, Café and Bar Furniture)

The Committee considered a report by Mr Ruder, Licensing and Food Safety Manager, with regard to the introduction a permit procedure for the safe layout of movable street furniture in the town. It was hoped to encourage a café culture in relation to bars, pubs, restaurants and cafes.

Mr Ruder informed the Committee that the aim was to use a permit and conditions system to ensure ease of access, safety and improve visual impact in an efficient, fair and controlled way. The proposed policy was intended to help businesses understand where street cafes might be encouraged, where they would not be permitted, and the specific requirements in relation to their licensing.

In response to questions from the Committee Mr Ruder informed them that the Policy would initially start in the town centre but could become Borough wide later. It was also

explained that the pricing table was based on square meterage of the outside area and for businesses that renew it would be a lower amount. The Committee were informed that there was an error in section 8 it should read 'The Council will require that all glasses, crockery and other ancillary items used in the permitted area, are made of a toughened material when the area is used after 6.00pm'

In reply to a question about beggars Mr Ruder informed the Committee that he would contact the Community Safety Team and raise the issue with them.

RESOLVED that the draft Policy be agreed and recommended to full Council for adoption and implementation with effect from 1 January 2019.