



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 29th July 2021

LICENSING AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION COMMITTEE

**10th March 2021
4.00 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor Hasthorpe (in the Chair)
Councillors Cairns, Green, Harness, K. Swinburn, Watson (substitute for Rodwell)
and Woodward.

Officers in attendance:

- Rob Close (Scrutiny and Committee Support Officer)
- Eve Richardson-Smith (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
- Adrian Moody (Licensing Manager and Environmental Protection Manager)

L.11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for this meeting from Councillors James and Rodwell.

L.12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

L.13 MINUTES

The minutes of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee meeting held on 18th November 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

In accordance with legislative requirement, for the following items the Committee was sitting as the '**Community Protection Committee.**'

L.14 ANIMAL WELFARE FEES REVIEW

The committee considered a report from the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources proposing changes to the fee structure for licensed animal activities.

Mr Moody offered a general explanation of all licensable activity fees being reviewed. He stated that the potential increase in fees as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was avoided as much as possible when the review was undertaken. However, the work carried out to sustain the fees during the pandemic did have an impact upon the review, resulting in an increase of £1 for officers' hourly rate. All material and procedural costs had been removed. Payments had also been deferred where business operation has been restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED – That the new fee structure be approved as laid out within the report now submitted.

L.15 SCRAP METAL DEALERS' LICENCES FEES REVIEW

The committee considered a report from the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources proposing changes to the fee structure for Scrap Metal Licensing in North East Lincolnshire following a review of the costs involved in the work undertaken in this area since the last full review in 2020.

Although acknowledging that this issue didn't form part of their considerations, the committee registered their concern that the increase in fees for scrap metal dealers would conflict with North East Lincolnshire Council's support of the UK Steel Charter, and its declaration of a climate change emergency. It was noted that scrap metal was essential for the provision of recycled steel.

RESOLVED – That the new fee structure be approved as laid out within the report now submitted.

L.16 SEX ENTERTAINMENT VENUES FEES REVIEW

The committee considered a report from the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources proposing changes to the fee structure for sex establishment premises.

RESOLVED – That the new fee structure be approved as laid out within the report now submitted.

L.17 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FEES REVIEW

The committee considered a report from the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources that proposed changes to the fee structure for the hackney carriage and private hire licensing regime in North East Lincolnshire.

Mr Moody explained that administration of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle licenses had been impacted the most from the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the trade had continued to operate throughout the pandemic and licensing officers had made every effort to assist them.

RESOLVED –

1. That the new fee structure be approved as laid out within the report now submitted, subject to relevant statutory notice procedures.
2. That, subject to statutory public notice, any objections received pursuant to advertisement be delegated and considered by the Assistant Director (Environment) in consultation with the Chair of Licensing and Community Protection Committee.

In accordance with legislative requirement for the following item the Committee sat as the '**Licensing Committee**'

L.18 GAMBLING FEES REVIEW

The committee considered a report from the Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Resources proposing changes to the fee structure for licensed gambling premises.

The committee sought detail of the penalties in place for gambling premises if they were caught allowing minors to use services. Mr Moody explained that premises such as betting shops, where minors were not allowed to be present, did not typically have such issues. However, if an issue were to arise, the premises would be brought before a sub-committee of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee for review.

RESOLVED – That the new fee structure be approved as laid out within the report now submitted.

L.19 URGENT BUSINESS – LICENSING POLICY

The committee received an update on the review of licensing policy.

With the prior agreement of the Chair, this item was considered to be of urgency due to its impact when determining upcoming licensing hearings.

Mr Moody explained that licensing policy should be reviewed every five years and was due for republishing in January 2021. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, effective consultation with licensees wasn't considered possible. In accordance with Local Government Association (LGA) guidance, and having consulted with Elected Member group leaders, relevant portfolio holders, and the Chair of the Licensing and Community Protection Committee, the review of licensing policy had been deferred, and the current licensing policy remained in place. He suggested that consultation take place between June and August 2021, with a view to have an updated licensing policy in place by the end of 2021. This would result in a more meaningful consultation and would allow for the effects of the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions to be known. Consultation would be taken in parallel with the scheduled review of the gambling policy.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.