



LICENSING COMMITTEE

4.30 p.m. - 5.05 p.m.

17 December 2009

Present: Councillors Driver (in the Chair following appointment), Dylan (Vice-Chair following appointment), Banham, George, Hooke, Jago, Lay, A. Little, Llewellyn and Stephenson

Apologies: Councillors Blower and Cannell

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Driver as Chair for the remainder of the Civic Year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Dylan as Vice Chair for the remainder of the Civic Year.

3. COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

Andy Emms, Democratic Services Manager presented the report and asked members to consider the ways if undertaking the duties previously carried out by the Licensing, Licensing-Sub and Regulatory Committees.

He reminded members that following consideration of recommendations from the Constitution Working Party, Council had agreed at its meeting on 29 September 2009 that the functions of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees would be merged to form a new Licensing Committee comprising of 13 members.

The Licensing Committee's agendas would be split into Licensing Act/Gambling Act business and Regulatory business. In respect of hearings, the work currently undertaken by the Licensing Sub and Regulatory Committees would need to be undertaken by new Sub-Committees of the Licensing Committee.

Members discussed the various options of how many members could be allocated to each group of each Regulatory Sub-Committee which would meet once a month to consider regulatory hearings.

In response to questions, Andy Emms said although he would try to make the sub-committees as politically balanced as possible, as the hearings were judicial it would not be a requirement. If members were allocated to groups before the hearings

commenced in January 2010, they would know in advance what sub-committee they would be serving on and be able to arrange substitutes if necessary. He said a group of 5 members on a sub-committee would be safer than 3 as it was not always possible to know if a member knew a taxi driver until the actual hearing which would mean that the sub-committee would not be quorate.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) agree that the current procedure for Licensing Sub-Committees continue with valid objections/representations to applications placed before a Sub-Committee of 3 members of the Licensing Committee who will then determine the matter;
- (2) agree that the Regulatory Sub-Committee meetings be arranged as follows:-
 - (a) that they are split into 3 groups of 5 members to include the Chair of the Licensing Committee who will be present at every meeting;
 - (b) if the Chair be unavailable for a meeting then a substitute Chair be nominated on the day;
 - (c) that a Vice-Chair for each Sub-Committee be elected at the beginning of each groups' first hearing;
 - (d) that all meetings commence at 2.00pm
 - (e) that the quorum be 3 members with substitutes if required;
- (3) ask the Committee Officer to contact the Senior Licensing Officer to arrange Regulatory and Licensing training for members who require it.

4. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

Andy Emms said the Licensing Committee would only need to meet 2 or 3 times a year to discuss matters of policy, strategy and other major issues such as responding to government consultations.

RESOLVED to agree that meetings for the Licensing Committee be arranged for the third Thursday in March, June, September and December unless otherwise advised by the Committee Officer.

CHAIR