



LICENSING COMMITTEE

4.30 p.m. - 4.55 p.m.

15 July 2010

Present: Councillors Driver (Chair), Ramsay (Vice-Chair following election), Banham, Blower, Dylan and George

Apologies: Councillor Hooke

1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Ramsay as Vice-Chair for the forthcoming civic year.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2010.

3. FITNESS TESTING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/ PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE/ PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER ASSESSMENTS

The Senior Licensing Officer presented the report. Due to the early curtailment of the services previously provided by CityCare, three contractors had been appointed to carry out the servicing for an interim period between 1 March and 31 May 2010. The service was re-tendered between 4 and 18 May and, as the only tenders received was from the existing three contractors, a three year contract was awarded to those contractors with effect from 1 June 2010.

In response to questions, the Senior Licensing Officer said the Licensing Department had not received any complaints since the new contractors had taken over from Citycare. If one of the contractors failed a vehicle, then the vehicle owner was entitled to go to one of the other providers for a re-test.

In regards to a possible conflict of interest between Dolphin Taxis and Dolphin Autos, the Senior Licensing Officer said legal advice had been sought at tendering stage but the Council would be monitoring the contract.

RESOLVED to note the position regarding the contractual arrangements for the fitness testing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

4. MOTION TO COUNCIL – ALCOHOL PROMOTIONS

The Senior Licensing Officer presented the report and informed members of the current position following the motion to Council on 26 January 2010 regarding irresponsible alcohol promotions. He updated members of the progress of The Licensing Act 2003 (Mandatory Licensing Conditions) Order 2010 which had been reported at the previous meeting of the Committee on 18 March 2010.

The Senior Licensing Officer referred to an email received from the Local Government Regulation in regards to a Treasury review of alcohol taxation and pricing. As part of the Draft Structural Performance Plan, the government would be addressing the issue of irresponsible drinking in a forthcoming consultation 'Addressing the Licensing Act'.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) agree not to pursue a strategy on alcohol promotions as outlined in the motion, following the introduction of mandatory licensing conditions relating to irresponsible drinks promotions;
- (2) agree that:-
 - (a) a letter is not required to be sent to Secretary of State for Health to endorse proposals for a minimum price for alcohol sold in Norwich;
 - (b) the Council should participate and respond to the forthcoming consultation 'Addressing the Licensing Act' in the banning of low cost alcohol sales.

5. MOTION TO COUNCIL – FACE TO FACE FUNDRAISING

(Stefan Gurney, City Centre Partnership Manager attended the meeting for this item).

The Senior Licensing Officer presented the report and explained how face to face fundraising fell outside the current statutory remit of the Licensing Authority. However, following a meeting between the Council and representatives from the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA), the police and the Central Norwich Citizens Forum, it had been agreed that voluntary site agreements would be established as it had been with other local authorities across the country to control face to face fundraising.

In response to a question, the City Centre Partnership Manager said after consulting with charity collectors, the PFRA were happy to sign the current agreement as contained in Appendix A of the report. The charity collectors had all been registered national organisations who had an association with the PFRA.

The City Centre Partnership Manager provided details of areas in the City that the charities would operate in and explained how they would only be permitted to operate on non consecutive days. There would be a maximum of five fund-raisers operating at any one time located in one of the three designated areas. Although the

agreement was not enforceable by law, it had proved effective in every city that it currently operated in. When any issues had been raised, the charity responsible had been removed from the area.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the voluntary site management agreement between the Public Fundraising Regulatory Authority and Norwich City Council as attached in Appendix A in the report, on the provision that the Council cannot be restricted in the exercise of any statutory power or duty;
- (2) note the current position regarding the implementation of the Charities Act 2006 in relation to the regulation of public charitable collections.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) note the dates of future meetings as follows:-
 - Thursday 9 September 2010 at 4.30pm
 - Thursday 9 December 2010 at 4.30pm
 - Thursday 10 March 2011 at 4.30pm
- (2) note that the scheduled meeting in September may be changed due to a possible clash with the forthcoming by-election to be organised by the Committee Officer when known.

CHAIR