

Licensing Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held on
Monday 28 September 2015 at **6.00 pm** at the **Council Chamber, District
Offices**, College Heath Road, Mildenhall IP28 7EY

Present: **Councillors**

Chairman Michael Anderson
Vice Chairman Carol Lynch

Ruth Allen	Christine Mason
Rona Burt	Nigel Roman
John Bloodworth	Bill Sadler
David Bowman	Reg Silvester

17. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Bimson and Brian Harvey.

18. **Substitutes**

Councillor Rona Burt attended the meeting as substitute for Councillor David Bimson, and Councillor David Bowman attended as substitute for Councillor Brian Harvey.

19. **Public Participation**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

20. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2015 were unanimously accepted by the Committee as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

21. **Revised Dress Code for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers
(Report No LIC/FH/15/004)**

The Business Regulation and Licensing Manager asked the Committee to consider revising the dress code condition concerning drivers of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles in order to portray a professional image which would promote both the business and the Forest Heath District.

He added that the same report was also to be presented to St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 29 September 2015.

The Officer explained that having sought the advice of the West Suffolk Corporate Communications team he proposed that the condition set out in Paragraph 1.4 of Report No LIC/FH/15/004 be amended to include the headings "Items of Clothing Deemed Appropriate" (as opposed to "allowed") and "Items of Clothing Deemed Inappropriate" (as opposed to "not allowed").

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the proposed dress code condition, as set out in Paragraph 1.4 of the report and with the amendment as identified above, be approved for consultation with current licence holders.

22. **Child Sexual Exploitation: Awareness Raising and Training for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licence Holders (Report No LIC/FH/15/005)**

The Business Regulation and Licensing Manager presented this report which asked Members to approve mandatory Child Sexual Exploitation training for all drivers.

The same report was also to be presented to St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 29 September 2015 to enable training to take place for all West Suffolk Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers.

The Committee was advised that the first training sessions would be delivered in the New Year, provided free of charge by the Suffolk Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The Chairman and the Committee as a whole supported the proposal and with the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That:-

1. The contents of the report be noted and mandatory Child Sexual Exploitation training for all drivers (subject to its ongoing viability) be approved; and
2. The Business Regulation and Licensing Manager be given Delegated Authority to specify the start date, following consultation with the Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

23. **West Suffolk Councils Gambling Act 2005: Joint Statement of Policy - 2016 to 2019 (Report No LIC/FH/15/006)**

Further to the initial report presented to the Licensing Committee on 29 June 2015, the Business Regulation and Licensing Manager now asked Members to consider the results of the public consultation that was undertaken; and

subsequently sought approval for the adoption of a revised joint West Suffolk Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Policy 2016 – 2019.

The Officer confirmed that the same report was also to be presented to St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 29 September 2015, following which the Policy would seek final approval at both Authorities' meetings of full Council on 9 and 15 December 2015.

With the vote being unanimous, it was

RESOLVED:

That the revised West Suffolk Gambling Act 2005: Statement of Policy 2016 – 2019 be approved for adoption by Council on 9 December 2015.

(Note: Subsequent to this meeting of the Committee, minor amendments have been made under delegated authority to the text of the Joint Statement of Policy by the Head of Planning and Growth in consultation with Councillor James Waters as Portfolio Holder. The amendments were required to take account of a new edition of the Gambling Commission Guidance for Licensing Authorities. Accordingly the 3rd paragraph of the Preface now reads: 'All references made within this document to the Gambling Commission Guidance for Licensing Authorities , and any extracts quoted thereof, refer to the Fifth Edition of the Guidance document published in September 2015'. Further very minor textual amendments have been made to the document under delegated authority but these do not materially affect the meaning of the document.)

The meeting concluded at 6.19pm

Signed by:

Chairman
