

Contact Officer: Jenny Bryce-Chan

## **KIRKLEES COUNCIL**

### **LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 4th November 2015**

Present: Councillor Ken Smith (Chair)  
Councillor Mahmood Akhtar  
Councillor Karen Allison  
Councillor Bill Armer  
Councillor Christine Iredale  
Councillor Marielle O'Neill  
Councillor Carole Pattison  
Councillor Amanda Pinnock  
Councillor Hilary Richards  
Councillor David Ridgway  
Councillor Mohan Sokhal  
Councillor Michael Watson

Apologies: Councillor Amanda Stubbley

- 1 Membership of the Committee**  
Councillor Gemma Wilson substituted for Councillor Andrew Palfreeman  
Apologies from Councillor Amanda Stubbley
- 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 February 2015 were approved as a correct record.
- 3 Interests**  
No interests were declared
- 4 Admission of the Public**  
The Committee considered the question of the exclusion of the public and determined that all the items be taken in public session.
- 5 Deputations/Petitions**  
No deputations or petitions were received
- 6 Public Question Time**  
No questions were asked

**7 Revised Gambling Policy - Statement Of Principles**

The Committee considered a report seeking adoption of the Gambling Policy which is a statutory requirement that must be revised every 3 years. The Committee was advised a recent consultation exercise did not attract any response. Members were requested to recommend the policy to Full Council.

**RESOLVED -**

(1) that the draft Revised Gambling policy be recommended to Council for approval

(2) that if anything significant is raised as part of the consultation process then a special meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee will be convened to consider the issues before the policy is submitted to Full Council.

**8 Taxi & Private Hire Licensing - Driver Conditions**

The Committee consider a report in respect of driver conditions, which had been revised as part of the work being undertaken by the Council, post the Casey Report. Trade representatives were also in attendance and raised concerns about aspects of the proposed revisions, namely, that the words 'exceptional circumstance' be included at point 6; and the removal of the requirement for drivers to carry their insurance document with them while at work. Officers recommended that Committee approve the proposed changes and authorise the implementation with immediate effect.

**RESOLVED -** That the wording at point 6 of the policy be revised to include the words 'exceptional circumstances'.

That the revision in respect of drivers carrying insurance documents while at work not be accepted at this stage but will be revisited when it had been considered by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

**9 Licensed Vehicle Age Limits & Insurance total loss vehicles (write offs)**

The Committee considered a report in respect of Licensed Vehicle Age Limits & Insurance total loss vehicles (write offs). Officers recommended that Committee not make any changes at this time while the matter is being looked at by the Combined Authority.

**RESOLVED -** That no changes be made at this time until guidance is received from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

**10 Assessment Criteria and Convictions Policy for Licensed Drivers (1)**

The Committee was advised that the policy was adopted one year ago, with further amendments made in February 2015. The new amendments being brought before Committee included the addition of new offences, timescales, and a chapter specific to children and on complaints. The revised policy had been out for consultation. Officers recommended that Committee consider and authorise the revised policy for use with immediate effect.

**RESOLVED -** that the revision to the policy be agreed for implementation with immediate effect.

**11 Taxi and Private Hire Licensing - Fees**

The Committee consider a report seeking approval for new fees for taxi and private hire licensing. Trade representatives were in attendance and raised objections to the charges being proposed, in that they felt they were excessive, and submitted a sign petition opposing the fees.

**RESOLVED** - that the new fees structure be approved for implementation with effect from 13 November 2015.

**12 Briefing Paper - Rossendale**

The Committee considered a briefing paper at the request of the Chair on the current status nationally of issues arising out of Rossendale.

**RESOLVED** - that the briefing paper be noted.

**13 Briefing Paper - UBER**

The Committee considered a briefing paper at the request of the Chair on the current status nationally of UBER.

**RESOLVED** - that the briefing paper be noted.