

# LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2019  
ORWELL ROOM, GRAFTON HOUSE  
6.00 PM

**Present:** Councillors S Barber, S Connelly, K Cracknell, S Darwin, E Hughes, J Riley, L Trenchard, N Cenci, R Vickery, E Xhaferaj and I Lockington  
Councillor Ross, Portfolio Holder for Community Protection.

**24. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Richardson and Studd.

**25. Unconfirmed Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 7 August 2019**

**Resolved:**

that subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2019 be signed as a true record.

**Minute No. 14 (paragraph 2) – Add ‘Action – An update on hotspots data mapping be provided at the next meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee’ following ‘meeting’**

**Minute No. 17.3 – Add ‘safety organisations’ following ‘premises’**

Ms Devine confirmed that hotspot data had been included in Appendix 1 of report C/18/10 which had been considered by Council on 28 November 2018.

Ms Devine, the Senior Licensing & Enforcement Officer, proposed that five representatives from the Licensing and Regulatory Committee be invited to attend the Purple Flag Working Group on Monday 2 December 2019. It was agreed that

Councillors would email the Democratic Services Manager to confirm who would attend the Purple Flag Working Group. The representatives would be within party proportionality, which would be at 3:1:1.

**26. To Confirm or Vary the Order of Business**

**Resolved:**

**that the order of business be confirmed as printed on the Agenda.**

**27. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**28. LR/19/09 Update on Voluntary Scheme 'Reducing the Strength'**

28.1 Ms Devine confirmed that the 'Reducing the Strength' campaign in 2012 had been significant as many premises had voluntarily agreed to remove super strength alcohol from sale, however, due to a high turnover, the new premises licence holders would not be bound to honour the voluntary arrangement.

28.2 Ms Devine reported that of the 153 premises licences in place in 2016, 15 had been closed and the licences surrendered, 46 had a condition on the licence that prevented the sale of super strength beers, lagers and ciders, 40 premises had removed these voluntarily and one premise had been issued with a Community Protection Notice.

28.3 Since 2016, 8 premises licences had been issued to convenience stores for the sale of alcohol and of these 7 had been issued with the condition that prevented the sale of super strength alcohol. One store had no condition on the licence as alcohol sales only made up a small percentage of the overall sales. The Local Government Association produced guidance for councils that considered setting up a 'Reducing the Strength' scheme and a copy of this was attached as appendix A.

28.4 Ms Devine confirmed that of the 153 premises licences it was not known how many still had the voluntarily scheme in place.

28.5 Discussion took place around how new premise licences holders could be encouraged to sign up to the 'Reducing the Strength' scheme and how the scheme could be revived. It was noted that drinking habits had changed with a move towards premium or craft products, which had been excluded from the scheme as these were not associated with street drinking. Ms Devine confirmed that the 'Reducing the Strength' scheme was not written into the licence.

28.6 Councillor Vickery suggested that information outlining the objectives and benefits of the scheme be included in a pack that could be given to new premises licence holders.

- 28.7 Councillor Ross reported that large number of deaths and anti-social behaviour incidents had been linked to drugs rather than street drinking. It was confirmed that although many premises licence holders had voluntarily signed up when it had been launched, if the premises licence holder changed they would not be obligated to continue with the voluntary scheme. It was suggested that when a premises licence was issued that the updated paperwork be sent to the licence holder outlining the 'Reducing the Strength' scheme with a follow up phone call or visit to the premises.
- 28.8 Ms Devine confirmed that Rebecca Kidd-Stanton had been appointed as the new Licensing Inspector for Suffolk Constabulary and it was requested that Ms Kidd-Stanton be invited to attend the next Licensing and Regulatory Committee. It was agreed that the committee would provide questions to be put forward to the Inspector prior to the meeting.

**Action: for Inspector Kidd-Stanton to be invited to the next Licensing and Regulatory Committee and for the committee to email Ms Devine questions that would be put forward to the Inspector prior to the meeting.**

**Resolved:**

**that the report be noted.**

**29. LR/19/10 Possible Exemptions to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy**

- 29.1 Ms Devine confirmed that the Taxi and Private Hire Policy had introduced an age limit of 15 years old for all vehicles from 2020 and from 10 years old from 2025, however, this had included a caveat that the committee reserved the right to make exemptions for vehicles which would be heard and considered by the committee. Ms Devine asked the committee whether officers would be authorised to filter applications for exemptions.
- 29.2 It was agreed that all applications for exemptions would be considered by the committee and drivers could be requested to bring their vehicle for inspection. Councillor Connelly raised that no time scale had been set for how long the exemptions would last nor how many times a vehicle's exemption would be considered, and this would need to be confirmed.
- 29.3 Councillor Ross said that there was likely to be a push towards lower emissions vehicles within the next five years and therefore it was suggested that the exemptions should be made for classic cars or cars that had a historical importance. The timescale of the exemption was suggested to be two years and it was agreed that the vehicle's emission readings should be submitted to the committee.

**Resolved:**

that the publication of guidance on the standard required for vehicles to be exempted from age limit for licensed vehicles be delayed and that consideration of the issue be deferred to the next Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

**30. LR/19/11 Licensing Update Report**

**Resolved:**

**that the report be noted.**

**31. Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committees - Evening Meetings - Verbal Update**

31.1 Ms Devine confirmed that evening meetings for Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Sub-Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee could be held, however, there would need to be caveat due to the number of people that would be involved. It was confirmed that meetings would need to be finished by 21:45 for the building to be secured and that an agreed procedure would be confirmed with Legal Services with regards to any hearings which required adjourning. It was also noted that the anticipated length of a hearing would be considered before being suggested for an evening meeting.

**32. Cumulative Impact Policy**

32.1 Councillor Hughes requested that an assessment be carried out to establish whether there had been any changes in the hotspots due to the Cumulative Impact Policy.

**Action: For an assessment to be carried out as to whether there had been any changes in the hotspots due to the Cumulative Impact Policy.**

32.2 Councillor Hughes requested that data related to applications within the Cumulative Impact Area for the last year and data mapping for offences reported in and around licensed premises within Ipswich, used to indicate any hotspots in the Cumulative Impact Area, be provided at the next Licensing and Regulatory Committee. It was confirmed that this information would be held by the Police and therefore an email would be sent to the Licensing Inspector at Suffolk Constabulary to request this.

**Action: That the information required for the hotspots data mapping from requested by Suffolk Constabulary and that data related to applications within the Cumulative Impact Area for the last year be provided at the next meeting.**

**33. Exclusion of Public**

**Resolved:**

that the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining business under section 100(A) of the Local Government Act as it was likely that members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information falling within paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**34. LR/19/12 Enforcement Action Report**

The meeting closed at 7.08 pm

**Chair**