



## LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

**MEETING** : Tuesday, 12th December 2017

**PRESENT** : Cllrs. H. Norman (Chair), Patel, Tracey, Lugg, Hanman, D. Brown, Hansdot, Pearsall (Vice-Chair), Hyman, Walford and Haigh

**Officers in Attendance**

Vikki Fennell, One Legal

Meyrick Brentnall, City Centre Improvement & Environment Manager

Darren Mountford, City Centre Improvement Officer

Tony Wisdom, Democratic Services Officer

**APOLOGIES** : Cllrs. Gravells and Brazil

### 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made on this occasion.

### 13. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

### 15. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no petitions or depositions.

### 16. PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR RULE BOOK - 'IN-HOUSE' PRIVATE HIRE BOOKING SYSTEM FOR CLUBS

The City Centre Improvement Officer presented the report which invited the Committee to consider, for the purposes of public consultation, a proposal to remove the 'In-House' Private Hire Bookings Systems for clubs from the Private Hire Operator Rule Book.

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**12.12.17**

He outlined the background and key issues laid out in Section 3 of the report and advised that over the last two years a total of 36 internal penalty points had been issued to Private Hire Operators who had an 'In-House' Private Hire Booking System in addition to warning letters.

He explained that the points had been issued for offences of touting when the operator had stepped out of the premises and asked members of the public if they required a taxi.

He confirmed that recent monitoring had shown that the two remaining 'In-House' Private Hire System operators were not adhering to the conditions of their licences and continuing to tout outside the premises.

The Chair noted that an operator who had the IHB system removed in July was continuing to provide a service to the club by telephone.

Councillor Patel noted that Private Hire vehicles were being parked by the Salvation Army Citadel on Friday and Saturday nights and asked if enforcement action could be taken. The City Improvement Officer stated that the In-House booker at a nearby club used the Salvation Army as a rank and removal of the system would alleviate the concerns of the Salvation Army.

Councillor Patel stated that Private Hire vehicles also queued outside the car park and he was advised that this issue had been contentious for a number of years and penalty points could be issued if vehicles were seen to be parked on the hatched areas of highway. This issue had been highlighted in the trade newsletter issued in March.

Councillor Tracey asked how this could be curbed and the City Improvement Officer stated that action would be taken when infringements were seen. He advised that there had not been any accidents yet but there had been several near misses and incidents of vehicles making illegal U turns.

Councillor Tracey asked if there was any way some spaces could be provided and the City Improvement Officer stated that there was a rank at GL1 and, following the closure of Eastgate Street on Friday and Saturday nights, a temporary rank had been made available in Clarence Street.

Councillor Patel stated that he would support the recommendations if operators were not abiding by the rules.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) Approval be granted to undertake a six week consultation in respect of removing the 'In-House Booking Systems from the Private Hire Rule Book;**
- 2) If no objections are received, delegation be provided to the Head of Place, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Chair of the Licensing and Enforcement**

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**Committee, to remove the 'In-House' Private Hire Booking Systems for clubs from the Private Hire Rule Book.**

**17. MEMBERS UPDATE FOR LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

The City Improvement Officer presented the report which provided Members with details of key licensing activities carried out in the quarter July to September 2017 including applications and service requests received, details of any enforcement work, progress updates on the work plan and any changes in Licensing Law.

He drew Members' attention to the following:-

**Best Bar None Awards**

He advised that 15 premises had signed up for the scheme and the assessments had been completed in October and November. The Chair advised that there had been 18 entrants last year and some premises were new this year. She noted that the adjudication would take place next week. and the Awards Dinner was provisionally arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Councillor Tracey was informed that the scheme covered the whole of the City. The Chair noted that many premises were part of a chain and chains were not always happy to participate in such schemes. She believed that Members could recommend the scheme to publicans in their ward.

Councillor Brown stated that he had delivered two packs to premises in his ward and both had entered last year. The Chair stated that for 2019, all Members would be given details of how they could inform publicans in their ward about the scheme.

**Mass Texting**

The Chair requested an update on the proposed mass texting initiative. The City Centre Improvement Officer advised that Firetext had been installed and was proving to be a useful tool for communicating with the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage trade particularly as the system identified who had received the message.

**Gambling Premises**

Councillor Haigh referred to minute 8 of the previous meeting and asked if any enforcement work had been undertaken in respect of gambling premises.

The City Improvement Officer advised the gambling premises now came within the remit of the Community Well-being team and he assured Councillor Haigh that the team were suitably qualified to deal with gambling matters.

Councillor Haigh asked that gambling matters be included in this report in future and that a member of the Community Well-being Team attend the next meeting of the Committee.

**Safeguarding Training**

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The City Centre Improvement Officer reported that only 40 of the 400 licensed drivers had not booked training. Two 'mop up' sessions would be held and those drivers had been informed by letter that if they failed to attend the training their driver's licences would be suspended from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 until such time as they attended the training. The next session would be held towards the end of January and would cost around £30 which the drivers would have to pay having failed to attend one of the free sessions.

**Members' Update Report**

The Chair asked members if the current format and content of the update report met their requirements.

Councillor Haigh referred to her earlier comments.

Councillor Patel asked that Members be informed of positive comments from the public. The City Centre Improvement Officer stated that could be difficult particularly if a matter was still the subject of investigation.

Councillor Brown referred to the Trade Newsletter and the City Centre Improvement Officer undertook to circulate the previous edition to Members.

Councillor Patel thanked Officers for their hard work in arranging the safeguarding training.

The Chair thanked Officers for their hard work in the quarter under review.

**RESOLVED that**

- 1) The report be noted;**
- 2) Matters pertaining to gambling premises be included in future reports;**
- 3) A Member of the Community Well-being Team attend the next meeting of the Committee.**

**18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting** during the following items of business on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public are present during consideration of this item there will be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

**19. EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE LICENSING ENFORCEMENT SUB- COMMITTEE**

The exempt minutes of the following meetings of the Licensing Enforcement Sub-Committee were received:-

"6<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

A Member was advised of the age of one of the applicants and she requested that the age of applicants be included in the minutes of future Sub-Committee meetings.

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 6.30 pm.

The Chair wished all present a Merry Christmas.

**Time of commencement: 6.30 pm hours**

**Time of conclusion: 6.58 pm hours**

**Chair**