

# **STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **Licensing and Regulatory Committee**

### **Minutes**

**Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016  
(10.00 a.m.)**

PRESENT: Councillor L.D. Lea (Chair)

Councillors B.A. Hughes, P. Jackson, B.C. Johnson, M.M. Lovatt,  
M.A. Lovatt, I.J. Lucas, and D.J.T. Shaw.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor M.T. Bowen – Portfolio Holder for Communities

OFFICERS: Alicia Patterson - Operations Manager – Environmental  
Services (Regulatory)  
Mandy Pattinson - Senior Elections Officer  
Pat Trafford - Member Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillor D. Grocott.

10. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2016** (10)

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the above meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were none.

12. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor David Shaw declared an “other” interest regarding Agenda Item 5 – Review of Polling Station – Windmill Ward as Governor of Werrington Primary School.

13. **REVIEW OF POLLING STATION – WINDMILL WARD**

Mandy Pattinson introduced the report to members, clarifying that the Polling Station had been moved earlier in 2016 from within Werrington Primary School at the request of the Head Teacher to Werrington Methodist Church. Issues had since been experienced with parking at the Church. As a result, enquiries had been made with the new Head Teacher to see if the Polling Station could go back to the School, with no objections having been received.

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### 13. REVIEW OF POLLING STATION – WINDMILL WARD (CONTINUED) (13)

A 30 day consultation had taken place, with notices posted locally and on the Council's website, together with notification having been sent to the relevant District Councillors, the Parish Council and political group leaders.

RESOLVED – That the Polling Station location for Windmill Ward be moved from Werrington Methodist Church to Werrington Primary School with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

*(Proposed by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Shaw).*

### 14. PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW

Members were advised that, as part of the 5 yearly annual review carried out by the Boundary Review Commissions, changes were proposed to the Constituency of the Staffordshire Moorlands.

The broad intention of the changes was to bring the Constituency boundary in line with that of the Staffordshire Moorlands district. This meant that 5 wards in the Kidsgrove area would be transferred FROM the Staffordshire Moorlands Constituency TO the Newcastle-under-Lyme Constituency and 5 wards in the Cheadle area would be transferred FROM the Stone Constituency TO the Staffordshire Moorlands Constituency.

Members felt that this was a logical progression, giving a clearer and more consistent identity to the Staffordshire Moorlands. In particular, It was expected that Cheadle area residents would welcome the move as they generally identified more with Staffordshire Moorlands than with Stone.

Following the current consultation exercise, the Commissions would submit their final report to the Secretary of State, who would then forward the report to Parliament, resulting in enactment in 2018.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be **NOTED** and a positive response be submitted on behalf of the Council to the Boundary Commission in respect of the consultation exercise.

### 15. TAXI & HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRAFT POLICY

Alicia Patterson confirmed to members that, under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, Licensing Authorities were obliged to regularly review and update policies to reflect changes in legislation, local circumstances and safeguarding issues.

A 6 week consultation exercise had been undertaken during August and September 2016, including 2 drop-in sessions which were well attended and

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15. **TAXI & HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRAFT POLICY (CONTINUED)** (15)

where many queries were clarified, thus reducing the number of responses to the consultation. A total of 3 responses were actually received – 1 from a Hackney Carriage Driver, 1 from an Operator and 1 from Staffordshire County Council.

The Draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy was attached to the report as Appendix A, with the table of consultation comments as Appendix B.

Alicia outlined each aspect of the consultation responses, confirming where changes to the Draft Policy were proposed or resisted as a result, with reasons given in each instance. One amendment which was proposed after the production of the report was the 'minimum mileage for a new vehicle to be first registered'. Members agreed that this mileage be reduced from 100,000 to 75,000.

RESOLVED – That the comments and amendments as detailed in Appendix B to the report be **APPROVED**.

FURTHER RESOLVED – That it be **RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL** to give delegated authority to the Head of Regulatory Services to make minor modifications to the policy to reflect any change in legislation or case law or to promote efficient administration of the licensing function without consultation if appropriate.

FURTHER RESOLVED – That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy together with changes recommended by this Committee be presented to Full Council for **ADOPTION BY THE COUNCIL**.

*(Proposed by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Hughes).*

16. **CHAIR/MEMBERS QUESTIONS/ISSUES**

There were no questions or issues raised.

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

The meeting closed at 10:30 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Date