

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee held as a Virtual Meeting  
on Monday, 26th October, 2020 at 7.30 pm

### 1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to this virtual meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee that was being conducted with Members and Officers at various locations, communicating via audio/video and online and advised that there was the opportunity for the public and press to listen and view proceedings.

The Committee, Member and Scrutiny Manager undertook a roll call and gave advice regarding the following:

- Attendance;
- Live Streaming;
- Noise interference;
- Rules of Debate;
- Voting;

The Chair, Councillor Lisa Nash, started the meeting proper.

### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Barnard.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Audio recording –*

- (1) In accordance with Council policy this meeting was being audio recorded as well as filmed. The audio recordings would be available to view on Mod.gov and the film recording via the NHDC YouTube channel.
- (2) Members were reminded to make declarations of interest before an item, the detailed reminder about this and speaking rights was set out under Chair's Announcements on the agenda.

### 5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no presentations by members of the public.

### 6 ADOPTION OF A TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the responses to the public consultation on the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy be noted;

- (2) That the following amendments be made to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy:
  - That the following be added into the driver code of conduct: If a driver witnesses a crime they are required to report it to the Police;
  - That Section 7 of the Policy refer to Taxi instead of Hackney Carriage.
- (3) That, subject to the amendments in (2) above, the revised Policy attached as Appendix D be adopted.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) The existing policy has worked well since its adoption with effect from 4 April 2018, having been revised in accordance with the provisions for minor amendments where appropriate.
- (2) The main content of the existing policy was most recently updated with effect from 4 April 2018.
- (3) With the advancement in technology and the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency, the Administration's Priorities as identified in the Council Plan, and updated Climate Change Strategy 2020 the existing policy needed re-visiting to ensure that it remains fit-for-purpose and supports these corporate policies / strategic intentions.
- (4) As responses to the public consultation were limited and raised no significant opposition to any of the proposals officers have proposed a revised policy which, in their professional opinion, meets the existing policy objectives and the Council's corporate priorities and strategy.

**7 ADOPTION OF A STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY REQUIRED BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 5 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

**RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the responses to the public consultation be noted;
- (2) That the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy attached as Appendix D be supported;

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:** That the Statement of Licensing Policy be adopted.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) Licensing authorities are required to publish a policy every five years by virtue of section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act").
- (2) A new policy must be published by 7 January 2021 to comply with this statutory requirement.
- (3) The proposed policy builds on the success of the previous and existing versions of the policy, whilst reflecting legislative changes and the Council's priorities.
- (4) Responses to the public consultation were limited and raised no significant opposition to any of the proposals.

**8 LICENSING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT**

**RESOLVED:** That the Licensing Service Annual Report be noted.

**Monday, 26th October, 2020**

***REASONS FOR DECISION:*** Section 8.2.3 of the Council Constitution requires the Full Committee to meet at least twice per civic year and section 8.2.3 (d) requires the Committee 'to receive an annual report on licensing activities including performance information'.