

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

## DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Licensing and Regulation Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF on Monday, 10th March, 2025 at 7.30 pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lisa Nash.

### 2 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (3) The Chair advised for purposes of clarification that 4.8.23(a) of the constitution did apply to this meeting and Members were required to be present for the entirety of an Item to vote.

### 3 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

### 4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 5 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM MEETING 14 OCTOBER 2024

The Licensing and Community Safety Manager provided Members with a verbal update on progress of matters raised at the meeting of the Committee on 14 October 2024.

### 6 ADOPTION OF A SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENSING POLICY

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee

- (1) Endorsed and commented on the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy, attached as Appendix A.
- (2) Delegated authority to the Licensing and Community Safety Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Regulation Committee, to make amendments to the Policy, as outlined at the meeting.

#### **REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) The current policy worked well when the district did have a licensed sex shop, however some minor amendments are needed to ensure it remains fit for purpose, particularly in areas of safeguarding and the Council's White Ribbon commitment.
- (2) The adoption of a policy ensures that applicants, licence holders, and the public have a clear understanding of the licensing process and objectives; it also ensures a consistent and transparent approach.

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee

- (1) Considered the responses to the public consultation.
- (2) Commented on the Policy, attached as Appendix A, and delegated authority to the Licensing and Community Safety Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Regulation Committee, to make amendments to the policy, as outlined at the meeting.

**REASONS FOR DECISIONS:**

- (1) The existing policy has worked well since its adoption with effect from 26 October 2020, following a public consultation on a number of changes to policy.
- (2) The adoption of a policy ensures that applicants, licence holders, and the public have a clear understanding of the licensing process and objectives; it also ensures a consistent and transparent approach to decision-making.
- (3) Continued efficiencies through smarter ways of working, supported by the co-operation of the licence holders, has resulted in changes to the policy that will improve the customer experience and make best use of existing resources.
- (4) Government has published two new documents that local authorities must consider when adopting its next policy, and they have been considered as part of this consultation process.
- (5) Early discussions with the North Herts Taxi Drivers Association identified some additional suggestions that were included in the policy published for consultation.