

WEST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Guildhall, Gainsborough on Tuesday 23 September 2014 commencing at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Jessie Milne (Chairman - In the Chair)
Councillor Burt Keimach (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Chris Day
Councillor Lewis Strange

In Attendance:

Chris Allen Head of Public Protection Services
Phil Hinch Licensing Team Manager
Lesley Beevers Regulatory Team Manager
Dinah Lilley Governance and Civic Officer

Also Present: Councillor Alan Caine

Also in Attendance: Mr Russell Morgan, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership

Apologies :

Councillor Mark Binns
Councillor David Cotton
Councillor Richard Doran
Councillor Paul Howitt-Cowan
Councillor Judy Rainsforth

Membership : No substitutes were appointed for the meeting

11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PERIOD

There was no public participation.

12 MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

(a) Licensing and Regulatory Committee 24 June 2014 (LR.17 14/15)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 24 June 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

13 MINUTES FOR NOTING

- (a) Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 25 June 2014 (LR.18 14/15)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 25 June 2014 be noted.

14 MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest made.

15 PRESENTATION ITEM: - RUSSELL MORGAN – LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR TAXI DRIVERS.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Russell Morgan to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation. In opening, Mr Morgan outlined the role he undertook on behalf of the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and the variety of courses they provided, the one of interest to the Committee being additional training for taxi drivers.

Mr Morgan outlined what the additional training involved, and the areas that were covered in the classroom, this included: -

- Highway Code Theory Test
- Managing the Road Risk
- The Law
- Corporate Manslaughter Act
- Common Offences
- Duty of Care to passengers
- Customer Services
- Collision stats in Lincolnshire
- Which drivers are more at Risk
- Mandatory Vehicle Checks
- Defensive Driving,
- Concentration, Observation, Anticipation, Space, Time
- Driving Skills Driving Licences Insurance
- Hazard Recognition
- Eco Driving
- Top 10 High Risk driving - manoeuvres in Lincolnshire
- Emergency vehicles
- Turning in the road Motoring Tips

It was further noted that the classroom session lasted approximately three hours and was delivered by an Approved Driving Instructor (ADI), this was followed by a

Practical Driving Session, whereby drivers were assessed first, then coached and then finally assessed.

Members noted the cost of the course was £120, borne by the individual, as opposed to the Authority; that it was fully certificated and that all information on performance would be reported back to the Licensing Authority.

Mr Morgan outlined the Memorandum of Understanding between Lincoln City Council and the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership which in essence meant The City Council used this course as a pre-requisite for all new Licence applicants, insisting on all applicants achieving a Practical Drive Assessment of 'Low Risk', if a licence was to be granted.

This Partnership had been borne out of Lincoln City Council having identified an issue with its licensed drivers.

In closing, Mr Morgan extended an invitation for interested parties to come and view the course at any time. The Chairman thanked Mr Morgan for his informative presentation and invited questions from the floor.

In responding to questions, Mr Morgan confirmed that no specific West Lindsey issue had been identified. Members sought some sort of indication as to whether there was evidence to suggest the course did improve driving standards. However, Mr Morgan did not have this available and indicated that he did not personally hold such data. Mr Morgan was happy to share with Officers the feedback forms completed by course attendees, all of which were positive. Confirmation was received that the course could be tailored to meet specific West Lindsey needs and that language had never previously been an issue or barrier.

The Committee thanked Mr Morgan for his input and he withdrew from the meeting.

Further discussion ensued with some Members being very supportive of introducing a further safeguard, whilst others indicated they would first wish to see evidence that the course delivered the desired results, bearing in mind this would be an additional fee applicants would need to bear and as such no West Lindsey specific issue had been identified.

Officers also asked that Members bear in mind they had recently introduced a knowledge test as an additional safeguard and at an additional cost to the applicant. Reference was also made to the Council's pledge to support small businesses.

On that basis it was : -

RESOLVED that:

- a) the Licensing Team Manager seek evidence from available sources including Lincoln City Council and the Lincolnshire

Road Safety Partnership regarding the effectiveness of the course; and

- b) the Licensing Team Manager, accompanied by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillor Day, visit the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership to further investigate the details of the course.

16 FOOD HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN – 6 MONTH UPDATE (LR.19 14/15)

Members gave consideration to a report which presented a progress and delivery update for the Food Health and Safety Plan.

In responding to Members' questions, Officers advised it was the Food Standards Agency which set out how and when food premises should be inspected.

A monthly breakdown of service performance was available through the Progress and Delivery reports submitted to the Policy Committees.

RESOLVED that:

- a) the progress and delivery update be noted; and
- b) should performance fall below 95%, a further progress report be submitted to the Committee for consideration.

The meeting concluded at 7.36 pm

Chairman