

## Minutes

of the Meeting of

## The Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 1 November 2022

Kenn Room

Meeting Commenced: 11.00 am

Meeting Concluded: 12.00 pm

### Councillors:

Andy Cole (Chairman)

Peter Bryant  
Caroline Cherry  
James Clayton  
James Tonkin  
Ian Parker  
Robert Payne  
Mike Solomon  
John Ley-Morgan

**Apologies:** Councillors John Crockford-Hawley and Stuart McQuillan.

**Absent:** Councillors Ann Harley, Nicola Holland, Marcia Pepperall, Roz Willis Ann Harley, Marcia Pepperall, Nicola Holland and Roz Willis

**Officers in attendance:** Sara Saunders (Solicitor and Senior Legal Advisor), Michele Chesterman (Committee Services Senior Officer), Caz Horton (Licensing Officer) and Sioux Isherwood (Licensing Service Lead)

### LIC7 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (Standing Order 37) (Agenda item 3)

None

### LIC8 Minutes 14 March 2022 (Agenda item 4)

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as a correct record.

### LIC9 Mid-year Report for the Administration and Enforcement of all Licensing Regimes (Agenda item 6)

The Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services' representative presented the report on the administration and enforcement of all licensing regimes undertaken by the council. The report provided a summary of some of the main activities carried out by the Licencing Team so far within the financial year

2022/2023 and highlighted the continued pressures and difficulties experienced through the recovery phase since the Coronavirus pandemic.

### **Licensing Act 2003**

Members asked questions and received clarification on issues in relation to the reduction in trade waste collections; reduction in employment of glass collectors; door staff and cleaners, costs incurred by premises holders and the nature of breaches in relation to premises rated 'amber/red' in the traffic light system.

### **Taxi and Private Hire**

It was noted that since the pandemic there had been a significant drop in the number of licenced taxi drivers nationally with North Somerset encountering a drop of 10.5% or 64 drivers.

Members asked questions and received clarification on the issues in relation to app-based taxi firms; the process of applying for a hackney carriage or private hire driving licence with North Somerset; actions being taken to increase the number of taxi drivers with an open day taking place which had attracted around 130 applications and the gender breakdown of applications received.

Members were made aware that the next policy review was due in 2023 and there was an increasing awareness to address the climatic impact of vehicles, their emissions and fuel consumption.

### **General Services Summary**

It was noted that whilst officers had seen a reduction in Covid related work, the demand for interventions and support remained high. The commitment from the team to meet statutory deadlines and provide technical advice and guidance through working long and often unsocial hours was commended.

Members discussed ways to increase the funding available for the service.

In the concluding discussions, it was:-

**Resolved:** that the outcomes and challenges to the administration of Licensing regimes undertaken by the North Somerset Council Licensing Team so far this financial year be noted.

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Chairperson

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