

LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 3 MINUTES - 8 FEBRUARY 2018

Present: Councillor Woodward (Chair);
Councillors D Edwards, Livingston and McDonald.

Apologies: Councillor Dennis and Skeats.

26. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2018 were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

27. UPDATE ON WORK CARRIED OUT BY LICENSING IN 2017

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Sub-Committee of the work carried out by licensing officers during 2017.

The report stated that officers had compiled 34 taxi and private hire prosecutions in 2017 (there had been 18 in 2016). The increase was largely due to the prosecution of UBER drivers regarding plying for hire within Reading. Private hire operator inspections had been carried out to ensure operators had been keeping records correctly and complying with the conditions attached to their licence. 37 operator inspections were carried out in 2017, recording mostly minor issues however one operator was referred to the Sub-Committee resulting in the private hire operator's licence not being renewed. Officers working with Thames Valley Police carried out 11 small and two large pre-planned operations, the objective of which had been to identify vehicles and drivers who did not comply with the regulations. In total, 402 vehicles and drivers had been inspected, including officers carrying out 237 random on-street inspections. These vehicle inspections had produced 405 report forms which required drivers and owners of vehicles to attend to the issues raised, such as over-ranking and faulty lights etc.

The report stated that during 2017 officers had inspected 247 licensed premises, including pubs, nightclubs, off-licences and late night refreshment houses (takeaways). Officers working with Thames Valley Police and the Immigration Service had carried out 43 inspections of premises, 19 of which had been found to have illegal workers on the premises (26 persons in total). 12 of those premises had their premises licence reviewed resulting in seven premises which had had their premises licence revoked and five premises had new conditions attached to their premises licence. Officers had also considered 30 grants of premise licence applications, 16 variations of premise licences, 51 premise licence transfers, 209 variations to a designated premises supervisor, 38 minor variations, 503 temporary event notices (TENS) of which 99 had been late TENS, and 141 personal licence applications.

The report also stated that during 2017 officers had processed 224 complaints and requests for information. These had ranged from serious allegations of inappropriate behaviour to lost property.

The Safety Advisory Group (SAG) held monthly meetings to review applications for the wide variety of events held in Reading. The SAG was made up of officers from various sections of the Council and officers from regulatory bodies such as the fire service and police.

During 2017 officers had also dealt with other applications and issues such as gambling, lotteries, street collections (104 permits), sexual entertainment venues, scrap metal licences, caravan sites and pavement café licences.

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Clyde Masson, Principal Licensing Officer, reported at the meeting that Reading's Purple Flag accreditation had recently been renewed.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That officers be congratulated on their hard work in 2017 and for gaining Purple Flag accreditation for a second year.

28. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved -

That, pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following items of business as it was likely that there would be disclosures of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act.

29. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE (SCHOOL TRANSPORT) VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE - WHITEKNIGHTS TRAVEL LIMITED, WHITEKNIGHTS ROAD, READING

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on an application by ZM for the grant of a private hire (school transport) vehicle operator's licence in respect of Whiteknights Travel Limited, Whiteknights Road, Reading, RG6 7BD.

A summary of the circumstances of the case was appended to the report.

The applicant, ZM, was not present at the meeting.

Resolved -

That the application by ZM for the grant of a private hire (school transport) vehicle operator's licence in respect of Whiteknights Travel Limited be deferred to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee to allow the applicant to attend.

30. APPEALS AGAINST ALLOCATION OF PENALTY POINTS ON PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCES

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report asking the Sub-Committee to consider an appeal against the allocation of penalty points on a private hire vehicle driver's licence. It was reported at the meeting that the appeal had since been withdrawn and the appellant had accepted the allocation of penalty points.

(Exempt information as defined in paragraph 1, 2, 3 and 5)

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and closed at 7.00pm)