

## GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

**PRESENT** – Councillors , Clarke, Haszeldine, C L B Hughes, B Jones, Lee, Newall, K Nicholson, Renton, A J Scott and Snedker

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors Crumbie and Donoghue

**ABSENT** – Councillor Mrs H Scott

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE** – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer), Amy Wennington (Principal Lawyer (Litigation)), Brian Murray (Assistant Licensing Manager), Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager), Chris Knox (Community Safety Programme Manager), Sgt C Dickenson (Durham Constabulary) and PC Newcombe (Durham Constabulary)

### **LG1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23**

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor C Hughes be appointed Chair of the General Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

### **LG2 APPOINT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23**

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Lee be appointed Vice Chair of the General Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

### **LG3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

### **LG4 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23 ON THE DATES AGREED IN THE CALENDAR BY CABINET AT MINUTE C100/FEB/22**

**RESOLVED** – That for the remainder of this Municipal Year the timings of meetings of this General Licensing Committee be held at 9.30 a.m

### **LG5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 MARCH 2022**

Submitted – the Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Committee held on 8 March 2022.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Licensing committee held on 8 March 2022 be approved as a correct record.

### **LG6 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 APRIL 2022**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Sub-

Committee held on 19 April 2022.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting of the General Licensing Sub-Committee held on 19 April 2022 be approved as a correct record.

**LG7 APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

The Assistant Director, Law and Governance and Proper Officer for Darlington Registration District submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to the renewal of a licence for the Hippodrome Theatre and the Head of Steam, Darlington Railway Museum to be approved as a venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of The Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994); the Civil Partnership Act (2004); the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and 2021; and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013).

The submitted report gave a summary of the Hippodrome Theatre and the Head of Steam as approved venues; the designated rooms and maximum capacity for each room.

Members considered the applications and in relation to the Head of Steam questioned accessibility for weddings to be held at the Museum and the Superintendent Registrar advised that this due to be discussed with the Railway Museum and will be reported back to Members of the General Licensing Committee.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the Hippodrome Theatre be approved as an approved premises granted for a further three years from 30 June 2022 and that the places designated where civil marriages and civil partnerships can take place indoors of the premises and the maximum number of persons who can attend those marriages and civil partnerships continue to be :

The Auditorium – 100 people  
The Hullabaloo Auditorium – 100 people

(b) That the Head of Steam, Darlington Railway Museum be approved as an approved premises granted for a further three years from 30 June 2022 and that the places designated where civil marriages and civil partnerships can take place indoors of the premises and the maximum number of persons who can attend those marriages and civil partnerships continue to be :

Platform – 100 people  
Meeting Room – 60 people  
Café – 30 people

**LG8 INTERIM REVIEW OF POLICY AND CONDITIONS RELATING TO HACKNEY CARRIAGES, PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND THEIR DRIVERS AND OPERATORS**

The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) for Members to give consideration to changes to Darlington Borough Council's Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy 2021 following the impact Covid-19 and rapidly increasing running costs has had on the taxi trade.

It was reported that on 26 November 2022, Council approved a new Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy which was implemented on 1 January 2021 and this policy had been developed following due process and included for the first time statutory standards issued by the Department for Transport (DfT); and the non-statutory best practice guide produced in 2006 which complements the statutory standards.

It had been recognised that since 2006 there had been many issues that had impacted on the trade and a revised best practice guide to reflect this was open for public consultation but it was unlikely that this guidance would be formally implemented until 2023.

It was reported that although the DfT recommend policies are reviewed every five years, interim reviews should also be considered where significant issues arise.

On 28 April 2022 a liaison meeting was held with representatives of the trade and Licensing and proposed changes were raised that would help the trade in relation to Vehicle age restrictions; Topographical knowledge test; and Window tint. Full details of the proposed changes along with the rationale was also attached to the submitted report.

**RESOLVED** – That Members of the General Licensing Committee approve the proposed amendments to the Policy subject to public consultation.