



TAXI AND GENERAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH APRIL 2017 AT 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.W.R. Preece - Chair
Councillor C.J. Gordon - Vice-Chair

Councillors:

Mrs K.R. Baker, W. David, C. Hawker, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, Mrs D. Price

Together with:

M. McSherry (Licensing Manager), T. Helps (Licensing Administrator), S. Lewis-Williams (Licensing Administrator), T. Rawson (Solicitor), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer) and J. Tyler (Administrative Assistant)

1. ANNOUNCEMENT – RETIRING MEMBERS

In noting that this would be the last meeting of the Taxi and General Committee before the local elections, the Chair referred to those Members who would not be seeking re-election and in thanking them for their service, wished them well in their retirement from local government.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs P. Cook, Ms J. Gale, Mrs P.A. Griffiths and Mrs G.D. Oliver.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

4. REVIEW OF STREET TRADING POLICY

The Licensing Manager presented the report, which informed Members of the formal consultation outcome arising from a review of the Council's street trading policy, and sought approval of the revised policy as appended to the report.

Members were reminded that following a review of the existing street trading policy, the Committee considered a revised policy on 5th December 2016, prior to formal consultation with the trade and other stakeholders. The latest report outlined the consultation responses received and further amendments made to the policy since that time. A number of minor

amendments were put forward by some consultees, which have been accommodated to provide greater clarity on the contents of the revised policy. Additions have also been made to the policy to provide clarification in relation to street trading on or near the trunk road network.

It was explained that during the consultation process, a consent holder responded to a proposal within the revised policy that mobile traders such as ice cream vans should not remain at any location for more than 30 minutes. The consent holder's comment was appended to the report and stated that the period of 60 minutes as set out in the original policy is appropriate, as it is a seasonal business and 60 minutes is a reasonable amount of time to remain at one location.

Members were therefore asked to consider whether the time restriction on mobile traders remaining in one location should be reduced from 60 minutes to a lesser period. It was explained that Licensing Officers had proposed a 30 minute limit, because 60 minutes may cause conflict with other traders in close proximity who have invested in a consent for a permanent site. A mobile trader is defined as an itinerant trader who moves from place to place.

It was explained that as future changes to legislation and guidance may have an impact on this policy and the conditions attached to street trading consents, approval was also sought for Officers to amend the policy as required for minor administrative changes, or to comply with changes in legislation or statutory guidance. Any significant changes would be brought back to the Taxi and General Committee for approval.

Members queried whether reductions to the mobile trading period could affect street traders at Council-run events. Officers explained that provisions have been made in the policy for certain activities (such as charitable, community and Council events) whereby a street trading consent is not required if the vendor has prior agreement from the event organiser. Any vendor attending events without this permission will require a street trading consent issued by the Council. Members were advised that Trading Standards carry out enforcement of street trading activities and have an active presence at a number of these events. Officers also responded to a query on the setting up of mobile stalls within shopping centres in other local authorities (for services such as satellite television), explaining that these would be subject to different arrangements in that they are not used for the sale of goods.

Arising from the course of the debate, it was moved and seconded that the existing mobile trading conditions (60 minutes at any one location) be retained. By a show of hands (and in noting there were 2 against) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the existing 60 minute period for which a mobile street trader may remain at any location be retained.

Having considered the report fully, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendations be approved. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) subject to the amendment of the mobile trading conditions to reflect the 60 minute period, the revised street trading policy as appended to the report be approved;
- (ii) Officers be authorised to amend the policy as required for minor administrative changes or to comply with changes in legislation or statutory guidance;
- (iii) the revised policy be implemented with effect from 1st May 2017.

The meeting closed at 10.21 a.m.