

## **LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**13th September 2021**

**Present: Councillor Allah Ditta in the Chair**

**Councillors Carver, Cronin, Hassan (Vice-Chair), Lamb (In place of Barnes), Lawrance, Lewing, Mackay (In place of Stanley), Mitchell, Norfolk (In place of Udall) and Stafford**

**Officers:**

<b>Lloyd Griffiths</b>	–	<b>Corporate Director, Operations, Homes &amp; Communities</b>
<b>Helen Cameron</b>	–	<b>Senior Practitioner, Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>
<b>Niall McMenamin</b>	–	<b>Senior Practitioner – Licensing, Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>
<b>Kiran Lahel</b>	–	<b>Licensing and Support Services Manager, Worcestershire Regulatory Services</b>
<b>Charlotte Pidgeon</b>	–	<b>Solicitor</b>
<b>Lucy Robson-Cropper</b>	–	<b>Democratic Services</b>

### **9 Public Representations**

Mr Mohammed Sajad, a taxi driver, addressed the Committee. He commented on a number of matters, including what he perceived to be a lack of enforcement action against unauthorised cars parking in taxi ranks in the early hours at weekends, and some drivers having to appear in front of the Licensing Sub-Committee when replacing their vehicles, due to a requirement in the WCC handbook for a minimum engine size of 1600cc.

The Chair thanked Mr Sajad for his contribution.

### **10 Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **11 Minutes**

With reference to minute 8, the Chair was asked what the outcome was regarding a future agenda item on Worcester's night time economy. Officers responded that no representations had been received on the subject, therefore it was considered that the Committee was not yet ready for an agenda item on the subject. It was acknowledged that Worcestershire Regulatory Services and others were already working closely with the local hospitality industry in this regard.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

## **12 Street Collections Update Report**

Members considered the contents of the Report, and noted that the number of Street Collect applications were down in comparison to previous years, which was as a result of the Covid19 pandemic.

**RESOLVED: That Members noted the details of all charitable street collection applications received by the Council and granted by Officers under delegated authority, (to date) for 2021.**

## **13 Community Environmental Health Activity Report**

The contents of the Report were considered. Members asked whether delays in providing Food Hygiene Certificates was problematic. Officers replied that a risk-based approach was being adopted, which prioritized larger premises.

Members enquired whether that had been an increase in aggression from complainants. Officers confirmed that training was in place to equip staff in dealing with difficult members of the public, and that whilst there were occasional instances of verbal abuse directed at employees, no-one had been threatened.

**RESOLVED: That the contents of the Community Environmental Health Report 2020-2021 were noted.**

## **14 Licensing Annual Report 2021**

Members considered the contents of the Licensing Annual Report. Officers responded to questions regarding Temporary Event Notices and Gambling establishments.

**RESOLVED: That the contents of the Licensing Annual Report 2021 were noted.**

## **15 Any Other Business**

Members queried the frequency of updates arising from the Air Quality Task and Finish Group. Officers confirmed that the Annual Air Quality Report will come to the January meeting of the Committee, which will include an update on the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group. This will provide an opportunity for further discussion.

Members expressed concern about a recent report in the local press regarding a young woman who became ill on a night out in the City centre and was allegedly

left for an hour before an ambulance was called. Questions were raised regarding duty of care in the City's hospitality establishments. Officers agreed to liaise with Worcestershire Regulatory Services upon receipt of further details.

**Duration of the meeting:** 19:00 to 20:00

Chairman at the meeting on  
13th December 2021

This page is intentionally left blank