

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

11th September 2023

Present: Councillor Richard Udall in the Chair

Councillors Agar, Allcott (Vice-Chair),
Cross, Hodgson, Lawrance, Lewing,
Norfolk, Pingree, Smith and Stanley

Also in Attendance:

Sgt Hallam and PC Evans, West Mercia
Police
Ian Millership, Licensed Vehicle Surveys
and Assessment Consultancy

Officers:

Lloyd Griffiths - Corporate Director,
Operations, Homes and Communities
Charlotte Pidgeon - Legal Officer
Niall McMenamin - Principal Licensing
Officer, Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Adrian Allman, Principal Officer - Technical
Pollution, Worcestershire Regulatory
Services
Mark Cox, Technical Services Manager,
Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Helen Cameron, Senior Environmental
Health Practitioner

70 Declarations of Interest

None.

71 Public Representations

None.

72 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

73 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report

The Committee considered a report on Air Quality within the local authority area over the previous calendar year, including results of air pollutants monitored over the year, comparison with national Air Quality Standards, trends over the most recent 5 year period, details of existing AQMAs, progress on implementation of measures by the district and partners and their impact in reducing concentrations of pollutants actions, significant new sources of emissions, and detailed quality assurance processes of monitoring undertaken.

Adrian Allman, Principal Officer – Technical Pollution presented the report and highlighted the main points. He responded to questions from Committee Members and Mark Cox, Technical Services Manager, also commented.

In response to a question about pollutants from sources other than transport, he explained that it is intended to monitor this aspect and undertake intelligence work to identify locations where particulate matter is prevalent. Officers will report back at a future date and it is intended to make the information available to the public.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to accept the summary of findings of the report below.

74 Licensing Annual Report 2023

The Committee considered a report on activities undertaken in 2022/23 under the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005 and all other aspects of Licensing and to inform the Committee on any issues anticipated in the ensuing year. The Principal Officer – Licensing presented the report and highlighted the main points. He responded to questions from Committee Members.

In the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the proliferation of tables and chairs in the street and obstruction from A-boards. The Principal Licensing Officer explained the legislative requirements and advised that work is undertaken in conjunction with the County Council regarding A-boards. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities stated that any specific concerns in and around the City centre can be raised with Officers, and he will provide a Council contact to raise queries with.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note the Licensing Annual Report 2023.

75 Worcestershire Regulatory Services Environmental Health Update and Performance

The Committee considered a report on the activities of the service in 2022/23 specifically relating to Worcester City. The Senior Environmental Health Practitioner presented the report and highlighted the main points. She responded to questions from Committee Members.

In the ensuing discussion, reference was made to new requirements regarding food packaging and the use of plastics. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities stated this is a matter for the City Council rather than Worcestershire Regulatory Services and he will ask for Members to be provided with a briefing note.

With regard to the guidance on statutory nuisance which was appended to the report, Members were informed that this is being updated and the Chair asked if the revised version could be circulated to all Members when completed.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note the report.

76 Cumulative Impact Policy Review 2023 - Licensing Act 2003

The Committee considered a report on the outcome of the public consultation undertaken on the Council's existing special policy of cumulative impact, as set out in the Statement of Licensing Policy. The Principal Officer – Licensing presented the report and explained that, in accordance with the decision taken at the Committee's meeting in June 2023, Officers had undertaken a public and stakeholder consultation on the proposal to retain the special policy, without amendment.

One response was received, a summary of which was appended to the report. The respondent agreed that the policy should be retained.

Sgt Simon Hallam and PC Jen Evans from West Mercia Constabulary were in attendance and spoke in support of the recommendation to make no changes.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to:

- 1. note the contents of this report, in particular the results of the public consultation exercise undertaken, attached at Appendix 1; and**
- 2. make no changes to the current Cumulative Impact Policy as contained in the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, attached at Appendix 2.**

77 Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey 2023

The Committee considered a report on the findings of a recent unmet demand survey and stakeholder engagement commissioned by the Council in respect of the Council's policy on the control of hackney carriage numbers. The Principal Officer – Licensing explained the background to the report and Ian Millership, who had been commissioned to undertake the survey, spoke to explain the work which he had undertaken, and his conclusions and recommendations.

In summary, the evidence gathered demonstrated that there remains no significant unmet demand, therefore the report recommended that there is no need to increase the number of hackney carriage licences at the present time, to meet the needs of the travelling general public.

Based on these findings, the preferred option recommended by Officers was to retain the current numerical restriction on the number hackney carriage vehicles in Worcester.

Committee Members expressed support for the recommendation, based on the findings of the survey.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to:

- 1. note the contents of the report; and**

2. **continue to restrict the number of licensed hackney carriages to 231 in accordance with the current policy.**

78 Any Other Business

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 8.10p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
11th December 2023