

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the General Licensing Committee of the Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Thursday, 22nd February 2024 at 10:15 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor Emma Stevenson in the Chair

Councillors Amanda Davis (Vice-Chair), David Bennett, Mary Dooley, Sally Renshaw and Rita Turner.

Officers:- Louise Arnold (Legal Team Manager – Deputy Monitoring Officer), Lindsay Delamore (Licensing and Enforcement Officer), Ken Eastwood (Joint Assistant Director of Environmental Health), Alison Bluff (Governance and Civic Officer) and Matthew Kerry (Governance and Civic Officer).

Also in attendance at the meeting was Councillor Anne Clarke, the Portfolio Holder for the Environment.

GLC1-23/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Will Fletcher and Lucy King.

GLC2-23/24 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business to be considered.

GLC3-23/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

GLC4-23/24 MINUTES – 20TH DECEMBER 2022

Moved by Councillor Mary Dooley and seconded by Councillor Rita Turner
RESOLVED that the minutes of a General Licensing Committee held on 20th December 2022 be approved as a correct record.

GLC5-23/24 CCTV IN TAXIS' UPDATE

The Licensing and Enforcement Officer stated that the CCTV in Taxis Policy (the 'Policy') had been fully implemented and Licensing had wanted to provide the Committee a brief overview.

Some exemption requests had been submitted to the Policy, with 8 pending requests over 3 applications (each application would have a number of vehicles each). These 8

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vehicles would need to be seen by the General Licensing Sub-Committee.

The General Licensing Sub-Committee had granted 18 exemptions to the Policy, and of those 18, 11 vehicles were with one operator. This was because there was a large executive transport operation in the district.

CCTV was installed in 76 of the Council's vehicles. Pending exemptions were likely to be ongoing as the Council would receive new applications. Some applicants were also waiting for more information from Nottinghamshire County Council and Derbyshire County Council.

For review: in 2020, the Council had 174 licensed vehicles; in 2021, there were 122 (this had dropped due to the COVID-19 Pandemic); in 2022, there were 108; and in March 2023, there were 99 licensed vehicles. On the day before the Committee, there had been 102 licensed vehicles. This figure would change daily in the future as licenses expired and new applications were made.

Some issues had been encountered with a number of school contracts – this was with Nottinghamshire County Council and Derbyshire County Council. The Council was also waiting for more information from applicants; Councillors were already aware of these stumbling blocks.

The Licensing Team were also in the process of providing guidance leaflets; these would be printed out and posted shortly. They were intended to inform passengers and encourage licence holders on how to correctly use the CCTV system.

The Licensing and Enforcement Officer stated that the Licensing Team considered the Policy had been fully implemented and would not intend to come back to the Committee with further updates.

A Member stated that the Policy had been devised to keep people safe, and the success of the Policy was testament to how forward thinking the previous Council had been. The Chair agreed, stating that they had been made aware of some reluctance from several operators and drivers, but people had been reassured it was for their own safety.

The Chair thanked all those present for their work.

Moved by Councillor Mary Dooley and seconded by Councillor Rita Turner
RESOLVED that the report into the CCTV in Taxis' Update be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10:24 hours.