COUNCIL MEETING – 11 JULY 2017

REPORT OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 April 2017

Present: Councillors Simmons (Chairman), Harrington (Vice-Chairman), Aslam, Griffiths, Maguire, Morrall, Scarborough, M Waters, V Waters, Ward, Walia,

Also present: Mrs A Wilcox, (Principal Environmental Health Manager), Mr M O’Donnell, (Team Leader, Health Protection) and Mrs C A Mundy, (Democratic Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED that an apology be received from Councillor Bell.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that no declarations were made.

3. DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS BY LICENSING COMMITTEE

The annexed circulated report of the head of planning and local development was received to request that delegation be given to officers to act as a responsible authority, within the Licensing Act 2003, on behalf of the licensing authority.

The principal environmental health manager presented her report to committee.

In 2012 the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 amended the Licensing Act 2003 to make the licensing authority a responsible authority enabling the licensing authority to comment and respond to applications as a consultee and request reviews of licences where it is deemed necessary to promote any or all of the licensing objectives.

Licensing authorities were not expected to act as responsible authorities on behalf of other parties such as local residents or community groups. Such parties could make representation in their own right.

Under section 10 of the Licensing Act 2003, the licensing committee could discharge certain functions to an officer of the licensing authority.

It was considered necessary to separate the role of responsible authority from the process of handling applications and servicing the licensing committee to protect the impartiality of the licensing authority and reduce any possible conflict of interest to ensure a fair hearing.

These duties were currently undertaken by the principal environmental health manager and it was considered that the team leader health protection and
team leader environmental protection would be best placed to carry out the responsible authority duties on behalf of the licensing authority.

RESOLVED that the team leader health protection and team leader environmental protection make representations on behalf of the licensing authority as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003.

4. OPERATIONAL POLICY AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING

The principal environmental health manager referred to the amended operational policy and conditions governing taxi and private hire licensing, approved by services committee, which had come into force on 1 April 2017.

The policy documents were circulated to members along with a summary of the main changes which members discussed and gave their support to.

RESOLVED that the information provided be noted.

Chairman

The chairman closed the meeting at 11.05am.