

**LICENSING TASK GROUP MEETING held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 23 JUNE 2014 at 2.00pm**

Present: Councillor D Perry (Chairman)  
Councillors J Davey, M Lemon, and J Salmon.

Also present:  
Mr Richard Ellis, Vice Chairman, ULODA.

Officers in attendance: M Perry (Assistant Chief Executive – Legal), R Dobson (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

**LTG3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Walters.

**LTG4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2014 were received and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**LTG5 LICENSING POLICY OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO THE HACKNEY  
CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE TRADES**

The Assistant Chief Executive-Legal referred to the minutes of the previous meeting, which set out the Task Group's intentions for amending the Council's policy for the hackney carriage and private hire trades.

The Assistant Chief Executive – Legal said there was no report as no representations had been received from the Trade. An invitation to attend and to make representations had been sent to all licensed operators and proprietors in the district, inviting them to make written representations, and inviting them also to attend today's meeting in order to comment. The Assistant Chief Executive-Legal said he had not extended the invitation to comment to Drivers because the revised policy would not be retrospective and would therefore have no prejudicial effect on current drivers.

The Assistant Chief Executive-Legal went on to say whilst an indication had been received from the former Chairman of ULODA that a response to the consultation was being prepared by ULODA, no such response had been submitted. However, Mr Ellis was in attendance today to represent the views of the Trade.

Members considered the draft amendments to the policy.

The Assistant Chief Executive-Legal said Mr Ellis would address the Task Group on the draft amendments to the policy. Mr Ellis was asked to confirm whether his views were those of a majority of the membership of ULODA, or of the executive committee.

Mr Ellis said the views he intended to express today were his personal view only, and that of Mr Drinkwater, the previous Chairman of ULODA. He said the Trade had fallen short in failing to make representations, but he suspected this was partly because the proposals were likely to have generated a sense that these changes would be inevitable; if they were right for the public, then they were right for the Trade.

The Chairman asked Mr Ellis whether he had any serious concerns about the proposals. Mr Ellis said he did not, although he commented that the draft amendments seemed to take a “catch all” approach, which could if taken at face value prevent a wide range of people from entering the Trade.

The Assistant Chief Executive-Legal said it was the relaxing of the limits of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act which had led to the need for this Task Group to consider the Council’s policy. In any event he would refer to members any determination of licence where despite the Council’s standards being met, there were reasons such as the person having received a custodial or suspended sentence for serious offences, which members would wish to have the opportunity to consider in determining if the applicant was a fit and proper person. Conversely, where someone did not meet the licensing standards, members might consider the applicant was fit and proper, and again in those circumstances the Assistant Chief Executive-Legal would refer the matter to the Committee for determination, rather than exercise delegated powers. Therefore the policy was not set in stone.

Councillor Salmon asked when the amended policy could come into effect.

The Assistant Chief Executive-Legal said the Task Group’s recommendation to adopt the policy would be brought to the next scheduled meeting of the Licensing and Environmental Health Committee, which was on 9 July, and acceptance of the recommendation would mean the amended policy would come into force from that date.

The Trade would have a further opportunity to make representations at the Committee meeting during the public speaking session, if they gave notice to do so.

The Chairman asked that the draft proposals be circulated to all members of the Committee. The Assistant Chief Executive-Legal said the document would be included in the agenda papers for all members.

AGREED to recommend to the Licensing and Environmental Health Committee the adoption of the amended licensing policy of Uttlesford District Council relating to the hackney carriage and private hire trades.

The meeting ended at 2.20pm.