

**LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE held at
COMMITTEE ROOM - COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON
WALDEN, ESSEX CB11 4ER, on THURSDAY, 8 AUGUST 2019 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Councillor P Lavelle (Chair)
Councillors S Barker, C Day, D Eke, M Foley, R Freeman and
L Pepper
Officers in attendance: M Chamberlain (Enforcement Officer), T Cobden (Environmental
Health Manager - Commercial), A Mawson (Democratic Services
Officer), E Smith (Solicitor), A Turner (Licensing Team Leader)
and M Watts (Environmental Health Manager - Protection)
Others in attendance: Mr Drinkwater, Mr Mahoney and Mr Perry.

LIC11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Isham, Lees and Tayler.

Councillor Pepper declared a non-pecuniary interest as a friend of the manager of 24x7 Ltd, Mr Mahoney.

LIC12 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr B Drinkwater addressed the committee; a summary of his statement is appended to these minutes.

LIC13 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the following meetings were accepted and signed as an accurate record:

- 24 January 2019
- 29 January 2019
- 30 March 2019
- 26 March 2019
- 23 April 2019
- 28 June 2019
- 22 July 2019

LIC14 LICENSING PROGRESS AND INFORMATION REPORT 01 APRIL 2018 - 31 MARCH 2019

The Licensing Team Leader presented the Committee with the report summarising the work undertaken by the Licensing Department.

LIC15 **LICENSED VEHICLE COMPLIANCE TESTING STATIONS**

The Enforcement Officer presented a report to inform members of the current vehicle testing adopted by Uttlesford District Council, which was in addition to the standard MOT test.

Members discussed the need to update the scheme and report back to the Committee as to the planned and structured approach before the next meeting.

The Enforcement Officer agreed to this update timescale.

LIC16 **REQUIREMENTS PLACED ON HOLDERS OF DRIVER'S LICENCES**

The Enforcement Officer presented the report to inform the Committee of the proposal to reinstate two conditions on all drivers' licences issued by Uttlesford District Council.

RESOLVED to approve the reinstatement of the conditions as outlined in the report.

LIC17 **ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

The Enforcement Officer presented the report to inform the Committee of the enforcement activities between 1 April and 30 June 2019.

The Enforcement Officer also reported on a driver revocation that was done under delegated powers with Cllr Gerard which was noted.

Councillor Freeman commended the work that the Enforcement Team had been doing.

In response to concerns raised about unsafe vehicles and unsafe drivers, the Enforcement Officer and the Environmental Health Manager outlined the methods in which vehicles and drivers were monitored and reported, and said all drivers and vehicles should be up to standard. Unlike private vehicles, commercial vehicles were subject to additional testing.

LIC18 **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (COMMERCIAL) ACTIVITY REPORT Q1 (APRIL TO JUNE 2019)**

The Environmental Health Manager (Commercial) presented the report on the work of the Environmental Health (Commercial) Service that had been undertaken between April and June 2019.

It was explained that 98% of food premises were broadly compliant. Those that were not and those that received a rating of zero were not an imminent risk and therefore were permitted to stay open. There were no enforced closures.

LIC19 **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (PROTECTION) UPDATE**

The Environmental Health Manager (Protection) presented a report to outline the work of the Environmental Health (Protection) Service between April and June 2019.

In response to questions from Members, the Environmental Health Manager (Protection) said that the authority once had a mobile air quality assessment station which went out to a number of locations. This could be looked at once more and its viability would be reported back to the Committee.

In response to questions from Members, the Environmental Health Manager (Protection) said noise control and the building of new homes was the responsibility of the Development Control team, as new developments were subject to environmental scrutiny during the planning process.

Meeting end 8:45pm

Statement of Mr B Drinkwater

Mr Drinkwater introduced himself and his colleagues Mr Andy Mahoney (Managing Director of 24x7) and Mr Doug Perry (ULODA's Honorary President), and outlined their collective accolades.

Mr Drinkwater requested a response to a letter on 10 July, sent to the Council from Roland Pelly, a Director of Pellys Transport & Regulatory Law, drawing together the trade's concerns (24x7 and ACME Bus among others) about the legality of imposing a condition on school contracts drivers, the assessment of training needs and the provision of training for drivers (aka "Watford Training Courses"), and the licensing of vehicles.

Mr Drinkwater said that they had no record of a response to an email sent to The Environmental Health Manager (Commercial) on 21 March.

Mr Drinkwater thanked the Committee and said that he looked forward to an improved working relationship and they would be putting proposals to the Council in good time.