

Regulation and Review Committee

26 October 2017

Present: Councillor P Earley (Chair)
Councillors A Arkle, D Cox, John Hunter, F Lott, W Lott,
M Madden, D McMeekan, L Miller, T Mulvenna,
J O'Shea, and L Spillard.

RQ44/10/17 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Huscroft, K Osborne, A Percy and M Reynolds.

RQ45/10/17 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members appointed.

RQ46/10/17 Declarations of Interest

Councillor John Hunter declared a non-registerable personal interest in minute RQ49/10/17 Amendments to the North Tyneside Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy as his son was a taxi driver licensed by North Tyneside Council. Councillor Hunter informed the committee that he would leave the meeting for the discussion on this matter.

RQ47/10/17 Minutes

The minutes of the Regulation & Review Committee (Panel) that took place on the 4 August 2017 were circulated to the Committee prior to the start of the meeting and requested to be noted.

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Regulation and Review Committee (Panels) held on 11 July, 4 & 24 August, 14 September and 12 October 2017 be noted and to confirm the minutes of the Regulation & Review Committee (Full) held on 13 July 2017.

RQ48/10/17 Annual Review of the Council Policy on Covert Surveillance

The Committee were reminded that there was a requirement to review its Covert Surveillance Policy on an annual basis. The current Covert surveillance Policy had been approved in December 2016.

The Committee was informed that the current policy remained fit for purpose save for the policy reflecting the amalgamation of the Office of Surveillance Commissioners and the Interception of the Communications Commissioner's Office into the Investigatory Powers Commissioners Office from 1 September 2017 and therefore no amendments were

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proposed to the draft policy.

Resolved that (1) the North Tyneside Council draft policy on covert surveillance be noted; and
(2) the proposed policy be recommended to Cabinet for adoption at its meeting on 11 December 2017.

RQ49/10/17 Proposed Amendment to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy: Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training

The Committee received a report that detailed the outcome of the consultation undertaken in relation to the proposed changes to the Authority's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Awareness Training.

The consultation requested the views on the need for new applicants for hackney carriage/private hire drivers license to undertake CSE Awareness training prior being issues a license and if existing drivers should undergo additional or refresher CSE Awareness training.

The report detailed that the current policy that came into force on 4 April 2017 required all new licensed drivers to undertake CSE Awareness Training within 3 months of their license being issued.

The report stated that the current policy did not contain any provision for existing drivers to undergo additional training or refresher training.

Those consulted included the hackney carriage and private hire trade, the police and the Authority's Safeguarding Service. The consultation questionnaire was also available on the Authority's website.

There were a total of 61 responses received, 59 electronically with two written responses from A to Z Licensing and the Authority's Local Children's Safeguarding Board, which were appended to the report.

During the discussion on the matter, Members expressed that there was responsibility to ensure it carried out its safeguarding duty to protect the public and the license holders and were in favour for drivers to be trained prior to attaining a license and that regular interval training should be a condition to continue to hold a license.

It was questioned how drivers would be made aware of any changes or new information with regards to CSE.

The officer circulated a leaflet Tackling Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adults, produced by the Police and Crime Commissioner as an example to how information could be produced and provided to drivers.

Members expressed that they believed circulating relevant information through a similar regular leaflet to be beneficial.

These minutes are subject to confirmation at the next meeting full committee meeting of the Regulation & Review Committee

Resolved that (1) to require new applicants for a hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence to undertake CSE Awareness training prior to being issued a licence and amend the Policy and relevant conditions of licence accordingly; and
(2) to require existing hackney carriage/private hire driver's to complete a sexual exploitation awareness package every three years and existing drivers at their next DBS check, with regular updated information leaflets circulated to drivers when required.

DRAFT