

Minutes of Licensing

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 3 September 2024, starting at 6.30 pm
Present: Councillor I Brown (Chair)

Councillors:

J Alcock	R Newmark
D Brocklehurst	S O'Rourke
S Brunskill	J Rogerson
R Corney	G Scott
S Farmer	K Spencer
G Hibbert	R Walsh
L Jameson	

In attendance: Solicitor

236 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies from absence.

237 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2024 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

238 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests.

239 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

240 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES GAMBLING ACT 2005

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the requirement to review the Council's Statement of Principles Gambling Act 2005 ("Act") and seeking Committee's authorisation to consult upon the draft policy.

There is a requirement to review and publish it at least every three years and Members were reminded that the Council's current Statement of Principles was last reviewed in 2022. It is due to be re-published by 3 January 2025 and will come into effect on 31 January 2024.

Members considered the revised Statement of Principles, which included an updated Local Area Profile. It was noted that to date, the Council's policy has worked well, albeit with few applications for new licences having been made. No complaints have been made about premises licensed to allow gambling.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

Approve the draft Gambling Statement of Principles detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report and authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to consult upon them between 9 September 2024 and 24 October 2024 and that the results of that consultation be reported back to Committee.

241

CONSULTATION ON INSTITUTE OF LICENSING SUITABILITY GUIDANCE

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to consider the consultation documents issued by the Institute of Licensing, and to receive recommendations for response to the questions put by way of consultation.

Members were content with the officers' views that the draft guidance could be approved in its current form.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

1. Determine that it is content with the draft guidance in its current form.
2. Delegate authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to submit any response to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

242

VEHICLE INSPECTION FEES

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the notification by the Council's appointed testing centre that they had increased their fee for testing hackney carriages and private hire vehicles and to seek Committee's views on whether they consider it still appropriate to have only one testing centre.

The independent garage had charged £20 for the last 26 years and Members considered the fee increase to £35 to be reasonable. The Licensing Officer had not reported any adverse feedback to the increase and it was noted that it is still a lower fee than many other local authorities charge.

After consideration, given that it offers consistency, no concerns had been raised with the current system and there had been no complaints made by other garages, Members were content to continue with one testing centre.

243

TAXI LICENSING OPERATION

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the results of an inspection of licensed private hire and hackney carriage vehicles.

It was noted that of the six vehicles inspected only one failed to meet the required standard. The issue on the vehicle was then resolved the same day.

244

PREMISES LICENSEE MEETING

The minutes of the Premises Licensee meeting held on 1st August 2024 were noted.

245

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items under this heading.

The meeting closed at 6.56 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Jenny Martin jenny.martin@ribblevalley.gov.uk.