

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 8 September 2020

Present: Councillor Bob Backhouse (Chairman)
Councillors Woodward (Vice-Chairman), Atkins, Atwood, Mrs Cobbold, Ellis, Fairweather, Funnell, Hill, Lidstone, Noakes, Pope, Thomson and Williams

Officers in Attendance: Robin Harris (Team Leader (Contentious)), Sharon Degiorgio (Senior Licensing Officer) and Emer Moran (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Members in Attendance: None

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

LC9/20 The Chairman opened the meeting, introduced Committee Members and Officers in attendance, and outlined procedural matters of the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

LC10/20 There were no apologies for absence received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

LC11/20 There were no declarations of interest made.

NOTIFICATION OF VISITING MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK (IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 18):

LC12/20 There were no visiting Members who had registered to speak.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING DATED 16 JUNE 2020

LC13/20 **RESOLVED** – That that the minutes of the previous meeting dated 16 June 2020 be approved as a correct record.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY 2020-2025

LC14/20 Mrs Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer presented her report outlining the consultation on the proposed revised Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licencing Policy. The report set out the consultee's representations and the officer's response to those in Appendices B & C. It was advised that having had further time to reflect on the Appendix C Royal Tunbridge Wells Town Forum transport working group in respect of the issue raised regarding driver licences, further clarification as an additional appendix would be incorporated within the policy.

Mrs Lorna Blackmore on behalf of the Town Forum's transport working group registered to speak and made the following comments:

- That the aim of the transport working group was to ensure that the Tunbridge Wells Licensing Policy had a water tight system for vetting that was not open to fraud and one that promoted zero tolerance towards bad behaviour, bad driving and deception.
- Concerns were raised about non face to face meetings with drivers when renewing their license and copied documents being

provided rather than original.

- It was highlighted that in the opinion of the transport working group that the online driver test could be open to fraud if not completed in a controlled and conditioned environment for example the Council offices.
- In cases where an applicant had acquired 7 penalty points or more, it was the opinion of the transport working group that there should be no question of continuing with the application in these circumstances.
- Limit set on daily or working hours should be monitored.

In response to questions raised by speakers and Members of the Committee it was advised:

- That there was a lack of regulation related to the maximum number of hours that a hackney carriage/ private hire driver can do in a working week compared to, for example an HGV driver.

RESOLVED:

1. That all representations and comments received during the public consultation period prior to the formal adoption of the updated policy be reviewed and considered.

STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2021-2026

LC15/20 Mrs Sharon Degiorgio, Senior Licensing Officer presented her report outlining the Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026.

There were no registered speakers.

In response to questions raised by speakers and Members of the Committee it was advised:

- That no changes had been made to the Temporary Event Notices however, due to COVID-19 Licensing had requested Environmental Health to carry out risk assessments on current and future events.

RESOLVED:

1. That the amended draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021/2026 for public consultation be approved.

URGENT BUSINESS

LC16/20 There were no matters of urgent business to discuss.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

LC17/20 The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 6pm.

NOTE: The meeting concluded at 6.26 pm.