
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, - Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Thursday, 12 July 2018 from 7.00pm - 7.27 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Cameron Beart (Chairman), Bobbin, Tina Booth (Vice-Chairman), Roger Clark, Paul Fleming, Prescott, Ben Stokes, Anita Walker and Tony Winckless.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mohammad Bauluck, Jayne Bolas, Tom Dunn, Della Fackrell, Chris Hills and Jo Millard.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Peter Marchington.

APOLOGY: Councillor June Garrad.

118 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman ensured that those present were aware of the emergency evacuation procedure.

119 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 April 2018 (Minute Nos. 620 – 627) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Licensing Sub-Committees held on 1 May 2018 11.30am (Minute Nos. 641 – 644), 8 May 2018 10am (Minute Nos. 645 – 649), 8 May 2018 11.30am (Minute Nos. 650 – 654) and 28 June 2018 (Minute Nos. 85 – 88) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

121 PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman advised that no requests to register to speak had been received.

Part B reports for Information

122 DRAFT GAMBLING POLICY

The Licensing Officer introduced the report which sought Members' views on the draft Gambling Act Statement of Principles prior to consultation and formal adoption. She reminded Members that the document would be considered by the Policy Development and Review Committee on 18 July 2018 before being brought back to a future General Licensing Committee meeting with consultation responses to consider, and then finally would be considered by Full Council for adoption.

The Licensing Officer advised that the Gambling Act specified that the Statement of Principles must be reviewed at three yearly intervals and this edition would run between 1 February 2019 and 31 January 2022. She stated that the Statement had been prepared using the model template recommended by the Gambling Commission and spoke of the issues that operators must consider when preparing their risk assessments, as shown on pages 23 – 24 of the Agenda.

The Licensing Officer said that a Local Area Profile, which identified risk to any gambling related harm, could be incorporated into the Statement of Principles or published separately and the preferred option would be a separate document as it could be managed more efficiently.

Finally, the Licensing Officer drew Members' attention to the proposed wide consultation and explained that suggested amendments would be considered at a future General Licensing Committee meeting.

A Member welcomed the wide consultation.

On being put to the vote, Members agreed the following.

Resolved:

(1) That the contents of the report be noted and officers proceed with the review process.

(2) That officers undertake an eight week consultation on the proposed revised Statement of Principles for Gambling 2019 – 2022, as attached as Appendix I of the report.

(3) That after the conclusion of the consultation period, Members consider a further report to consider any comments made, prior to formally recommending the revised Statement of Licensing Principles for Gambling for adoption by Full Council.

123 DRAFT SEX ESTABLISHMENTS POLICY

The Licensing Officer introduced the report which sought Members' views on the draft Sex Establishments Policy, prior to consultation and formal adoption. She gave a history on the regulation of sex establishments and advised that Swale Borough Council developed a Sex Establishment Policy which was adopted and implemented in 2011.

The Licensing Officer drew attention to page 85 of the Agenda, advised that the Sex Establishment Policy had been expanded to bring it in line with most other sex establishment policies in Kent and said that the policy was a robust document which gave guidance to Licence applicants. She added that it outlined the grounds which the licensing authority would consider in objections to applications.

The Licensing Officer explained the criteria under which a licensed premises could operate sex entertainment events, and advised that the consultation would run from 16 July 2018 to 7 September 2018. She advised that any suggested amendments to the Policy arising out of the consultation would be considered at a future General Licensing Committee Meeting.

In response to a question from a Member, the Licensing Officer clarified the consultation methods.

On being put to the vote, Members agreed the following.

Resolved:

(1) That the draft Sex Establishments policy attached as Appendix II to the report be considered in the formal consultation.

(2) That delegated authority be given to the Resilience and Licensing Manager to make any changes to the draft policy if Members requirements prior to consultation.

124 SCRAP METAL DEALERS POLICY

The Licensing Officer introduced the report which set out the feedback received on the Scrap Metal Dealers Policy consultation and recommended adoption of the policy. She advised that no comments were received, which was in line with other authorities who had adopted a Scrap Metal Dealers Policy.

On being put to the vote, Members agreed the following.

Resolved:

(1) That the Scrap Metal Dealers Policy as set out in Appendix I to the report be adopted.

125 TAXI TARIFF - CONSULTATION RESULTS

The Licensing Officer introduced the report which outlined the options available when setting the level of fares for licensed Hackney Carriages operating within Swale and sought Members' preferred option and timescales for future tariff reviews.

The Licensing Officer explained that the three options proposed were decided by taking into account the rate of inflation as at 2.9 of the report, benchmarking with other Local Authorities as shown in Appendix VII and feedback from the meeting with the taxi trade on 24 April 2018. He added that the options survey was presented to the taxi trade via Survey Monkey between 4 June 2018 to 22 June 2018 and there were 77 respondents. The Licensing Officer highlighted the results at 5.3 on page 150 of the Agenda and drew attention that the most popular increase was the highest cost across a 2 mile journey at £7 which would result in Swale being the most expensive in Kent, along with Dartford and Tunbridge Wells.

In the debate that followed, Members raised the following points:

- There had been fuel increases since the last tariff increases but there had been recent fuel cost reductions;
- fuel prices were lower than when the last increase was set;
- the taxi trade's preferred option was fair.

- the taxi trade's preferred option was high in comparison to other areas; and
- the taxi trade's preferred option would make Swale the 8th highest level set in the country, up from 87th.

The Licensing Officer clarified that the level set was the maximum that could be charged and the tariff could be reduced in future if appropriate. She reminded Members that there was an option to keep the tariff as it was.

There was a discussion around annual and two-yearly reviews of the taxi tariff.

On being put to the vote, Members agreed the following.

Resolved:

(1) That the level of increase to the taxi tariff be set as detailed in Option 2, to increase the flat rate to £3.00, change the fall to £0.10 every 87 yards (80 metres) or uncompleted part thereof and amend the waiting time to £0.35 for every 1 minute or uncompleted part thereof equivalent to £6.80 for a 2 mile journey as in Appendix V.

(2) That the Licensing Team be authorised to proceed with Option 2 and complete the tariff setting process in the minimum timeframe allowed by legislation.

(3) That Members review the timescale for future taxi tariff reviews every 2 years.

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel