

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, 10th June, 2025

Present: Cllr C J Williams (Chair), Cllr K S Tunstall (Vice-Chair),
Cllr B Banks, Cllr M A Coffin, Cllr A Cope, Cllr D W King,
Cllr R W G Oliver, Cllr R V Roud and Cllr M Taylor

In attendance: Cllrs L Chapman* and M A J Hood* were also present pursuant to
Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

(participated via MS Teams)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
A G Bennison, C Brown and D Keers.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

LA 25/6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

LA 25/7 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 25 March 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LA 25/8 MINUTES OF PANELS

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing and Appeals Committee sitting as a Panel held on 14 March 2025, 24 March 2025 and 28 April 2025 be received and noted.

MATTERS FOR DECISION UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

LA 25/9 REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Following a formal request for a review of current hackney carriage fares received from licensed drivers on 28 April 2025 (attached at Annex 1), Members considered the maximum fare that could be charged.

During discussion, due regard was given to the views of Hackney Carriage Drivers, Dual Drivers and Hackney Carriage Proprietors. Concern was expressed about the impact on vulnerable passengers,

especially the elderly, of the proposed fare increase. However, the need for a balance between driver's needs and user affordability was recognised. It was also understood that the proposals related to the maximum charges and drivers could charge less if they chose.

After careful consideration, Cllr Coffin proposed that the fares be increased as set out in the report on the grounds of supporting drivers in maintaining a sustainable business. This was seconded by Cllr Tunstall and supported by the majority of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That, subject to no objection being received during the statutory public consultation period, the table of Hackney Carriage fares, as set out in 7.1 of the report, be agreed with effect from 1 August 2025.

LA 25/10 SPIKING AWARENESS - 'ASK FOR ANGELA'

The report of the Director of Central Services proposed that all licensees within Tonbridge and Malling should train their staff on the 'Ask for Angela' Scheme. The initiative was intended to keep people safe from vulnerable situations by using a codeword to identify when they felt unsafe or threatened.

Attention was drawn to the proposed text to be included in the Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-2030 (attached at Annex 1). This outlined the safety measures to be put in place by licensees.

Members recognised the importance of ensuring licensed premises staff were adequately trained so that they could respond appropriately and for posters to be visible and accessible.

Subject to a few minor points around ensuring posters were visibly displayed and changing emphasis from 'should' to 'will', Cllr Williams proposed that on the grounds of improving safety in pubs and bars the Scheme be included in the licensing policy. This was seconded by Cllr Tunstall and supported unanimously.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) subject to a few minor points summarised above, the draft text to be included in the Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-2030(attached at Annex 1) be approved; and
- (2) the poster (attached at Annex 2) be distributed to holders of premises licences and club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2023.

MATTERS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**LA 25/11 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2025-2030 CONSULTATION**

Further to Minute LA 25/4, the report of the Director of Central Services indicated that the Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 – 2030 had been issued for public consultation from 1 April to 25 May 2025. As a result of which 1 response had been received asking for details of the 'Ask Angela' Scheme to be included.

A copy of the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy was attached at Annex 1 to the report. A copy of the consultation response was shown at Annex 2.

Cllr Williams proposed that the Licensing Policy be adopted as set out in Annex 1 and to include the Ask for Angela Scheme. This was seconded by Cllr Coffin and supported by the Committee.

***RECOMMENDED:** That the draft Statement of Licensing Policy set out at Annex 1 to the report be adopted by the Council.

***Recommended to Council**

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION**LA 25/12 HEAD OF LICENSING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CUSTOMER SERVICES**

Whilst not an urgent item of business, Members acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Anthony Garnett (Head of Licensing, Community Safety and Customer Services) and expressed gratitude for his contribution and support over the years.

LA 25/13 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 8.25pm