

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, 26th March, 2024

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

Virtual: Councillor M Taylor participated via MS Teams in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Banks, D Keers and W J Mallard.

(Note: Cllr Banks submitted apologies for in-person attendance and participated via MS Teams when invited to do so. However, he was unable to vote on or propose any motions)

PART 1 - PUBLIC

LA 24/1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

LA 24/2 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 28 November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LA 24/3 MINUTES OF PANEL

There were no minutes of the Licensing and Appeals Committee, sitting as a Panel.

MATTERS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL

LA 24/4 FEEDBACK FROM CONSULTATION RESULTS OF THE SCRAP METAL DEALERS POLICY 2024 - 2029

The report of the Interim Chief Executive provided the results of the consultation on proposed changes to the Council's Scrap Metal Dealers Policy 2024-29. The consultation ran from 9 October 2023 to 30 November 2023, during which no representations were received.

RECOMMENDED*: That the proposed changes to the Scrap Metal Dealers Policy 2024-2029, be approved.

***Recommended to Council**

DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

LA 24/5 UNMET DEMAND SURVEY - HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES

The report of the Interim Chief Executive asked Members to consider the request from the Hackney Carriage and Dual drivers for an Unmet Demand Survey to be undertaken and that the results of the survey be discussed at a future meeting.

Over the last few years, the number of licensed hackney carriage vehicles working out of Tonbridge Waterloo rank had grown resulting in very long waiting times whilst queuing for a fare. The situation at the rank was further exacerbated by the economic climate where drivers were working longer hours.

Before restricting the number of hackney carriage vehicles to be licensed, a Licensing Authority must commission a detailed robust survey. The cost of the survey would result in an additional fee being added to all Hackney Carriage Vehicle, Hackney Carriage Drivers and Dual driver applications.

Attention was brought to the low percentage of responses received to the survey which was carried out to gauge opinion from the current licensed hackney carriage drivers and dual badge holders on whether they would like an Unmet Demand Survey to be undertaken.

RESOLVED: That an Unmet Demand Survey for Hackney Carriage Vehicles not be undertaken.

LA 24/6 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 7.54 pm