

**TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, 25th September, 2024**

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

**In attendance:** Councillor M A J Hood was also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Taylor, D Thornewell and R V Roud.

(Note: Cllr Taylor 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 24/7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**LA 24/8 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 26 March 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**LA 24/9 MINUTES OF PANEL**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing and Appeals Committee sitting as a Panel held on 8 May 2024 be received and noted.

**DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS**

**LA 24/10 GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVISED STATEMENT FOR PRINCIPLES FOR GAMBLING**

The report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive asked Members to approve the draft Statement for Principles for Gambling for consultation.

The Council's current Statement of Principles (Policy) for the Gambling Act 2005 took effect from 1 May 2022 and would run until 30 April 2025. The proposed Policy was due for publication on 30 April 2025 and would be consulted upon for thirteen weeks from 1 October 2024 until 31 December 2024. The draft policy for 2025-28 was attached at Annex 1 to the report and a copy of the feedback form for the Policy was attached at Annex 2.

**RESOLVED:** That the draft Gambling Statement of Principles 2025-2028 be approved for consultation.

**LA 24/11 DISCUSSION - SAFETY OF WOMEN WHEN TAKING A TAXI OR PRIVATE HIRE JOURNEY**

Following concerns raised regarding public reports over the experiences of women whilst taking a taxi from Waterloo Taxi Stand in Tonbridge, the Licensing and Appeals Committee agreed to hold a discussion on the safety of women taking a taxi or private hire journey. Examples of concerns reported were attached at Annex 1 to the report.

Members were advised that when Licensing Services received a complaint or concern about a taxi driver, vehicle or journey, many complainants did not recall the taxi or private hire vehicle plate number which was the subject of the complaint. To help in identifying the vehicle involved, it was proposed that door signs be introduced.

During discussion, Members welcomed the introduction of door signs and suggested that the sign include a QR code which directed the user to the complaint page on the Council's website. Furthermore, it was suggested that reconsideration be given to the mobile App.

**RESOLVED:** That the introduction of door signs as shown at Annex 3 to the report, be approved.

**LA 24/12 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no items considered in private.

The meeting ended at 7.55 pm