

Eastbourne Licensing Committee

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 15 January 2024 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Amanda Morris (Chair).

Councillors Daniel Butcher (Deputy-Chair), Kathy Ballard, Nigel Goodyear, Jane Lamb, Hugh Parker, Teri Sayers-Cooper and Jenny Williams.

Officers in attendance:

Jo Dunk (Lead for Regulatory Services), Dee O’Leary (Senior Specialist Advisory – Resolution Team, Licensing) Michele Wilkinson (Lawyer – Housing & Regulatory) and Emily Horne (Committee Officer).

19 Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023 were submitted and approved, and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

20 Apologies for absence/declaration of substitute members

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Colin Belsey, Andy Collins, and Penny di Cara. Absence was noted from Councillor Anita Mayes.

21 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) by members as required under Section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Goodyear declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 8, Review of the Licensing Act 2003 Eastbourne Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy, as he was Trustee of the Leaf Hall Trust, which had a licence. Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 as a Trustee of the Towner, Eastbourne, which also had a licence.

22 Questions by members of the public

There were none.

23 Urgent items of business

There were none.

24 Right to address the meeting/order of business

There were none.

25 Supporting the transition to lower or zero emission vehicles in the taxi and private hire sector

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought to support the transition to lower and zero emission vehicles.

Members supported the proposal to encourage the trade to move to electric or hybrid vehicles. It was recognised that there was a need for the number of rapid charging points to be increased in the borough. Members also requested clarification between rapid and fast charging, which were terms use in the officer's report.

The RSL explained that the proposal was to remove the current 15 year age limit for low, hybrid, ultra low and zero emission vehicles and explained that the certification to confirm the vehicle had met its emission requirements was required as part of the MOT test.

Councillor Ballard proposed approval of the officer recommendation as set out in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Goodyear.

Resolved (Unanimously):

- 1) That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Guidance be amended so that new and relicensed vehicles defined by the Vehicle Certification Agency as low, hybrid, ultra-low or zero emission vehicles shall be age exempt.

26 Review of the Licensing Act 2003 Eastbourne Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive to consider the Licensing Act 2003 Eastbourne Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy, which was reviewed every five years, and to agree a six-week public consultation.

Appended to the report at Appendix 1 was the Eastbourne Borough Council current Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-2024 and at Appendix 2, the proposed amended Statement of Licensing Policy 2024-2029.

The Regulatory Services Lead (RSL) presented the report, highlighting suggested changes to the Guidance.

Councillor Parker proposed that the Committee agree the officer recommendations as listed in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Lamb.

RESOLVED (Unanimously):

1. To authorise the Senior Specialist Advisor to start a six-week consultation with the public, trade and interested bodies; and
2. To agree that following the consultation period the Lead for Regulatory Services, in conjunction with the Chair of the Licensing Committee, be delegated to consider the consultation responses and make any minor changes to the Eastbourne Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy and then recommend the same to Full Council for approval. That in the event of substantial changes being suggested by the consultation a report be brought back to a Licensing Committee.

27 Date of the next meeting

Any additional meetings of the Committee would be scheduled as and when required.

The meeting ended at 6.26 pm

Councillor Amanda Morris (Chair)