

Eastbourne Licensing Committee

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 27 January 2025 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Amanda Morris (Chair).

Councillors Penny di Cara, Nigel Goodyear, Jane Lamb, Hugh Parker and Teri Sayers-Cooper.

Officers in attendance:

Jo Dunk (Lead for Regulatory Services – Customer First), Michele Wilkinson (Lawyer – Housing & Regulatory), and Emily Horne (Committee Officer), Rebecca Wynn (Regulatory Services Lead – Environmental Protection & Private Sector Housing), Nina Lavelle (Finance Business Partner).

36 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2024 were submitted and approved, and the Chair was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

37 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Kathy Ballard, Colin Belsey, Andy Collins, Anita Mayes and Robin Maxted.

38 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.

There were none.

39 Questions by members of the public

There were none.

40 Urgent items of business

There were none.

41 Right to address the meeting/order of business

There were none.

42 Approval of Licensing Fees 2025/26

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought its recommendation to Full Council that the licensing fees set out in the appendix to the report be applied from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Jo Dunk, the Regulatory Service Lead (RSL) presented the report highlighting the fees proposed for the year. Rebecca Wynn, the Lead for Regulatory Services (LRS) detailed the fees for Houses in Multiple Occupation. Nina Lavelle (Finance Business Partner) attended in support.

Members considered the report and queried the reasons for the increase in fees. The RSL explained this was to meet increasing service costs and to balance the budget.

Councillor Parker put forward a proposal to agree the officer recommendations as listed in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Lamb.

RESOLVED: (Unanimously) that:

- 1) That Full Council be recommended to approve the Licensing Fees as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, to apply from 1 April 2025.

43 Unmet Demand Survey

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought to consider if an Unmet Demand Survey should be undertaken. If the survey was agreed, the Committee should specify whether it should be conducted for the Hackney Trade only, or both Hackney and Private Hire Trade, and authorise the Senior Specialist Advisor to commence the survey and report back to the Committee on the results.

The Regulatory Service Lead (RSL) presented the report highlighting the benefits of the survey.

Members queried the cost implications of the proposals. The RSL explained the survey had been requested by the trade, who would cover the fees, and it would be outsourced to a third party company to administer. It was noted that there would be a slight reduction in the overall cost of the survey if private hire vehicles were not included in the survey.

Councillor Goodyear put forward a proposal to undertake an Unmet Demand Survey as per the officer recommendations as listed in the report. This was seconded by Councillor Lamb.

RESOLVED: (by 3 votes for to 3 votes against) and on the Chair's casting vote against, that:

- 1) The Unmet Demand Survey should not be undertaken.

44 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next scheduled meeting would be confirmed as part of the Calendar of Meetings for 2025/26. However, any additional meetings of the Committee would be scheduled as and when required.

The meeting ended at 6.47 pm

Councillor Amanda Morris (Chair)