

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILLICENSING MEETINGCaddsdwn Business Support Centre, Bideford, EX39 3BEWednesday, 27 October 2021 - 10.00 am

PRESENT Councillor J McKenzie (Chair)
 Councillor R Wiseman (Vice-Chair)
 Councillors D Bushby, R Clarke, P Hackett, P Hames, S Harding
 and T Inch

ALSO PRESENT C Norman - Solicitor
 C Parkhouse - Lead Licensing Officer
 T Vanstone - Senior Electoral & Democratic Services
 Officer
 K Brown - Democratic Services Officer

81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

Following the meeting and on return to the Democratic Services Office an email had been received from Councillor Bright giving his apologies.

82. MINUTES

The Lead Licensing Officer provided an update on Matters Arising, minute 73. Initial discussions with the property team highlighted potential issues with maintaining demarcation of the area surface markings in the working quay area – potentially making it a non-sustainable option. However, wider options were not pursued at the time nor since due to conflicting pressures, and apologies are forwarded to committee for that. A further update would be presented at the next Licensing meeting on 1st December 2021.

Following a query on the clean air schemes the Lead Licensing Officer confirmed that grant funding is only available to Authorities that have schemes in place.

It was proposed by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Bushby and –

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2021 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

(Vote: For 5, Against 0, Abstentions 3)

83. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

84. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

There were no Part II items.

85. URGENT MATTERS OF INFORMATION TO BE BROUGHT FORWARD WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR AND THE COMMITTEE

There were no urgent matters.

86. REVIEW OF THE TAXI POLICY

The Lead Licensing Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to present to the Committee the response to the formal consultation as part of the review of the Council's Licensing Policy for Taxis and Private Hire Licences.

As the Leading Licensing Officer progressed through the proposed changes within the report questions were asked with the following responses:

- DBS check results would be viewed by TDC Licensing Team and if there were any convictions they would questioned;
- the enhanced DBS checks via the DBS update service would be available to view immediate and make administration much easier;
- TDC had been notified of two motoring offences over the last couple of years and drivers had been reminded of their responsibilities to report offences;
- if a taxi and/or private hire vehicle operated CCTV then passengers had to be made aware. Clarification was given on recording children;
- CCTV footage to be kept for 28 days

The Lead Licensing Officer had met with the Taxi Committee who had expressed their thanks to TDC for the grants throughout COVID and to North Devon Plus for their help.

It was proposed by Councillor McKenzie, seconded by Councillor Inch and –

Resolved:

That Members approve the revised policy in accordance with the Officer comments provided in Appendix C and the new policy to come into effect from 1 December 2021.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

87. GAMBLING ACT - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Lead Licensing Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to review and update the Authority's current Statement of Principles published under s.349 of the Gambling Act 2005.

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded by Councillor Inch and –

Resolved:

That 1) Members approve the draft revised Statement of Principles for consultation;
2) That consultation on the draft statement is carried out over a 6-week period and the responses reported back to this Committee.

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

88. CONSIDERATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan was discussed and updated.

Following a query from Councillor Hames regarding the amount of plastic used by the recent visiting Circus, the Lead Licensing Officer and the Solicitor clarified the responsibility of the Licensing and Legal Team at Torridge and that the plastic issue may be better discussed at the Councillor Climate Change Working Group and the Property Team.

The meeting commenced at 10.13 am and closed at 10.46 am

Chair:

Date: