

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday 26 October 2023, 7.00 pm - 7.25 pm

Council Chamber - Civic Offices

Members Present:	Councillors R Morgan (Chairman), L Mead (Vice-Chairman), I Allgood, I Hadley, S Heather, P Keska and R Sharif
Apologies:	Councillor(s) A Lion, T Matthews, L Morgan, Caroline Pond, D Stocker, D Sunger and J M Whitehouse
Officers In Attendance:	David King (Licensing Manager), Gary Woodhall (Team Manager - Democratic & Electoral Services), Therese Larsen (Democratic Services Officer) and Pat Seager (Chairman's Officer)

[A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR REPEATED VIEWING](#)

1 WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the internet and would be capable of repeated viewing, which could infringe their human and data protection rights.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by the Councillors present pursuant to the Council's Member Code of Conduct.

3 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee noted that there was no additional business for consideration at the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 01 November 2022 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

Mr Woodhall, Team Manager for Democratic & Electoral Services, informed the Committee that minutes from previous meetings of Licensing Sub-Committees would not require signing at this meeting, as DocuSign was being implemented. This agenda item would not appear on the agenda for future meetings of the Committee.

6 LICENSING STATISTICS MARCH TO SEPTEMBER 2023

Mr David King (Licensing Team Manager) updated the Committee on the number of applications received under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 during the period 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023.

7 NATIONAL REGISTER OF TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE REVOCATION AND REFUSALS (NR3).

Mr King updated the Committee on the Council's duties to update the National register of Taxi and Private Hire Licence Revocations and Refusals (NR3). This duty came into force as part of the Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act 2022 with the aim to improve public safety and confidence in Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing.

8 PAVEMENT LICENCING

Mr King informed the Committee that on the current regime on Pavement Licensing, which was due to end on 30 September 2023, had been extended for a further twelve months until 30 September 2024.

9 TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES

Mr King (Licensing Team Manager) advised the Committee that the government had announced that the maximum annual number of Temporary Events Notices which a premises could apply for would return to 15, from the current 20, and that the maximum number of days on which temporary events could be held would be 21 per year.

10 MARTYN'S LAW

Mr King (Licensing Team Manager) updated the committee on the Protect Duty, ('Martyn's Law'), which was at the Draft Bill stage. The aim of the legislation was to reduce the risk to the public from terrorism at public venues.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr King explained that:

- Free training was already available on-line for organisations.
- The measures would apply to all venues with a capacity of 100 or more.
- Monitoring needed to determine sufficient Risk Assessment for different size venues.
- No information was currently available on enforcement measures, which would be determined by the Secretary of State.
- The Council would need its own plan and would engage with organisations across the District when further information was available.
- There was no information currently available regarding possible financial support to implement these measures.

The Committee felt that the measures proposed was not proportionate to the threat level, and Mr King highlighted that concerns had been raised about the Bill at the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Action:

- (1) Mr King to signpost to further information on Martyn's law.

11 REVIEW OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Committee believed that the current procedures were sufficient and working well.

12 REVIEW OF CURRENT AND FUTURE TRAINING NEEDS FOR THE COMMITTEE

The Committee felt that the current training was satisfactory. D King advised the Committee that the Licensing Training would be available online in Litmos.

13 MATTERS ARISING

D King informed the Committee that the Taxi Fares tariff public consultation exercise had been agreed by the Cabinet and would commence in November for 28 days. If there were no objections to the consultation, the new tariff would be implemented, but if there were any objections, the Taxi Fares tariff would need to be referred back to the Cabinet for a final decision.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 19 March 2024.

CHAIRMAN