

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE** held in the King Edmund Chamber, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich on Friday, 15 October 2021 at 10.30am

PRESENT:

Councillor: Kathie Guthrie (Chair)
David Muller (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Gerard Brewster Paul Ekpenyong
Dr Helen Geake Penny Otton

In attendance:

Officers: Kay Sanders – Licensing Officer
Katherine Green – Licensing Officer
Emma Richbell – Assistant Manager, Food, Safety and Licensing
Jo Wyatt – Assistant Manager, Food, Safety and Licensing
Nigel Dulieu – Legal Advisor
Karen Sayer – Governance Officer
Bethany Webb – Trainee Governance Officer

Apologies:

Councillors: Julie Flatman
Stephen Phillips
Dr Daniel Pratt
Andrew Stringer

8 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY COUNCILLORS

8.1 There were no declarations of interest.

9 MLR/21/5 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2021

It was **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 August 2021 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

10 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

10.1 None received.

11 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

11.1 None received.

12 MLR/21/6 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES STATUTORY THREE-YEARLY REVISION

- 12.1 Kay Sanders, Licensing Officer presented Paper MLR/21/6 to the Committee. The report referred to policy setting under the Gambling Act 2005. Since January 2007 local licensing authorities have been responsible for functions under the Gambling Act 2005, including issuing of licences and permits for gambling/gaming premises and associated matters.
- 12.2 Section 349 of the 2005 Act requires each licensing authority to prepare and publish a statement of the higher-level principles it will apply when dispensing its various gambling functions. The ‘Statement of Principles’ must by law be reviewed and republished every three years or sooner if so required.
- 12.3 In 2021 the Authority is due to revisit the statement that has been in effect since January 2019, and the report recommended approval of a suitably revised version in order that a statutory consultation period may then commence on its content.
- 12.4 The Policy was before the Committee for further consultation as Full Council adopted a No Casino Resolution on 23 September 2021. The duty to reconsult with the relevant stakeholders and interested parties will ensure that the amended Statement of Principles is not open to a legal challenge.
- 12.5 It was noted that any typographical errors would be corrected during the consultation process.
- 12.6 Councillor Dave Muller proposed that the recommendation contained in Paper MLR/21/6 be approved. Councillor Penny Otton seconded this proposal.
- 12.7 By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

That the draft revision Gambling Act 2005 ‘Statement of Principles’ document, attached as Appendix A be approved for consultation. Further, that the relevant officers proceed with the commencement of a period of statutory consultation in accordance with Gambling Act 2005 legislation and regulations.

13 MLR/21/7 NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING POLICY

- 13.1 Kay Sanders, Licensing Officer presented Paper MLR/21/7 to the Committee, reporting back to the Committee the outcome of a full targeted and public consultation, which ran between the 20 August 2021 and 16 September 2021, in respect of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy for the controlled zone of Mid Suffolk District Council.

- 13.2 Following the publication of the new Statutory Standards for Taxi's and Private Hire Vehicles, Councils are required to review the recommendations from the Department for Transport (DFT) and consult on any changes to their current policies.
- 13.3 The Licensing Officer provided the Committee with an update regarding EV taxis.
- 13.4 The Licensing Officer responded to Members' questions on issues including: the provision of charging points for electric vehicles, whether drivers got MOT reminders, training courses for drivers, and whether officers would be able to attend the training courses.
- 13.5 Councillor Dave Muller proposed that the recommendation contained in Paper MLR/21/7 be approved. Councillor Paul Ekpenyong seconded this proposal.
- 13.6 By a unanimous vote

It was RESOLVED:

That the post consultation draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy, attached as Appendix A, be approved.

It was RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy document be adopted.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 11.00am

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Chair