

Medway Council
Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee
Friday, 9 February 2024
2.32pm to 3.21pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present: Councillors: McDonald, Browne, Brake, Kemp, Peake and Louwella Prenter

In Attendance: Nicola Couchman, Democratic Services Officer
Mandy Francis, Licensing Manager
Kyle Rogers, Lawyer

593 Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Fearn.

594 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 8 December 2023 was agreed and signed by the Chairperson.

595 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

596 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

597 Exclusion of the press and public

The Sub-Committee agreed to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 6 because consideration of this matter in public would disclose information falling within paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as specified in agenda item 5 (Exclusion of press and public) and, in all the circumstances of the case, the Sub-Committee considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

598 Determination of Application for a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence

Discussion:

The Sub-Committee considered an application for a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence.

Decision:

After careful consideration of the written evidence and the representations made at the meeting, the sub-committee decided not to grant the Hackney Carriage Driver Licence. The decision was based on an application of the fit and proper test for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers.

599 Variation to Hackney Carriage Tariffs

Discussion:

Following the receipt of legal advice, the Sub-Committee were advised that the setting of tariffs was an executive function, i.e. a matter for Cabinet, rather than the Licensing-Sub Committee.

The Sub-Committee were advised to disregard paragraphs 3.4-3.8 of the report as these would be steps for Cabinet to consider. The Sub-Committee were asked to recommend to Cabinet to set the tariffs as attached in Appendix B. The report would be submitted to Cabinet on 12 March 2024.

The Licensing Manager informed the Sub-Committee that following consultation with drivers it was recommended that the flag price was increased from £3 to £4 with no change to the distance or waiting time element of taxi fares.

Members discussed whether the proposed increase was reasonable in the current financial climate and that it remained competitive with the flag price increase.

Decision:

The Sub-Committee agreed to recommend to Cabinet to set the tariffs as attached in Appendix B.

Licensing Sub-Committee, 9 February 2024

Chairperson

Date:

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