

REGULATORY PANEL

WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020 AT 4.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams (Chair), Bainbridge, Mrs Birks (as substitute for Councillor Patrick), Ellis (as substitute for Councillor Collier), Meller, Morton, Nedved, Rodgerson (as substitute for Councillor Dr Tickner), Shepherd, Miss Sherriff, Tinnion and Miss Whalen

OFFICERS: Assistant Solicitor
Licensing Manager
Principal Health and Housing Officer

RP.17/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf on Councillors Collier, Patrick and Dr Tickner.

RP.18/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bainbridge declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct relating to Agenda item A.1 – Review of Charges 2021/22 – Licensing. The interest related to him making an application for a Small Lotteries Licence.

Councillor Morton declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct relating to Agenda item A.1 – Review of Charges 2021/22 – Licensing. The interest related to him being involved with an organisation that has a Premises Licence.

Councillor Miss Sherriff declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct relating to Agenda item A.1 – Review of Charges 2021/22 – Licensing. The interest related to her partner being a City Council licensed tattoo artist.

Councillor Shepherd declared an interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct relating to Agenda item A.1 – Review of Charges 2021/22 – Licensing. The interest related to him being involved with an organisation that has a Premises Licence.

RP.19/20 PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was agreed that the items of business in Part A be dealt with in public and the items of business in Part B be dealt with when the public and press were excluded.

RP.20/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – The minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020 were approved as a correct record.

RP.21/20 REVIEW OF CHARGES 2021/22 – LICENSING

The Licensing Manager submitted report GD.50/20 setting out the proposed fees and charges for licences falling within the responsibility of the Licensing Section and the Food and Public Protection Section of the Governance and Regulatory Services Directorate. The Regulatory Panel had responsibility for determining the licence fees, with the exception of those under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 which fell to the Executive.

The Licensing Manager explained the extremely wide ranging and principal functions covered by licensing income, and drew Members' attention to the charging structures in Appendices A to C.

The Principal Health and Housing Officer set out the fee structure for Animal Welfare (licensing of activities involving animals) as set out in Appendix B and the one off registration fee for Cosmetic piercing, Tattooing, Electrolysis and Acupuncture.

RESOLVED – That the charges as set out in Appendices A, B & C of report GD.50/20 be agreed with effect from 1 April 2021 and to recommend to the Executive to agree the charges for the Scrap Metal Act Fees for 2021/22.

RP.22/20 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE

The Licensing Manager submitted a report detailing proposals for new and existing drivers to have a medical with an alternative provider for a period of 12 months (GD.49/20).

The Licensing Manger reported that a mandatory medical examination for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers had been adopted by the Council in October 2000 and was to be undertaken by the drivers registered practitioner. During the Covid-19 pandemic, some local practices were not undertaking private medicals, this had become an issue as new applicants were not able to proceed with their application if their practice had not commenced the service.

The Department of Transport had written to all licensing authorities urging that solutions were identified to resume services to fulfil the licencing function in order for driver licences to be issued. It was proposed that for a 12 month period new applicants and existing drivers would be authorised to have their medical examination undertaken by an alternative provider, if their registered practice was not undertaking taxi and private hire medicals, and a declaration would be required from the examining practitioner confirming that they had access to the patients relevant medical history from their registered practice.

RESOLVED – That the Regulatory Panel agree that for a 12-month period new applicants and existing drivers are authorised to have their medical examination undertaken by an alternative provider if their registered practice is not undertaking taxi and private hire medicals. A declaration will be required from the examining practitioner confirming that they have had access to the patient's relevant medical history from their registered practice.

[The meeting ended at 4.28pm]