

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday 1 June 2021 at 7.00 pm

Place: Council Chamber

Present:

Butler, Coburn, Farmer, Forster, Lamb (7.26pm), Smith and Wildsmith (Chairman)

In attendance: Councillor Kinnell (7.26pm)

Officers:

Mark Jaggard	Head of Place
Sophy Brough	Licensing Shared Service
Rob Draper	Licensing Shared Service
Louise Misselbrook	Shared Legal Services
Rebecca Borrett	Committee Services Officer

1 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Farmer was elected as Vice Chairman.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of 2 March 2021 were agreed and confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Delaney, Councillor Drage and Councillor Wright.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman expressed thanks to Sophy Brough of the Licensing Service Team for all her work with the Licensing Committee and wished her well in her future role.

6 AMENDMENT TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY

The Committee considered an amendment to the Council's Taxi and Private Hire Policy to make card payments mandatory in all licensed vehicles. This would be

included in the specifications and conditions of Hackney carriage and Private Hire vehicles.

DECISION

Approved the draft amendment to the Taxi and Private Hire Policy for consultation with trade and interested parties.

7 RENEWAL OF THE SHARED LICENSING SERVICE WITH BASINGSTOKE & DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Committee considered the renewal of Shared Licensing Service between Hart District Council and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council,

Members discussed:

- The proposed length of the Shared Service renewal
- The net cost of the Shared Service
- The improved resilience by operating a Shared Service
- Performance against a set of key performance indicators (KPIs), and while this was a matter for Overview & Scrutiny, asked for a note on KPIs be circulated to Licensing Committee prior to the next meeting
- Whether there was a sustainability issue in relation to the Climate Change Emergency due to taxi drivers needing to travel to Basingstoke. Officers outlined that now most of the process elements are done online and plates are sent in the post, so there is a reduced need to travel to Basingstoke; but the efficiencies of the shared service would not work if the service was operated from both Hart and Basingstoke.
- The Portfolio Holder asked if any Members had complaints about the service which had not been raised with Officers that they be raised with the Portfolio Holder and copied to the Chairman of the Licensing Committee

DECISION

Agreed:

the following comments for Cabinet to take into account when considering the renewal of the Shared Licensing Service:

- The current service was very efficient and did not generate complaints
- Licencing Hearings were always well run
- The shared licensing service had led to increased resilience compared with a small team in Hart previously
- Cabinet should consider the appropriate timeframe for the renewed shared service to get most efficiency and price
- Cabinet should consider the cost of the service and be satisfied it is value for money

to invite the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider whether to retrospectively consider the Shared Licensing Service following the Cabinet decision in July 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm