

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee on Monday 5 February 2024

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Committee members present:

Councillor Clarkson (Chair)	Councillor Mundy (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Humberstone	Councillor Lygo
Councillor Upton	Councillor Waite
Councillor Miles	Councillor Muddiman
Councillor Rawle	Councillor Thomas
Councillor Coyne	

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Alison Daly, Legal Adviser
Joshua Curnow, Supervising Senior Licensing Officer
David Stevens, Principal Team Lead
Celeste Reyeslao, Committee and Member Services Officer
Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager
Tanaka Merralls, Trainee Solicitor

Apologies:

Councillor(s) Hunt, Smowton and Sandelson sent apologies.

9. Election of Vice-Chair for the remainder of Council Year 2023/24

Councillor Edward Mundy was elected Vice-chair for the remainder of 2023-24 Council Year.

10. Declarations of interest

None.

11. Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 Licensing and Gambling Acts Fees and Charges for the 2024/25 financial year

The Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee considered a report by the Executive Director for Communities and People seeking agreement of the licence fees for 2024/25 where the Council has discretion over the level of fee charged.

Joshua Curnow, Supervising Senior Licensing Officer informed the Committee that fees under the Licensing Act and the Gambling Act were either set by statute and not

available for amendment, or set to the statutory limit. Only charges under the Miscellaneous category may be changed on the agreement of the Committee.

The Licensing Officer explained that fees had remained unchanged for many years despite an increase in the number of applications received by the authority. It was suggested that a breakdown of costs for certain functions could be produced to help understand current spend against incoming revenue. For comparison, it was noted that fees in other service areas which are controlled by the authority had generally risen due to inflationary pressures.

Councillor Katherine Miles queried whether there was scope for local authorities to write to central government to express concerns relating to certain fees set by legislation. Councillor Louise Upton indicated that the point raised was potentially within her cabinet portfolio and noted to discuss the issue with the Executive Director for Communities and People to assess the licensing functions being subsidised by other Council operations and determine a viable course of action. She thanked Councillor Miles for raising an important point.

The Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee resolved to:

1. **Agree** the licence fees and charges for 2024/25 as set out in the Appendix 1 and recommend them to Council for adoption.
2. **Request** that the Chair of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee calls on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport on behalf of the Committee to:
 - i. Work with the Executive Director for Communities and People and the Licensing Team Leader to assess that the fees and charges set by legislations sufficiently cover the costs of its functions; and
 - ii. Determine a viable course of action including taking advice from other local authorities and writing to central government to lobbying any concerns raised.
3. **Request** that a report updating the actions taken be brought back at the next meeting of the Committee.

12. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Committee agreed to **approve** the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2023 as a true and accurate record.

13. Any other business

Councillor Edward Mundy queried whether adjustments were needed in regard to the membership of its sub-committees following the election of a vice-chair for the remainder of 2023-24 council year. The Committee and Member Services Officer confirmed that no changes were required to the membership of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub-Committees.

14. Dates and times of meetings

The Committee noted the dates and times of future meetings.

The meeting started at 6.05 pm and ended at 6.13 pm

Chair

Date: Monday 20 May 2024

When decisions take effect:

Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired

*Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal
decision notice is issued*

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.