

LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 13th December, 2022
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

Present: Councillor Andrew Parker (Chair)

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|------------|
| Councillors: | Whieldon | Wilkes | J Williams |
| | S White | Skelding | G Williams |
| | Barker MBE | Adcock | Brown |
| | Heesom | Dymond | |
| | Sweeney | Allport | |

Apologies: Councillor(s) Wright

Substitutes: Councillor Wendy Brockie

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|---|
| Officers: | Matthew Burton | Licensing Administration Team Manager |
| | Geoff Durham | Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer |
| | Anne-Marie Pollard | Solicitor |
| | Darren Walters | Team Leader Environmental Protection |

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO LICENSING MATTERS**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

2. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October, 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

3. **FEEES TO BE CHARGED FOR THE LICENSING OF SCRAP METAL DEALERS, GAMBLING, SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENSING 2023-24**

Members considered a report regarding the proposed fees to be charged in relation to Scrap Metal Dealers, Gambling and Sexual Entertainment venues for 2023/24, as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

It was asked, how many scrap metal dealers licences there were in the Borough and also, why the fees for bingo and track betting had not changed when they were big business. There were currently 17 scrap metal dealer's licences in the Borough. The bingo and track betting fees were already at the maximum amount that the Council was allowed to charge.

Licensing & Public Protection Committee - 13/12/22

It was queried why the figure of 4% was chosen for the increases. This was due to the figure relating to the Council's Financial Plan.

Resolved: That the fees to be charged for the licensing of Scrap Metal Dealers, Gambling and Sexual Entertainment Venues for 2023-24, be agreed.

[Watch the debate here](#)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

5. PRIVATE HIRE & HACKNEY CARRIAGE FEES & CHARGES 2023/2024

Members considered a report regarding the proposed taxi and private hire fees, as set out in paragraph 2 of the report, prior to their being sent out for consultation.

Resolved: (i) That the proposed fees be sent out for consultation.
(ii) That, following consultation a further report be brought to Committee.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. CLEAN AIR ACT 1993 AS AMENDED - REVIEW OF SMOKE CONTROL AREAS AND ENFORCEMENT POWERS

Members considered a report seeking authority to review the effectiveness of the existing smoke control areas, in force, within the Borough and enforcement powers to achieve improvements in air quality.

The reference PM_{2.5} was queried. This was referred to as being forty times smaller than a grain of sand. This tiny particle can find its way into the bloodstream and could cause a host of diseases.

A question was asked regarding the Council's approach on enforcement for residential properties emitting a lot of smoke. Currently the Council was reliant on existing Smoke Control Orders. Where a complaint was received, householders would be advised of their legal responsibilities, the smokeless fuels that were available and also that they could use a DEFRA approved appliance. Should this fail then enforcement could follow.

Resolved: (i) That an officer led review of the options available to the Council to achieve improvements in air quality emissions from chimney's serving buildings across the Borough in order to protect health, be approved.
(ii) That a report be brought to the 21 March, 2023 meeting outlining options to achieve improvements in air quality emissions from chimney's serving buildings across the Borough in order to protect health.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995 - PART IV LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT - ANNUAL STATUS REPORT 2022

Members considered a report regarding the findings of the statutory Annual Status Report (ASR) for 2022 in respect of air quality within the Borough. The report covered the action being taken to monitor and improve local air quality in respect of Nitrogen Dioxide levels and particulate matter.

It was suggested that movement towards electric cars and more people working from home had made a difference to air quality. There had been a dramatic improvement in air quality during lockdown, which had been reflected nationally. However, due to the current economy, people were keeping hold of older cars for longer, therefore improvements were not as quick as had been anticipated.

An explanation was sought on paragraph 2.10 of the report. The Ministerial Directive was concerned with where people walked as opposed to where people lived.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the contents of the ASR 2022 be noted and that it be submitted to DEFRA
 - (ii) That a further report be brought to Committee, should DEFRA's appraisers not accept the ASR 2022.

[Watch the debate here](#)

8. ENVIRONMENT ACT 1995 PART IV- CONSULTATION ON REVOCATION OF LITTLE MADELEY AQMA

Members considered a report seeking authority to consult with relevant stakeholders on the revocation of the Little Madeley Air Quality Management Area. The air quality in this area had been compliant for a number of years.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That officers be authorised to enter into a four week consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders with a view to revocation of the Little Madeley AQMA
 - (ii) That Committee receive a further report at its March 2023 meeting containing proposals for the Little Madeley AQMA along with details of consultee responses.

[Watch the debate here](#)

9. MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July, 2022 be received.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

The following item was considered urgent in light of new Committee members and the items now being brought to Committee on Air Quality

Air Quality Training

Licensing & Public Protection Committee - 13/12/22

It was proposed that Members receive formal training on Air Quality. This would be arranged and carried out via Teams

11. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There were no confidential items

**Councillor Andrew Parker
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.56 pm