

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Licensing Committee

There has been one Licensing Committee and one Sub-Committee meeting since my last report. Details of these meetings are set out below.

Licensing Committee – 4 September 2019

1. The Licensing Committee considered a report on a draft review of the taxi and private hire policy and agreed it for consultation, subject to inclusion of amended wording in relation to tinted windows.
2. The Committee also considered a proposal to introduce a joint warranting scheme for Licensing Officers, in conjunction with Surrey Licensing Authorities, to enable improved enforcement of the taxi and private hire trade across the County.
3. The Committee agreed to recommend Council to approve amendments to the scheme of delegations to provide for the implementation of a joint warranting scheme empowering Licensing Enforcement Officers from other Surrey authorities to exercise common agreed enforcement duties when vehicles are operating outside of the issuing authority. This recommendation will be brought before a future meeting of Council.

Licensing Sub-Committee – 3 October 2019

1. A Licensing Sub-Committee considered an application by Sensations Leisure Ltd for a Premises Licence at Unit 5, Thames Edge, Staines-upon-Thames. The applicant proposed to operate the premises as an adult private members club on Fridays and Saturdays and corporate events venue at other times of the week.
2. The Sub-Committee was persuaded that due to the history of the premises and on the evidence of previous Sub-Committee decisions, they were not fit for purpose as a private members' club or party venue. This was because the premises had a lack of sound insulation which resulted in unacceptable noise disturbance to residents in Thames Edge. In the absence of an acoustic report, the Sub-Committee did not have the evidence to persuade it that any conditions it may impose to promote the prevention of public nuisance objective in relation to noise, would be appropriate and proportionate. The Sub-Committee refused to grant the licence for the reasons set out in the decision notice.

Councillor Robin Sider
Chairman of the Licensing Committee

24 October 2019