

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Licensing and Regulatory Committee held
at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK on Tuesday, 28th January, 2025 at
10.00 am**

PRESENT: County Councillor Tudor Thomas (Chairman)
County Councillor Jayne McKenna, (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: Lisa Dymock, Tony Easson,
Christopher Edwards, Simon Howarth, Jane Lucas, Jayne McKenna,
Alistair Neill, Sue Riley, Dale Rooke, Jackie Strong, Tudor Thomas
and Armand Watts

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda O’Gorman	Principal Licensing Officer
Julian Sanders	Solicitor
Wendy Barnard	Democratic Services Officer
Jane Rodgers	Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health

APOLOGIES:

None.

1. Declarations of interest

Item 5: Licensing Fees 2025 - County Councillor Armand Watts declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest as he had recently applied for a license to Forest of Dean District Council.

2. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on the following dates were approved as an accurate record:

1. 17th September 2024
2. 4th October 2024 (Special)
3. 6th November 2024 (Sub Committee)
4. 2nd January 2025 (Sub Committee)
5. 15th January 2025 (Sub Committee)

3. Licensing Act 2025 Policy Statement

We considered the proposed ‘Draft Licensing Policy 2025’ prior to submission to full council to agree adoption. The report was presented by the Principal Licensing Officer. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions.

https://www.youtube.com/live/Xjl_v3NFIs?si=MmrTmliKlnZgfBCJ&t=145

In line with the report recommendations, Members reviewed the proposed updated Licensing Act policy statement for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2030 (changes highlighted in red), which is attached as Appendix A and approved the commencement of the statutory consultation process prior to determining the new statement.

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4. Licensing Fees 2025

We considered the Authority's licence fees for 2025-26. The report was presented by the Principal Licensing Officer. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

https://www.youtube.com/live/Xjl_v3NFIs?si=TdOrtCb493ORwMEW&t=404

As per the report recommendations, the Committee agreed to:

1. Approve the fees set out in Appendix A to this report, entitled "Schedule of Licence Fees for 2025-26", subject, where relevant, to any required public notice.
2. That any objections, duly made, regarding fees for the grant of licences for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles be brought back to Committee at the earliest opportunity for due consideration.

5. Licensing Committee - Separation of Functions

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report on Separation of Licensing Committee functions. The report provided members with details of the proposed arrangements to reconfigure the functions of the existing Licensing and Regulatory Committee as set out in the report, and considered seeking endorsement of those proposals before they are reported to Council for approval. Following presentation of the report, Members were invited to ask questions:

https://www.youtube.com/live/Xjl_v3NFIs?si=nfbu6SLPwNNm9nTf&t=1008

The Committee requested a further report with clarification from the Legal Department to include why separation of functions is required for good governance and if two Chairs/Vice Chairs would be required. The additional report should be considered prior to making a decision about separation of functions and onward consideration by Full Council.

6. Next Meeting: 25th March 2025 at 10.00am

The meeting ended at 10.59 am