

Crawley Borough Council

Minutes of Licensing Committee

30 October 2017 at 7.30 pm

Councillors Present:

R S Fiveash (Chair)

M L Ayling (Vice-Chair)

T G Belben, N J Boxall, B J Burgess, K L Jaggard, M G Jones, K McCarthy, C J Mullins,
D M Peck, C Portal Castro, B J Quinn, R Sharma and J Tarrant

Officers Present:

Tony Baldock	Environmental Health Manager
Roger Brownings	Democratic Services Officer
Kevin Carr	Legal Services Manager

1. Disclosures of Interest

No disclosures of interests were made.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 11 September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Proposed Charging Scheme for Food Safety Inspections Linked to National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

The Committee considered report PES/258 of the Head of Economic and Environmental Services. The purpose of the report was to consider charging food businesses in Crawley for visits to rescore food safety, made under the national Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS).

The Committee discussed the report in detail, and in response to issues raised the Environmental Health Manger:

- Confirmed that the intended charge of £145 was subject to the Council's Corporate Fees and Charges Policy, and had been calculated to ensure that costs were fully recovered.
- Advised that the proposed charge was based on research and the experience locally by Brighton and Hove City Council as part of a national pilot project to charge for such re-inspections.

- Emphasised that the adoption of a charging scheme would enable Environmental Health Officers to assist local food businesses to improve much quicker. The scheme was intended to prevent delays or restrictions to food business operators requesting revisits until the next routine visit, which currently might be up to 24 months in some instances.
- Indicated that there was sufficient capacity within the service to undertake this work.
- Commented that feedback received from the Brighton and Hove City Council scheme was positive, with businesses being very supportive.
- Confirmed that subject to the Committee's approval of the proposed scheme, the introduction of the scheme would be advertised.
- Advised that it was not mandatory for businesses to display the food hygiene rating that they received.

With Members seeking and receiving clarification on a number of further issues raised, the Committee indicated its support for the report's proposals.

RESOLVED

That the introduction of a flat rate charge for rescoring FHRS visits requested by food businesses be agreed.

Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Committee concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.51 pm

R S FIVEASH
Chair