

MINUTES

meeting: **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

date: **27 JUNE 2012**

PRESENT:-

Councillors Dass (Chair), Angus, Banger, Clarke, Claymore, Inston, Jaspal, Mrs Patten, John Rowley and Judith Rowley.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Darke and N A Patten and Judith Rowley.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:-

Delivery

L Banbury - Democratic Support Officer
S Hardwick - Solicitor

Education and Enterprise

A Jervis - Head of Regulatory Services

Local Health Board/Primary Care Trust

Dr A Phillips - Director of Public Health
Ms R Jervis - Consultant in Public Health

Wolverhampton
City Council



Declarations of Interest

14. No interests were declared.

Minutes

15. Resolved:-
(a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2012 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of an apology for absence from Councillor Jaspal.

(b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 30 May 2012 be approved as a correct record and adopted.

Schedule of Outstanding Minutes (Appendix 8)

The Democratic Support Officer submitted a report, which set out a schedule of outstanding minutes together with details of when it was expected that reports on individual items would be presented for consideration.

16. Resolved:-
That the report be received.

Legal Proceedings

The Democratic Support Officer submitted a report, which set out for the Committee's information, details of the results of legal proceedings determined by Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court following consideration of matters delegated to the Licensing Committee.

17. Resolved:-
That the report be received.

Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011-2015: Reducing the Harms Caused by Alcohol to Citizens of Wolverhampton (Appendix 9)

The Director of Public Health presented a report, which apprised the Committee of the Strategy, associated plan and the arrangements in place to ensure their delivery. He indicated that the report was also due to be presented to the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board. He suggested that there were 4 main questions that should be considered by the Committee, these being:-

- How can the Council influence national policy change?
- How we can utilise the Late Night Levy, if implemented, to assist in managing the late night economy in the City Centre?
- How can we make Licensees aware of the positive contribution they can make?
- How can we encourage Premises in the City Centre to offer something for the whole family to enjoy?

The Consultant in Public Health advised that funded had been secured to assist in establishing ten new services, including:-

- a single contact for all alcohol referrals with effect from 1 January 2012 (in excess of 400 referrals during that period);
- an Alcohol Liaison Service at New Cross Hospital (36 referrals since March of which half did not realise they had a problem before the referral), and
- Specialist Detoxification Centres within GP Surgeries, prevent referrals to hospital and providing continuity of care for those who have been discharged from hospital.

Councillors noted with concern the worrying statistics outlined at Page 4 of the document. Concerns were also expressed regarding the growing number of 'Off Licences' selling cut price alcohol.

18. Resolved:-

(a) That the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011-2015, the associated plan and performance management framework be noted.

(b) That the importance of Goal 2 – Developing a Well Managed Night-time Economy and its relevance to the Licensing Committee, particularly the need to formulate guidelines for the Licensing Trade in terms of a responsible code of conduct be stressed.

(c) That the need to consider the issue of the Late Night Levy, with particular reference to seeking to ensure that the funding held by the West Midlands Police is used to develop the night-time economy for all ages be stressed.

(d) That information be provided to a future meeting on measures taken by Greater Manchester and Scotland in terms of pricing and that Dr Philips be invited to attend the meeting.

(e) That Officers write to the Local Government Association asking them to lobby Central Government to act swiftly in respect of the implementation of a national Minimum Unit Pricing Policy and reduce the availability of cheap alcohol, which exacerbates the harms caused by alcohol to the citizens of Wolverhampton.

(f) That six monthly progress reports on the implementation of the Strategy be presented to the Licensing Committee.

Draft Policy for the Management of 'A' Boards, Tables and Chairs and Goods on the Highway (Appendix 10)

The Head of Regulatory Services presented a report, which sought endorsement of the draft policy and agreement to the consultation arrangements.

On a point of clarification, the Solicitor advised that the Policy was for guidance and as such each application would be dealt with on its merits. It was therefore agreed that the final sentence under 6(ii) 'There is a general

presumption that businesses will only be permitted one 'A' Board' should be deleted.

Responding to a Councillor's concerns regarding potential problems for people with sight impairments, the Head of Regulatory Services confirmed that an Equalities Impact Assessment had been carried out and would be monitored and reviewed. He added that the Council's Access Officer had been fully involved and that ROSPA would also be consulted. Councillors were further advised that enforcement would be a priority.

On a further point of clarification, the Solicitor advised that in instances where the Policy was breached, the Council could issue a Notice outlining steps to be taken to remedy the situation.

19. Resolved:-

(a) That the draft policy for the Management of 'A' Boards, Tables and Chairs and Goods on the Highway be endorsed.

(b) That the consultation arrangements, outlined in the covering report, be approved.

(c) That a further report be presented on completion of the consultation exercise.

Private Hire Vehicle Criteria (Appendix 11)

A report was submitted, which sought continuation of the current pilot scheme relating to revised Private Hire vehicle testing until the review by the Law Commission of Taxi and Private Hire Services is completed.

20. Resolved:-

(a) That the twelve month pilot scheme relating to the Private Hire Vehicle testing criteria, adopted by the Licensing Committee on 25 May 2011, be extended until the review by the Law Commission of Taxi and Private Hire Services is completed.

(b) That a further report be presented following completion of the review by the Law Commission.