

LICENSING POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Licensing Policy Committee held on Wednesday 25 August 2010 at 9.30am in the executive meeting room of the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillors Les Stevens (chair)
David Fuller (vice-chair)
Margaret Foster
Jacqui Hancock
Lynne Stagg
April Windebank

12. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andy Fraser, Margaret Adair, James Williams and Lee Mason. Apologies were also received from Councillors Hugh Mason and Leo Madden, who are standing deputies.

13. Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 2)

Councillor April Windebank declared a personal interest in that her daughter is the premises licence holder of the Slug and Lettuce public house in Palmerston Road, Southsea.

14. Minutes of the Licensing Policy Committee meetings held on 26 February 2010 and the special meeting held on 30 July 2010 (AI 3)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Policy Committee meetings held on 26 February 2010 and the special meeting held on 30 July 2010 be agreed and signed by the chair as a correct record.

15. Minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meetings held on 10 February, 17 and 24 March, 6, 14, 21 and 30 April, 26, the interim steps hearing on 28 and 28 May, 2, 18 and 23 June and 7 and 16 July 2010 (AI 4)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meetings held on 10 February, 17 and 24 March, 6, 14, 21 and 30 April, 26, the interim steps hearing on 28 and 28 May, 2, 18 and 23 June and 7 and 16 July 2010 be agreed and signed by the relevant chair of the meeting as a correct record.

16. Home Office Consultation – Rebalancing the Licensing Act – A consultation on empowering individuals, families and local communities to shape and determine local licensing (AI 5)

(TAKE IN REPORT AND APPENDICES BY THE LICENSING MANAGER)

The Licensing Manager introduced the report and explained that the Home Office are asking for responses on how to implement the Government's proposals. The coalition Government have set out five commitments relating to alcohol licensing in order to tackle the crime and anti social behaviour associated with binge drinking in the night time economy. There is a very short consultation period because it is intended to be introduced by way of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill which is due to be introduced into Parliament in October this year.

Councillor Stagg explained that there is currently a scrutiny review being undertaken by the Health and Overview Scrutiny panel in to alcohol related hospital admissions and the impact on A&E. She suggested that the Licensing Manager contact Jane Di Dino or Tony Quinn (scrutiny officers) to ask them to provide the relevant statistics and information which could be included in our response.

Members were on the whole in support of the Government's proposals and agreed that the above information should be included in the City Council's response. The chair asked if he could see the draft response before it is sent off to the Home Office.

RESOLVED that the committee noted the report and asked the Licensing Manager to draft a response on behalf of the committee, which was to include relevant information and statistics relating to alcohol related hospital admissions and the impact on A&E locally.

17. Licensing Act 2003 – Draft Statement of Licensing Policy for the period 2011-2014 (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT AND APPENDICES BY THE LICENSING MANAGER)

The Licensing Manager introduced the report and explained that Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires the Council to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy every three years. The licensing authority must consult with a number of persons/bodies, as listed in the report. In preparing the draft statement consultation had already taken place with the statutory responsible authorities and their comments had been incorporated into the draft statement. The Licensing Manager also explained the timetable for consultation, as outlined within the report.

The proposed changes to the Licensing Act will not be in place until 2012 and will be introduced by way of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill which is due to be introduced into Parliament in October this year.

During discussion of this item members expressed their concern about the lack of support from planning enforcement when premises have been granted planning consent and a premises licence. They felt that there was not enough 'joined up working' between licensing and planning. Members requested that the Licensing Manager write to the Leader, on behalf of the committee, expressing the committee's concerns with regards to the lack of resources available to enable the planning service to fully investigate breaches of planning consent.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Licensing Committee approved the draft Statement of Licensing Policy as the consultation document for the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003; and**
- 2) That the Licensing Committee approved the timetable for the consultation period, consideration of responses to the consultation period and submission of reports on the final policy (including any amendments if necessary) to the Licensing Committee and Council as appropriate.**

The meeting concluded at 10.20am.

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Signed by the chair
Councillor Les Stevens.