

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 1 July, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

In a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall

Present

Councillor Sears (Chairman)
Councillor Clarke (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Anson
Councillor C. Bott
Councillor J. Fitzpatrick
Councillor S. Fitzpatrick
Councillor Murray
Councillor Sarohi
Councillor Washbrook

1645/15 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors D. Hazell & Rochelle.

1646/15 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1647/15 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th June, 2015, a copy having previously been circulated to Members of the Committee, be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

1648/15 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)

Resolved

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items set out in the private agenda for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

1649/15 **Licensing Act 2003 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy**

The report of the Head of Economy and Environment was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Principal Licensing Officer (Mr. Knapper) enlarged on the report for the benefit of the Committee and drew members' attention to the salient points contained therein.

Councillor Washbrook asked if the statement contained anything contentious. Mr. Knapper replied that the statement itself was innocuous. The more descriptive the document the more likely it would be open to challenge. From past experience, consultees would raise any concerns they might have over the statement, although there have been no challenges to the statement in the past.

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick referred to the reference to large scale and outdoor events in the statement. Mr. Knapper replied that if alcohol was involved in the event then it required licensing.

Councillor Murray referred to paragraph 3.11 of the report and asked who determined the persons to be consulted on the statement of licensing. Mr. Knapper replied that the local authority determined whom to consult in conjunction with the 2003 Act. He added that the consultation period would extend from 13 July – 4 September, 2015.

Councillor Murray asked if institutions, societies or associations were approached. Mr. Knapper replied "No". However, breweries, supermarkets and others were contacted as the local authority wanted to consult as widely as possible.

After further discussion it was

Resolved

That the draft licensing policy be approved for statutory consultation.

1650/15 **Gambling Act 2005 – Revision of Statement of Principles**

The report of the Head of Economy & Environment was submitted:-

(see annexed)

The Principal Licensing Officer (Mr. Knapper) enlarged upon the report for the benefit of the Committee. He reported that the draft statement of principles was issued under section 349 of the Gambling Act, 2005, and the consultation period would run from 13 July – 4 September 2015. He drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 3.6 of the report which explained who should be consulted on the statement of principles.

Mr. Knapper reported that once consultation had been completed the matter would be referred back to this committee for further consideration, then submitted to Council for approval. The new statement of principles would come into operation on 31 January, 2016.

Councillor Washbrook asked what constituted a gambling premise. Mr. Knapper explained that it related to betting shops, casinos and other premises.

Councillor Anson asked if premises could be refused a licence under the Act. Mr. Knapper replied that a betting shop could be refused planning permission through the planning process but it could not be rejected under the licensing legislation.

Councillor S. Fitzpatrick referred to betting at fairgrounds and asked if this was controlled. Mr. Knapper replied that the council's licensing enforcement team would patrol them.

After further discussion this was

Resolved

That the draft statement of principles be approved for statutory consultation.

PRIVATE SESSION

Exclusion of public

Resolved

That, during consideration of the remaining items on the agenda, the Committee considers that the items for consideration are exempt information for the reasons set out therein and Section 100A of the Local Government Act, 1972 and accordingly resolves to consider those items in private.

Summary of items considered in private session

**1651/15 Application for a Hackney Carriage Proprietors licence –
Exceptional Circumstances request –SM**

The Committee considered the application and made a decision thereon

(Exempt information under paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972) (as amended).

**1652/15 Application for a Hackney Carriage Proprietor's Licence –
Exceptional circumstances request – MS**

The Committee considered the application and made a decision thereon

(Exempt information under paragraph 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**1653/15 Grant of a licence to drive private hire of vehicles – exceptional
circumstances request – MY**

The Committee considered the application and made a decision thereon

(Exempt information under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended).

Termination of meeting

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.35 pm.