

Monday 11 October 2010
at 6.00pm



Licensing Act Committee

MEMBERS: Councillor SZANTO (Deputy Chairman), Councillors BELSEY, Mrs GOODALL, GOODYEAR, Ms HOUGH, Mrs MADELL, Mrs POOLEY, Mrs SALSBURY, Mrs TARRANT, THOMPSON and Miss WOODALL.

(Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Purchase, Bloom, Goodwin and Taylor).

5 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2010 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

6 Declaration of Interests.

None were received.

7 Update on Consultation - Licensing Policy Statement.

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager regarding the Council's draft Statement of Licensing Policy for 2011-2013.

The current Licensing Policy Statement had been published in January 2008 and detailed the principles that the Licensing Authority will generally apply in order to promote the Licensing Objectives when making decisions on applications under the Act. The Council was required to review the policy in its entirety and re-publish the contents at least every 3 years.

At its meeting on 19 July 2010 the Committee had agreed to release the draft policy for public consultation, which would conclude on 19 November 2010.

A range of organisations and individuals had been directly consulted and in addition views and feedback had been sought via the Borough Council's pages on Facebook and Twitter. To date 7 responses had been received, details of which were summarised within the report.

The Licensing Manager had also presented an overview of the policy to the Town Centre, Langney and St Anthony's Neighbourhood Panels and it was reported that residents and partners in attendance had supported the changes proposed to the policy.

The Committee was advised of a Government consultation which sought to amend the Licensing Act 2003 to empower individuals and local

communities to shape and determine local licensing and which would place more emphasis on local accountability. The proposals if adopted would significantly shape the Council's future policy from 2012 onwards.

RESOLVED: (1) That the feedback received to date on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy be noted.

(2) That the revised timetable for consultation, review and implementation be noted.

(3) That any revisions required to the Policy prior to submission to Cabinet and full Council be delegated to the Senior Head of Development and Environment in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Act Committee and the lead Cabinet member.

8 Update on Consultation - Sex Establishment Policy.

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager regarding feedback received to date following public consultation on the Council's draft Sex Establishment Policy.

At its meeting on 19 July 2010 the Committee supported the adoption of the relevant provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 which introduced a new category of "Sex Establishment" and required venues of this type to obtain a licence. The Committee had also agreed to release the draft policy for public consultation which would conclude on 19 November 2010.

A range of organisations and individuals had been directly consulted and in addition views and feedback had been sought via the Borough Council's pages on Facebook and Twitter. To date 6 responses had been received details of which were summarised within the report.

The Licensing Manager had also presented an overview of the policy to the Town Centre, Langney and St Anthony's Neighbourhood Panels. The feedback received to date had supported the adoption of the legislative provisions which would give the Council and other enforcement partners a wider range of powers to regulate the activity of sex encounter venues and provide communities with the opportunity for a greater say in the control and location of such venues.

RESOLVED: (1) That the feedback received to date on the draft Sex Establishment Policy and the proposals to adopt the provisions of Section 26 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 be noted.

(2) That the revised timetable for consultation, review and implementation be noted.

(3) That any revisions required to the Policy prior to submission to Cabinet and full Council be delegated to the Senior Head of Development and Environment in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Act Committee and the lead Cabinet member.

The meeting closed at 6.45 p.m.

G Szanto
Deputy Chairman in the Chair