

# LICENSING COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Of a virtual meeting on Wednesday 10 February 2021 from 8.08pm to 8.20pm

Members of the Licensing Committee:-

Councillors:-	Martin Trevett (Chair)	Steve Drury (Vice Chair)
	Donna Duncan	Roger Seabourne
	Stephen Cox	Alex Turner
	Joy Mann	
	Shanti Maru	
	Debbie Morris	

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Officers in attendance:

Matthew Robert – Team Leader Projects and Compliance  
Lorna Fryer – Lead Licensing Officer  
Sherrie Ralton - Committee Manager

### **LEC 11/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received

### **LEC 12/20 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Licensing Committee Meeting dated 2 December 2020 and the Extraordinary Licensing Committee Meeting dated 22 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record by the Committee and would be signed by the Chair of the meeting.

### **LEC 13/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **LEC 15/20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **LEC 16/20 LICENSING ACT 2003 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2021-2026**

The Licensing Act 2003 (as amended) (“the 2003 Act”) requires that all licensing authorities should issue a Statement of Licensing Policy and keep it under review every 5 years, making revisions to it, at such times, as it considers appropriate.

The Lead Licensing Officer introduced the report and provided the following update:

Following the Extraordinary Licensing Committee on 22 December Members agreed to minor amendments to the draft Policy and to go out to a six week public consultation. On 23 December Officers commenced the 6 week public consultation which included existing holders of premises licences, club premises certificates, personal licences, the police and other relevant bodies. A public notice was also placed in the Watford Observer.

No responses were received to the public consultation.

In light of the fact that the consultation period has now expired, the recommendation should be amended to now read:

“It is recommended the amended Policy; ‘The Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026’ is agreed by members and adopted by Full Council on 23 February 2021”

A Member pointed out that the appropriate date needed to be added to Appendix D. The Team Leader Projects and Compliance confirmed that a note had been made to insert the dates as appropriate.

The Chair moved, duly seconded, the recommendation set out in the report.

On being put to the Committee, the recommendation in the report was declared CARRIED by the Chair, agreed by General Assent.

### **RECOMMEND:**

Licensing Committee recommend that:

- i) The amended Policy; ‘The Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026’ is agreed by members and adopted by Full Council on 23 February 2021.

That public access to the report be immediate.

## **LEC 17/20 WORK PROGRAMME**

To consider and make any necessary changes to the Committee’s work programme.

A Member had contacted the Chair with a suggestion that a log of any complaints received by the Licensing Team, Environmental Health, Police, Community Safety and Customer Services and anyone else with Licensing type issues which could impact on whether a Cumulative Impact Policy should be provided at every Licensing Committee Meeting. The Chair had had no problem with this being added to the Work Programme.

A Member had concerns about the inclusion of every complaint. The presentation of a report at every Licensing Committee Meeting would be preferable.

The Officer advised that the Licensing Team had agreed they would report anything that was relevant and important that may mean a move towards a Community Impact Policy. With the new police powers in relation to anti-social behaviour the Police were now able to get Community Notices in place. There was already a complaints reporting system in place.

The Chair asked for an indication in the report for the criteria for an investigation.

The Officer advised that before considering a Cumulative Impact Policy they would start by looking at the licensed premises, then look at taking action against the licensee and/or amending licence conditions where appropriate.

The Member clarified that they were suggesting reporting on categories of incidents rather than individual incidents.

The Chair advised that there was a danger that a Cumulative Impact Policy could be appealed and the Council could lose.

The Chair proposed that a report be brought to the next meeting detailing how to look at the issue going forward.

A Member said it was important that that complaints would be logged from now.

The Team Leader Projects and Compliance advised that they would provide a report giving an overview on Cumulative Impact Policies to make it clearer for Members. They would also highlight the tools available to the Licensing Department before they would get to the Cumulative Impact Policy stage which was a wider ranging enforcement tool. Any valid licensing complaint received between now and the June Licensing Committee Meeting would be included in the report. Updates as to how investigations were progressing could also be included if relevant.

The Chair moved the recommendation in the report, to include the addition of a report giving an overview of a Cumulative Impact Policy and also tools available to the Licensing Department.

On being put to the Committee the recommendation in the report was declared CARRIED, agreed by General Assent.

**RECOMMEND:**

That the Committee noted the items included in the work programme and the additional report.

**CHAIRMAN**