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# LICENSING COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth on Wednesday 16 June 2021 from 7.30pm to 8.02pm

Members of the Licensing Committee:-

Councillors:-	Raj Khuroya (Chair)	Martin Trevett (Vice-Chair)
	Donna Duncan	Roger Seabourne
	Joanna Clemens	Alex Turner
	David Coltman	Kate Turner
	Paul Rainbow	

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Also in attendance: Councillor Lisa Hudson

Officers in attendance:

Lorna Fryer – Lead Licensing Officer  
Debra Sandling – Animal Welfare and Licensing Inspector  
Sarah Haythorpe – Principal Committee Manager  
Mike Simpson - Committee and Web Officer

### **LEC 01/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alison Wall and Stephen Cox.

### **LEC 02/21 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Licensing Committee Meeting dated 10 February 2021 were confirmed as a correct record by the Committee and signed by the Chair of the meeting.

### **LEC 03/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Urgent Business statement under item 3.

The Chair ruled that the agenda for the Licensing Committee meeting was published five clear working days in advance, along with the reports. It came to officers' attention that due to a technical fault the reports were not showing on the webpage. This issue was rectified at the weekend. The reports at items 5 and 6 were of sufficient urgent to be considered by the Committee in order that the consultation of

the Gambling Act could take place and that a decision could be made on the Cumulative Impact Assessment in order that Officers could take any action required..

#### **LEC 04/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Lisa Hudson declared an interest in agenda item 6 as a licensed premises holder in the District but was in attendance as an observer at the meeting and did not take part in any of the debate or voting.

#### **LEC 05/21 GAMBLING ACT 2005 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

The Chair introduced the item and surmised that asked whether there were any questions.

Councillor Martin Trevett was happy to move the recommendation, having read the report. Duly seconded by Councillor Roger Seabourne.

The Lead Licensing Officer provided some background to the review of the Gambling Policy, the main points being:

- the inclusion of a paragraph relating to remote gambling,
- an increase in the minimum age for playing the National Lottery
- the reduction of the permitted number of gaming machines in licensed premises from four to two.

The casino recommendation was to continue the policy of having no casinos in the District, but should an application be received to open one, it would be heard and considered.

There were no further comments or suggested additions to the policy.

On being put to the Committee, the motion as declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Agreed to the updates within the draft policy statement.

That following the consultation period, the draft statement of policy be presented to the Licensing Committee with any subsequent amendments and details of consultation responses, for formal adoption by Full Council in 2021 to come into force by 14 January 2022.

#### **LEC 06/21 OVERVIEW OF CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CIA)/POLICY & COMPLAINTS ABOUT PREMISES LICENCES**

The Lead Licensing Officer said there was no current requirement to introduce a community impact assessment. The report was in response to complaints relating to two public houses in the District, the first of which resulted in visits by the Police and Environmental Health (EH) Officers. In May 2021 there was evidence of underage drinking, individuals previously banned returning to cause trouble and

incidents of ASB and aggravated assault. The second establishment, run by the same licensee, had attracted complaints due to the playing of music beyond its permitted hours and was also the subject of a visit by EH officers in respect of a Covid check. The Licensing Team consulted with the DPS, and measures were agreed if remedial measures were put in place.

A Member referred to the Cumulative Impact Assessment and said that at last month's Licencing training the trainer said it was no longer relevant, and in view of the difficulties faced by the hospitality sector at present it was not appropriate.

Councillor Martin Trevett moved the recommendation to note the report and advise Officers to report any trends in complaints regarding licence premises at future Licencing Committee meetings.

A Member asked what the response had been to the issues of underage drinking. The Lead Licencing Officer said follow-up was made with the licensee regarding the checking of ID, as individuals aged 15 and 17 were found to be consuming alcohol, and the next step was to apply enforcement. The licensee was aware that their licence could be at risk, and could be subject to review by the Council. The matter was taken very seriously. Spot checks would be carried out in future.

The Lead Licencing Officer said in response to a question from the Chair that licensees were issued with a letter of warning after a visit if transgressions were evident. A future meeting with the licensee had been arranged to discuss remedial actions. Premises were dealt with individually rather than collectively, which was a reason why a CIA policy was not necessary.

A Member observed that the recommendation was to note the report but was unclear why the report was to be noted when a CIA policy was not required, as previously discussed. The Lead Licensing Officer agreed that nothing was required at this point, but suggested that the matter be reviewed in 6-12 months' time.

Councillor Roger Seabourne suggested an amendment and that the recommendation be amended to state that it be noted with a condition that a review take place in six/twelve months' time.

The proposer of the motion accepted the amendment.

On being put to the Committee, the amended recommendation was declared CARRIED by the Chair the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

Noted the report and advised Officers to report any trends in complaints regarding licence premises at future Licencing Committees to be reviewed in six/twelve months

## **LEC 07/21 WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee reviewed the work programme.

A Member said that December meeting was too far way for a review of the Gambling Act Consultation, and suggested that an extraordinary meeting of the Licensing Committee be scheduled for October, to which there was general agreement.

A Member said they did not understand the need to provide an overview of a Cumulative Impact Policy because the Council didn't have one. If a problem did occur it would be dealt with by the Licensing Committee, rather than wait for a review. The Member also said that, based on their Community Safety role, the Licensing Team had the tools for the job so did not see the requirement for a review, but did see the value in receiving a report from officers on underage drinking and how the issue was being addressed, as soon as possible.

The Lead Licencing Officer suggested that street trading be added to the work programme as several applications for licences had been submitted from ice cream vendors etc. The Principal Committee Manager advised that this item would be added to the Regulatory Services Committee work programme as it was within their Terms of Reference.

The amended work programme was moved by Councillor Seabourne, seconded by Councillor Clemens, and on being put to the Committee declared CARRIED by the Chair having been agreed by General Assent.

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee noted the items included in the work programme and amendments as discussed, and agreed the requirement for an Extraordinary Meeting to be held in October 2021 to discuss the No Casino policy consultation.

**CHAIR**