



MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
Thursday 7 November 2019 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Councillor Ahmed (Chair), Allie (Vice-Chair), Long, Hector, Mitchell Murray, Maurice

1. **Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Chohan.

2. **Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 22 May 2019, were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting

4. **Draft Statement of Licensing Policy**

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration & Environment relating to the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy.

Yogini Patel (Senior Regulatory Service Manager) provided the Committee with an outline of the consultation process undertaken on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy, which she advised the Committee was being asked to consider and comment on in advance of its submission to Full Council on 25 November 19 for final approval.. The Committee was advised that consultation had started on 23 August 2019 and closed on 4 October 2019, with all the area forums having been included. Members noted that extensive consultations were undertaken on the draft policy, details of which were listed in paragraphs 3.9 to 3.21 of the report. Members were informed that 35 consultation responses were received.

The Committee noted:

- The Council in its role as a Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 had a duty to determine, publish and keep under review its Statement of Licensing Policy ('Policy') which would apply for a five year period. However, the Policy could be updated during the five-year period.
- The existing Policy was not due to expire until 6th January 2021. However, the review of the current Policy had been brought forward due to an increase in alcohol-fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour since the Policy had last been reviewed in 2015.
- The Policy review had taken into account the revisions made to the Home Office Guidance issued under S.182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

- An evidence-based approach had been adopted during the review of the current Policy, which included analysis of the following datasets:
 - crime reports (all crime, alcohol related crime, violent crime & sexual offences);
 - health (alcohol flagged data)
 - licenced premises (licences held, reviewed, refused and revoked).

Furthermore, views from responsible authorities such as the Police, Nuisance Control Team etc. were sought prior to formulating the Policy

- The proposed draft Policy introduced 29 specific policies including ten cumulative impact zones where street drinking and alcohol related crime and ambulance call-outs existed. These had been aimed at preventing growth of more off-licences and encouraging applicants to include a voluntary condition that they would not sell alcohol at a price under 70 pence per unit of alcohol. The Policy had, however, also been designed to support a 24-hour night-time economy in Wembley and Kilburn to facilitate enhancement of leisure and entertainment functions with appropriate safeguards.
- Since the publication of the last Statement of Licensing Policy the Mayor of London had outlined his vision for London as a 24-hour City. The Mayor had also appointed a Night Czar and a Night Time Commission to encourage the development of London as a vibrant, diverse, cultural city with a Night Time Economy that was of global significance.
- The proposed Policy sets out the Council's standards that operators were expected to achieve and addressed issues that licensable activities may cause in relation to location of premises, licensable activities, hours of operation etc.

Members had a lengthy discussion around the proposed Cumulative Impact Zones (CIZ) for off-licences. It was noted these zones would have to be reviewed within 3 years and it was agreed that a list of streets affected by the CIZs should be included in the final report for each of the propose CIZs.

Discussion around voluntary minimum pricing also took place, with Yogini Patel clarifying that this was voluntary scheme. However, if a review of a premise was undertaken and there was evidence that irresponsible drinks promotion was a contributory factor in undermining the licensing objectives, then members could consider imposing a minimum price of 70p per unit of alcohol. Objections regarding minimum pricing had been received from the Wine and Spirit Trader Association and Association of Convenience Stores. As a result, advice from a leading legal Counsel had been sought and based on the advice changes have been incorporated within the new policy.

Members discussed the proposed Cumulative Zones and the hot spots areas, with clarification provided that there had to be evidence, which undermined the licensing objectives and was linked to the number of licensed premises before considering inclusion off an area within a cumulative impact zone.

In terms of specific comments raised in relation to Rucklidge Avenue, the Committee was advised that whilst there may be evidence of anti-social behaviour no off-licences were located on the road.

As a result of the discussion at the meeting it was **RESOLVED**

- (1) To ensure that a list of streets covered within each of the proposed Cumulative Impact Zones be included within the final CIZ policy before it went live.
- (2) To endorse the Draft policy for submission to Full Council on 25 November 2019 for final approval
- (3) To note that , subject to approval by Full Council, the new policy would come into effect in early January 2020

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

COUNCILLOR AHMED
Chair