

Licensing Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 1 July 2015

Acting under Delegated Powers

Present: Councillor Longsden (Chair).
Councillors Ludford and N. Murphy.

Also present: Councillors Davies, Hughes, Loughman, Monaghan, Royle.

LPC/15/01 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held 29 April 2013.

LPC/15/02 Revised Licensing Act Policy 2016 – 2021

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing. The Licensing Policy provides a framework for the operation of licensed premises throughout Manchester. The Policy is the guide to all parties involved in the licensing process advising how Manchester City Council, in its role as the Licensing Authority, intends to exercise its licensing function. The Licensing Act 2003 provides for local residents and other interested parties to make representations in relation to licensing applications. Representations have to be directly related to the licensing objectives, in relation to the Licensing Act these are the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance, public safety, and the protection of children from harm.

Licensed premises provide a key role as an employer, in regeneration, and in attracting people to the city. The Licensing Policy plays an essential role in establishing the standards to which licensed premises are expected to operate. The policy will ensure that only premises that are well-run and appropriate to the nature of the surrounding neighbourhood are licensed thereby positively contributing to the economy of the region and sub-region.

The Principle Licensing Officer explained that pre-consultation was carried out with the Responsible Authorities, Ward Members, Regeneration officers and Neighbourhood Delivery Team, to identify any areas of local concern relevant to licensed premises under the Licensing Act 2003.

Identified concerns by Members and local area officers were -

- General impact of premises on Moston Lane
- Impact of night time economy on Burton Road/West Didsbury
- Cumulative impact issues in Chorlton District Centre
- Impact of takeaways in Levenshulme

The Principle Licensing officer also told the Committee about the main legislative changes that have come into place since the Licensing Policy was last considered, and explained that these include

- The Late Night Levy and Early Morning Restriction Orders
- Deregulation of entertainment licenses
- Abolition of expiry dates for personal licences

It has been identified that the policy should set out the authority's approach to carrying out its licensing functions in line with the Equalities Act, and accordingly the Responsible Authorities have identified improvements to be made in relation to dealing with:

- Child Sexual Exploitation and the protection of children from harm (Manchester Safeguarding Children's Board)
- Non Psychoactive Substances (NPS) / legal highs and responsible alcohol service (Public Health Manchester)

Contributions from those agencies relevant to the identified issues have been incorporated in the revised policy.

After some discussion about the differences between the old policy and the new, draft policy document, the Committee made the following recommendations.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To agree the draft policy attached to the report.
3. To agree the consultation strategy as outlined in the report.
4. To consult in order to identify any areas identified in Section 2 of the report to be taken forward for further consideration, with a view to exploring a special policy approach.

LPC/15/03 Revised Gambling Act Policy 2016

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Building Control and Licensing. In readiness for the new social responsibility requirements, the Council has partnered with Westminster City Council and the Local Government Association to commission research to identify those most at risk of gambling problems and gambling related harm in the community.

The Committee were told that the intention is to collaborate with Westminster on the development of a comprehensive gambling policy based upon the findings of the jointly-commissioned research. The research findings and vulnerability index will need to be taken into account in the development of the revised policy and it is anticipated that that revised policy will go out for consultation in September.

Therefore, for now, the intention is that the existing policy is retained in place until such time as it is superseded by the full revision. Only factual corrections have been made to the existing policy to ensure it remains fit for use. Any amendments are marked up on the draft policy.

Decision

1. To note the report
2. To agree the draft policy attached to the report
3. To agree the consultation strategy outlined in the report.