



Licensing Policy Committee

Date: Monday, 20 November 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

Access to the Antechamber

Public access to the Council Antechamber is on Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension. There is no public access from any other entrance.

Filming and broadcast of the meeting

Meetings of the Licensing Policy Committee are 'webcast'. These meetings are filmed and broadcast live on the Internet. If you attend this meeting you should be aware that you might be filmed and included in that transmission.

Membership of the Licensing Policy Committee

Councillors - Grimshaw (Chair), Davies, Evans, Flanagan, Leech and Rawlins

Agenda

1. Urgent Business

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. Appeals

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. Interests

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2023.

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5. Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028

Report to follow.

Information about the Committee

The Licensing Policy Committee monitors and keeps under review the Council's policy with respect to its licensing functions during the three-year period of the policy, and makes arrangements for consulting statutory consultees and other appropriate persons or bodies in relation to the Council's policy. The Committee then makes recommendations to the Council as Licensing Authority, as to any proposed revisions to its licensing policy during the period of the policy, and in relation to any new policy for the subsequent three-year period.

The Council is concerned to ensure that its meetings are as open as possible and confidential business is kept to the strict minimum. When confidential items are involved these are considered at the end of the meeting at which point members of the public are asked to leave.

Smoking is not allowed in Council buildings.

Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive
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Manchester, M60 2LA

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

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This agenda was issued on **Friday, 10 November 2023** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 2, Town Hall Extension (Library Walk Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA

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Licensing Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 31 October 2023

Acting under Delegated Powers

Present: Councillors Grimshaw (Chair), Davies, Evans and Flanagan

Apologies: Councillor Leech

LPC/23/03 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2023.

LPC/23/04 Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2028

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Planning, Building Control and Licensing that presented a proposed final revision of the Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Committee had been invited to:

- i. Review the responses received to the consultation and the proposed changes to the policy.
- ii. Consider any recommendations by the Licensing Committee on final content of the policy.
- iii. Recommend to Council to approve the policy for publication subject to any final changes required by this Committee.

The Principal Licensing Officer presented the report by providing an introduction to The Licensing Act 2003 that had come into effect on 24 November 2005 and the requirements this placed on each Licensing Authority to publish a statement of licensing policy to show how it intended to achieve the four licensing objectives.

The Principal Licensing Officer described that the policy was published for a five-year period although the licensing authority must keep its policy under review and make such revisions to it, at such times, as it considered appropriate.

The Principal Licensing Officer described that there were several issues that had gained further prominence since the last policy had taken effect, namely, Martyn's Law and consideration of counter terrorism security measures at licensed premises; Agent of change; spiking, vulnerability in the Nighttime Economy (NTE), women's safety, water safety and the increase in delivery services. These had been outlined and addressed within the draft policy to enable all relevant parties to understand what considerations they should make in each regard.

The Principal Licensing Officer referred to the consultation strategy that had been undertaken and provided a summary of the responses as detailed within the covering report and accompanying appendices.

The Principal Licensing Officer referred to the policy for Fallowfield and Withington, noting that this had been proposed to ensure that there was some increased scope for applications to be granted, subject to limitations. There was also concern about the saturation of hot food takeaways and issues of litter arising from them. It was recognised that in Fallowfield, there was a need to diversify the local sociable economy and there was a recognised local support for ensuring this. Similarly, in Withington, there was support for ensuring that there were opportunities for good operators to flourish and to promote vibrancy, within reason. The proposed NTE policy for Pubs, clubs and bars, including other primarily drinking establishments: changed from ‘Policy was to refuse except in exceptional circumstances’ to “Applications will be considered on their merits having regard to the local area objectives”.

The Principal Licensing Officer summarised the key changes described in the Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 – 2028 that was appended to the cover report, noting that consideration had been given to the phases identified (Twilight/Evening Economy/NTE/Late Night Economy) but it was proposed to retain them as originally proposed:

- Section 2 had been merged with previous Section 15 (Determining applications) to present the decision-making considerations at an earlier stage of the document. In turn, it is hoped that this would then enable readers to home in on those subsequent sections most relevant to them.
- Section 5: Steps rephrased to improve clarity and revised to ensure comprehensiveness.
- Restructured Section 2 to incorporate previous Section 6 (General approach to determining applications) to give a more direct approach.
- Addition of detail on what might constitute an exception to any special local area policies (Section 6).
- Area profiles updated with additional detail e.g. recognition of recent closures on Deansgate Locks, increased prominence of Bridge Street, and including relevant area boundaries.
- Section 4 – clarification around expectations of venue ‘Plan of Management’.
- Updates to responsible authority contact details in Appendix B.
- Additional information in Appendix E around consideration of representations.

The Committee noted that the Licensing Committee had considered the proposed final revision of the Statement of Licensing Policy at their meeting of 23 October 2023. Having considered the report, the Licensing Committee made the following recommendation to the Licensing Policy Committee.

Remove the current area-based policies in place for Fallowfield and Withington and apply these to all areas of the city, outside of the City Centre.

The Committee debated the recommendation and agreed that a meeting of the Licensing Committee should be convened at the earliest opportunity, followed by a

meeting of the Licensing Policy Committee to reconsider the Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 – 2028 and to enable officers the opportunity to provide for clarification the location maps of the areas incorporated in the proposed Fallowfield and Withington area-based special policies.

Decision

The Committee recommend that a meeting of the Licensing Committee should be convened at the earliest opportunity, followed by a meeting of the Licensing Policy Committee to reconsider the Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 – 2028 and to enable officers the opportunity to provide for clarification the location maps of the areas incorporated in the proposed Fallowfield and Withington area-based special policies.

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