

Licensing Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting held on 5 July 2018

Acting under Delegated Powers

Present: Councillor Ludford (Chair).
Councillors Akbar, Davies and Grimshaw.

LPC/18/01 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2018.

LPC/18/02 Proposed special policy for the Ancoats and New Islington Development Framework area

The report was presented by the Principal Licensing Officer and proposed revisions to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy to introduce a new special policy for the Ancoats and New Islington Development Framework area.

The policy recognised that licensed premises are an integral part of our communities and the licensing policy is a key tool in ensuring the different circumstances of our neighbourhoods are taken into account.

With this in mind, special policies have been established for specific areas of the city in Section 5 of the policy. These policies are designed to represent a specific response to particular circumstances for the area.

In December 2016, the Council updated the Ancoats and New Islington Neighbourhood Development Framework (NDF), which was originally approved by Manchester City Council's Executive Committee in October 2014.

The Neighbourhood Development Framework has been established to ensure that there is clearer specific guidance and development principles for both these areas that will support future residential growth as part of the planned expansion of the city centre in the next ten to 15 years.

The updated Framework set out that no licences would be granted beyond 11pm. Therefore, in order to align the Licensing Policy with the strategic vision of the Council, it is proposed to establish a special licensing policy for the Ancoats and New Islington Neighbourhood Development Framework area.

A 12-week public consultation exercise was undertaken from 6 November 2017 to 29 January 2018 in accordance with the proposals approved by the Policy Committee, and the response to that consultation were detailed in the report.

There had been a large response to the consultation, 274 had responded and the consultation had received a lot of publicity as a result of an article in the local press. While there was a lot of support for not setting a specific terminal hour, results from the M4 postcode were more balanced. The Committee discussed the report and noted that many residents of the area would not want later hours for licensable activities during the week as they work and need to sleep.

The Principal Licensing Officer also told the Committee that the proposals were for a terminal hour for licensable activities of 11pm Sunday to Thursday, and Midnight on Friday and Saturday. There would be an allowance of 30 minutes drinking up time 7 days a week, so all premises would be closed and emptied by 11.30pm Sunday to Thursday, and 12.30am on Friday and Saturday.

The Committee also discussed the issue of vulnerability, and that in certain parts of the City when all premises have closed the streets become a much less desirable place to walk through, but were told that this would be mitigated by the introduction of a CCTV network in the Ancoats and New Islington area. The Committee were also told that all businesses both already operational and upcoming have agreed to join the newly formed Ancoats F&B network. The network will work closely with local residents, licencing, the neighbourhood team and GMP to make sure Ancoats is a safe and well ran area with conscientious licensees.

Officers also confirmed that as a result of the consultation, the Proposed Special Policy would be reviewed on a regular basis, with the first review to take place 12 months after the introduction of the Policy rather than the usual 3 years. This would ensure that the Policy was working and fit for purpose.

Decisions

1. To note the report.
2. To approve the proposed amendments.
3. To agree that the policy is submitted to Council on 11 July 2018 with a recommendation that the policy is approved.