

Minutes of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee

20 July 2023

Members Present:-

Councillor Emma Whysall (Chair)
Councillor Claire Farrier (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Richard Barnes	Councillor Alex Prager
Councillor Geof Cooke	Councillor Danny Rich
Councillor Shuey Gordon	Councillor Caroline Stock
Councillor Eva Greenspan	

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Andrea Bilbow OBE	Councillor Ernest Ambe Esq
Councillor Zakia Zubairi	

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING 20.02.23

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

2. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Apologies were received from Councillor Ernest Ambe.

Councillor Andrea Bilbow and Councillor Zakia Zubairi were absent.

Councillor Danny Rich joined the meeting at 7.04pm

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER INTERESTS (IF ANY)

None.

4. REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER (IF ANY)

None.

5. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

John Bailey, Head of Electoral Services, presented the report on the annual review of polling arrangements in the Borough.

Members raised concerns on behalf of their residents in Hendon and Edgwarebury wards regarding the location of polling stations, particularly around those situated in places of worship.

It was noted that the public consultation including all elected officials would have the opportunity to make representations on the current polling arrangements. Accordingly, the service would assess the suitability of polling stations.

Following comments from the Returning Officer, any new proposals would be brought to the next Committee in November this year.

Mr Bailey highlighted that, when the borough's polling arrangements were fully revised for the 24 new wards in 2022, the service had been able to successfully move away from portable offices and had been able to halve the number of schools used. Given the lack of sites available for private hire as polling stations, losing any current polling venues could require an increased use of schools or portable offices in future.

RESOLVED that the Committee:

- 1. Note the current arrangements for polling districts and polling places that are contained within Appendix A and will be published for purposes of public consultation.**
- 2. Note the processes that will be followed for the interim review before a final set of proposals for polling districts and polling places are brought back to committee in November 2023.**

6. ANNUAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT - TO FOLLOW

The Chair announced that the item be deferred to the next meeting.

7. REVISED GAMBLING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Ash Shah, Group Manager of Regulatory Services, presented the report.

The revised Gambling Statement of Principles required Committee approval to go out to consultation for a period of twelve weeks, the findings from which would be reported back to the Committee in November this year.

It was noted that the consultation document would be sent to responsible authorities, trade associations, gambling organisations, local MPs and councillors, resident groups and community groups working with children and young people.

Members suggested that the inaccuracies in the document be reviewed prior to going out to consultation.

It was noted that a declaration in place meant that no Casinos were permitted in the Borough.

In responses to Members, Officers said that they would be able to investigate businesses that may be operating under a false profile. It was noted that there was no provision in the Gambling Act as there was in the Licensing Act for a cumulative impact zone. However, the new measures were intended to ensure that applicants addressed all the surrounding factors associated with this type of activity and the impact it would have on the immediate vicinity.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The draft Gambling Statement of Principles be approved for consultation and that the Officers be instructed to report back to the November 2023 Licensing & General Purposes Committee following the consultation.**
- 2. The Committee note that the draft Gambling Statement of Principles will be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September for scrutiny prior to recommendation to Council.**

8. EXPLOSIVES LICENCE POLICY

Mr Shah presented the report seeking approval for the policy to go out to consultation, the findings from which would be reported back to the Committee in November.

In response to Members, Officers said that the policy dealt with only the storage and sale of the fireworks in line with legislation.

RESOLVED the Committee authorise the Licensing team to commence a consultation on the draft policy for fireworks licences.

9. SEX ESTABLISHMENT AND SEX ENTERTAINMENT VENUES POLICY

Mr Shah presented the report seeking approval for the adoption of the policy. It was noted that no responses were received from the consultation.

RESOLVED that the Committee approve the proposed Sex Establishment and Sex Entertainment Venues Draft Policy.

10. ANY ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES ARE URGENT

None.

The meeting finished at 7.28pm

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