

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 2015

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Councillor Emma Plouviez in the Chair  Cllr Brian Bell (Vice-Chair), Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr Christopher Kennedy, Cllr Richard Lufkin and Cllr Geoff Taylor
<b><u>Apologies:</u></b>	Cllr Sophie Cameron, Cllr Abraham Jacobson, Cllr Sophie Linden, Cllr Sharon Patrick and Cllr James Peters
<b><u>Absent:</u></b>	Cllr Barry Buitekant, Cllr Peter Snell, Cllr Simche Steinberger
<b><u>Officers:</u></b>	Darren Reilly (Licensing Enforcement Team Leader) Butta Singh (Senior Licensing Lawyer) David Tuitt (Licensing Policy & Operations) Natalie Williams (Governance Services Officer)

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Sophie Cameron, Abraham Jacobson, Sophie Linden, Sharon Patrick and James Peters.

### **2 Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate**

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interests.

### **3 Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

- 3.1 Minutes of the meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 and on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were agreed as a correct record of proceedings.
- 3.2 It was noted that Councillor Feryal Demirci had resigned from the Licensing Committee which subsequently left a vacancy in Licensing Sub Committee E. It was reported that a replacement member would be sought and the Committee would be updated accordingly.

### **4 Statement of Licensing Policy 2016**

- 4.1 David Tuitt, Team Leader (Licensing Policy and Operations) introduced the report which provided information on the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy. The Committee was required to commend the Policy to Council for approval.
- 4.2 Consultation on the draft policy ran from 25 May 2015 to 14 August 2015, the results of which were detailed in Appendix 1. Following the identification of an error in the consultation material, the re-adoption of the revised policy was agreed for consultation

as an interim measure. This was agreed at the extraordinary meeting of the Licensing Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Subsequently consultation began on 28<sup>th</sup> September and ended on 12th October 2015. The results of which are detailed in Appendix 2

- 4.3 David Tuitt, highlighted some of the overall results analysis which included:
- 74% of respondents not supporting the proposals for a revised SPA hours policy (Page 22)
  - The majority of respondents were from post code area E8
  - More than double the percentage of men (65%) responded compared to females (32%)
  - 69% of respondents did not agree that the proposals to extend the Shoreditch SPA was appropriate for the promotion of the licensable objectives.
  - 73% did not agree that the proposal to introduce an hours wide borough policy is appropriate for the promotion of the licensable objectives.
  - Information and response from key stakeholders as detailed on pages 25-45.
- 4.4 David Tuitt reported that the existing policy expires on the 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and the Council is required to have the revised policy in place by 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Once in place the policy can last up to five years, however it is envisaged that further substantive consultation will be carried out in 2016 and the policy will be revised before its expiration.
- 4.5 In response to a point of clarification from Councillor Lufkin, the Committee was advised that the analysis show that many respondents may not have sufficiently understood the questions pertaining to the Dalston and Shoreditch SPA's. It was noted that prior to further consultation, work would need to be done to simplify the consultation process and to specifically address the phrasing of questions to ensure that there is no room for misunderstandings or misinterpretations.
- 4.6 Councillor Bell requested the following non substantive amendments:
- LP12 Licensing Hours (page 96 of agenda pack) paragraph b to include the words '**for opening hours**' to read '*In residential areas the Council will not normally grant licences for opening hours beyond midnight*'.
  - The paragraph entitled 'Operational Aspects' on page 103 of the agenda pack to be renumbered as bullet point 35.
- 4.7 In response to a question from Councillor Kennedy, the Chair advised that the time lines for future consultation and policy adoption had not yet been agreed. There was however a proposed plan in place which would be presented to the Committee in due course. Any plans would take into account the London Mayoral election scheduled for May 2016 and local elections due to take place in 2018.
- 4.8 **RESOLVED that the Licensing Committee:**
- (i) Note the Consultation Report at Appendix 1.
  - (ii) Note Summary of Responses for the consultation of the revised policy at Appendix 2.
  - (iii) Recommends the proposed Policy at Appendix 3 for approval by the Council

- (iv) Authorises the Corporate Director of Legal, HR & Regulatory Services to make any non-substantive changes to the proposed Policy as appropriate.

## **5 Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles) 2016-2019**

- 5.1 David Tuitt, Team Leader (Licensing Policy and Operations) introduced the report. Following the Committee's approval of the draft policy on 1st June 2015, a twelve week consultation ran from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> September, during which 6 responses were received.
- 5.2 Following the consultation, some non-substantive changes were made which included a change in the foreword to reflect the current number of licenced premises within the borough, amended text to welcome stakes and prizes limits, a minor change in text at paragraph 4.2.3 in relation to crime hotspots and minor changes to paragraphs 4.5.8 and 4.5.9.
- 5.3 Councillor Taylor advised that according to the NHS, there are more than half a million people addicted to gambling in Great Britain. This is often correlated to aspects of mental ill. The distinction was made between gambling on real life events and machine gambling which has a higher degree of addiction. It was noted that this is a real genuine problem within Hackney.
- 5.4 In response to Councillor Taylor's comments, the Committee collectively expressed its resolute opposition to Fixed odds betting terminals.
- 5.5 David Tuitt, advised the Committee of future work to be carried out which included assessing the impact of the social responsibility codes that operators have to abide by and local area profiles and risk assessments. It was reported that the London Borough of Westminster and Manchester City Council are carrying out research looking at the number of licensed premises and their impact. The Committee noted that the research although independent, would be part funded by the Gambling Commission Fund.
- 5.6 **RESOLVED that the Licensing Committee:**
  - (i) Notes and makes any comments on the content of the proposed Policy at Appendix 1 and commends the proposed Policy to Cabinet for recommendation to Full Council for approval.
  - (ii) Notes the responses received during the consultation at Appendix 2.
  - (ii) Authorises the Corporate Director of Legal, HR & Regulatory Services to make any non-substantive changes to the proposed Policy as appropriate.

**Duration of the meeting: 7.00-7.40**