



LICENSING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 8TH JUNE 2020

Present: Councillor Emma Plouviez in the Chair

Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Margaret Gordon, Cllr James Peters,
Cllr Sophie Conway, Cllr Brian Bell, Cllr Sem Moema, Cllr Peter Snell and
Cllr Harvey Odze

Officers: Rober Gardner (Enforcement and Business Regulation
Manager), Samantha Mathys (Late Night Levy Manager),
Amanda Nauth (Corporate and Licensing Lawyer),
David Tuitt (Licensing Team Leader)
Team Leader), Natalie Williams (Governance Officer)

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Selman and Gilbert Smyth

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from or on behalf of Councillors Smyth.

2 Declarations of Interest - Members to declare as appropriate

2.1 There were no declarations of interests.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14^h January 2020 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

4 Licensing Service Annual Report

4.1 David Tuitt, Licensing Team Leader introduced the report which set out figures and activity within the Licensing Service during the financial year 2019-2020. He highlighted the following points:

- There were just over 80 premises licences granted which is consistent with the trend over the past five years
- Variations to premises licences and transfer applications (consistent with trends over the past five years.)
- There were just over 2000 Temporary Event Notices (consistent with trends over the past five years).

- There were 4 Review Applications which was the same amount as in the previous financial year.
- Personal Licences have seen a consistent fall over the past few years with just over 250 in the past 12 months.
- There have been no real changes to the amount of Sub Committees held which saw just over 40 during 2019-2020.
- There was a fall in the number of licences renewed in particular betting shops.
- The number of Massage and Special Treatment Licences have returned to expected levels following a significant drop the previous year which is just less than 90. This correlates with the number of registered Massage and Special Treatment Practitioners in the borough.
- Key projects within the service area included: Late Night Levy, Digital Transformation, Animal Welfare Function (new fee structure introduced, following changes in legislation)
- Future key projects include: continue with Digital Transformation, implement further efficiency savings (which include reducing paper based work), increase the amount of inspections carried out which has dropped, evaluate the impact of the Statement of Licensing Policy and to carry out a review of fees.
- It was noted that at the 31st March 2020 the number of current valid premises licences in the borough was 1149.
- It was also noted that the impact of the ongoing pandemic was not included in these figures but would be reflected in next year's report

4.2 Members of the Committee welcomed the report. A discussion ensued during which the following points were raised and/or responses given:

- Going forward it is not anticipated that the service will be able to undertake as many inspections as in previous years but a selection of premises under the relevant Acts will be inspected. However it was noted that a lot of the forward planning has been hindered due to the current pandemic.
- The Lotteries Register/Small Society Lottery (page 15 of the agenda pack) was defined as a non commercial lottery usually used for fund raising activities used by Churches, Schools and fetes etc. It was noted that there was a limit on the value of the prizes.
- Adult Gaming Centres were defined as old style arcades that offer prizes. It was noted that these are not the same category as games machines found in betting shops, as they have smaller prizes.
- Digital Transformation will impact mostly back office functions. Whilst incremental changes are being made, it was noted that the entire database would need to be changed completely in order to make any significant savings. Work is currently being done on automating food business registration and streamlining processes to find efficiency savings.
- The pre-application advice scheme will be put on hold for the time being.
- Personal Licences have shown a steady decrease. It was noted that the requirement to renew personal licences was abolished but that did not account for the decrease.
- The biggest cost to the service was activities relating to the Licensing Act 2003. It was noted that the amount of sub committees held have been reduced which was acknowledged to be of significant savings.

4.3 **The Licensing Committee RESOLVED:** to note the report

5. Update on the Late Night Levy

5.1 Samantha Mathys (Late Night Levy Manager) gave an oral update and reported that all future projects funded by the Late Night Levy have been put on hold, given the current pandemic situation, until more clarity was received. Renewal letters have been delayed given that licensed premises have had to close in accordance with the Coronavirus Regulations. This approach will be reviewed at the end of June. Business owners/licensees have been contacted virtually to feed into a recovery plan, along with various relevant council departments to feed into the Covid 19 Recovery Plan. A Levy Board Meeting will be held virtually on 2nd July 2020.

5.2 In response to questions from Members, the following was noted:

- Work on urinals were in the early stages prior to the lockdown. Information relating to quotes and options (including provision for females) has been undertaken. Work will continue later in the year when the Night Time Economy is back up and running. It was noted that the consultation is quite a lengthy process which involves; Hygiene Services, Streetscene and Highways.
- A lot of work has been done around the training portal however there was a commitment to not incur any costs against the Levy until there was further clarity coming out of lockdown. It was acknowledged that for some business owners this has been a very difficult time financially.
- With regard to the Late Night Levy Minutes, it was noted that it would be helpful if the list of attendees included who they were and their role.
- Hackney Nights was described as a vehicle by which safety information to the public is delivered (public awareness campaigns) and also ties in training elements delivered to operators.
- In reference to post lockdown support for businesses, it was reported that work is being done collaboratively with the Hackney Business Network and the Culture Office in relation to a recovery plan and communicating effectively with businesses.
- Colleagues across Enforcement, Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Environmental Protection have been working throughout the lockdown and have provided support to smaller businesses.
- Operation Lagana was predominantly focussed in Shoreditch but still had a presence throughout the borough. The policing strategy is evidence based and adapted to the hotspots within the borough.
- Future Late Night Levy updates will be reported quarterly which will build up to the final annual report.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 The Chair noted that Butta Singh, Licensing Lawyer had left the Council after several years of a long working relationship with Members and colleagues within the Licensing Service. The Chair and Members acknowledged his outstanding contribution and thanked him for his service.

Monday, 8th June, 2020

Duration of the meeting: Times Not Specified

Chairman at the meeting on
Monday, 8th June 2020