



Committee and Date

Strategic Licensing
Committee

12th March 2013

Item

4

Public

**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2012 IN THE SHREWSBURY ROOM,
THE SHIREHALL, SHREWSBURY**

10.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.

Responsible Officer Emily Marshall

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Present:

Mrs R. Taylor-Smith (Chairman).

Mr P. Adams (Vice-Chairman), Mrs B. Baker, Mr T. Barker, Mr T. Bebb, Mr M. Bennett (Substitute for Mrs J. Barrow), Mr V. Bushell, Mr S. Charmley (Substitute for Mr R. Hughes), Mr R. Evans, Mr R. Huffer, Mr K. Roberts and Mr J. Tandy.

26. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

26.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

27.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs J. Barrow (Councillor M. Bennett was in attendance as his substitute), Councillor R. Hughes (Councillor S. Charmley was in attendance as his substitute), Councillor A. Davies, Councillor S. Davenport and Councillor Robert Tindall.

27.2 Substitute members were not treated as Committee members when matters concerning the Licensing Act 2003 were being considered.

28. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

28.1 Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

29. MINUTES

29.1 RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

30.1 There were no public questions received.

31. ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING AND THE LIVE MUSIC ACT 2012

31.1 Consideration was given to a report of the Safer and Stronger Communities Service Manager which outlined the amendments made to entertainment licensing under the Licensing Act 2003 by the Live Music Act 2012.

31.2 The Safer and Stronger Communities Service Manager outlined the detail in the report explaining that the purpose of the report was to ensure that Members involved in licensing matters were fully aware of the changes that the Live Music Act 2012 had brought about to entertainment licensing so that any decisions they took fell in line with new legal requirements.

31.3 In response to a question, the Safer and Stronger Communities Service Manager confirmed that controls in relation to environmental protection and noise were still applicable.

31.4 It was agreed that it would be useful to produce a simple guidance note, covering the main points to be distributed to Members who were not involved in licensing matters.

31.5 It was further suggested that the Licensing Team maintain a file of issues so that the positive and negative impact of the changes could be assessed.

31.6 The Solicitor reminded the Committee that substitute members were not treated as Committee members when deciding on matters relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

31.7 RESOLVED:

That the amendments brought in by the Live Music Act 2012 be noted and taken into account when decisions were made in respect of future entertainment licensing matters.

32. SAFETY OF SPORTS GROUNDS – ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2012

32.1 Consideration was given to a report of the Team Manager – Health Prevention/Protection which detailed the exercise of delegated functions in respect of the safety of sports grounds, undertaken by Public Protection and Enforcement during 2012.

32.2 RESOLVED:

That the activities in respect of safety at designated sports grounds be noted with thanks to the officers involved.

33. EXERCISE OF DELEGATED POWERS

33.1 Consideration was given to a report of the Specialist Operational Services Team Manager in respect of the exercise of delegated powers to issue or amend licences.

33.2 The Specialist Operational Services Team Manager pointed out an amendment to paragraph 5.4 of the report in that there had only been one Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee between 1st September and 30th November 2012. She also detailed the information as listed in the appendices of the report and answered a number of general queries from Members.

33.3 The Specialist Operational Services Team Manager provided an update on the new computer system that had recently been introduced within the Licensing Team and how there had been a bedding in and training period for staff using the new system and that this had led to a short term delay in processing licensing applications. The Contact Centre were also working with the Licensing Team, to field calls and identify urgent calls. Members agreed that it would be useful to monitor how the new systems were working and receive an update report at the next meeting.

33.4 The Group Manager for Public Protection and Enforcement explained that the introduction of the new software system and the development of simplified processes had resulted in significant savings for the Council.

33.5 The Specialist Operational Services Team Manager circulated information detailing a snap shot of the total number of licensed drivers and vehicles at the present time; the situation concerning out of area applications was raised and members updated. It was noted that there had been a reduction in the amount of out of area applications for Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences and that this was thought to be due to recent court decisions.

33.6 RESOLVED:

That the report of the Specialist Operational Services Team Manager, as amended, be noted.

34. ACTION TAKEN BY OFFICERS IF AN ALLEGATION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY BY A TAXI DRIVER IS RECEIVED

34.1 Following a request made by members of the Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee, the Safer and Stronger Communities Service Manager informed members of the action taken and procedures followed by officers if the police or a member of the public reported to the Council that a taxi driver has committed or been charged with a criminal offence.

34.2 RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

35. A CONSULTATION ON DELIVERING THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES TO CUT ALCOHOL FUELLED CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

35.1 The Safer and Stronger Communities Service Manager outlined the main details of the Home Office consultation seeking views on a number of measures set out in the Government's alcohol strategy. The five key areas of the consultation were outlined.

35.2 The Committee briefly discussed whether they wished to respond to the consultation collectively, on an individual basis or not at all.

35.3 RESOLVED:

That on behalf of the Council, the Group Manager for Public Protection responds to the Consultation on the Alcohol Strategy in consultation with Members of the Strategic Licensing Committee.

36. CREATING HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

36.1 As a result of recent incidents in the area and in accordance with the Council's Constitution the Chairman agreed to consider this item as an urgent item.

36.2 Councillor Charmley, Portfolio Holder for Health and Well-being requested that the Scrutiny Committee be asked to examine the effect of Licensing Policies on the night time economy of Shropshire as well as creating a healthier environment for Shropshire's communities. Councillor Tim Barker agreed that it was an important area for Scrutiny to examine and suggested that terms of reference be drawn up and also requested that any review be undertaken in consultation with town councils.

36.3 A suggested outline for a review was presented to the Committee but the consensus was that the review was too wide and further work was necessary to tighten the scope of any review. The Group Manager was asked to take this forward with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and the Chair of Strategic Licensing in consultation with the Chair of Scrutiny.

36.4 The Solicitor reminded members that decisions on changes to the Licensing Policy would come back to the Strategic Licensing Committee and/or Cabinet for approval.

36.5 RESOLVED:

1) That officers prepare a report for further consideration by the Strategic Licensing Committee at the next scheduled meeting, concerning licensing policies and their effect on the night time economy of the area with a view to Scrutiny being asked to consider such policies in an overall review of the subject.

37. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

37.1 The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Strategic Licensing Committee would be held on Tuesday, 12th March 2013 commencing at 10.00am in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....