

LICENSING COMMITTEE**Tuesday, 15th July 2014**

PRESENT: *Councillor Wright (in the Chair), Councillors Ali, Casey, Davies, Gee, Humphrys, I Hussain and S Khonat.*

RESOLUTIONS**1 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and apologies were received from Councillors Brookfield, S, Hussain, Z Khan and H Khonat.

2 Minutes of the meetings held on 17th June 2014

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on the 17th June 2014 to be received and signed as a correct record.

3 Declarations of Interest in items on this agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy

A report was submitted to inform Members of the outcome of the consultation on the review of the Councils statement of licensing policy.

Every 5 years each Licensing Authority must determine a policy with respect to the exercise of its functions in the Licensing Act 2003. A statement is then published before the beginning of that period. The statement must also be kept under review and changed if deemed necessary. The policy was published in 2011.

A draft policy was brought before Licensing Committee in September 2013 for agreement to enter into a consultation exercise. The period of consultation took place between 30th September and 30th December 2013. A copy of the consultation document was shown to the committee.

The consultation has resulted in a response from the Public Health department who requested an addition to the statement policy reflecting concerns about the sale of super strength beers, lagers and ciders and the sale of cheap alcohol. It was suggested that use could be made of voluntary agreements and licence conditions, where appropriate, to prevent the sale of such products. A discussion took place in which recent information and guidance about this subject was considered.

Resolved -

1. That the proposals to amend the statement of licensing policy not be adopted at this time.
2. The draft statement of licensing policy consulted upon in late 2013 be put forward unchanged for consideration by the Council's Executive Board.
3. The Licensing team to explore the possibility of introducing a cumulative impact policy statement within an area or areas of the Borough. To report back to Licensing Committee in the autumn on whether or not there is evidence to support such a policy.

5 Update on Intended use Policy across Lancashire Authorities

A report was submitted to inform Members and seek their views of the proposed introduction of an intended use policy in Blackburn following a representation from the trade.

Over recent years there has been an increasing problem within certain areas of Lancashire of Hackney Carriages being licensed by one authority but exclusively carrying out private hire work in other areas. It has been suggested at the Lancashire Licensing Officer Group that if all Councils within Lancashire were to do the same collectively it could potentially eradicate the problem.

The trade were consulted and the policy was discussed at the Taxi forum on the 22nd January 2014 with some support received.

The operators in Blackburn with Darwen have strongly opposed this policy on the grounds of human and employment acts.

In light of this Members were asked to decide whether to support the policy or whether it is satisfied that the current arrangements provide sufficient control.

Resolved -

1. That the report be noted.
2. The policy will not be Introduced

Part 2 – The press and public be excluded during consideration of the following items

6 Minutes of the Licensing Sub Committees

6.1 General Licensing Sub Committee 15th April 2014

6.2 General Licensing Sub Committee 1st July 2014

The minutes were not discussed at the meeting and will be submitted to the next committee.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....