

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 7.25pm

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE 08 DECEMBER 2010

Present: Councillor Hird (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Berry, Chera, Harwood, Leeming, and
Skelton

20/10 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Jackson, Redfern, S Khan and F Winter.

21/10 Late items introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced a late item on Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill which was considered at the end of the agenda.

22/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

23/10 Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Licensing Committee held on Wednesday 13 October 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to an amendment to minute 16/09 inserting the word most at the start of the first sentence.

24/10 Night-time Economy Strategy

The Committee considered a presentation on the Night-time Economy Strategy from the City Centre Manager, Melanie Allen, Crime Prevention Manager, Mark Kennell, and Derbyshire Constabulary Inspection Stephen Fairbrother. The representatives outlined their plans to achieve this accreditation as well as the various improvements the authority would need to meet to qualify for the Purple Flag.

Councillor Berry stated that to achieve Purple Flag status there would need to be greater co-operation between all responsible authorities in the city. He added

that he did not want restrict the night-time economy but the Licensing Authority would need to crack down on those who stepped out of line. The City Centre Manager stated that she would be happy to invite Members out to do an audit of the night time economy.

Councillor Leeming stated that the way to improve the night time economy would be to bring more families into the city. Currently there were drinkers and theatre goers but nothing bringing families to the city centre.

Councillor Atwal asked if there was a similar organisation as Pub Watch to communicate with door staff. The Inspector stated that Pub Watch focussed on landlords but did cover some aspects of crowd management. He added that was a recently introduced group who speak to door staff. Councillor Atwal asked the Inspector to be vigilant of unlicensed door staff in less reputable establishments.

Councillor Harwood stated that licensed establishments needed to be more accountable for the impact they had on the day time economy. It would be impossible for the streets to be clean by 8am if licences were granted later and later into the morning. Premises may need to have a last admission time imposed on them. The Head of Legal Services – General informed the Committee that imposing a blanket policy on all premises such as this may leave the Council open to legal challenge.

Resolved:

To note the presentation and request a progress update at a suitable point in the future; and

To request officers arrange an audit of the night time economy for the Committee with the City Centre Manager in April.

25/10 Request for a Cumulative Impact Policy

The Committee considered an application from Derbyshire Constabulary to introduce a cumulative impact policy. Members were informed that the Council must consult with other responsible authorities and interested parties before making a decision on the application and the policy. The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing, Mike Kay, outlined the process and timescales of the consultation to the Committee.

The Head of Legal Services – General, Olu Idowu, stated that Members could use this opportunity to effect significant changes to the Council's Licensing Policy. Currently there is very little evidence supporting the policy which Members, as interested parties, can contribute towards he added. Councillor Skelton asked if submissions could be made as a political group rather than

individually. The Head of Legal Services – General stated that he would check on this.

Councillor Berry asked if the cross party working group could be more than three Members. The Head of Legal Services – General informed the Committee that so long it was politically balanced the number of councilors involved did not matter.

Resolved:

To acknowledge receipt of the application and agree to the consultation process set out in the report; and

To form a politically balanced cross party working group of six members to consider the application.

26/10 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing informed the Committee that the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill had its first reading on 2 November, with the second reading scheduled for 13 December. The Bill picks up on a number of areas of concern to Members such as temporary event notices and a suggested levee on premises that want to open later to pay for the increased cost on the Police and local authorities.

Resolved to note the update and to request the Head of Environmental Health & Licensing to circulate a briefing note on the Bill to the Committee.

MINUTES END