

Time commenced 6:01 pm
Time finished 6:40 pm

**GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
21 FEBRUARY 2013**

Present: Councillor Jackson (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Barker, Harwood, Keith, J Khan, Pegg, Poulter,
Redfern, Sandhu, Skelton, Whitby, F Winter and L Winter

30/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Macdonald

31/12 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

32/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

33/12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2012 and 24 January 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**34/12 General Licensing Administration and Enforcement
Activities 2012/13 – Quarter 3**

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on General Licensing Administration and Enforcement Activities 2012/13 – Quarter 3. The report was presented by the Team Leader – Licensing. Members noted that the report provided information on the activities the licensing service had undertaken during Quarter 3 of the 2012/13 financial year.

Resolved to note the report.

35/12 General Licensing Fees and Charges 2013/14

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on General Licensing Fees and Charges 2013/14. The report was presented by the Head of Service - Environmental Health and Licensing. It was reported that the Neighbourhoods Directorate

annually reviews its fees and charges across its range of services, to ensure that they reflect the cost of delivering services, inflationary cost increases and that budget income targets are achieved.

Members noted that some of the general licensing fees and charges were set nationally and could not be changed by the Council, regardless of inflationary cost increases. It was reported that where the Council had the discretion to set fees and charges, most would reflect the agreed 3 per cent inflationary increase.

Members noted that the range of animal welfare licenses (such as pet shops, animal boarding establishments, animal breeding, horse riding, etc.), which had previously been subject to inflationary increases only, had been re-calculated to reflect the actual cost of the licensing process. It was reported that implementing these would mean an increase of up to 200 per cent.

It was reported that sex shop licenses had been reviewed in the light of recent court cases, where some authorities had been successfully challenged over excessive licence fees. Members noted that implementing the proposed changes would mean substantially reducing the current fees for the two sex shops that were licensed.

Resolved:

- 1. to approve the increase in fees and charges for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix 2; and**
- 2. to request the Strategic Director of Resources to revise the relevant income targets to reflect the expected reduction in fees and charges.**

MINUTES END