

Licensing Committee

Friday 02 May 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Hendy, in the Chair.
Councillor Stephens, Vice Chair.
Councillors Dingle, Krizanac, Lawson, Ricketts and M.Smith.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Simpson, Tippetts and Ms Watkin.

Also in attendance: Rosie Brookshaw (Democratic Advisor), Jamie Davies (Environmental Health/Trading Standards Officer), Graham Hooper (Senior Officer), Nicola Horne (Head of Environmental Protection and Taxis), Jake Metcalfe (Democratic Advisor), Marie Price (Enforcement Officer) and, Elaine Wilson (Police Alcohol Licensing Officer).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.45 am.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

16. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

17. **Minutes**

The minutes from the Licensing Committee held on 19 February 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

18. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

19. **The use of the Animal Penalties Act 2022**

Nicola Horne (Head of Environmental Protection and Taxis) introduced the item and provided the following summary:

- a) Fixed Penalty Notices were being introduced as a new way of enforcement;
- b) Central Government had provided a formula to issue fines which considered prescribed legislation, how serious the breach of conduct was, the duration of the breach of conduct, where there was intent and previous acts or omissions.

In response to questions, it was explained:

- c) Fines from the Fixed Penalty Notices went back to Central Government apart from Officer costs which were returned to Plymouth City Council (PCC).

The Committee agreed to note the report.

20. **Licensing Activity Report (April 2023 to March 2025)**

Graham Hooper (Licensing Senior Officer) introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- a) The report outlined the past two financial years including regimes and applications managed by the Licensing Service, term performance, notable trends and high-profile applications;
- b) Licensing Act applications had remained consistent over the past five years;
- c) Direct inspections carried out by the Licensing Team had increase in the previous three years;
- d) The Licensing Policy had been reviewed and updated in 2024 and would be in effect until 2029;
- e) Plymouth was aligned with national trends including the significant reduction of noise complaints in the past three years;
- f) The Gambling Policy had undergone a review in 2025;
- g) Due to an emerging trend for members of the public wanting to hold 'sexual entertainment' as licensed premises, the Licensing Team would be undertaking a comprehensive review of the Council's policy for sex establishments.

In response to questions, it was explained:

- h) There had been two applications for bare knuckle boxing in the past year;
- i) The 05 August 2024 Plymouth riot was not included in the number of city centre incidents as it was not a licensing matter;
- j) The Licensing Team engaged with Street Pastors;
- k) Test purchases were carried out to ensure premises were adhering to licensing policies including the sale of age-restricted products to underage young people.

The Committee agreed to note the report.