

Licensing Committee

Tuesday 19 June 2018

PRESENT:

Councillor Rennie, in the Chair.

Councillor Parker-Delaz-Ajete, Vice Chair.

Councillors Corvid, Downie, Hendy, Dr Mahony, Morris, Neil and Singh.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Deacon, Fletcher, K Foster, Smith and Winter

Also in attendance: Rachael Hind (Licensing Service Manager), Sergeant David Moore (Devon & Cornwall Police), Fred Prout (Senior Licensing Officer), Ann Gillbanks (Senior Lawyer) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.05 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.

1. **To Note the Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair**

Members noted the appointment of Councillor Rennie as Chair and Councillor Parker-Delaz-Ajete as Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee for the municipal year 2018/19.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations on interest made by Members in accordance with the code of conduct.

3. **Minutes**

The Committee confirmed the following minutes:

Licensing Sub Committee:

- 23 January 2018
- 13 February 2018

Licensing Committee:

- 5 December 2017

4. **Chair's Urgent Business**

Under this item the Chair highlighted the importance of partnership working and the valuable experience offered to Members by Devon & Cornwall Police of going on a night time patrol to witness the pull on resources as a result of the evening and night time economy (ENTE).

It was agreed that Members should contact Sergeant David Moore direct if they wanted to go on the ENTE patrol with Devon & Cornwall Police.

5. **Licensing Activity Report**

Rachael Hind (Licensing Service Manager) and Sergeant David Moore (Devon & Cornwall Police) presented the Licensing Activity Report.

The following key points were highlighted to Members:

- (a) the report contained information relating to 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 time period; approximately 2404 licensing applications had been received;
- (b) Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 required the Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy every 5 years; the policy was last approved on 31 March 2014 and was required to be reviewed in 2018 along with the Cumulative Impact Assessments;
- (c) Public Health had developed an alcohol harm mapping resource that presented neighbourhood level mapping of a number of indicators including alcohol related crime and disorder and injuries associated with alcohol;
- (d) the Council's Gambling Licensing Policy was republished in January 2016 and was currently being reviewed as it needed to be republished in January 2019;
- (e) the Licensing team are members of Safer Plymouth and the ENTE and Alcohol Harm Reduction subgroup which was reinstated this year;
- (f) during April 2017 to April 2018, Devon & Cornwall Police had dealt with 37 applications to grant premises licences, 50 applications to transfer premises licences, 12 variations of premises licences, 269 temporary events notices, 152 late temporary events notices, 30 minor variations and 1 application for a club premises certificate;
- (g) the Plymouth Best Bar None scheme was voted the best scheme in the country and won an award which was presented at the House of Lords;
- (h) Police Officers had actively engaged with door supervision companies and had provided training and support and were also promoting the Reducing the Alcohol Campaign city wide as well as the Ask for Angela campaign;
- (i) good relationships had been maintained with the Council and built with the University of Plymouth in relation to the coordination of events;

- (j) Police Officers had a meeting at the Home Office with the National Purple Flag Co-ordinator in the hope that Plymouth could achieve the accreditation; the Purple Flag status was awarded to towns and cities that had a good evening and night time economy with clean and safe premises and outside spaces;
- (k) a Safe Bus had been developed by Devon & Cornwall Police which was kitted out for use as a safe zone during the evening and night time economy; water, tea and coffee was on-board as well as St John's Ambulance volunteers who were able to administer minor first aid taking the strain off A&E. A similar Safe Bus had been introduced in Swansea and was expected to save £500,000 a year by reducing the need for ambulances or visits to A&E;

The following areas of questioning were highlighted by Members:

- (l) if the incident on Union Street regarding a man jumping onto a car and being thrown off when celebrating England's World Cup Performance was the remit of the Events Safety Advisory Group;
- (m) the change in legislation relating to the maximum stake pay-out on Gambling machines and the importance of officers considering legislative changes when developing the Council's licensing policy;
- (n) the Council's pledge to move away from single use plastics and how this could be incorporated into the licensing policy as well as the promotion of this pledge at events organised in the city;
- (o) the location of the Safe Bus in the city centre; if it affected the movement of late night coaches and buses; and what was affecting the regular use of the bus by Devon & Cornwall Police i.e. money, volunteer support, resources.

Members praised the Safe Bus initiative and highlighted the following points:

- The Council had great partnership working with several organisations and could bring people together to join the discussion regarding resourcing the Safe Bus;
- Details surrounding the Safe Bus initiative should be sent to the Leader of the Council;
- Once resourcing issues had been finalised, the promotion of the Safe Bus on social media should be considered to ensure people were aware of its existence;

Members thanked Rachel Hind and Sergeant David Moore for their attendance and agreed that a report would be presented the December Licensing Committee meeting updating on progress with the plastic free pledge.

6. **Information Regarding Delegated Decisions for Applications for the Grant / Variation of Premises Licences**

Fred Prout (Senior Licensing Officer) presented the Information Regarding Delegated Decisions for Applications for the Grant/ Variation of Premises Licences report.

Members were advised that between 1 November 2017 and 8 May 2018, several applications for the grant or variation of premises licences had been mediated out by officers without the need to go to committee.

Members noted the report and thanked Fred Prout for his attendance.