

LICENSING COMMITTEE

8 SEPTEMBER 2015

Present: County Councillor Parry(Chairperson)
County Councillors Manzoor Ahmed, Boyle, Bridges, Hudson,
Kelloway, Murphy, Phillips and Walsh

5 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Goddard, Morgan and Simmons.

6 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

7 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairperson.

8 : REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Licensing Act 2003 requires the authority to produce a Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) which outlines its approach to licence applications and the processes used to address any issues associated with such applications. The SLP is required to be reviewed every 5 years in consultation with a number of stakeholders, including the responsible authorities and representatives of the licensing trade. Members were advised that Cardiff SLP was last reviewed in 2011 and it was therefore due to be renewed in January 2016.

Dave Holland presented the report. The Committee heard that the revised policy attempted to balance the competing needs of business development, planning, the responsible authorities and ward members. The new policy would allow Members a degree more flexibility when determining applications.

The main changes to the SLP were highlighted in the report. These are summarised as follows:

- Amendments to reflect legislative changes brought about by the Policy Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Live Music Act 2012 and the Deregulation Act 2015.
- Additional information to assist applicants
- Five factors emphasising the integral parts of the licensing process
- Amendments to the cumulative impact areas in the City Centre and City Road/Crwys Road

The Committee received a brief presentation from Claire Hartrey, Group Leader, Licensing. The presentation summarised the main changes to the SLP.

Members were advised that after extensive consultation with South Wales Police it was concluded that whilst there are large amounts of crime and disorder throughout the City Centre linked to the presence of licenced premises, not all types of licenced premises contribute to crime and disorder in the City Centre. Therefore certain types of premises such as hotels, cinemas and restaurants should be excluded from the Cumulative Impact Area. However, evidence suggests that premises offering late night refreshment, which are currently excluded from the Policy, do contribute to the problems in the City Centre. Therefore, the new policy proposes that these types of premises should be subject to the Cumulative Impact Policy.

Having conducted a review of crime statistics in City Road and Crwys Road it was apparent that there is no longer sufficient evidence of significant crime and disorder to justify the continuation of the Cardiff East Cumulative Impact Area. Crime figures will be monitored on an annual basis for any increase with a view to reinstating the Policy if there is evidence of a negative impact of licenced premises.

Members were asked to consider a further period of consultation on the draft revised SLP.

RESOLVED – That the Committee approves the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy for further consultation with those bodies listed in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

The meeting terminated at 10.40 am