

Runnymede Borough CouncilLICENSING COMMITTEE29 September 2020 at 6pm on MS Teams

Members of the Committee present: Councillors D Cotty (Chairman), E Gill (Vice-Chairman)
J Broadhead, T Burton, D Clarke, J Gracey, N King, R King and J Olorenshaw.

Members of the Committee absent: Councillors J Furey and P Snow

220 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 June 2020 were confirmed as a correct record. As the meeting was being held remotely via Microsoft Teams, these would be signed when the Chairman was physically able to do so.

221 **LICENSING ACT 2003 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2021 – 2026**

The Committee's approval was sought for an updated Statement of Licensing Policy to address all matters under the remit of the Licensing Act 2003.

Officers explained that recent events and other pressure of work had delayed reporting the updated policy to the last meeting. This would result in a slightly shorter consultation period from 30 September to 9 November. However, as there were no major changes proposed to the policy, it was agreed this was a sufficient length of time to allow for comments.

Officers confirmed that the draft policy would be placed on the Council's website and social media and paper copies made available on request, given that the usual venues such as libraries might become inaccessible at short notice.

The changes to the policy were noted and approved. These included:

- a fuller Equalities statement at section 5.2;
- an expectation at section 17.9 that any premises for which a licence was required should have the appropriate authorised use under any current town planning legislation; and
- expectations concerning large scale events regarding giving notice of such an event, giving proper consideration to all planning issues and safeguarding the licensing objectives and all other appropriate permissions being secured at section 23

The Committee agreed that these additions placed an onus on the premises licence holder and other relevant parties to demonstrate their compliance with relevant requirements to promote the licensing objectives and meet other legislative and local obligations. Some issues such as litter, which was reported as a problem in some areas of the borough, were enforceable through existing policies.

Members suggested that consideration be given to a supplementary statement, regarding Covid to ensure that Premises were compliant with current and emerging guidance from relevant authorities such as Public Health England. Officers considered that as the situation was subject to change, it would be appropriate to look at this again if and when the position was clearer.

Members also requested some minor re-wording of section 11.1 concerning 'Protection of Children from Harm' to clarify that children may be admitted to licensed premises in a controlled way rather than unsupervised. Officers were pleased to accept this suggestion.

The Committee thanked Officers for their work on the policy, noting that it was working well particularly in respect of pro-active work to attach appropriate and enforceable licensing conditions.

Officers were asked to arrange training in Licensing and Regulatory matters for new Members of the Committee, who were welcomed to the Committee.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.23pm)