

Runnymede Borough Council

LICENSING COMMITTEE

10 November 2020 at 7.30pm on MS Teams

Members of the Committee present: Councillors D Cotty (Chairman), D Clarke (Vice-Chairman)
T Burton, J Furey, M Harnden, N King, R King, J Olorenshaw,
P Snow and P Sohi.

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor J Broadhead

Councillors L Gillham and N Prescott also attended the meeting.

281 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Following the nomination of Councillor D Clarke and Councillor M Harnden, Councillor D Clarke was elected as Vice-Chairman. Councillor Harnden expressed her congratulations to Councillor Clarke which was echoed by the Committee.

The Chairman welcomed back Councillors Harnden and Sohi to the Committee who were replacing Councillors Gill and J Gracey respectively, and Councillor Gill was wished well in her forthcoming period of Office as Mayor.

282 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 September 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.

283 **LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES 2021/2022**

The Committee's approval was sought for the proposed fees and charges pertaining to the services provided under the Licensing Act 2003, for the next municipal year.

The Committee's continued dissatisfaction with the increasing deficit, currently estimated at £58,000 was noted. This was due to the fact that the fees and charges were set by statute in 2003 and had never been uplifted, nor had local authorities been given the power to set fees locally despite a number of representations, including from the Local Government Association. There was a debate about the fee setting process and how costs could legitimately be recovered. In this context, Officers agreed to provide Councillor Furey with an explanation of Regulation 18 as it applied to the setting of fees and charges. It was also agreed that a full breakdown of fees would assist, to be provided at a future meeting.

Officers agreed to provide at the next meeting of the Committee in January 2021 an update on the estimated deficit and income for Licensing for 2020/2021 as it was considered that the figure was likely to be less.

The effect of Covid on local businesses was also discussed but it was confirmed that the Regulations did not allow for licensed premises to claim for fees paid for periods when they could not operate owing to lockdown and other restrictions.

RESOLVED that –

the proposed fees and charges as detailed in the report be approved, to be effective from the dates within the appendix or as soon as practical thereafter.

284 **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. This had been admitted as an urgent item by the Chairman owing to the timing of the consultation closing and the date of the Committee.

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

- An Equalities Act statement at section 5.2;
- Expectation of Planning permission at 17.9
- Expectation of procedure for prevention of underage sales for alcohol delivery services
- Expectations concerning large scale events at section 23

Officers confirmed that no responses to the Consultation had been received.

In respect of Covid, Officers would monitor how this might affect the policy and advise the Committee accordingly if any changes were needed at a later date.

Officers reported that they would submit any comments from the Equalities Group on the revised EQIA as part of the report to full Council seeking its adoption.

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.

RECOMMEND that –

this Committee approves the amended Statement of Licensing Policy, as reported at Appendix 'A', and recommends to Full Council its adoption from 7 January 2021 to 6 January 2026.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.10pm)