

Contact Officer: Yolande Myers

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday 10th September 2018

Present: Councillor Carole Pattison (Chair)
Councillor Mahmood Akhtar
Councillor Karen Allison
Councillor James Homewood
Councillor Michelle Grainger-Mead
Councillor Robert Light
Councillor Terry Lyons
Councillor Amanda Pinnock
Councillor Mohan Sokhal
Councillor Kath Taylor

In attendance: Wendy Blakely, Head of Public Protection
Russell Williams, Group Leader, Licensing Public Protection
David Stickley, Senior Legal Officer

Apologies: Councillor Christine Iredale
Councillor Manisha Roma Kaushik
Councillor Cathy Scott
Councillor Michael Watson

1 Membership of the Committee

Wendy Blakely, Head of Public Protection
Russell Williams, Group Leader, Licensing Public Protection
David Stickley, Senior Legal Officer

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Michael Watson, Councillor Manisha Kaushik and Councillor Cathy Scott.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

That the Minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 18 July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

The committee considered the question of the admission of the public and determined that all items that would be held in public session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were received.

7 Review of Gambling Licensing Policy

The Committee considered a report which sought approval for a revised draft of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling) in order that it can be released for consultation. The report set out the process and timescale for the consultation and formal approval for the policy by Council.

The report noted that for the first time the Council had included reference to a Local Area Profile (LAP) of the Kirklees area and would include information held by the Council. This could include deprivation statistics, population and household data or it could be the ward data reports. The LAP would include a wide range of factors, data and information as well as information held by the Council's partners, such as information about local crime hot spots.

Although the LAP was not mandatory, the report advised that it had significant benefits for both the Council and businesses in that the applicants would have better awareness of the local area and risks – both potential and actual. Applicants would also need to complete their own local risk assessments.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions relating to the LAP, particularly around the local perspective of ward members and how that could add to, or support issues identified. Russell Williams, Group Leader, Licensing agreed that separating the LAP into wards was something that could be considered. Mr Williams also confirmed that the LAP would provide consistency across Kirklees, and would be updated on a regular basis.

Following further questions, the Committee heard that should an applicant not comply with the requirement to complete their own risk assessment, they could risk the application being brought before a licensing panel in which members could add conditions or refuse the application. The expense to the applicant could be extensive, especially if legal representation was needed and it could have a reputational impact for the establishment, all of which acted as an incentive for operators to consider the impact of their operation on the local area.

It was noted by the Committee that Newsome ward had a concentrated number of gambling establishments, but these were all located in the town centre, rather than in Newsome. Mr Williams explained that the number of premises was not something that could be taken into account, but where they were located could be, for example if it was near to a drug and alcohol recovery centre. If that was the case, the licensing department would work with the premises to put additional steps in place, for example, Leeds City Council recently saw a gambling establishment part fund a nearby drug and alcohol recovery centre. However, Mr Williams agreed that the town centre having its own LAP was something that the licensing department would consider.

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RESOLVED –

- (1) The Committee approve the Gambling Policy appended to the report as a consultation policy
- (2) The Committee instruct officers to consult for a period of 6 weeks on the draft policy commencing on 17th September 2018.
- (3) Subject to there being no relevant representations that the Group Leader for Licensing recommends to the Council adoption of the Draft Gambling Policy.
- (4) Should relevant representations be received, instruct officers to bring a further report to the meeting of the Licensing Committee with the outcomes of the consultation.