

LICENSING ACT REVIEW POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2007

Present – Councillors R. Allen (Vice-Chairman), Hamilton, Ibrahim, Kay (as deputy for Councillor Morris), Mrs Rothwell, Shaw and R. Wilkinson.

Also in attendance

Mr. D. Grogan	- Assistant Director Democratic Services
Mr A. Fisher	- Licensing Group Manager
P.C. G. Lee	- Greater Manchester Police
Ms. J. Thorpe	- Licensing Admin Manager
Mrs. V. Ridge	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Morris.

Councillor R. Allen in the Chair.

7. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 10th October, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

8. LICENSING POLICY ISSUES

Mr. A. Fisher, Licensing Group Manager, gave a presentation which outlined various issues associated with the review of the Authority's Licensing Policy Statement which had first been adopted in January, 2005.

By way of background, members were reminded that Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 required a licensing authority to prepare and publish a policy statement every three years and this must be kept under review.

Consequently, as part of the review the following issues were highlighted, viz:-

- a) the licensing objectives;
- b) licensable activities;
- c) the current policy;
- d) the review;
- e) proposals;

- f) operating schedules;
- g) crime and disorder;
- h) public safety;
- i) public nuisance;
- j) protection of children; and
- k) other venues.

A discussion ensued with regard to the proposals and the following points were raised, viz-

- the relationship between planning and licensing;
- within the operating schedule an indication should be given as to the number of door supervisors the premises were likely to employ, especially if they intended to increase their opening hours;
- it would be useful if a matrix could be produced which identified the various types of premises and details of what the minimum requirements would be within an operating schedule;
- a lot of complaints were received from members of the public regarding off licences;
- there was a need for a marketing and communication exercise;
- information should be provided for objectors explaining how the licensing hearings operated and what the potential outcomes were; and
- there was a need to consider the implications of smoking shelters.

Two proposed statement of intentions were also circulated at the meeting and it was hoped that these would eventually be rolled out to all premises within the Borough.

In terms of the next steps, it was proposed that the recommendations would be incorporated into a draft document and a summary of changes would be produced. It was then intended to circulate this to an appropriate group of

consultees and a report back on response to the consultation would be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy Development Group in the New Year. However, this meant that it would not be possible to take the revised policy back to Council within the statutory period and it might be necessary to re-adopt the existing policy pending completion of the review.

It was agreed that the presentation be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 3.25 p.m.)