

LICENSING ACT POLICY REVIEW POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 29TH JULY, 2008

Present – Councillors R. Allen, Mrs. Fairclough, Ibrahim, Shaw and Mrs. Thomas.

Also in Attendance

Mr. A. Fisher	-	Licensing Group Manager
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Sherrington and D. Wilkinson.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Thomas be appointed Chairman of the Policy Development Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Mrs. Thomas here took the Chair.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs. Fairclough be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Development Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 14th November, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

4. LICENSING ACT 2003 – REVIEW OF COUNCIL STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which reported the outcome of the consultation undertaken on the proposed revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy and recommended the revised policy to the Council for adoption.

Members were reminded that the original Statement of Licensing Policy was adopted in January, 2005 and the Act required that such policy statements to be reviewed every three years. Consequently, at the meeting of this Policy Development Group in November, 2007 it was agreed that officers develop proposals into a detailed review document which could be circulated for

consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

It was stated that this had now been undertaken and the development of the document took account of the matters which had been discussed at the previous meeting, the updated guidance from the Department for Culture Media and Sport and decisions in the Courts relating to statements of licensing policy, in particular, recent judicial review proceedings.

The document 'Statement of Licensing Policy - Review Summary of Changes' was appended to the report and these changes had been circulated for consultation in accordance with Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003. Consequently, the Licensing Unit had received three substantive replies from Greater Manchester Police, the British Beer and Pub Association and Legal Services. A copy of these were detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

With regard to one of the issues raised by the Police regarding vetting of staff at under 18s discos, it was felt that this should be further investigated with Legal Services to see if it would be possible to include this within the Policy Statement but it should only relate to premises which actively encourage the attendance of under 18's.

It was agreed that the Executive Member for Corporate Resources be recommended to approve the amended Statement of Licensing Policy Statement and that this reflect the amendments put forward by Legal Services.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 2.40 p.m.)