

REGENERATION, HOUSING AND SKILLS POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 14TH MARCH, 2012

Present – Councillors Kell (Chairman), J. Byrne, Critchley, Harkin, Ibrahim, R. Silvester (as deputy for Councillor Irving), J. Walsh, White, D. Wilkinson and Woodward.

Members of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee for minute 28 : Councillor A. Connell, Jones, Lord, Mistry, Sherrington and P. Wild.

Officers

Mr. T. Hill	Chief Planning and Housing Officer
Ms. P. Clyne	Principal Licensing Officer
Mr. P. Tomkies	Principal Enforcement Officer
Mr. S. Godley	Development Manager (Planning Strategy)
Ms. C. Conniffe	Head of Community Housing
Ms. J. Pollard	Policy Accountant
Mr. A. Morris	Lawyer
Mrs. V. Ridge	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. Fairclough, Greenhalgh, Irving, Kay, Peacock and Shaw.

Councillor Kell in the Chair

27. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 20th December, 2011 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

28. LICENSING ACT 2003 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which sought member's consideration of the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

By way of background, members were reminded that the Council was required to review, consult and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy by section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003. Consequently it was proposed to carry out two reviews of policy during 2012/2013.

The report explained that proposals for the first review during this municipal year would amend the existing policy taking into account a small number of legislative changes and revised Secretary of State Guidance. It was also

proposed to carry out a much more comprehensive review later in 2012/2013 to take account of new legislation due to be published under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Local Strategic Partnership's latest Community Strategy which now included Alcohol as a cross cutting theme.

Members were advised that the 'Summary of Changes' document would be circulated for consultation in accordance with Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 and copies would be circulated to the relevant interested bodies and placed on the Council website.

With regard to the consultation process, this would run for 4 weeks from 7th March, 2012 until 2nd April, 2012 and during this process a number of meetings would be held with members to gain their views with the intention that the revised Statement of Licensing Policy would be approved at Full Council on 18th April, 2012.

A copy of the 'Summary of Changes' document was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

A discussion ensued with regard to the policy and the following observations were made:-

- Town Councils to be included in the consultation process;
- Consideration to be given to the implementation of a saturation policy in certain areas of the Borough; and
- Consideration to be given to the introduction of a verification scheme for underage drinkers.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

29. FEES AND CHARGES 2012/2013

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which set out the proposed increase in fees and charges for the financial year 2012/2013 in respect of the following:-

- Caravan site rents;
- Refugee project;
- Furnished tenancy scheme;
- Leasehold management;
- Benjamin Court;
- Housing and public health; and
- Network property service charge.

It was proposed that the fees and charges be increased by 4% and this rate was reflected in the report unless noted otherwise.

It was agreed that the increases in fees and charges to take effect from 2nd April, 2012, apart from the daily rents at Benjamin Court and dispersed homeless accommodation at which daily rents will be increased from 1st April, 2012 be noted.

30. HORWICH LOCO WORKS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which sought members' consideration of the Horwich Loco Works Supplementary Document (SDP).

Members were advised that the SDP provided policies and guidance to enable the sustainable development of Horwich Loco Works and consultation on the draft SDP took place in 2011.

The report summarised the results of the consultation, resultant changes to the SDP and recommended adoption of the final version.

In terms of the consultation, members were advised that the Council received a total of 44 separate written responses and in light of these it had been decided not to pursue the option of cancelling the Horwich Loco Works conservation area. The most significant responses to the draft SDP were detailed in the report and related to the following areas, viz:-

- Heritage;
- Traffic and accessibility;
- Urban design;
- Wildlife;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Local facilities, community provision and green space; and
- Other issues.

A discussion ensued with regard to the policy document and concerns were expressed in relation to the current transport infrastructure, which was felt to be inadequate for the proposed new development and, therefore, it was proposed that further discussions needed to be held to look at the issues raised.

It was agreed that consideration of the report be deferred to a special meeting of the Policy Development Group.

31. REVISED PCPN3 HOUSE EXTENSIONS

It was agreed that this item be deferred to a special meeting of the Policy Development Group for further consideration.

(The meeting started at 9.00 a.m. and finished at 9.55 a.m.)