

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 10 April 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 10 April 2019 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Peter Dunphy (Chairman)	Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Sophie Anne Fernandes (Deputy Chairman)	Shravan Joshi
Mary Durcan	Graham Packham
Marianne Fredericks	Judith Pleasance
Michael Hudson	

In Attendance

Officers:

Jon Averbs	-	Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Market Operations
Rachel Pye	-	Markets & Consumer Protection
Peter Davenport	-	Markets & Consumer Protection
Jenny Pitcairn	-	Chamberlain's Department
Paul Chadha	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor's
Leanne Murphy	-	Town Clerk's Department
Andrew Buckingham	-	Town Clerk's Department
Jess Wynne	-	City of London Police
Paul Holmes	-	City of London Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Keith Bottomley, Deputy Kevin Everett and James Tumbridge.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. PUBLIC MINUTES

The public minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019 were approved as a correct record.

4. MINUTES FROM LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HEARINGS

4.1 Dabbers Social Bingo - 18 January 2019

Members noted the public minutes of the Dabbers Social Bingo hearing on 18 January 2019.

4.2 Half Cup - 4 February 2019

Members noted the public minutes of the Half Cup hearing on 4 February 2019.

4.3 Pelt Trader - 19 March 2019

Members noted the public minutes of the Pelt Trader hearing on 19 March 2019.

4.4 Future hearings

The Committee were advised that there were two hearings planned for the following week against two new premises licences in the City: Rez Buffet Restaurant on 16 April 2019 at 10.30am and Rocket on 18 April 2019 at 1pm. Members were advised that a request for an adjournment had been received from the Applicant's agent regarding the Rez Buffet Restaurant hearing.

The Committee were also advised that a licence variation application had been received by Gremio de London Ltd. The Applicant was instructed to restart the 28-day representation period again as the Applicant did not alter their blue notices on the premises following submission of an amended application as advised. It was noted that the new last date for representations was 7 May 2019.

5. APPEALS AGAINST LICENSING (HEARING) SUB COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The Comptroller & City Solicitor advised the Committee that there were currently no appeals.

6. POLICE RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION - LATE NIGHT LEVY FINANCES

The Committee received a resolution from the Police Committee and a report of the City of London Police in response to a resolution from the Licensing Committee concerning the Late Night Levy finances and police expenditure. The following comments were made:

- Members were advised that following the last Committee meeting, an investigation was made looking into previous underspends. It was confirmed that the underspend was not carried forward, but funds were absorbed for general Police costs.
- Following changes in governance, a new robust system has been implemented which would involve a far more transparent analysis by the COL Police, with Corporation support. This would include a regular meeting chaired by Chief Superintendent Maleary and with senior Licensing Officer representation.
- It was confirmed that in future, any underspend would be carried forward and ringfenced to spend on night time economy related issues.

- In response to a query regarding the actual expenditure items in the Late Night Levy accounts table, Members were advised that:
 - “Additional officer” concerned costs for a Police Constable.
 - “Christmas” was the annual Christmas campaign costs.
 - “New Year’s Eve” was the annual New Year’s Eve campaign costs.
 - “Licensing operations (Various)” covered licensing business.
 - “Alcoblow devices” regarded breathalysers used on licensed premises doors to test that people were fit to drive.
 - “Evidence gathering” concerned covert deployments in licensed premises.
 - “Reassurance patrols” covered extra Police patrols needed in the event of an emergency, e.g. a terrorist attack.
 - “Covert investigations” concerned the costs of covert investigations.
 - “Street Pastor scheme” was a Friday night project in the City.
 - “SOS Bus” was a night time project providing support and first aid to the public.
 - “Smithfield Market Xmas safety marshals – 50%” and “Xmas Advertising campaign” covered costs specifically regarding public safety during the Christmas period.
 - The COL Police agreed to confirm the meaning of “Increased trader resources”.
- A Member recommended rolling out advertising and communications in the City regarding sexual harassment and assault.
- A Member questioned what the position was concerning the Licensing Inspector role discussed at the last meeting. Members were advised that the position had been approved at the Senior Management Team meeting three weeks ago and that funding for the position had been agreed. The role was now going out to recruitment and an update would be brought to the next Committee meeting.
- Members agreed that an update on the Late Night Levy expenditure would come to the Committee annually and requested that a narrative be included explaining what the expenditure was.
- It was agreed that Licensing Committee suggestions for Late Night Levy spend would be brought to the Police by senior Licensing Officers via the Late Night Levy Planning Group.

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7. **VIOLENT CRIME FROM LICENSED PREMISES**

The Committee considered a report of the City of London Police regarding violent crime from licensed premises during the period 1 January to 25 March 2019.

- The report covered a period of 84 days whereby there were 86 Violence Against Persons (VAP) offences in or outside Licensed Premises (17 offences in January, 41 in February and 28 in March) reflecting an increase in this crime type. This was mostly stranger assaults.
- Members were advised that there was an increasing trend for crime within not just the City but the UK as a whole.
- It was noted that there had been an increase in thefts in the City, the majority being opportunist thefts on the floor of premises. The COL Police have been working on a campaign against distraction thefts engaging with the public and premises to raise awareness.
- A misprint of the peak hours for VAP offending was noted which should have stated 12-1am.
- It was noted that statistics elsewhere reflected that crime numbers were going down, not up as this report advised. Members questioned whether there were any themes to support the increase in crime. Members were advised that it was difficult to source the specific social issues as the Square Mile was a unique area, but Brexit and pressures in the City were offered suggestions for the recent rise in crime.
- A Member queried whether the number of licensed premises were increasing. Members were advised that there had been a gradual increase, especially in the last two years, but this was slowing down with approximately 60-70 new premises applications received every quarter; however, this coincided with approximately 50-60 premises transferring or closing.
- In response to a query regarding whether the Late Night Levy reflected an increase in premises staying open later, Members were advised that the Levy had remained constant but it was dependent on the tax band of the premises.
- It was noted that there was a spike in crime in February which went down in March which may have been attributed to the unusually warm weather in February. The COL Police would continue to monitor this over the next few months.

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8. DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PERTAINING TO PREMISES LICENCES

The Committee noted a report of the Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Market Operations regarding the delegated decisions of the Interim Director of Consumer Protection and Market Operations pertaining to premises licences.

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9. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

London Marathon

A Member requested an update on the proposals to manage spectators during the London Marathon following the detrimental effect of overcrowding at Trinity Square last year where a band performs each year affecting the family friendly atmosphere.

Members were advised that the COL Police had already communicated with the Chief Executive of the London Marathon regarding the issues and plans were in place to deal with antisocial behaviour including a barrier, making the footpath a charity stall area, onsite fully trained public order enforcement officers and horses and a police CCTV van in the area as a visible deterrent. It was also noted that the band and dj would be replaced with a brass band. Licensed premises were working with the COL Police to ensure they have extra security, use plastic glasses and agree to close 3pm if requested to by the Police.

In response to a concern of displacement elsewhere in the City, Members were advised that Officers would remain on duty throughout the City.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

11. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

12. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019 were approved as a correct record.

13. **DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE DIRECTOR OF MARKETS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PERTAINING TO PREMISES LICENCES (NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX)**

The Committee received a non-public appendix report to the report under agenda item 8 pertaining to premises licenses which included the names of each premises.

14. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There was one question.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no urgent items.

The meeting ended at 2.29 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Leanne Murphy
tel. no.: 020 7332 3113
leanne.murphy@cityoflondon.gov.uk