

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 23 April 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 23 April 2024 at 1.45 pm

Present

James Tumbridge (Chairman)
Deputy John Fletcher (Deputy Chairman)
Brendan Barns
Deputy Peter Dunphy
Mary Durcan
Sophie Anne Fernandes
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Deputy Shравan Joshi
Graham Packham
Ceri Wilkins

Officers:

Andrew Buckingham	- Town Clerk's Department
Caroline Hay	- City of London Police
Aggie Minas	- Environment Department
Sadhari Perera	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Raquel Pinto	- Town Clerk's Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Gavin Steadman	- Environment Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Anthony Fitzpatrick, Michael Hudson, David Sales, and Jason Pritchard.

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

There were no declarations.

3. PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 8 February 2024, be approved as correct record, subject to the amendment of typographical errors which were sent in advance of the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF LICENSING (HEARING) SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee received the minutes from the Licensing (Hearing) Sub-Committee in respect of the premises Easy Shop & Go, 148 Fleet Street, London, EC4A 2BU, on the 24 January 2024, and of the premises Townhouse, 10-11 Great New St, EC4A 3BN, on the 01 March 2024.

RECEIVED.

5. APPEALS AGAINST LICENSING (HEARING) SUB COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The Comptroller & City Solicitor advised the Committee that there had been no appeals against Licensing (Hearing) Sub-Committee decisions.

RECEIVED

6. DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT PERTAINING TO PREMISES LICENCES

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Interim) Environment, on the Delegated decisions of the Executive Director Environment pertaining to premises licences.

A Member highlighted that The Tipperary was noted in the report as being in Farringdon Without Ward, but in fact it was in Castle Baynard.

The Member also asked that, in the table which contained a number of complaints, that the date as well as the time the complaints be logged and for this to be included in the report in future, so the Committee could have sight of this. Officers would look to include this in the report going forward.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. LATE NIGHT LEVY - CHARGES, EXEMPTIONS, DISCOUNTS AND BEST PRACTICE SCHEMES

The Committee received a report of the Interim Executive Director Environment, on the on the legislative provisions of the Late-Night Levy (the Levy), setting out the rules on the maximum fees that can be charged and information on discounts available and how these link to best practice schemes like the City of London Safety Thirst scheme (the Scheme).

The Chairman had commissioned this report so that newer Members of the Committee could see how the purpose and importance the Late Night levy, so that the whole Committee had a clear understanding of what this was and how it works in practice and within the law.

A Member thanked the Chairman for the report, and asked whether there would be a review of the City's late-night practices and policies in the future, to keep up with social changes and or any changes with regards to Destination City. The Chairman agreed we would always keep things under review. He also explained that as the report was now received and it included all the relevant detail, they were now able to discuss this with officers on what the next steps could be to ensure best practice. Officers had reported that the scheme currently in place was suitable and appropriate, and it compared well to others, however, by keeping an appropriate periodic view on the this, the Committee could keep a watching brief on any new schemes that may be worth looking into.

A Member highlighted the issues of cleanliness born of the nighttime economy and the impacts on costs. The Member added that with regards to premises and the levy charges, premises could obtain a 30% discount if they would take part in the Safety Thirst scheme. The member considered the Levy was seen as a fair way for premises to contribute to any issues occurring from venues. This levy also contributed to the funding of City Police to ensure the City's safe late-night economy and keeping women and others safe, but also contributed to the cleanliness of the City streets.

Members were overall happy with the report on the levy and asked that this was kept in review.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

10. 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 Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

11. CITY OF LONDON POLICE QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of Police containing data for Quarter 1 2024, in relation to the nighttime economy, offences recorded by the police and discloses police operations. It also received a spiking profile from April 2023 to March 2024, which had been commissioned by the Committee at its meeting in October 2023.

12. APPENDIX 4: DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT PERTAINING TO PREMISES LICENCES

The Committee received a non-public appendix relating to item 6 on the Delegated decisions of the Executive Director Environment pertaining to premises licences.

13. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

A question was asked with regards to the ongoing work taking place in preparation for the Olympics, with regards to having more outside events and ensuring businesses were not impacted. The Member also extended their thanks for their work during the London Marathon, which ensure accessible viewing and provided a friendly family atmosphere for residents, which showed that the public service protection space order was working, and that the no drinking order meant residents could enjoy the event.

The Committee noted engagement had commenced with places who were looking to have outdoor screens. The EC bid was looking at outdoor activity, with emerging planning and future planning teams assisting, however this was not affecting licensing now. With regards to the Public Service Protection orders, it was suggested that the Committee may want to look at this in the future as potential mitigation if drinking outside become more prominent.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 2.26 pm

Chairman

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