

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 14 July 2021

Minutes of the informal hybrid meeting of the Licensing Committee held virtually and physically at Committee Room 3, 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 14 July 2021 at 1.45 pm

### Present

#### Members:

Sophie Anne Fernandes (Chairman)  
Shravan Joshi (Deputy Chairman)  
Mary Durcan  
John Fletcher  
Marianne Fredericks

Michael Hudson  
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark  
Graham Packham  
Jason Pritchard

### In Attendance

#### Officers:

Jon Averbs	-	Director of Markets & Consumer Protection
Gavin Stedman	-	Port Health and Public Protection Director
Rachel Pye	-	Markets & Consumer Protection
Peter Davenport	-	Markets & Consumer Protection
Jenny Pitcairn	-	Chamberlain's Department
Frank Marchione	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Leanne Murphy	-	Town Clerk's Department
Matthew Cooper	-	Media Team, Town Clerk's Department
Jo Northmore	-	City of London Police

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Karina Dostalova 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 28 April 2021 were approved as a correct record.

#### 4. APPEALS AGAINST LICENSING (HEARING) SUB COMMITTEE DECISIONS

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

#### 5. COVID-19 UPDATE

The Committee received an oral update from the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection providing Members with an update on the current situation as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The progression to Step 4 of the Government's roadmap meant the almost complete deregulation of Covid related restrictions and a move to personal responsibility as the UK moved from pandemic to endemic. At the same time, there were increasing cases and outbreaks linked to hospitality venues.

The only remaining regulation relates to the need to self-isolate if you test positive or until 16 August for close contacts; this would drop away for individuals that are double vaccinated and under 18 years old. The requirement for masks has changed to a recommendation. All social distancing requirements will drop away allowing for nightclubs to re-open and the return of vertical drinking. Several recommendations affecting trade, e.g. vaccine passports for large events and nightclubs, have vocally not been welcomed by industry bodies such as UK Hospitality and NTIA.

Officers confirmed they were not clear for now how City businesses will respond and awaited the formal new guidance documents.

With regards to City Support for the industry, it was confirmed that the City's Business Support Grants were available. The refreshed AI-fresco policy would provide further support in the coming year to provide space and the new Licensing Policy would be supportive and facilitative rather than restrictive.

Officers will be available and visiting premises to ensure the sector is supported through the next stage, as they have continued to do throughout the pandemic.

In response to a question regarding whether written guidance would be provided to premises, Officers stated that the Government had not published the six new sets of guidance and hoped this would be received soon.

## **6. SUPPORTING THE RECOVERY OF THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR**

Members considered a report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection concerning supporting the Recovery of the Hospitality Sector: AI Fresco Eating and Drinking Policy Update, Off-Sale and Temporary Event Notice easements.

Members were advised that there were four main proposals going for approval to the next Planning & Transportation Committee including a more streamlined reapplication process for businesses already with licenses and year-long licenses which would continue with no fee. Also included were recommendations for CCTV and free ACT safety training which would become legal duty.

In response to a query concerning the conditions on terrorism, Officers confirmed these were not conditions but strong recommendations for high risk areas, e.g. St Pauls.

A Member voiced concern that the extra condition for CCTV was not appropriate for all premises noting that other Local Authorities only had policies for existing CCTV compliance and works. Officers confirmed the recommendations came from the COL Police and was not a fixed condition but for premises with a high footfall and within areas of crime concern.

It was noted that the Counter Terrorist Police did in-depth reports and had a risk matrix, and Officers hoped the conditions were a proportionate approach to dealing with these risks.

A Member highlighted the need not to confuse applicants and to be appropriate in conditioning CCTV on a case by case basis.

**RESOLVED** – That Members:-

- Agree the streamlined reapplication process as outlined in paragraph 8 of this report;
- Agree the pavement licence duration period as outlined in paragraph 10(a) of this report;
- Agree a zero fee for all pavement licence applications as outlined in paragraph 10(b) of this report;
- Agree the strengthened requirement to comply with the new national Counter Terrorism Protective Security Pavement Licence guidance in para 10(c) of this report.

**7. LICENSING REVENUE OUTTURN 2020/21 REPORT**

Members received a joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Markets & Consumer Protection comparing the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2020/21 with the final budget for the year. Overall total net expenditure during the year was £434,000 whereas the total budget was £300,000, representing an overspending of £134,000.

RECEIVED.

**8. NEW LICENSING POLICY**

Members considered a report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection concerning the Licensing Act 2003 review of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

A Member queried the consultation process and if the policy was circulated to the widest number of people. It was suggested the policy be shared with all Members so they could share it with key Stakeholders. Officers confirmed they welcome all views and would send the policy to relevant safeguarding individuals, Members, the LLP and relevant City Corporation services, departments and tenants associations.

**RESOLVED** – That Members agree the timetable and methodology to determine the final text and adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

**9. CRIMES AT LICENSED PREMISES**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Superintendent regarding violent crime from licensed premises during the period 12 April 2021 – 12 June 2021.

Licensed premises reopened on the 12 April 2021 and footfall in the City was anticipated to continue to increase. However, different premises were following different guidelines due to capacity and premise layout. Overall, the Police were happy with crime levels in the City but this was likely to increase as footfall increased.

RECEIVED.

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

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

RECEIVED.

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

One New Change viewing gallery

A Member stated that members of the public had tried to access the viewing gallery and been prohibited by security staff. It was queried if the public would be able to visit after the 19 July as this was a public space. Officers agreed to look into the basis of why the public were refused access and give appropriate advice as necessary.

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

There were no urgent items.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no urgent items.

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2021 were approved as a correct record.

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

The Committee received a non-public appendix report to the report under agenda item 10 pertaining to premises licenses which included the names of each premises.

16. **RIVERSIDE SAFETY AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Port Health and Public Protection Director concerning riverside safety and suicide prevention.

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

There were no questions.

18. **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 2.19 pm**

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Chairman

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