

Runnymede Borough CouncilLICENSING COMMITTEE29 January 2009 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors Mrs P I Broadhead (Chairman), Mrs F J Barden (Vice-Chairman), R J Edis, P A Francis, Mrs E Gill, Mrs M T Harnden, R N Jones C Knight, D W Parr and Mrs M Roberts.

Members of the Committee absent: None.

459. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 November 2008 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

460. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2009/10

(Ref: Minutes of the Licensing Committee, January 2008, page 69, para 488)

Members considered the draft Revenue Estimates for 2009/10 for the services covered by Licensing; essentially the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005. Neither had shown any significant variance in service activity, and as the majority of fees and charges were set by statute there were few opportunities to meet the outstanding savings target of £5,000, other than by cutting direct staff costs.

The Committee reflected on the increased costs associated with the new Civic Centre which had also occasioned changes in central re-charges.

Members asked how inflation had been taken into account in the figures. Officers confirmed that the assumptions, on which the estimates were made, were guided by the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report predictions, estimations of salary level increases as a result of the pay review, the annual cost of living award, contracted services costs, business rates and other expenses.

Officers advised, in answer to a specific question about the fees under the Licensing Act, that where it was at the discretion of the Council to waive fees for educational or charitable events, the applicant would need to state their case on application for it to be considered on a case by case basis. Members considered that it was important therefore that the organisers of such events knew this discretion was available.

RESOLVED that –

- i) the draft Revenue Estimates for 2009/10 be approved as submitted; and**
- ii) the proposed schedules of charges for 2009/10, be approved to be effective either from the first week of April 2009 or 1 April 2009 as appropriate.**

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)