

Runnymede Borough Council

LICENSING COMMITTEE

18 November 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

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 and D W Parr.

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor Mrs M Roberts.

322. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 June 2008 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

323. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs M Roberts.

324. FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT

(Ref: Minutes of the Licensing Committee, April 2008, page 690, para 637)

Members received for information the latest financial projections for the 2008/09 financial year for Licensing; those functions which came under the remit of the Licensing Act 2005.

Members noted that a reduction in the net costs of the Licensing service of £5,000 had been sought and commented that although this was a modest sum it might be difficult to achieve.

325. SERVICE PLAN 2008/09

Members considered the new Service Plan for Licensing; updated as part of the exercise to meet the Government's requirements of the Council to produce a combined Sustainable Community Strategy and revised Strategic Plan as well as respond to a range of National Indicators under a National Performance Framework which had replaced the Best Value regime.

Members approved the removal of items which had been completed or achieved and Officers were requested to give some thought as to aligning the ambitions of the Service with those of the National Indicators where relevant.

RESOLVED that –

the Service Plan for Licensing 2008/09, as attached at Appendix 'A', be approved.

326. CONSULTATION ON THE CONTROL OF LAP DANCING ESTABLISHMENTS

Members noted an Officer response to a consultation from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on Lap Dancing establishments.

Some concern was expressed that such establishments could in theory be opened in residential areas, as was the case in a neighbouring authority.

The Committee was advised that lap dancing establishments could be covered by the category for 'Performance of Dance' in a Premises Licence, and that being the case, few objections could be raised unless relevant representations were received, proving harm or nuisance, which might lead to the premises licence being reviewed.

Alternatively, lap dancing could be brought into the same category as sex cinemas and sex shops, by amending the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in order to give local authorities outside London the same power to regulate sex establishments as London authorities have and remove the exemption for premises licensed for regulated entertainment or late night refreshment. Members agreed this could give local authorities wider powers to regulate where, when and on what terms lap dancing and similar establishments might be founded.

The Committee was pleased that Government was keen to resolve the issue of lap dancing establishments, and in doing so noted that currently none were open in the borough, but that it would have to be addressed more formally should the situation change.

327. LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE – MINUTES

The Committee received for information the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 26 June 2008, 1 and 9 July 2008, 31 July 2008 and 16 September 2008 as attached at Appendices 'B' 'C' 'D' and 'E' respectively.

The inspection of a number of local licensed premises was discussed and Members asked whether a campaign to address under-age drinking was being planned by Surrey Police or Trading Standards in the run up to Christmas and the New Year. It was confirmed that there had been a recent campaign but the withdrawal of funding had curtailed its wider circulation.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.52 pm)