

At a meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Old in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Francis, P. Gibson, MacKnight, Maddison, D. Richardson, J. Scott, D. Smith, J. Walton and A. Wilson.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Bell, Maddison and D. Wilson.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 5th January, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th January, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Relaxation of Licensing Hours for the Royal Wedding

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on proposals to relax licensing hours to mark the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton on Saturday, 30th April and Sunday 1st May, 2011.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Tom Terrett, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager presented the report advising Members that the Home Office proposed that those premises not already licensed under the Licensing Act to 1.00 a.m. would be able, should the licence holders so choose, to remain open for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises and the provision of regulated entertainment until 1.00 a.m. on Saturday, 30th April and on Sunday, 1st May.

The purpose of the Home Office in this proposed exercise was to mark this occasion of 'exceptional significance' and to avoid the costs, and administrative burdens, of a large number of licensees being obliged to give Temporary Event Notices in order for celebrations to continue to a reasonable hour.

Mr. Terrett advised that the City currently had 363 licensed premises, including social clubs, which under normal circumstances would close before 1.00 a.m.

Councillor Hall expressed concern that some premises may cause problems for their neighbours by being open for that length of time. He also believed that it would not be widely welcomed by the trade many of whom would feel obliged to open despite having to incur extra costs for probably no, or very little return.

2. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the implications of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill with regard to the functions of the Council in licensing the sale of alcohol.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor J. Scott and G. Hall welcomed the report but both believed that the payment of 70% of funds generated from any late night levy to the local policing body was excessive. With regard to the levy, Councillor Francis asked if there was any indication as to the range or thresholds involved. Mr. Terrett replied that it was not prescribed in the legislation but might possibly be related to rateable values. Councillor Smith suggested that perhaps it should be based on turnover.

With regard to the need to advertise any proposed early morning restriction orders, Councillor A. Wilson asked that if the burden of cost fell on the Local Authority, from which budget would the cost be borne. Mr. Terrett advised that this would have to be contained within the licensing budget.

There being no further questions, the Chairman closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance.

(Signed) S. OLD,
Chairman.