

**At a Meeting of the LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER on MONDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2024 at 10:00am**

**Present:-**

Councillor Fletcher in the Chair

Councillors Ayre, Chapman, Dodds, Hartnack, Heron, Laverick, Leonard, Mordey, Reed, H. Trueman and M. Walker

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Gibson.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 Part I**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 Part I, (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy**

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report, (copy circulated), which updated the Committee of the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the Council's Draft Statement of Licensing Policy and to seek approval to submit a final Statement of Licensing Policy to Cabinet to commence the process of formal adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy by Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs. Dawn Howley, Principal Licensing Officer, presented the report and drew Members' attention to the consultation responses set out in appendix 1 to the report and the proposed final document, which included amendments made following consideration of the responses which was set out in appendix 2. The main issues raised by respondents related to the Consideration of the issues surrounding Cumulative Impact; the consideration of the introduction of minimum unit pricing; and promotion of an alcohol-free childhood.

Councillor Hartnack queried whether any further response had been received from Northumbria Police beyond the response set out on page 37 of the report. Mrs Howley advised that there had not; Councillor Hartnack then expressed his surprise that the Police had not made comment on the document.

Councillor Mordey asked for more information in respect of minimum unit pricing. Mrs Howley advised that in Scotland minimum unit pricing had been implemented in 2018 and there was evidence to show that it did reduce alcohol related harm; in Scotland the minimum unit price had been set at 50p per unit and this was being reviewed. Public Health had requested that minimum unit pricing be implemented in Sunderland. there would be a need to look at the consultation responses to identify which premises should be covered by any policy; i.e. whether the policy would cover on or off sales or both. Regionally; Durham County Council had a 50p per unit minimum price and Newcastle City Council used an equation to calculate minimum prices.

The Chairman then put the recommendations to the Committee and with all Members being in agreement it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. The contents of the report be noted and Cabinet be recommended to accept the Final Policy Document set out in Appendix 2 for approval by Council;
  - b. Approval be given to the Final Policy Document being taken forward to the next scheduled meeting of Cabinet;
  - c. Cabinet be requested to provide comments in response to the consultation and Final Draft;
  - d. The next scheduled Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee be requested to provide its comments in response to the consultation and Final Draft;
  - e. Council be recommended to amend the terms of reference of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee and the Scheme of Delegation and Appointment of Proper Officers insofar as it relates to the Executive Director for City Development in order for the same to be updated and to authorise the Assistant Director of Law and Governance to amend the Constitution, accordingly, including the making of any consequential amendments;
  - f. Approval be given to the commencement of a consultation exercise in relation to a Cumulative impact Assessment (CIA) under the Licensing Act 2003;
  - g. Approval be given to the commencement of a consultation exercise in relation to Minimum Unit Pricing.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

3. RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered likely to include the disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual and the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that

information). (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1 and 3).

(Signed) J. FLETCHER,  
Chairman.

**Note:-**

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to members of the public.

Additional minutes in respect of further items are included in Part II.

