

Draft Minutes

of the Virtual Meeting of the

Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 3rd November 2020

held via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting Commenced: 10:00 Meeting Concluded: 10:49

Councillors:

P Mike Solomon (Chairman)

A James Clayton

P Andy Cole

P John Crockford-Hawley

A Ann Harley

P Marcia Pepperall (joined after attendance roll call)

P James Tonkin

A Roz Willis

P Huw James (substitution for Caroline Cherry)

A Hugh Gregor

P Nicola Holland

P Ian Parker

P Robert Payne

P Stuart McQuillan

P: Present

A: Apologies for absence submitted

Officers in attendance: Sioux Isherwood (Public Health and Regulatory Services Directorate), Amanda Hodge (Public Health and Regulatory Services Directorate), Caz Horton (Public Health and Regulatory Services Directorate), Kellie Trego (Public Health and Regulatory Services Directorate), Sara Saunders (Corporate Services), Mike Riggall (Corporate Services), Hazel Brinton (Corporate Services)

LIC Chairman's Welcome

10 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of the Licensing Committee and recorded his resignation as Chairman from the Committee.

LIC Election of Chairman of the Licensing Committee

11 Resolved: that Councillor Robert Payne be elected as Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020-21.

LIC Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Order 37)

12 (Agenda Item 3)

None

LIC Minutes 05 November 2019 (Agenda Item 4)

13 Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record.

LIC Mid Year Report on the administration and enforcement of all licensing regimes (Agenda Item 6)
14

The Director of Public Health and Regulatory Services reported on the administration and enforcement of all licensing regimes undertaken by the council.

The Principal Environmental Protection and Licensing Officer presented her report, which detailed the Licensing activities undertaken within the financial year 2020/21 in relation to the functions and responsibilities carried out by the North Somerset Licensing Team. The report noted additional pressures due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report further noted that the Statement of Licensing Policy was due for review, but a six-month grace period had been granted by the Home Office due to Covid-19. The Principal Environmental Protection and Licensing Officer highlighted areas already identified for review to members and requested that members consider any additional areas of concern. She noted that the Sexual Entertainment Venues policy required reviewing as did the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy which required significant amendments as a result of new statutory standards for Local Authorities issued by the Department of Transport. She would advise members further if statutory consultation was required on the amended Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy. She noted that licenses currently issued would be reviewed against the new policy and any individual license reviews brought back to members as necessary. She highlighted that nationally applicable legislation introduced by the government as a result of Covid-19 had overridden local policy and gave the example of street cafes which had been successful but had resulted in costs to council in terms of impact on income.

She answered members' queries on the impact on the Licensing team's resources of the statutory changes to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy; the council's "three strikes and out" policy; social distancing enforcement at licensed premises under Covid-19 regulations; electric vehicles for future licensed taxis; county lines exploitation and publicity around personal responsibility of individuals in respect of social distancing during the pandemic.

Resolved:

- (1) that the outcomes and administration of the various Licensing Regimes undertaken by the North Somerset Licensing Team be noted;
- (2) that the updates regarding the Licensing Service provision and policy be noted and
- (3) that the changes to the Taxi and Private Hire Policy in light of statutory guidance be noted.

Chairman
