
CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE, 03.11.15

Present: Councillors Annwen Daniels, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Eryl Jones-Williams, Angela Russell, Ann Williams, Elfed W. Williams and Wyn Williams

Also in Attendance: Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Environment Manager), Sheryl Le Bon (Licensing Manager), Geraint B. Edwards (Solicitor) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair, Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams, welcomed everyone to the Committee especially Councillors Annwen Daniels and Wyn Williams as new Members of the Licensing Committee. Apologies were received from Councillors Craig ab Iago, Louise Hughes, Dilwyn Lloyd, W. Tudor Owen and Peter Read.

Regards were sent to Councillors Peter Read and Louise Hughes for a speedy recovery.

A concern was again highlighted that it was necessary to review members' attendance at committees to ensure that a Councillor accepted his / her responsibility to attend the committees of which they were members.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015, as a true record.

5. MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

Submitted - for information, the minutes of a meeting of the Central Licensing Sub-committee held on 2.9.15.

6. APPROVAL TO COMMENCE A STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON A DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT - LICENSING ACT 2003

Submitted – the report of the Licensing Manager. The report's background information was set, noting the need for all licensing authorities to publish their licensing policy statement every 5 years in line with Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003. Each authority would review its policy, making any amendments considered appropriate within the five year period.

In the context of Gwynedd Council, it was noted that the existing policy had been approved by the Full Council on 16 December 2010, and the five year period would

come to an end on 6 January 2016. A suitable consultation period would be implemented prior to deciding on and publishing a new policy.

It was highlighted that, as part of the Public Protection collaboration project across north Wales, a Task Group had been established to create a 'general' licensing policy statement across north Wales. The policy's 'Content' structure had been agreed upon, but, due to the impact of economic and social factors on every authority, it was explained that every statement had been worded differently and was therefore relevant to a specific area.

In terms of the format of the new draft policy, it was explained that detailed consideration had been given to facilitating the reader's perception of the information. Sections and sub-sections had been created to provide additional information on matters and powers that had come to power since the existing policy had been adopted in 2010 (an example of this was the Early Morning Restriction Orders and the Late-Night Levy). In addition, it was highlighted that the wording of the policy had been adapted to refer to current legislation (an example of this was that the definition of regulated entertainment had been significantly adapted following the Live Music Act 2012 and the Deregulation Act 2015) and that the licensing objectives had been promoted throughout the policy.

In terms of formal consultation arrangements (which would be open for 21 days), it was noted that the policy would be shared with;

- North Wales Police
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- People/Bodies who represented the county's businesses and residents
- People/Bodies who represented existing licence/certificate holders
- Councillors, Community Councils and responsible authorities
- Siop Gwynedd and the Gwynedd Council website

It was highlighted that there were no controversial matters in the policy and therefore a vast number of responses was not expected.

Following a discussion, the following observations were noted:

- Welcome good collaboration with officers from the North to ensure a structure to the statement
- Welcome the fact that an equality assessment had been distributed
- Welcome that child protection had been included in the statement
- Welcome the fact that the statement was easy to read and that the main matters had been highlighted.

The Licensing Manager was thanked for her work of updating and amending the statement.

RESOLVED

APPROVE THE RIGHT FOR THE HEAD OF THE REGULATORY DEPARTMENT TO COMMENCE A STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT.

THAT A REPORT IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THIS COMMITTEE ON 1 DECEMBER 2015, WHICH WILL HIGHLIGHT THE RESPONSES RECEIVED AND SO THAT THE COMMITTEE CAN CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE DRAFT LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT ACCORDING TO THE NEED.

FOLLOWING RECEIVING APPROVAL FROM THIS COMMITTEE, SUBMIT THE NEW LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT FOR THE FULL COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION ON 10 DECEMBER 2015

The meeting commenced at 2pm and concluded at 2.30pm