

LICENSING COMMITTEE

13 JUNE 2006

19:15 TO 21:00

PRESENT: Councillors John Bowcott (Chair), Steve Austin, Jeremy Bruce, Richard Chellew, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Russell Makin, Barbara Mansfield, Judy Saunders, David Simpson, Gregory Udeh and Martin Whelton

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Krysia Williams
Steve Clark (Head of Planning and Public Protection), Richard Nash (Licensing Manager), Solomon Agutu (Legal Services), Colin Millar (Democratic Services)

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillors Philip Jones and Ron Wilson

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Steve Austin be appointed vice-chair

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2006

RESOLVED: That the minutes are agreed as a correct record

3 MERTON COUNCIL'S LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT ON GAMBLING

Officers clarified that the Lead Member for this report should have been shown as the Chair of the Committee as this was a non-executive matter.

Members discussed the draft gambling policy and raised various points for clarification/amendment prior to submission to Council for approval.

- Borough description
- General use of English to be checked throughout
- Reference to ward councillors not sitting on sub-committees to be removed
- Police consultee to be the Borough commander

On the question of publication of representations received on applications the Democratic Services Officer explained that current practice on Licensing Applications was that all parties to the hearing received copies of all applications, notices and representations but that publication to the public domain was restricted to the application and representations or notices from Statutory Authorities.

Representations from members of the public were withheld from the public domain as they contained private addresses and other details.

RESOLVED: (1) That the current practice of publication of applications, notices and

LICENSING COMMITTEE
13 JUNE 2006

representations outlined above is adopted by the Committee as its publication policy in respect of applications dealt with under both the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

(2) That the consultation period is to run from 17 July for 12 weeks.

(3) That the draft gambling policy statement, amended in line with Committee's comments, be recommended for adoption by the Council for the purposes of consultation.

4 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it discloses advice from Counsel in connection with legal proceedings which may be taken by the authority.

5 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO OFFICERS

The Committee's instruction to its legal representatives in the case before it is recorded in an exempt minute.

RESOLVED: That the Licensing Committee appoints a sub-committee of 8 members, with a quorum of 4 to deal with any future instructions on costs that are required. The sub-committee to meet as and when required.

The membership of the sub-committee is

Conservative (4 members): John Bowcott, David Simpson, Richard Chellew and Gilli Lewis-Lavender

Labour (3 Members): Martin Whelton, Gregory Udeh, Steve Austin

Merton Park Independent Resident (1 Member): Krysia Williams (dependent on Council's anticipated appointment of Councillor Williams to the Licensing Committee on 12 July)