

LICENSING COMMITTEE
28 FEBRUARY 2013

7.15 – 8.05 PM

PRESENT: Councillor David Simpson (chairman), Councillors John Bowcott, Richard Chellew, Nick Draper, Philip Jones, Logie Lohendran, John Sargeant, Linda Scott, Sam Thomas, Gregory Udeh.

ALSO PRESENT: Marc Dubet (Environmental Health (Pollution & Licensing) Manager), Tara Butler (Programme Manager - Strategic Policy and Research), David Ryan (Technical Officer, Street Trading), Susanne Wicks (Democratic Services Officer).

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Stan Anderson and Chris Edge.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2012

Item 6: Marc Dubet noted that the total amount of late night levy raised would be £55,460.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the amendment shown above, the minutes are agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4 THE DESIGNATION OF PARTS OF THE HIGHWAY FOR THE PURPOSES OF STREET TRADING

David Ryan introduced the report and invited questions and comments.

The committee requested that officers ensure that when street trading license applicants procure public liability insurance that is on a 'claims occurring' basis.

David Ryan undertook to email to all members of the committee a list of premises with street trading licences in the borough. He advised that the plan of the approved site in each case can be supplied upon request.

David Ryan undertook to email to all members of the committee a brief guide to what is covered by a street trading licence.

RESOLVED: To designate the proposed street trading areas.

5 THE USE OF THE PLANNING SYSTEM TO RESTRICT BETTING SHOPS IN MERTON

Tara Butler introduced this report and invited questions and comments.

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Marc Dubet undertook to provide some more information to the committee about the licensing and control of gaming machines in licensed premises.

Councillors agreed that evidence from Merton did not support applying to the Secretary of State for an Article 4 direction (measure via the planning system) to restrict betting shops as there wasn't evidence of a substantial increase in the numbers or concentration of betting shops over the past 5 years and to the future.

Councillors recommended that the map of the borough within the report indicating the number and location of betting shops be updated annually and presented to the Licensing Committee to allow them to continually monitor this issue and consider taking appropriate action should this be needed.

Report received.

6 CHANGES TO THE LICENSING ACT

Marc Dubet introduced this report and invited comments and questions.

Members agreed that there is no need to introduce EMRO or LNL, but agreed that it should be kept under review. It was also agreed that quarterly crime data should be presented to the Committee, and any sudden spike in crime or anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That Early Morning Restriction Orders and Late Night Levies are not introduced at the present time.