

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing
Committee held at Virtually on 21
October 2020**

+ Cllr Rodney Bates (Chairman)
+ Cllr Vivienne Chapman (Vice Chairman)

+ Cllr Dan Adams	+ Cllr David Mansfield
+ Cllr Peter Barnett	+ Cllr John Skipper
+ Cllr Richard Brooks	+ Cllr Pat Tedder
- Cllr Paul Deach	+ Cllr Helen Whitcroft
+ Cllr Ben Leach	+ Cllr Valerie White
+ Cllr David Lewis	

+ Present
- Apologies for absence presented

Members in Attendance: Cllr Cliff Betton

Officers Present: Paula Barnshaw, Helen Lolley, Tim Pashen and
Frances Soper

10/L Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2020 were confirmed and would be signed by the Chairman when possible.

11/L Proposed Statement of Licensing Policy

The Committee considered a proposed draft of the Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026 with a view to consultation, before the Licensing Committee would consider the final draft Policy, including any amendments arising from the consultation, for recommendation to Full Council in early 2021.

As the local Licensing Authority, the Council was required to prepare and publish a Licensing Policy at least every 5 years. The current Statement of Licensing Policy 2016-2021 was now due to be reviewed and updated. It was noted that the proposed draft policy reflected the Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act, published in April 2018.

Before determination of the Statement of Licensing Policy the Council was required to consult on the revised policy by virtue of section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003. The consultation on the policy would last for a period of 6 weeks commencing on 28 October 2020. An additional published supplement listed the proposed consultees which included the statutory consultees as listed in Section 5 (3) of the Licensing Act 2003.

Members were advised that as part of the consultation all Ward Councillors would be invited to respond. Members of the Licensing Committee were invited to comment on the draft updated policy.

It was highlighted that the new proposed Statement of Policy included the current Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) and that there was a statutory requirement to consult on the CIP every three years to determine whether there was current evidence and support for the CIP to remain in place. The statutory consultees for the CIP were the same as for the Statement of Licensing Policy it was therefore proposed that both consultations would be carried out simultaneously.

RESOLVED that

- I. The contents of the agenda report be noted;**
- II. The draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026 be approved for consultation as per the agenda pack; and**
- III. The requirements in respect of the Cumulative Impact Special Policy be noted.**

12/L Licensing Act - Summary of Delegated Decisions.

The Committee received the numbers of decisions taken under delegated powers in respect of licence applications where no representations had been received from the responsible authorities or any other persons.

13/L Coronavirus Regulations Enforcement

Members were given an update in respect of the powers which had been given to Local Councils and delegated to officers that sought to control the spread of COVID-19.

Local authorities were expected to take proportionate action by seeking to achieve compliance by an educative approach, but if necessary with fixed penalty notices which had been made available as an enforcement tool.

Whilst the Police had continued to lead on enforcement in relation to breaches of requirements on individuals for example with regard to the wearing of face coverings in public and the Rule of 6, local authorities were leading on the obligations placed on businesses. These obligations included business closure, restrictions on opening hours, as well the maintenance of social distancing and the rule of 6 within premises. It was noted that businesses were obligated to display notices communicating the need for face coverings and make available a QR code for customer scanning. There was also a requirement to provide a means of manual contact tracing. It was noted that some businesses such as nightclubs were required to remain fully closed.

Environmental Health and Licensing Officers were responding to large volumes of correspondence in respect of levels of observance to the new requirements, whilst also proactively monitoring adherence whilst on Camberley Town Centre night visits. There was also ongoing work being undertaken to communicate the new rules via the Economic Development Team; and to recruit and deploy Covid Ambassadors and Marshals.

There was confusion in the hospitality industry in respect of the 2 metre rule and the associated use of social distancing screens; and there was an identified need for some premises to move furniture to maintain social distancing.

It was reported that whilst on their in person inspections, the Environmental Health and Licensing Teams had identified a number of premises which required follow up actions. These existing issues had included Quick Response (QR) codes and mask wearing posters not being displayed in prominent positions and slow customer responses to the 10pm closure.

Members were informed that the Borough's Covid Ambassadors would be working closely with Collectively Camberley and local businesses to promote mask wearing and social distancing in The Square and in other retail premises. It was also noted that the Council were also planning to deploy the Town Centre's former Taxi Marshalls as Covid Marshalls. Members expressed concerns in respect of the perceived lack of mask-wearing in Camberley Town Centre. It was hoped that the promotion of face coverings and the presence of Covid Marshalls would encourage adherence to the social distancing measures. In addition Members were also advised that there was funding available for the recruitment of an additional Environmental Health Officer, which would add to the resources available for enforcement.

RESOLVED that the verbal update on the enforcement of the Coronavirus Regulations be noted.

14/L Committee Work Programme

The Committee noted its Work Programme for the rest of the municipal year.

Chairman