

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN

At a meeting of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** held on **WEDNESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2022** at 7.00 pm in The Council Chamber, Crowndale Centre, 218 Eversholt Street, London, NW1 1BD

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE PRESENT

Councillors Jonathan Simpson (Chair), Lorna Greenwood (Vice-Chair), Meric Apak, Pat Callaghan, Matt Cooper, Matthew Kirk, Izzy Lenga, Sylvia McNamara, Shah Miah, Richard Olszewski and Gio Spinella

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ABSENT

Councillors Eddie Hanson, Sharon Hardwick, Jenny Headlam-Wells and Nanouche Umeadi

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee and any corrections approved at that meeting will be recorded in those minutes.

MINUTES

1. GUIDANCE ON HYBRID MEETINGS

RESOLVED –

THAT the guidance on hybrid meetings be agreed.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Eddie Hanson and Sharon Hardwick.

3. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF STATUTORY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS, COMPULSORY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND VOLUNTARY REGISTERABLE NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA

There were none.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Broadcasting of the meeting

The Chair announced that the meeting was being broadcast live to the internet and the broadcast would remain available for six months, after which it could be made

available on request. Anyone addressing the meeting was deemed to be consenting to having their contribution recorded and broadcast and to the use of those recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputation requests.

6. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES TO TAKE AS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

7. MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2022.

RESOLVED –

THAT the minutes be approved and signed as a correct record.

8. DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2023 - 2026 (GAMBLING ACT 2005)

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Community Services.

The Director of Public Safety and the Public Protection Manager introduced the report.

The Committee were advised that the policy should align with the Council's approach to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and should strengthen the mitigations for the risks associated with gambling related harm.

Responding to a question, Officers advised that no regard was given to the Local Area Profiles in the decision making process, these profiles were used to measure whether an area should be considered as a high risk area and were not used in the same way as a Culminative Impact Policy area, for example.

The Committee were advised that Licensing Officers undertook unannounced inspections to ensure that gambling establishments were following the correct procedures.

The Committee expressed concern about problem gambling and made the following comments:

- Signage should be displayed in gambling premises with debt advice and the help available for financial difficulty, including what the Council could do to help.
- Instant loan companies enable people to gamble beyond their means and increase debt.
- Whilst online gambling was not regulated by the Council, work should be undertaken to see what the Council could do to support people who are in bad situations as a result of online gambling.
- For those who are vulnerable, problem gambling could become a safeguarding issue, so wider work should be undertaken to see how the Council could support these individuals. Furthermore, the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee and Public Health could seek to contribute to this area of work.

The Public Protection Manager noted the comments made by Members and advised that online gambling was concerning for those who experienced problem gambling, it was outside the scope of the Council's powers to address this, however the Gambling Commission was undertaking work in this area. The Director of Public Safety added that he would request that work in this area was added to the Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board forward plan.

The Director of Public advised that once the 12 week public consultation had ended, an addendum could be presented to the committee apprising members with further information about the Gambling Act 2005 regulatory framework.

ACTION: Director of Public Safety

Members thanked the Director of Public Safety and the Public Protection Manager for their work on the Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023 - 2026 (Gambling Act 2005).

RESOLVED –

THAT the Licensing Committee:

- i) Note the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2026 under the Gambling Act 2005 (the Gambling Policy) at Appendix 1; and
- ii) Approve the commencement of a 12-week statutory consultation on the draft revised Gambling Policy 2023-2026.

ACTION: Director of Public Safety

9. CAMDEN WOMEN'S SAFETY PUBLIC REALM ACTION PLAN

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Community Services.

The Community Safety Manager introduced the report alongside the Director of Public Safety.

Councillor Pat Callaghan, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, commented on the contents of the report highlighting the importance of the work on women's safety, including the 'Ask for Angela' scheme and the creation of the Safety Hub in Camden Town.

In response to Committee Members' questions, Officers provided the following key information:

- The Camden Safety Hub had a focus on women's safety and would operate between the hours of 19.00hrs and midnight on a Friday and Saturday, with a view to extend these hours in the future. It was intended that the Camden Safety Hub would provide a model that could be rolled out to other hotspots, such as Kings Cross, if there is demand for the service in those areas.
- Whilst the application for a premises licence was a standardised process within a legislative framework, measures could be taken to bring women's safety to the forefront of this process. Discussions could take place with Licensing and Legal Officers to ascertain how the application process could prioritise women's safety, whilst ensuring statutory obligations are fulfilled.
- This work could consist of, including women's safety issues in any future consultation that was undertaken, updating the applicant's guidance to include advice on how to promote women's safety during the application process, and the Licensing Panel report template could be updated to include an informative to Members about Women's Safety.

ACTION: Director of Public Safety/ Public Protection Manager

- Furthermore, it was expected that all applicants have due regard the Statement of Licensing Policy in its entirety when making an application and an appendix on women's safety had been added to the Policy last year, so applicants should give this consideration.
- It was intended that venues would be able to advertise that they were signed up to the 'Ask for Angela' scheme, which could provide reassurance to women going into venues.
- Whilst getting 85% of licensed premises to sign up to 'Ask for Angela' was ambitious, it was important to have a clear target and a means to have a record for those premises that had signed up.

Members made the following comments of the report:

- 'Ask for Angela' should be part of every licensed venue's operation, including food outlets that are licensed for late night refreshment.
- Whilst venues signing up to the Ask for Angela scheme was positive, if someone was in a position where they had to use it, something had already gone wrong. Therefore, venues should be encouraged to create environments that were safe for everyone and where bystanders were able to intervene if they witnessed harassment.

- There were already some examples, such as venues that had created safe spaces for people to use if they felt uncomfortable and projects such as Safer Gigs for Women.
- The 'Ask for Angela' scheme could provide a good model to address other issues such as transphobia or homophobia, and to ensure the promotion of equality and diversity in the evening and night-time economy.

Members discussed instances of violence against women that had taken place in their Wards and discussed how inconsistent approaches had caused concern within the community. The Director of Public Protection advised that there were robust systems and frameworks in place, some statutory and some local policy, to respond to the incidents and provide reassurance to the community. In terms of licensing, there was a multiagency forum, the Licensing Tasking Process, that looked at new and variation applications to identify any potential issues. The Director of Public Protection reported that this process was currently being developed to have a more neighbourhood approach to ensure local issues were monitored effectively.

Overall, Members were pleased with the progress that had been made with regards to the work on women's safety and thanked officers for their efforts.

RESOLVED –

THAT the Licensing Committee note the report.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was none.

The meeting ended at 8.28 pm.

CHAIR

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MINUTES END