

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

4TH NOVEMBER, 2010

A MEETING of the LICENSING COMMITTEE was held at THE MANSION HOUSE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2010 at 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT :

Chair - Councillor Patricia Bartlett  
Vice-Chair – Councillor Ken Keegan

Councillors Linda Curran, Beryl Harrison, Barbara Hoyle, Barry Johnson J.P., John McHale and Austen White.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elsie Butler, Bill Mordue and Susan Phillips.

	<u>ACTION</u>
12. <u>DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST</u>  No declarations were made at the meeting.	
13. <u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9TH SEPTEMBER, 2010</u>  <u>RESOLVED</u> that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September, 2010, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	All to note
14. <u>CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY – LICENSING POLICY REVIEW</u>  Members were presented with a report that detailed and included the new Statement of Licensing Policy. This policy had to be reviewed every three years, and it was necessary that this was adopted by Full Council, prior to 7th January 2011 in order to meet this deadline.  The Statement of Licensing Policy sets out the Authority's policy with regard to the exercise of its licensing functions under the Licensing Act 2003, and any associated legislation.  Further to information considered at a previous Licensing Committee Meeting when Members had been informed that the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ), may not be continued with, Members were now informed that	

South Yorkshire Police had reconsidered their position with regard to this, and further to analysis of the statistical evidence they had collated, had indicated that they now wished the CIZ to be included in the revised Licensing Policy.

Nick Whitehouse, Chief Inspector of Operations for South Yorkshire Police, and Andy Steele, Licence Enforcement Officer, South Yorkshire Police were in attendance at the meeting and provided an overview to Members with regard to the merits of keeping the Cumulative Impact Zone in place and how it was of benefit to ensure that this was included as part of the reviewed Licensing Policy.

Members were informed that violent crime in Doncaster had followed a downward trend over the past year, and had dropped by 15% and although it was still high, it was encouraging that it had dropped. The area covered by the Cumulative Impact Zone attributed to 55% of all violent crime across the borough, and it was important that this was reduced further.

A vast number of young people visited the town centre in the evenings, and although many of these people were unaffected by trouble, there was a proportion of people who couldn't control their behaviour, and this lent itself to what could become a bigger problem if not adequately managed. However, there was a large impact on the police in order to handle the policing of this, in terms of resourcing, costs, and what the impact of drawing the police into the town centre would have on the outlying areas and suburbs. However, the Committee were informed that the visible police presence created in the town centre was clearly effective in reducing crime, as demonstrated by the figures communicated to Members.

Members were in agreement that clearly the CIZ had proven to be effective and thanks and appreciation were conveyed to the Licensing Officers and South Yorkshire Police in working towards ensuring that Doncaster Town Centre was a much safer place than it used to be. Members were supportive of extending the CIZ for the foreseeable future, as it was felt that this would certainly only work towards improving the crime rates in Doncaster, and particularly in the town centre, even further.

RESOLVED that Members accept the amended Licensing Policy, which included a continuation of the Cumulative Impact Policy, and agreed that it be submitted to Full Council for formal adoption.

Licensing  
Manager