

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

8TH SEPTEMBER 2011

A MEETING of the LICENSING COMMITTEE was held at the MANSION HOUSE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2011 at 10.00 A.M.

PRESENT :

Chair – Councillor Patricia Bartlett
Vice-Chair – Councillor David Nevett

Councillors Linda Curran, Barbara Hoyle, Glyn Jones, Ken Keegan and Pat Knight.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Elsie Butler, Pat Porritt and Margaret Pinkney.

3. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

No declarations were made at the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD ON 23RD MAY 2011

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 23rd May 2011, be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 'A' HELD ON 23RD MAY, 16TH AUGUST AND 23RD AUGUST 2011 AND SUB-COMMITTEE 'B' HELD ON 7TH JULY 2011

RESOLVED that

- (a) the contents of the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee 'A' held on 23rd May, 16th August and 23rd August 2011, be noted; and
- (b) the contents of the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee 'B' held on 7th July 2011, be noted.

6. SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENSING POLICY

The Committee was asked to consider a report containing a proposed Policy for premises classed as Sexual Entertainment Venues under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1982 (as amended by Section 27 of the Police and Crime Act 2009). The Licensing Manager reported that premises already in operation were carrying out entertainment in accordance with conditions upon their licence which were mirrored within the proposed Policy. Members were advised that in accordance with conditions upon premises licences, premises would be able to hold up to eleven striptease events per year without the need to apply for a separate Sex Entertainment Licence. The Committee was recommended to adopt the Policy which had been brought about by the change in legislation.

The Committee discussed the viability of introducing a limit to the number of Sex Entertainment Venues within the Borough in order to ensure that the town did not become overrun with such establishments. The Licensing Manager confirmed that whilst it was possible for the Committee to introduce such a limit, each application should be determined upon its own merits and at such time of hearing an application, at that point the Committee could decide whether a limit should be implemented.

It was reported that the Policy would provide more scope for objections to be made against applications which was broader than it had been previously.

Members discussed the level of fees for obtaining Sex Entertainment Venue Licences and expressed some concern as they believed these were excessive and could be detrimental to local businesses in the sex industry. Furthermore, clarity was sought as to how the fees compared regionally and the process used for determining the level of fees for Doncaster. The Licensing Manager outlined that the Council needed to recover its costs for undertaking associated work with each application it received, i.e. inspections, hearings etc. and although Doncaster's fees were higher than neighbouring Authorities, these had been approved by Full Council through the usual fees and charges setting process.

RESOLVED that the Policy for premises classed as Sexual Entertainment Venues under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1982 (as amended by Section 27 of the Police and Crime Act 2009) be endorsed and recommended to Cabinet for adoption.