

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

18TH DECEMBER, 2014

A MEETING of the LICENSING COMMITTEE was held at the CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 18TH DECEMBER, 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Vice-Chair, Councillor Linda Curran (In the Chair)

Councillors Iris Beech, Elsie Butler, James Hart, Deborah Hutchinson and Sue McGuinness.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from the Chair, Councillor Ken Keegan and Councillors Neil Gethin, Susan Phillips, Patricia Schofield, Austen White and Paul Wray.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

11. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 18th September, 2014, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 'A' MEETINGS HELD ON 18TH JULY, 2014 AND 12TH NOVEMBER, 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee 'A' meetings held on 18th July, 2014 and 12th November, 2014, be noted.

13. PUBLIC HEALTH OVERVIEW FOR THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Committee received a presentation from Nick Germain, Public Health Improvement Coordinator (Alcohol), on the work being carried out by Public Health to support the national and local strategies for responsible alcohol consumption. It was noted that Public Health worked closely with the local Licensing authority on developing local policies and solutions. Successfully delivered such policies should see a reduction in health related issues and crime related to alcohol consumption. It was further noted that during 2013/14, in Doncaster there had been over 900 clients who had received treatment for excess alcohol consumption with a good rate of successful exits. Members were also advised that from April, 2016, the service would be more integrated,

covering support for both drug and alcohol addiction. The service would be subject to a competitive tendering process.

In response to questions raised by Members following the presentation, the Committee was advised:-

- That the statistical information held by Public Health reflected those people who 'self-reported' and accessed the support services provided. Based on national figures, Doncaster's self-reporting was high compared to many other parts of the country.
- Work was on-going with schools and children's Centres to help pinpoint at an early stage, those children and families that needed help.
- Doncaster Town Centre had restrictions in place to reduce drinking in public places. Whilst the restrictions were working well, if a Member had any concerns about excessive drinking in public places, they could report them directly to the Police.
- A copy of the slide presentation from the meeting, would be circulated to all Members of the Committee for information.
- Public Health would look to include in its work programme for 2015, a safe drinking awareness campaign during the summer months.
- Test purchasing was undertaken by Trading Standards and the Police to identify if licences premises were selling alcohol to under age persons. This initiative had reduced such sales by 10%. Members were advised to give details of any licence holders selling alcohol to under age persons, to the Licensing Officer who would pass this information on to the Police.
- Members were also informed of a community alcohol partnership pilot that had been established in Askern, Campsall and Norton, which operated on a monthly basis and had an action plan in place. The aim of the partnership was to work with alcohol retailers to communicate the message of underage sales of alcohol and for them to report those retailers that were breaking the law. It was envisaged that this initiative would be rolled out to other areas of the Borough.

To conclude, the Chair on behalf of the Committee thanked the Public Health Improvement Coordinator (Alcohol) for his interesting and informative presentation.

RESOLVED that the report and presentation, be noted.