

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.20 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2014

**ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs (Chair)

Councillor Khaled Uddin Ahmed
Councillor Suluk Ahmed
Councillor Mahbub Alam
Councillor Amina Ali
Councillor Rachel Blake
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury
Councillor Andrew Cregan
Councillor Peter Golds (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Clare Harrison
Councillor Mohammed Mufti Miah
Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim

Officers Present:

Kathy Driver	– (Principal Licensing Officer)
Paul Greeno	– (Senior Advocate, Legal Services)
Cam Lieng	– (Licensing Officer)
David Tolley	– (Head of Consumer and Business Regulations Service, Safer Communities, Communities Localities & Culture)
Simmi Yesmin	– (Senior Committee Officer, Democratic Services)

Apologies

Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Shah Alam
Councillor Helal Uddin

The Chair welcomed Members to the first meeting of the Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/15.

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/15

The Chair sought nominations for election of Vice-Chair.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Peter Golds be elected Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 11th March 2014 were confirmed and agreed as a correct record.

4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Licensing Committee, Terms of Reference, Membership, and Quorum

The Committee received a brief report which detailed the Licensing Committee's terms of reference, quorum, membership and schedule of dates for the Municipal Year 2014/15 as agreed by Full Council at its meeting held on 11th June 2014.

RESOLVED

1. That the Licensing Committee Terms of Reference, Membership and Quorum as set out in Appendices 1 & 2 be noted.

4.2 Establishment of Licensing Sub Committees, Terms of Reference & Schedule of Dates

The Committee received a report which detailed the need to establish Licensing Sub Committees, appoint Sub Committee Chairs and membership to the Sub Committees.

The Chair asked for nominations and volunteers to be Chairs of the Licensing Sub Committees, a short discussion followed and it was;

RESOLVED

- 1) That the Licensing Sub Committees be established.
- 2) That eight Licensing Sub Committee Chairs be appointed.
- 3) That Councillors Khales Ahmed, Rajib Ahmed, Rachel Blake, Clare Harrison, Andrew Cregan, Amina Ali, the Vice-Chair Peter Golds and the Chair, Councillor Amy Whitelock-Gibbs be appointed as Chairs of the Licensing Sub Committees.
- 4) That all Members of the Licensing Committee serve on the Sub Committees (a Sub Committee consisting of a named Chair and any two other members).
- 5) That the Licensing Sub Committee Terms of Reference attached as Appendix 1, the Schedule of Dates attached as Appendix 2 and the Rules of Procedure attached as Appendix 3 be noted.

4.3 Current Licensing Programs

Mr David Tolley, Head of Consumer and Business Regulations introduced the report which detailed the current work programs that were planned for the Municipal Year 2014/15. The report also detailed the effective dates relating to the Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEV) Licensing agreed by Full Council on 26th March 2014. It was also noted that Members would receive separate training in relation to SEVs prior to any application being considered.

Mr Tolley then highlighted the current proactive work programs;

- a) Reducing the high strength alcohol offering across the Borough.
- b) Responsible Retailer Scheme
- c) Pub Watch
- d) Best Bar None scheme
- e) Tasking Meeting
- f) Licensing Enforcement Forum.
- g) Community Alcohol Partnership
- h) Late Night Inspections

Members then heard from Ms Cam Lieng, Licensing Officer who detailed the work program on the Community Alcohol Partnership she explained that it was a partnership project to tackle underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour within Bethnal Green and St Peter's Wards.

In response to questions it was noted that this program would be rolled out to other wards in the Borough and the results from this program would be available in six months.

Members welcomed the report and agreed that a further report is brought back to the Committee detailing results and the success of the project.

RESOLVED

1. That the current work programs of the service be noted.
2. That the effective dates for the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing be noted.
3. That a report on the success and results of the Community Alcohol Partnership be brought back to a future Licensing Committee meeting.

4.4 Update in Relation to Prosecutions and Appeals - 2013/2014

Mr Paul Greeno, Senior Advocate briefly introduced the report which detailed licensing related prosecutions and appeals for 2013/2014.

Members welcomed the report, noted the results of the prosecutions and appeals detailed in the report and thanked Mr Greeno for the information provided.

Members agreed that the Committee receive a quarterly report on prosecutions and appeals at Licensing Committee meetings.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

Members raised concerns about the Saturation Policy and its effect on restaurants and businesses. It was noted that the policy came into effect on 1st November 2013 and was subject to a review process.

Following a short discussion it was agreed that a detailed discussion was required on this topic. The Chair asked officers to present a report/presentation at the next meeting on the Saturation Policy, for Members to get a better understanding of the policy, its remits, and how things were currently working and the challenges faced with the policy.

The meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs
Licensing Committee