

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

Meeting of the Licensing and Regulation Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Gernon Road, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3JF on Monday, 14th October, 2024 at 7.30 pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Amy Allen, Ruth Brown, Steven Patmore and Stewart Willoughby.

2 MINUTES - 30 OCTOBER 2023

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 30 October 2023 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

3 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be recorded.
- (2) The Chair drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question.
- (3) The Chair advised for purposes of clarification that 4.8.23(a) of the constitution did apply to this meeting and Members were required to be present for the entirety of an Item to vote.
- (4) The Chair reminded the Committee to complete the IRP survey by Thursday 17 October 2024.
- (5) The Chair advised of a change in the order of the agenda. Agenda Item 7 followed by Item 8 would be considered after Agenda Item 5.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the following report will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

8 ANNUAL LICENSING REPORT 2023/24 - PART 2

The Licensing and Community Safety Manager presented Appendix C to the report entitled 'Annual Licensing Report 2023/24'.

6 ANNUAL LICENSING REPORT 2023/24 - PART 1

RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- (1) Reviewed the Annual Report and commented on its content.
- (2) Noted the Annual Report.
- (3) Requested that the Chair of the Licensing and Regulation Committee urgently writes to the Government to request that they review the Licensing Act fees set 19 years ago in 2005, to raise the fees and bring these in line with the current fiscal pressures in 2024.

REASON FOR DECISIONS: Section 8.2.3 of the Council Constitution requires the Full Committee to meet at least once per civic year and section 8.2.3 (d) requires the Committee 'to receive an annual report on licensing activities including performance information'.

9 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES 2025-2028

RESOLVED: That the Licensing and Regulation Committee considered the consultation responses and recommended the adoption of the policy appended at Appendix A to Full Council.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: That Council adopts the Statement of Gambling Principles 2025-2028 policy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) Licensing authorities are required to publish a policy every three years by virtue of section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act").
- (2) A new policy must be published by 3 January 2025 to comply with this statutory requirement.
- (3) The policy builds on the effectiveness of the existing policy with minor amendments to reflect changes in legislation, statutory guidance, consultation responses and an updated local area profile.

10 PAVEMENT LICENSING POLICY

RESOLVED: That the Committee adopted the Pavement Licensing Policy attached as Appendix A.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) The previous temporary licensing arrangements worked well therefore no further amendments are required, other than some clarification of previous condition wording.
- (2) The adoption of a policy ensures that applicants, licence holders, and the public have a clear understanding of the licensing process and objectives; it also ensures a consistent and transparent approach.

11 STREET TRADING POLICY

RESOLVED: That the Committee adopted the Street Trading Licensing Policy attached as Appendix A.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) The current policy is working well however some minor amendments are needed to ensure it remains fit for purpose.
- (2) The adoption of a policy ensures that applicants, licence holders, and the public have a clear understanding of the licensing process and objectives; it also ensures a consistent and transparent approach.