

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee**
held on Monday, 7th November, 2016 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor D Bebbington (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair)

Councillors Rhoda Bailey, E Brooks, C Chapman, T Dean, B Dooley, I Faseyi,
A Harewood, M Parsons, G Wait, M Warren and J Wray

OFFICERS PRESENT

Kim Evans, Licensing Team Leader
Peter Jones, Lawyer
Julie Zientek, Democratic Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors S Davies and L Smetham.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the following meetings be received:

(a) Licensing Act Sub-Committee meetings held on:

6 April 2016
18 April 2016
12 May 2016
2 June 2016
7 June 2016
1 August 2016
5 August 2016
15 August 2016

(b) General Licensing Sub-Committee meetings held on:

10 March 2016
6 April 2016
13 May 2016
1 July 2016
25 August 2016
21 September 2016

6 REVIEW OF LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/2018

The Committee considered a report regarding a review of the fees and charges for the issuing and renewal of licenses, consents and permits issued by the Licensing Team.

A number of fees were set by statute, while others could be set by Local Authorities in order to cover the cost of administration, compliance and some elements of enforcement. Where the Council had the discretion to set fees, they were subject to review. The current Locally Set Fees had remained at current levels for several years due to efficiency savings that had alleviated most budgetary pressures. Following a comprehensive evaluation, three increases were proposed which would enable the service to recover operating costs.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the fees payable as set out in appendix A to the report be approved.
- (b) That, in respect of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing, the Licensing Team Leader be authorised to publish the fees in accordance with the relevant legislative provisions.

7 CONSIDERATION OF THE LATE NIGHT LEVY BY THE LICENSING WORKING GROUP

The Committee considered a report outlining the findings of the Licensing Committee Working Group, which had been formed to consider whether the Council should consider imposing a Late Night Levy as a means of reducing the harmful effects of alcohol consumption within the Cheshire East area.

The Working Group had met with, and considered information provided by, a number of key stakeholders, including Cheshire Police, the Council's Public Health Team, licence holders and trade representatives.

The Working Group had identified a number of possible options in addition to the Late Night Levy, including Early Morning Restriction Orders, Designated Public Place Orders, voluntary and best practice schemes, and the review of licensed premises.

The Licensing Team Leader reported that, as recommended by the Working Group, prior to the adoption of the Council's next Statement of Licensing Policy, any policy review would consider areas that may benefit from designation as a 'Cumulative Impact Area'. Licensing officers would also continue to support the police in promoting and extending their Arc Angel project. In addition, the team would contribute to the work being undertaken across Cheshire and Merseyside with respect to the introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing.

RESOLVED –That the implementation of the Late Night Levy or an Early Morning Restriction Order is not appropriate at this time.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.17 pm

Councillor D Bebbington (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair)