

Licensing Committee

Wednesday, 19 October 2016

Attendees: Councillor Nick Cope, Councillor John Elliott, Councillor Dave Harris, Councillor Mike Hogg, Councillor Darius Laws, Councillor Patricia Moore, Councillor Lee Scordis, Councillor Jessica Scott-Boutell

Substitutes: Councillor Pauline Hazell (for Councillor Roger Buston)

9 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 25 May and 4 October 2016 were approved as a correct record.

10 House of Lords' Select Committee - Licensing Act 2003

Councillor Hogg (in respect of the fact that he was the premises licence holder of the Oak Tree Centre) declared his non-pecuniary interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure 7(5).

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Professional Services setting out the Council's response following the request for information on the operation of the Licensing Act 2003, from the House of Lords' Select Committee on licensing.

The Select Committee had been established in May 2016 to look at the effectiveness of the Licensing Act 2003. Local Authorities were requested to submit their views by way of written evidence and attached to the report was an outline of the response sent by the Licensing, Food Safety Manager; the original response had been submitted by way of an online form.

The Select Committee was gathering evidence in relation to the balance between the rights and responsibilities of both the industry and the public; the powers of enforcement authorities including the police; the impact that any greater availability of alcohol had had on the health of the population; whether the Act had made it easier or harder for communities to enjoy activities that had to be licensed under the Act; the role of licensing in shaping local areas for the benefit of the economy and the local community; minimum unit pricing and its potential impact; and the fees and costs associated with the Act. The Select Committee was expected to report on its findings in March 2017.

The Committee gave consideration to the questions and response that had been

submitted and in particular welcomed the inclusion of a licensing objective to cover health and the suggested changes to the late night levy which may enable the Council to target any such introduction to the town centre. These were both matters that had been raised in Committee discussions and with officers on numerous occasions.

RESOLVED that the consultation response be noted.