

Extract from the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting on 11 January 2017

15. Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Professional Services inviting the Committee to consider the proposed amendments to the Licensing Policy and proposing the adoption of the revised policy to full Council.

Mr Ruder, Licensing, Food and Safety Manager gave a brief introduction to the proposed amendments to the Licensing Policy with particular emphasis on a number of key changes

SOS Bus. The paragraph in relation to the SOS bus would be strengthened to highlight that the bus was funded by voluntary contributions and therefore that the support of the licensed trade was essential to its continued operation and to the mitigation of any impact caused by licensed premises in the town centre.

The inclusion of the expectation that licence holders were expected to operate their premises in line with the application and commitments given to the Committee in order to gain their licence

The inclusion of additional categories of venues, including garages and camping venues in the Matrix and minor adjustment to time for non-alcohol led premises. Inclusion of paragraphs on the primary use of the premises and the need to demonstrate an exceptional case to justify departure from the Policy

The inclusion of paragraph dealing with the opening hours of premises

Amendments to the Special Policy for the Old Town Zone. Removing the times associated with the venue types and Changes to the categories of venues to make clear what is encouraged and what there is a strong presumption against.

It was suggested by the Committee that the word “only” be deleted from paragraph 3.28 of the report as this might unduly restrict the Council when considering applications.

In discussion, Sally Harrington, Planning, Licensing Service Manager informed the Committee that the town centre had experienced the quietest Christmas in the last five years in terms of incidents and but that the town had been busy. This was attributed to the success of collaborative working by licensed premises. The Committee welcomed this good news, which it believed was a consequence of the hard work by Licensing Officers, both in terms of enforcement and in developing a strong and effective policy.

The Committee also suggested that in future it should look at the use of CCTV and the possibility of bodycams for door staff. These would be particularly useful as they captured sound.

RESOLVED that the amended Statement of Licensing Policy be agreed with the exception of the word 'only' to be omitted from paragraph 3.28, under KF4 – Standards to promote the licensing objectives.

RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that the amended Statement of Licensing Policy be approved and adopted and included in the Policy Framework.