

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes and report to Council of the meeting of the Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted on the 16th November 2021 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Stamp (Chair), C.White (Vice-Chair), Farr, Flower, Groves, Mills and Steeds

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Botten, Connolly and Mansfield

177. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH MAY 2021

These minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

178. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Colin White declared that he was treasurer of the South Godstone Sports Club and was involved in applying for licences (on the Club's behalf) to the Council.

179. CONSULTATION ON REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2021-2026

The Committee considered a proposed draft Statement of Licensing Policy to replace the current version which had originally been adopted for the period 2015-2020. As explained within the covering report, the key revisions in the new version were:

- to reflect changes in legislation, such as the Immigration Act 2016 and the Policing and Crime Act 2017
- a new section for the 'Council's aspirations and vision for the place' (section 7) and to ensure that the policy supports the Council's Strategic Plan
- to consider the implications of pandemics and the potential for licensed premises to spread viruses by contravening health regulations – this could, for example, relate to the licensing objective of preventing crime and disorder (section 8)
- to refer to the shared Tandridge and Mole Valley licensing service which, while enabling shared expertise and greater resilience, still allowed for the two Authorities to retain separate policies and decision-making processes (section 12)
- to improve the information regarding expectations for the risk assessments that should be undertaken prior to submitting an application (particularly section 20)
- a new section for alcohol delivery services, with improved guidance on controls which the Council would expect to be in place (section 22)

- a new section on ‘music entertainment at alcohol licensed premises’ (section 25) as a consequence of the Live Music Act 2012 and the fact that the Council could impose conditions regarding music following a review of a premises licence which had been triggered by a noise nuisance.

Paul Holliday, the Senior Licensing Officer, explained the above changes and responded to Members’ questions about these and other aspects of the policy. Issues raised by Members included:

- the cost implications for those businesses having to use alternatives to glassware on licenced premises, or at licensable events, should be taken into account
- the new policy should reflect the need for:
 - outdoor event organisers to take weather conditions into account when preparing risk assessments;
 - licence holders to ensure adherence to food safety requirements
- the role and status of Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs)

Paul Holliday explained that food safety aspects were already covered by separate inspection regimes undertaken by Environmental Health and Trading Standards teams. He also referred to the guidance in section 23 of the draft policy concerning large scale events, i.e. that organisers were strongly advised to seek guidance from SAGs, even though SAGs had no statutory powers.

The Chair asked if it would be possible for the website to enable residents to post comments about premises licence applications in the same way as they could for planning applications via the planning portal (notwithstanding the fact that determinations would still be subject to current due process in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003). Paul Holliday advised that, while the licensing team was not sufficiently resourced to administer a public comments section on the website, the existing licensing content could be improved, for example to:

- reflect amendments to licensing applications during the consultation process; and
- confirm receipt of representations and whether applications would be proceeding to hearings.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and, subject to the inclusion of the following additional bullet point under section 20.2.3 (Risk Assessment / Public Safety)

- *Measures to take account of expected and potential impacts on outdoor events by the weather ...*

... the draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-26, as attached at Annex A to the report, be approved for consultation.

Rising 8.03 pm