

SPECIAL MEETING OF LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12th September, 2012 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 3, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Bills (Chair)
Councillors Mrs. Ameson, M Aston, K Finch, James, Roberts, Russell,
Taylor and Woodall.

Officers:-

Trading Standards Manager (Directorate of the Urban Environment),
Licensing Officer, Mr T Holder, Solicitor and Miss K Fellows (Directorate
of Corporate Resources).

Also in Attendance

Sergeant J Bloomer West Midlands Police.

5. **OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair welcomed the return of Councillor Woodall following a period
of illness and thanked all those Members who have acted as substitutes
for Councillor Woodall during that period.

6. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of
Councillors Blood, Cowell and Hanif.

7. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the
Members' Code of Conduct.

8. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 24th
May, 2012, be approved as a correct record and signed.

9. GAMBLING POLICY

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the responses to the consultation of the Council's draft Gambling Policy. Appended to the report submitted were the draft Gambling Policy and emails and letters regarding the consultation on the Policy.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and appendices to the report submitted, be noted.
 - (2) That the Cabinet be recommended to recommend to Council that the draft Gambling Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be approved.
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10. REVIEW OF POLICY FOR HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS LICENCES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the review of the application procedure policy for House to House Collections Licences.

The Chair introduced the report submitted, stating that she has had requested that the application procedure policy for House to House Collections Licences be reviewed and outlined the reasons for that request.

In presenting the report submitted, the Licensing Officer outlined the reasons for the proposed amendment to the policy indicated in paragraph 9 of the report.

The Licensing Officer also suggested that the Council arrange to a press release in order to raise public awareness in relation to those collections that were legitimate and those which were not.

In responding to a Member's question in relation to requesting proof of identification from collectors, Sergeant Bloomer outlined the risks in opening doors to strangers.

The Trading Standards Manager suggested that as a means of raising public awareness the contact number for Trading Standards should be included in order that possible enforcement action could be taken against the perpetrators of bogus collections.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted, be noted.
- (2) That the Cabinet be recommended to recommend to Council that the Policy for House to House Collections Licences be amended in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraph 9 of the report submitted.
- (3) That the Licensing Officer in conjunction with Trading Standards and the Police arrange a press release in order to raise public awareness relating to legitimate and bogus house to house collections.

11. UNDERAGE SALES

A joint report of the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of the Urban Environment was submitted on the work undertaken in partnership with the Police, Trading Standards and Licensing in relation to the sale of alcohol to children under the age of 18.

Sergeant Bloomer reported that the Police received approximately three to four hundred calls each month in relation to alcohol fuelled anti social behaviour and under age drinkers were reluctant to identify where the alcohol was purchased or by whom.

He also advised that all intelligence was shared with Trading Standards in order that enforcement action could be taken and test purchasing undertaken.

The Trading Standards Manager advised that the effects of anti social behaviour was a major problem for all involved and work was conducted with the Police and the Safe and Sound Partnership in order to tackle the problems. He indicated that mapping intelligence was undertaken in order that resources could be targeted in the most appropriate areas given the limited funding available to deal with under age sales.

He also outlined Trading Standards powers of enforcement and referred to the results achieved for 2010/11 and 2011/12 as contained in paragraph seventeen of the report submitted.

Members supported the work undertaken by all parties involved in relation to under age sales.

Councillor James raised concerns in relation to purchasing alcohol by utilising self service check outs in major supermarkets and the Trading Standards Manager undertook to investigate the matter and respond direct to Councillor James.

In responding to a question from Mr T Holder, Solicitor, the Trading Standards Manager advised that the Home Office had issued guidance in relation to enforcement action stating that the action should be a proportionate response and that the guidelines were followed by Trading Standards Officers and that persistent offenders were usually prosecuted.

In responding to a question from a Member the Licensing Officer advised that enforcement action would be taken against the premises and not the individual and that strong partnership work continued with the Police, Trading Standards and the Licensing sections of the Council.

RESOLVED

That the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting on the work undertaken to combat the sale of alcohol to children under the age of 18, be noted and that the thanks of the Chair, on behalf of the Committee be recorded to the Police, Licensing and Trading Standards for the work conducted in order to combat underage sales.

The meeting ended at 6.45pm

CHAIRMAN