

## **Minutes of Licensing and Safety Committee**

Monday, 23rd February, 2015 at 5.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 2, The Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor D Russell (Chair)  
Councillor K.Finch (Vice Chair)  
Councillors D.Blood, J.Cowell, D.Hemingsley,  
R.James, C.Perks, M.Roberts, A.Taylor, E.Taylor and H.Turner

### **Officers:-**

Mr. R.Clark (Principal Solicitor), Mrs.L.Rouse(Licensing Clerk) and Mr. J. Jablonski (Democratic Services) (All Directorate of Resources and Transformation).

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8                    Apology for absence

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor S Etheridge .

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9                    Declarations of Interest

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

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10                  Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed.

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11                  Revision of Licence Fees

A report of the Strategic Director, Resources and Transformation was submitted on the proposed revision of fees for licences and consents, other than those where the fees are imposed by statute in respect of liquor licensing, gambling machine permits and lotteries and amusements.

Arising from a presentation of the content of the report, and its Appendix, Members raised concerns about the low level of fees charged when compared with other Authorities and with particular reference to the fees for a street trading consent. The adverse impact on shop traders of such low fees was also raised.

Suggestions were then made as to revised arrangements for charging for street trading consents including the use of daily and differentiated day and weekly rates. The inclusion of items not currently charged for, for example cost of cleaning up after a market and use of electricity, was also suggested. It was also considered that the use of daily and weekly rates would free up spaces enabling others to trade and overall would increase revenue.

In addition to considering fees to be charged therefore it was considered that a review should be carried out of the fees charged for, and terms and conditions of, street trading consents.

Consideration was then given to the level of fees to be charged in 2015/16 and, following votes during which a proposal to increase fees by 5% across the board was lost, a 2% increase was agreed upon together with the review in relation to street trading consents referred to.

It was noted that the licensing function would in due course be transferring from the Directorate of Resources and Transformation to the Directorate of Environment, Economy and Housing.

#### RESOLVED

1. That approval be given to an increase of 2%, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015, in respect of fees for licences and consents, other than those where the fees are imposed by statute in respect of liquor licensing, gambling machine permits and lotteries and amusements, as set out in column (2) of Table A of the report submitted.
  2. That Officers be requested to submit to the first meeting of this Committee in the new municipal year, in May, 2015, a brief presentation on proposals to review the way fees are charged for street trading consents, in the light of the discussion held at this meeting, with a view to reporting to a further meeting in October/November with proposals and having consulted amongst other current holders of street trading consents.
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The meeting ended at 5.38 p.m.