

LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30th July, 2024
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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Present: Councillor Joan Whieldon (Chair)

Councillors: Heesom Wright G Williams
Sweeney Allport Whitmore
Adcock J Williams Brown

Apologies: Councillor(s) Wilkes and Dymond

Substitutes: Councillor David Hutchison (In place of Councillor Ian Wilkes)
Councillor Lesley Richards (In place of Councillor Sylvia Dymond)

Officers: Geoff Durham Civic & Member Support Officer
Gillian Taylor Housing Manager

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was observed for the victims of the Southport attack at the request of Cllr J. Williams.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO LICENSING MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th June 2024 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IN LICENSED PAVEMENT AREAS / OFF-SALES

Consideration was given to a report informing the Committee of a Home Office consultation that had recently closed in relation to proposed amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 to support businesses with alcohol consumption within licensed pavement licence areas and off-sales of alcohol. The Council had submitted a response to the consultation prior to the closing date.

Cllrs Sweeney and J. Williams expressed their support to the report and response provided to the consultation in favour of option number 2, which was to amend the Licensing Act to extend the definition of on-sales so that it includes consumption in a licenced pavement area.

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The Chair welcomed the promotion of the café-culture to encourage people to shop and spend time in the town centre.

Resolved: That the contents of the report be noted.

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5. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES (GAMBLING POLICY)

Consideration was given to a report on the consultation process for the Council's Gambling Policy in accordance with Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 which set a statutory duty for local authorities to review their gambling statement every three years.

Cllr Sweeney expressed his support to the report and recommendations.

Resolved:

1. That the report be received.
2. That the draft Gambling Policy for Newcastle-under-Lyme be approved.
3. That the commencement of the 6-week consultation be approved.
4. That any responses received to the consultation be considered by the Committee at the meeting to be held on 29th October 2024 and that recommendations of this Committee be included in the final report to Full Council.
5. That the updated Policy be presented for approval to Full Council at its meeting on 20th November 2024.

[Watch the debate here](#)

6. MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Resolved: That the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting held on 12th July 2024 be received.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

8. FOOD SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2024/25 AND REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE IN 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report making the Committee aware of the work planned by the Food and Safety team for 2024/25 in line with the Food Standards Agency framework agreement and statutory Code of Practice along with a review of the previous year's performance.

The Chair shared her appreciation of the quality of the report and even more so considering the small team.

Cllr Brown enquired about the increase in food hygiene incidents requiring improvement and wished for the officer to elaborate on the kind of issues that would come up.

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– This would mostly relate to management / daily running activities such as a fridge temperature or cleaning reference being up to date or whether the staff had a food hygiene certificate – the paperwork required for inspections.

Cllr Williams commented on the importance of the work carried out by officers with regard to the impact of food contaminations on health services.

Cllr Sweeney commended officers for their passion for what they did.

Cllr Hutchison reported having attended two inspections with officers which each lasted two hours. Everything had been checked in details.

Cllr G. Williams shared her enthusiasm on the Council's health department and the work achieved over the past 30 years.

Resolved: That the Food Safety Service Plan for 2024/25 be received and endorsed.

[Watch the debate here](#)

9. MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Resolved: That the minutes of the Public Protection Sub-Committee meeting held on 12th June 2024 be received.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

11. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There were no confidential items.

**Councillor Joan Whieldon
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.31 pm