

## **LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 18th March, 2025  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Joan Whieldon (Chair)		
Councillors:	Johnson	Adcock	G Williams
	Barker MBE	Dymond	Whitmore
	Heesom	Allport	Brown
	Sweeney	J Williams	
Apologies:	Councillor(s) Wilkes, Skelding and Wright		
Substitutes:	Councillor David Hutchison (In place of Councillor Ian Wilkes)		
Officers:	Matthew Burton	Licensing Lead for Regulatory Services	
	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer	
	Gillian Taylor	Housing Manager	
	Tracy Farrell	Environmental Protection Interim Manager	
	Robert Thomas	Environmental Health Officer	

### **1. MINUTE OF SILENCE**

A minute of silence was observed for the passing of the Mayor of Newcastle under-Lyme Cllr Barry Panter.

### **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 meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

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### **4. ALCOHOL OFF SALES REGULATORY EASEMENT - CONSULTATION RESULT**

The Licensing Lead for Regulatory Services presented the report on the outcomes of a Home Office consultation in relation to proposed amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 around the off-sales of alcohol. Regulatory easements were brought in during the Coronavirus pandemic to support businesses and were due to end on 31<sup>st</sup> March unless made permanent.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

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**5. RELAXATION OF LICENSING HOURS FOR THE 2025 WOMEN'S UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Licensing Lead for Regulatory Services presented the report on a Home Office consultation towards allowing certain licensed premises to open later than their normal hours for the semi-final and final matches of the 2025 Women's European Championships, should a 'Home Nations' team progress to that stage.

Cllr Allport expressed his support to the measures, commenting that this had worked well in the past, bringing revenues to the pubs and taxi drivers.

**Resolved:** 1. That the contents of the report be noted;  
2. That the proposed response be submitted prior to the consultation Closing, be agreed.

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**6. MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 be received.

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**7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

**8. CONSULTATION RESPONSES IN RELATION TO THE REVOCATION OF, AND CHANGES TO, EXISTING SMOKE CONTROL AREAS**

The Environmental Protection Interim Manager presented the report on the consultation responses in relation to the revocation of existing smoke control areas, and proposed declaration of a new single Borough wide smoke control area amidst the two options submitted to members.

Cllr J Williams commented that a lot of indoors damp issues affecting properties could be mitigated by simple actions such as opening windows and moving furniture away from the walls, which should be communicated to residents.

Cllr Adcock said that people living in rural areas would benefit from learning about the existence of moisture control fuel which reduced the amount of smoke and consequences on air quality.

Cllr Sweeney expressed his support to Cllr Adcock's suggestion and for the second recommendation in favour of a single smoke control area that would give residents two years to get rid of their existing stock.

The Chair supported Cllr J Williams comments and said a lot could be done to prevent damp which people were not necessarily doing.

Cllr Brown enquired about approved appliances.

The Environmental Protection Interim Manager advised that the traditional wood burner as pictured in her presentation was a good example.

Cllrs Hutchison and Whitmore supported Cllrs J Williams, Adcock and Sweeney's comments in favour of the second recommendation.

Cllr G Williams asked if landlords could also be informed of best practices so that tenants are not the ones penalised.

The Chair responded that information would have to be sent out in two separate lots, one addressed to landlords and the other ones to the tenants.

Cllr Brown enquired about enforcement measures.

The Environmental Protection Interim Manager advised that enforcement was difficult hence the priority given to education and adequate communication. Investigation would be undertaken in case of a particular persistent problem.

The Chair asked about barbecues and garden burning.

The Environmental Protection Interim Manager responded that while this was outside of the scope of smoke control areas and fell under nuisance related legislation, the communication plan could include information on issues such as how to dispose of garden waste.

The Chair brought the recommendations to the vote and the second option was picked unanimously by members.

**Resolved:** That the consultation representations be reviewed and the following be agreed:

- that the existing 21 smoke control areas be revoked and amalgamated to form one single smoke control area covering urban areas (including those identified for future development in the Emerging Local Plan);
- that the Emerging Newcastle-under-Lyme Local Plan – Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council – expand by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2027 to cover the whole borough, (taking into account the outcome of further work to identify households with sole dependency on solid fuel for heating purposes).

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## **9. MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be received.

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## **10. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

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There were no confidential items.

**11. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

**Councillor Joan Whieldon  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.31 pm