

LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025

Present: Cllrs Derek Beer (Chair), Les Fry, Craig Monks, Andrew Starr and Kate Wheller

Apologies: Cllrs Louise Bown, Jill Haynes, Cathy Lugg, David Morgan, Emma Parker, Jane Somper and Sarah Williams

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Lara Altree (Senior Lawyer - Regulatory), John Miles (Democratic Services Officer), John Newcombe (Service Manager for Licensing & Community Safety) and Louis Wicks (Democratic Services Officer Apprentice)

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2024 were confirmed and signed.

14. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

15. Public Participation

There were no questions or participation from the public.

16. Statement of Licensing Policy 2026-2031

The Service Manager for Licensing and Community Safety, John Newcombe, introduced the report.

It was explained that the Statement of Licensing Policy is due for renewal, as there is a requirement to review and publish every five years. The Committee was asked to give authority to go out to consultation for no less than eight weeks, which would allow time to bring back any relevant representations received to this Committee, and take a report to Full Council on the 10th of February for approval. Updates had been made to dates and addresses including department names. Not much needed changing due to the fact the policy was mostly up to date.

The Service Manager explained that Central Government was looking to introduce a new licensing objective related to economic development. After consultation it was suggested that a public health objective be included to counter that the new policy would make it easier for businesses to extend their hours and give more access to temporary event notices. The Service Manager Expected to have to do a full re-write next year.

There was a cumulative impact area in Weymouth that would be retained in the updated Policy but reviewed in the re-write next year.

In response to a member question the Service Manager responded that they were trying to persuade the government to change the fees for Licensing. TEN fees are £21 which did not cover the cost of putting the application on the system and had asked Central Government if they allowed changes to TENs then to review the fees alongside it. Changes to these fees were being campaigned for.

Proposed by Councillor Les Fry and seconded by Councillor Kate Wheller.

Decision: That the draft Licensing Policy 2021-2026 be published for a period of public consultation of no less than 8 weeks.

17. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

18. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10:01 - 10:34 am

Chairman

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