

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Record of decisions taken at the meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held
Council Chamber, Woodgreen, Witney on **Friday, 28 May 2021** at 2.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillors: Councillor Norman MacRae MBE (Chairman), Councillor Steve Good (Vice-Chair), Councillor Mike Cahill, Councillor Julian Cooper, Councillor Harry Eaglestone, Councillor Ted Fenton, Councillor Lysette Nicholls and Councillor Geoff Saul

Officers: Michelle Bignell, Service Leader Licensing; Amy Bridgewater-Carnall, Senior Strategic Support Officer; Michelle Ouzman, Strategic Support Officer and Debra Courtenay- Crane, Licensing Officer

1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2 Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Owen Collins; Councillor Julian Cooper substituted for Councillor Andy Graham.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman addressed the Committee and advised them that a long standing member of the Licensing Team, Debra Courtenay-Crane was leaving the authority. He thanked her for her hard work over previous years and recognised a number of achievements she had received in relation to gymnastics and her contribution to sport in the community. He acknowledged that many Councillors would have worked with Mrs Courtenay-Crane at some stage in relation to the licensing of taxi drivers or at one of the many events organised across the District. He wished Mrs Courtenay-Crane all the best in her future endeavours.

The Chairman then went on to advise Members that the Licensing Training due to take place today had to be postponed due to officer ill health. He assured the meeting that a date would be rearranged shortly.

5 Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles (Policy) Review 2021

The Committee received a report from the Licensing Service Leader which detailed the statutory requirement to review the current Gambling Policy and provided Members with the draft document for consultation.

The report explained that the Council was the Licensing Authority for the purposes of the Gambling Act 2005 ("the Act"). The Act required the Council to prepare a Statement of

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Principles (Licensing Policy) which set out the general approach the Council would take when carrying out its regulatory role under the Act. The current Statement of Principles was due to expire in January 2022 and a new Statement of Principles needed to be in place by 31 January 2022.

As the legislation and statutory guidance had remained unchanged, there had been no major changes to the draft policy attached at Annex A to the report. The only change made was the removal of a reference to shared partnership working so that the draft document was solely for West Oxfordshire District Council.

The report proposed to carry out a full consultation for a period of twelve weeks and a list of consultees was detailed at section 2.5 of the report.

Comments would be reported back to the Licensing Committee later in 2021, with a view to a recommendation being made to the Council to adopt the Policy at its meeting on 27 October 2021.

The Chairman, Councillor MacRae, introduced the report and highlighted the minor change in wording of the Policy. He proposed that the recommendations be approved.

Having read the report and considered the draft Statement of Principles, the Committee

Resolved that a consultation exercise to seek the views of the trade and relevant stakeholders on the revised Policy, is approved.

The Meeting closed at 2.15 pm

Licensing Committee Chairman