Public Document Pack

LicensingCommittee

Mon 19 Jul 2010 7.00 pm

Committee Room 2 Town Hall Redditch



Access to Information - Your Rights

The Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 widened the rights of press and public to attend Local Authority meetings and to see certain documents. Recently the Freedom of Information Act 2000, has further broadened these rights, and limited exemptions under the 1985 Act.

Your main rights are set out below:-

- Automatic right to attend all Council and Committee meetings unless the business would disclose confidential or "exempt" information.
- Automatic right to inspect agenda and public reports at least five days before the date of the meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect minutes of the Council and its Committees (or summaries of business

- undertaken in private) for up to six years following a meeting.
- Automatic right to inspect lists of background papers used in the preparation of public reports.
- Access, upon request, to the background papers on which reports are based for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting.
- Access to a public register stating the names and addresses and electoral areas of all Councillors with details of the membership of all Committees etc.
- A reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports relating to items to be considered in public must be made available to the public attending meetings of the Council and its Committees etc.

- Access to a list specifying those powers which the Council has delegated to its Officers indicating also the titles of the Officers concerned.
- Access to a summary of the rights of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees etc. and to inspect and copy documents.
- In addition, the public now has a right to be present when the Council determines "Key Decisions" unless the business would disclose confidential or "exempt" information.
- Unless otherwise stated, all items of business before the <u>Executive Committee</u> are Key Decisions.
- (Copies of Agenda Lists are published in advance of the meetings on the Council's Website:

www.redditchbc.gov.uk

If you have any queries on this Agenda or any of the decisions taken or wish to exercise any of the above rights of access to information, please contact

Denise Sunman

Committee Support Services

Town Hall, Walter Stranz Square, Redditch, B98 8AH
Tel: (01527) 64252 ext 3270 Fax: (01527) 65216
e.mail: denise.sunman@redditchbc.gov.uk Minicom: 595528

Welcome to today's meeting. Guidance for the Public

Agenda Papers

The **Agenda List** at the front of the Agenda summarises the issues to be discussed and is followed by the Officers' full supporting **Reports**.

Chair

The Chair is responsible for the proper conduct of the meeting. Generally to one side of the Chair is the Committee Support Officer who gives advice on the proper conduct of the meeting and ensures that the debate and the decisions are properly recorded. On the Chair's other side are the relevant Council Officers. The Councillors ("Members") of the Committee occupy the remaining seats around the table.

Running Order

Items will normally be taken in the order printed but, in particular circumstances, the Chair may agree to vary the order.

Refreshments: tea, coffee and water are normally available at meetings - please serve yourself.

Decisions

Decisions at the meeting will be taken by the **Councillors** who are the democratically elected representatives. They are advised by **Officers** who are paid professionals and do not have a vote.

Members of the Public

Members of the public may, by prior arrangement, speak at meetings of the Council or its Committees. Specific procedures exist for Appeals Hearings or for meetings involving Licence or Planning Applications. For further information on this point, please speak to the Committee Support Officer.

Special Arrangements

If you have any particular needs, please contact the Committee Support Officer.

Infra-red devices for the hearing impaired are available on request at the meeting. Other facilities may require prior arrangement.

Further Information

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Support Officer (see foot of page opposite).

Fire/ Emergency instructions

If the alarm is sounded, please leave the building by the nearest available exit – these are clearly indicated within all the Committee Rooms.

If you discover a fire, inform a member of staff or operate the nearest alarm call point (wall mounted red rectangular box). In the event of the fire alarm sounding, leave the building immediately following the fire exit signs. Officers have been appointed with responsibility to ensure that all visitors are escorted from the building.

Do Not stop to collect personal belongings.

Do Not use lifts.

Do Not re-enter the building until told to do so.

The emergency
Assembly Area is on
Walter Stranz Square.

Declaration of Interests: Guidance for Councillors

DO I HAVE A "PERSONAL INTEREST"?

 Where the item relates or is likely to affect your registered interests (what you have declared on the formal Register of Interests)

OR

 Where a decision in relation to the item might reasonably be regarded as affecting your own well-being or financial position, or that of your family, or your close associates more than most other people affected by the issue,

you have a personal interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? Declare the existence, and nature, of your interest and stay

- The declaration must relate to specific business being decided a general scattergun approach is not needed
- Exception where interest arises only because of your membership of another public body, there is no need to declare unless you speak on the matter.
- You can vote on the matter.

IS IT A "PREJUDICIAL INTEREST"?

In general only if:-

- It is a personal interest <u>and</u>
- The item affects your financial position (or conveys other benefits), or the position of your family, close associates or bodies through which you have a registered interest (or relates to the exercise of regulatory functions in relation to these groups)

and

• A member of public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably believe the interest was likely to **prejudice** your judgement of the public interest.

WHAT MUST I DO? Declare and Withdraw

BUT you may make representations to the meeting before withdrawing, **if** the public have similar rights (such as the right to speak at Planning Committee).





Licensing

7.00 pm Committee Room 2 Town Hall

19th July 2010

Committee

Cllrs:

Ag	en	da
----	----	----

Mem	bersh	iip:	

Michael Braley (Chair)
Anita Clayton (Vice-Chair)
Kath Banks
Michael Chalk
Simon Chalk
Jack Cookson
Andrew Fry
Adam Griffin
Bill Hartnett
Nigel Hicks
Robin King
Wanda King
Jinny Pearce
Brenda Quinney

Carole Gandy

		Carole Garidy
1.	Apologies	To receive the apologies of any Member who is unable to attend this meeting.
2.	Declarations of Interest	To invite Councillors to declare any interests they may have in items on the agenda.
3.	Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)	To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 3rd June 2010. (Minutes attached)
4.	Licensing Act 2003 - Licensing Manager's Half Yearly Report S Jorden, Head of Regulatory Services	To consider a half yearly report on the Licensing Act 2003 from the Council's Licensing Manager. (Oral report)
		(No Specific Ward Relevance)

Committee 19th July 2010

6.	Licensing Act 2003 - Worcestershire County Council - Half Yearly Report S Wilkes, Worcestershire County Council	To consider a half yearly report on the Licensing Act 2003 from Worcestershire County Council's Trading Standards Manager. (Oral report) (No Specific Ward Relevance)
7.	Premises Licensing - Update on Implementation of Recommendations arising from visit to Cardiff, 2007	To consider an update on the implementation of recommendations arising from the visit to Cardiff in 2007. (Report attached)
	(Pages 5 - 26)	
	Head of Community Services	(No Specific Ward Relevance)
8.	Taxi Rank, Evesham Road - Update report	To provide an up-date following the site visit on 25th June 2010.
	(Pages 27 - 40)	(Report attached)
	S Jorden, Head of Regulatory Services	(Headless Cross & Oakenshaw Ward)
9.	Licensing - Regulation of Sexual Encounters Venues	To consider a report regarding the regulation of Sexual Encounters Venues under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
	(Pages 41 - 52)	(Report attached)
	S Jorden, Head of Regulatory Services	All Wards
10.	Committee Work	To consider the work programme for 2009/10.
Programme 2009/10		(Report attached)
	(Pages 53 - 54)	
	Chief Executive	(No Direct Ward Relevance)

Committee 19th July 2010

11. Exclusion of the Public

It may be necessary, in the opinion of the Chief Executive, to consider excluding the public form the meeting in relation to the following items of business on the grounds that exempt information is likely to be divulged. It may be necessary, therefore, to move the following resolution:

"that, under S.100 I of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information (Variation) Order 2006, the public may be excluded from the meeting for the following matters(s) on the grounds that it/they involve(s) the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs (to be specified) of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the said Act, as amended."



Committee

3rd June 2010

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Michael Braley (Chair), Councillor Anita Clayton (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Michael Chalk, Simon Chalk, Andrew Fry, Carole Gandy, Robin King and Wanda King

Also Present:

Councillor J Brunner (Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services)

Officers:

S Garratt and A Teepe

Committee Officers:

5. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Banks, Hartnett and Pearce.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17th May 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

8. TAXI RANK, EVESHAM ROAD - OBJECTIONS

Members were asked to consider a report that outlined objections to proposals to site additional and alternative taxi ranks on Evesham Road, Headless Cross.

The Licensing Manager reported that further to Minute 25 of the meeting of this Committee held on 25th January 2010, the

Chair	r

Committee 3rd June 2010

approved proposals had been publicised as required by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. These proposals included the provision of an additional Hackney Carriage rank for 6/7 spaces outside Steps Bistro and the re-siting of the current provision of 3 spaces situated outside the White Hart on the pavement; to the roadside opposite the White Hart public house.

Councillor Gandy, in her role as a Ward Councillor for Headless Cross and Oakenshaw, reported that she had withdrawn her support for the proposals for the following reasons:

- the proposals would only increase the number of taxi ranks by 6 bays. However there could be 30 – 40 taxis in the area on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights either parked in exactly the same places as at present or cruising up and down the road waiting for a taxi rank space to become available.
- 2) the big parking problems in the area are at the Dog and Pheasant, which has no parking and the Council's sheltered housing scheme at Headley Court, which provides parking for residents' only and is over subscribed. Residential properties fronting onto that part of Evesham Road do not have garages or drives and have no opportunities for off-street parking. She highlighted that parking is an issue for a number of shops and, in particular, the hairdressers.

Councillor Gandy withdrew from the meeting at this point because of her prior involvement as a Ward Councillor.

Members were informed that the response of Worcestershire County Council, as Highways Authority, following further consultation had been as follows:

"The intention of the proposal from a traffic management/road safety perspective is to remove the inappropriate taxi rank from the footway, which is deemed a safety hazard. The loss of this facility would be offset by the utilisation of the bus stop clearway areas for taxis during the evening and also the additional provision of taxi facilities outside Steps public house. There will actually be a net increase in taxi ranks spaces available, which will help to formalise taxi parking and therefore minimise indiscriminate parking which currently takes place. Regardless of these proposals going forward, we are obliged to remove the unofficial marking from the pavement area, and we would encourage Redditch Borough Council to remove any formal Hackney Carriage Stand Order that may exist. We wouldn't support the general principle of a lay-by when facilities can be accommodated within existing highway

Committee 3rd June 2010

arrangements as proposed. I would also say that a lay-by at this location would leave a substandard footway width and interfere with visibility from the pub accesses".

Redditch Taxi Association had responded to the consultation stating that:

"they feel the implementation of these new and revised ranks would improve the congestion problems and that noise and anti social behaviour problems would increase if no rank provision in that area was provided."

The Chair tabled a letter dated 2nd June 2010 from PC S Worley (784), the Beat Officer for Headless Cross and Oakenshaw, which withdrew Police support for the proposed changes based on resident's objections and the inability to enforce any changes. The Licensing Manager reported that she had not been informed by the Police prior to the meeting that they intended to withdraw their support for the proposals.

Members were informed that other objections had been received as follows:

	NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS		CTIONS
REASON	PETITION 1	PETITION 2	LETTERS OF OBJECTION
Parking spaces needed for staff and customers	35		1
Resident and visitor parking needs	14	11	11
Unspecified parking needs	19	2	
Window cleaning	1		
Noise	9	1	
No requirement for change	4	1	
No taxis	13		
No parking	17		
Dangerous		5	
Blocking the church		1	

Committee 3rd June 2010

	NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS		
REASON	PETITION 1	PETITION 2	LETTERS OF OBJECTION
Taxis obstructing access and parking on double yellow lines		1	1
Too many taxis		2	
Taxis turning in driveway		1	
Road congestion		4	
Nuisance		1	
Not discussed		1	
Vomit, urine and damage to business premises			2

RESOLVED that

- that a decision on the proposals be deferred pending a late night site visit on 18th or 25th June 2010;
- 2. that Officers investigate the possible utilisation of local business parking at night for taxis; and
- 3. that Officers clarify Police information regarding the proposals and invite a representative to attend the meeting on 19th July 2010.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and closed at 7.40 pm

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

PREMISES LICENSING - UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM VISIT TO CARDIFF, 2007

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr J Brunner
Relevant Head of Service	Angie Heighway, Head of Community Services
Non Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report provides an update on progress made in implementing recommendations made by Redditch Community Safety Partnership designed to prevent and reduce violent crime and disorder associated with licensed premises and the wider night-time economy.

These recommendations affected Redditch Borough Council services and other local agencies, and were contained in the report "Findings from visit to Cardiff – licensing and regulation of the night time economy" (abbreviated to "the Cardiff Report") which was presented to the Licensing Committee in December 2007

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE

- 1) that the report be noted; and
- 2) Members request further updates on the Licensed Premises Risk Assessments

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 During 2007, representatives from Redditch Borough Council, West Mercia Police, and Worcestershire County Council, undertook a review of the Redditch Community Safety Partnership's approach to regulating the local night-time economy (NTE) with the particular aim of reducing associated violent crime and disorder.
- 3.2 The review was based on national research showing a strong connection between alcohol, NTEs and violent crime & disorder. Further, the research identified that social and physical environmental factors in licensed premises predict levels of aggression, disorder and violence within and in

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

the vicinity of these premises. It was observed that the licensing system provides a means of influencing and controlling premises' environmental factors.

3.3 A key aspect of this review was a multi-agency visit to Cardiff, where local agencies had received national recognition for their approach to these issues.

In particular Cardiff's approach had been credited with achieving:

- a) A 30% reduction in hospital Accident and Emergency Unit attendance due to assault injury between 2003 and 2007.
- b) Reductions in violent crime, which saw Cardiff make substantial improvements in its position relative to similar Community Safety Partnerships between 2002-03 and 2006.
- 3.4 A report containing the review findings and recommendations was published and endorsed by Redditch Community Safety Partnership (RCSP) in October 2007 ("the Cardiff Report").
- 3.5 The Licensing Committee received and endorsed this report at its meeting on 5th December 2007.
- 3.6 Fourteen recommendations were made in six key areas:
 - a) Enhance intelligence gathering on premises.
 - b) Introduce regular, joint risk assessments for each premise.
 - c) Improve Officer and Member knowledge of licensing law and the local NTE.
 - d) Developing the ability to engage with licensed premises and modify their behaviour short of formal enforcement action
 - e) Strengthen the licence review and enforcement capabilities.
 - f) Integrate these components into an effective system.
 - Some of the above held direct implications for the Borough Council, and some more relevance to the various relevant partner agencies.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

- 3.7 In August 2009, relevant Officers were requested to provide updates in relation to the report's recommendations. These updates were presented to the Licensing Committee on 14th December 2009.
- 3.8 At the Committee meeting, Members requested that a further update on the recommendations be provided in approximately six months time. Relevant officers have again been requested to provide updates and these are enclosed at Appendix 1.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Since the last update to the Cardiff Report in the August to December 2009 period, further activity has been undertaken by a range of agencies to implement and sustain the recommendations of the report.
- 4.2 Town centre violence and disorder has decreased in recent months. The Police have suggested that this is either through worsening economic circumstances (less people frequenting) or improved management of the licensed premises.
- 4.3 A range of evidence and intelligence gathering activities are occurring such as the "last-drink" interview policy, test-purchase operations and the A&E patient assault data-sharing pilot. No problems are reported in respect of the availability of premises licence conditions information to the Police; however the recommendation that these be published online to allow partner and public access has yet to be taken forward.
- 4.4 The abilities of the licensing authority and responsible authorities to engage with premises, prior to taking enforcement action, have continued to progress through the development of the Licensing Tasking Forum and closer working relationships between agencies.
- 4.5 Enforcement capabilities have also taken a step forward, resulting in the first licence review being brought before Licensing sub-committee recently. The Licensing Team through an agreement with the Security Industry Authority (SIA) can now require door supervisors working in the Borough to prove their accreditation.
- 4.6 Training activities have resulted in several Councillors and officers gaining accredited licensing qualifications and further opportunities to consider procedural and policy questions relating to the licensing regime.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

- 4.7 In summary, the majority of the Cardiff report recommendations have now been successfully adopted by the relevant bodies and there is a strong argument that this activity is starting to improve the ability and willingness of premises in the Borough to promote the licensing objectives, and particularly reduce violent crime and disorder.
- 4.8 Members may wish to consider requesting that Officers report back to the Committee in the future once the updated Licensed Premises Risk Assessment is completed, which will provide statistical information on the amount of violent crime and disorder directly associated with premises in the Borough and, by way of comparison, those elsewhere in the County.
- 4.9 The licensing regime is likely to undergo significant changes both at a local, and at a national level where the Government are signalling an intention to conduct a major review of the Licensing Act 2003 and associated legislation.
- 4.10 Despite these changes, the core activities of engaging with premises, collecting evidence and intelligence, maintaining effective partnership working and taking appropriate enforcement action are likely to remain crucial to maintaining safe premises and an inclusive and attractive town centre NTE in the future.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Progress in implementing recommendations from the Cardiff Report has generally been financed from current resources.
- 5.2 In respect of the provision of accredited licensing training, it has been necessary for Officers working through the Redditch Community Safety Partnership to bid for and win a one-off external grant of around £2,500 to finance this.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The licensing system is primarily governed by the statute, regulations and guidance of the Licensing Act 2003. One of the four primary objectives of the Licensing Act is "the prevention of crime and disorder".
- 6.2 Further, section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Redditch Borough Council to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of each of its functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

6.3 The recommendations made in the Cardiff Report aim to help the Council to meet these duties.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 As the local licensing authority, Redditch Borough Council is required to have in place a statement of licensing policy that sets out its general approach to making licensing decisions and how it will promote the licensing objectives. The Council is required to review this statement at least once every three years. The current licensing policy covers the period 2007 – December 2010.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

8.1 The information contained in this report and its appendices relate directly to the Council's priority/objective of 'Safe'.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 Decisions made by the Licensing Sub-Committee in respect of licence applications, variations and reviews can be appealed which carries a risk of costs being awarded against the Council.
- 9.2 Any failure to appropriately apply statutory Licensing requirements either in the operation of Officer delegated authority, or in Committee practice, may lead to challenge and undermine the Council's ability to impact on the prevention of Crime and Disorder in the Borough.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Progress made against implementing the recommendations of "the Cardiff Report" supports the reduction of violent crime and disorder in the Borough enhancing customers' experiences of the local night time economy.

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None Identified

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

12. <u>VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT</u>

Asset Management – Minimal, however some Council premises are licensed and therefore are affected by this report. The Town Hall itself is one Town Centre licensed venue however events here are not frequently linked to violence and disorder

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

None Identified

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

Revisions to the Council's staffing of the Licensing function have improved the Council's capacity in this area. Further revisions are under consideration as part of the current WETT (Worcestershire Enhanced Two Tier) project.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Violence and disorder associated with the night-time economy feature significantly in the data provided for NI 15 Serious Violent Crime Rate

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

Licensing and the regulation of the night time economy play a key role in preventing and reducing violent crime and disorder.

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Good management of licence premises can have a direct impact on health issues such as of binge drinking, and violence (including domestic abuse)

18. <u>LESSONS LEARNT</u>

Since the publication of the "Cardiff Report" substantial efforts have been made by a range of agencies across Redditch Community Safety

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

Partnership of which Borough Council is a partner to implement the recommendations contained within the report.

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The contributors of the updates featured in Appendix 1 are: West Mercia Police – Inspector Ian Joseph Worcestershire County Council Trading Standards – Simon Wilkes Redditch Borough Council Licensing Team – Sue Garratt

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	YES
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	Yes
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	Yes
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	NO
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	NO
Head of Service	Steve Jordon – Head of Regulatory Angie Heighway – Head of Community Services
Head of Resources	NO
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	NO
Corporate Procurement Team	NO

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All wards

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - "Update on recommendations arising from report – June 2010. Findings from visit to Cardiff – licensing and regulation of the night time economy.

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Copies of these papers are available on request.

The Hampton Review; (March 2005); "Reducing administrative burdens: effective inspection and enforcement"; HM Treasury.

Cooper, J. (October 2007); "Findings from visit to Cardiff – licensing and regulation of the night time economy". Report to Redditch Borough Council's Licensing Committee, 05/12/07. Redditch Community Safety Partnership.

Cooper, J. (November 2008); "Alcohol Related Partnership Activity – Redditch Community Safety Partnership Funding Application"; Redditch Community Safety Partnership.

Cooper, J. & Ray, K. (March 2009); "Pilot scheme for depersonalised A&E assault attendance data sharing"; Redditch Community Safety Partnership / Worcestershire Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

Deehan, A. (1999); "Alcohol and Crime: Taking Stock"; Home Office, Crime Reduction Research Series Paper 3.

Moore, L. (May 2007); "Violence and Disorder related to Redditch's Night Time Economy: Fuse and Chicago Rock"; Redditch Community Safety Partnership.

Moore, S. & Jones, T. (December 2006) "Green, Amber, Red – Cardiff's Unique Traffic Light System Targets Disorder in Licensed Premises" in "Police Review" (01/12/06), Cardiff Police licensing team.

Redditch Borough Council (2007). "Statement of Licensing Policy 2007-10".

The Rogers Review, (March 2007); "National Enforcement Priorities for Local Authority Regulatory Services"; Cabinet Office.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

Shepherd, JP. (2004); "The role of emergency departments in community violence prevention"; Department of Health.

Shepherd, J. (October 2007) "Effective NHS Contributions to violence prevention – The Cardiff Model."

Warburton, AL. & Shepherd, JP. "Tackling alcohol related violence in city centres: effect of emergency medicine and police intervention"; (2006); Journal of Emergency Medicine.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: James Cooper (Community Safety Project Officer)

E Mail: james.cooper@redditchbc.gov.uk

Tel: (01527) 64252 ext 3352

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

Update on recommendations arising from report – June 2010

Findings from visit to Cardiff – licensing and regulation of the night time economy

- 1.1. Following the visit to Cardiff and a period of research, we make the following recommendations (boxed in grey) for licensing and NTE management in Redditch.
- 1.2. In order to **enhance intelligence gathering on premises** we recommend that:
- 1.2.1. The Police adopt **a "last drink" interview policy** when arresting suspects who are under the influence of alcohol;

Police - August 2009

Low level offences such as 'drunk and disorderly' or 'disorderly conduct' require no interview but information relating to arrests is generally passed on to the Licensing Officer for action. Examples recently include commission of such offences by customers of a local pub over a period of some months coupled with other substantive offences prompting a review process to be commenced. The overwhelming evidence brought forward immediately resulted in the regional management of the premises replacing the local manager and door management team.

More serious offences such as assaults will always require suspect interviews and relevant information is forwarded in the appropriate manner to the licensing officer. Such evidence is collated as in the example above for future use if necessary.

It should be noted that relevant authorities need to take care when using such information concerning offences that have taken place in public places away from a licensed premises. It is likely that legal advice to a review committee would be that they should only consider evidence of offences committed on or in the close vicinity of a licensed premises and the legislation is frustrating in this regard.

June 2010

Little change in Police processes although there have been less instances of the need for more formal approaches to licensed premises within the period since the last report.

Those detained for alcohol-fuelled disorder in or adjacent to public houses or other licensed premises continue to attract supervisory attention through daily briefing processes. InnWeb continues to be utilised to store data concerning offences in and adjacent to such premises and this can actively be used where appropriate.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

1.2.2. The Police and Trading Standards consider the use of **targeted undercover operations** to gain evidence of license breaches

Police - August 2009 -

The use of undercover operations targeting licensing breaches is governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act and authority under that Act would be required for such an operation. Trading Standards already run operations targeting underage drinking sales at off licence premises but the police are now allowed to operate similar schemes

June 2010

No change to previous and our present economic circumstances mean that undercover operations are less likely to occur owing to their expense.

Trading Standards – August 2009

Whilst not completely rejecting the opportunity to partake in operations it must be pointed out that the type of surveillance operations required in these circumstances (usually where test purchasing or warning visits have failed) are very costly in terms of both police and trading standards time, and 'routine' events are highly unlikely to be authorised at the present time. Where strong evidence and intelligence suggests persistent criminality at a licensed premises then it is possible that a joint operation may be authorised. However, this would depend on the availability of resources.

June 2010

We have continued with test purchasing exercises and gather evidence from various sources to target premises. Test purchasing exercises have to be authorised under RIPA, so there are levels of evidence required before we can use these methods.

Any premise that registers a complaint now receives an initial visit to advise of prevention, unless it has recently been inspected, in which case underage sales issues will have been addressed.

All of the relevant staff in Trading Standards have now receive training on the wider aspects of the Licensing Act 2003 so they now have a broader understanding of the process and the requirements beyond the underage sales elements for which the service is responsible.

We welcome the establishment of the Licensing Tasking Forum as a means of communication for responsible bodies.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

1.2.3 The Licensing Team make available to the Police and other responsible authorities, summary versions of the key conditions of premises licenses to aid monitoring of compliance;

Licensing - August 2009

Details of licenses and conditions are available on request via contact with the licensing office. Under the Licensing Act 2003 there are only three mandatory conditions; all other conditions that are attached are either volunteered by the licensee or agreed by Committee and are individual to those premises.

Licensing works closely with the Police and other responsible authorities to ensure any request for information of this nature is available. All premises have been informed of new mandatory conditions.

June 2010

Licensing continues to work closely with the Police and other responsible authorities to ensure any request for information of this nature is available.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

1.2.4 The Police or Licensing Team make the main license conditions for each premises available online so that Police officers visiting licensed premises can radio their control centre to help monitor compliance

Licensing team - August 2009

The delay in the implementation of the new website for Redditch has delayed further development of the Licensing software system. It is not envisaged that information that detailed will be available on-line; however, better liaison between the Police Licensing Officer and Licensing is producing good results.

The Licensing Team are all now in place and the Licensing Officer (project, liaison and enforcement) has a set program to visit all licensed premises within set timescales. Targeting problem premises including dual visits with the Police if necessary.

June 2010

Licensing website pages have been written and are currently being uploaded to the website.

Licensing is now part of Worcestershire Regulatory Services and the implementation of any further improvements is subject to transformational change.

Problem premises are continually monitored between the Police and the Licensing Officer. The development of partnership working has culminated in a problem premise being taken to review and certain conditions added to their licence.

Police - August 2009

Details of licenses and conditions are now available for all district licensed premises through the police-owned and operated InnWeb system.

June 2010

InnWeb continues to be kept up to date.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

1.2.5. Redditch Community Safety Partnership (RCSP) make representations to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust (WAHT) to seek improvements in their data collection procedures so that the location of NTE assaults can be shared with RCSP

Community Safety Team - August 2009

Representations and involvement of DAAT and PCT led to a meeting to discuss proposal with A&E consultants for Alexandra Hospital and Worcester Royal in December 2008.

Full business case drafted and sent to consultants in March 2009 leading to further meeting at which it was decided to run a paper-based data collection pilot at Alexandra Hospital for a period of one month, with a commitment by the Trust to review the pilot findings.

Final details of the pilot are being confirmed with an expected start date in the next few months.

June 2010

A two month pilot was run during March-April 2010. Key findings during this period were:

- 80 patients attended Alexandra Hospital A&E having been assaulted
- 29 patients were questioned by staff and consented to provide information
- 16 patients giving information had been assaulted either inside or outside a pub, bar or nightclub (10 outside and 6 inside)
- 4 of these 16 assaults were not reported to the police
- 2 premises were linked to four or more assaults

WAHT staff commented that this was a "low demand" period and they will re-run the audit during the World Cup when the number of assaults is expected to be higher.

The A&E consultant and registrar have attended Redditch PubWatch to advise premises managers that this information is now being shared. It is hoped that this will encourage diligence during this period.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

1.3. So that regulatory and enforcement activity has the maximum opportunity to reduce harm and improve outcomes we recommend that the Police, Community Safety Team, Licensing Team, Environmental Health and Trading Standards co-operate to produce **joint risk assessments** of each premises and that these are updated regularly:

Community Safety Team - August 2009

The Community Safety Team has used Police crime data to assess town centre licensed premises across Worcestershire, allowing Redditch premises to be compared to similar ones elsewhere in the County for the period 2006/7 and 2007/8. These findings have helped the Police to target engagement and enforcement activity against high risk premises.

The Community Safety team, Police and Trading Standards co-operated to produce a joint risk assessment of a number of high risk on and off premises in the first quarter of 2009. The findings of this work informed the selection of premises targeted through the Home Office funded "Due Diligence Audit" programme and has also proved useful in allowing targeted engagement of specific premises resulting in voluntary withdrawal of crime generating events or in one case wholesale management and doorstaff changes.

June 2010

The Community Safety team is preparing to begin work on an updated crime risk assessment of licensed premises throughout Worcestershire. Various avenues for resourcing this work are being explored.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

- 1.4. In order to improve officer and member knowledge of licensing law and the local NTE so that they can carry out their duties with greater confidence we recommend that:
- 1.4.1. Councillors sitting on the Licensing Committee be encouraged to develop a personal knowledge of the NTE through guided visits to Redditch premises and the Town Centre;
- 1.4.2. RBC offers recommended training in licensing law to Councillors sitting on the Licensing Committee with the option of obtaining a nationally recognised licensing qualification and that RBC makes appropriate funding available for this

Community Safety Team - August 2009

The Community Safety team has taken the lead in identifying and sourcing accredited training in licensing law for Committee. In December 2008 the Team was successful in bidding for funding to deliver enhanced training.

A training specification for multiple training events has been developed in consultation with the Chair of the Committee and Democratic Services staff.

Training providers have provided quotes in respect of this specification and a selection process is underway.

June 2010

The National Certificate for Licensing Practitioners accredited training was delivered to six committee members and two staff in January 2010. Performance was strong with all but two participants passing the exam, and those two who did not pass missing out on the pass mark very narrowly. One participant has expressed an interest in retaking the exam.

A bespoke training event involving councillors and officers was held in January 2010 with the aim of improving practical understanding of how licensed premises promote or undermine the licensing objectives. Feedback on the event was mixed and it was not clear that the trainers delivered to the specification set. As such a further training event planned for non-committee members to be delivered by the same company has been cancelled.

Licensing Team - August 2009

The Licensing Team is in the process of putting a manual together for Councillors who sit on the Licensing Committee; this will aid in the understanding of the

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

Licensing Act and any Guidance issued. This will be updated as and when required.

June 2010

A Licensing manual has been issued to all the Councillors that sit on the Licensing Committee. This included The Licensing Act, Guidance and a Jargon buster. It also included a copy of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

1.4.3. Selected Police, RBC and Trading Standards staff achieve a nationally recognised licensing qualification

August 2009

Police, RBC and Trading Standards staff will be invited to relevant training events mentioned at 1.4.2.

June 2010

Police have attended and courses well-received.

1.4.4. The Licensing Manager presents regular reports on the state of the night time economy and compliance with licensing objectives to the full licensing committee

Licensing Team - August 2009

A report will be made on a yearly basis to the Licensing Committee regarding how many applications, variations; enforcement actions are undertaken or received under the Licensing Act 2003 for the previous year.

This will commence in December 2009.

June 2010

The yearly report was given to the Licensing Committee in December 2009 and was received well.

A half yearly short verbal report with a fact and figures handout will be taken to Committee in June 2010.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

- 1.5. To ensure a graduated and proportionate approach to enforcement is achieved, partner agencies should **develop a premises engagement capability,** therefore it is recommended that:
- 1.5.1. The Police, Licensing Team, Environmental Health and Trading Standards make multi-agency visits to high risk premises

Police and Trading Standards - August 2009

In most cases visits to premises are not required in a formal sense.

DPS/management teams of troublesome premises are normally invited to Redditch police station for interviews with the District Inspector and Licensing Officer. Generally such meetings are all that are required to ensure a premises' better compliance with licensing principles and there have been a number of successes with this approach over the last 18 months.

The Police have noted requests from the Licensing Team to be involved in future meetings and acknowledge a need to liaise more closely with partners on other licensing matters.

On one occasion a multi-agency meeting was called to assess required action concerning one particularly troublesome premises. Those present were extremely frustrated by the apparent protections offered to the manager of the premises through the Licensing Act which effectively meant that we had to wait for a significant incident to occur before strong action could be taken. Those actions that could be taken were discussed and the financial position of the owner of the premises eventually forced its closure but there was significant fear that a serious incident might have occurred resulting in a large scale police operation that also involved specialist police resources.

June 2010

As previous, formal visits have not been required recently and one troublesome premise shut before more formal visit (and probably review) could be conducted.

Licensing Team & Environmental Health - August 2009

The Licensing Team have discussed with the Police and other responsible authorities at the Licensing Forum the need for working closer together on enforcement action.

The Licensing Team have provided advice to all responsible authorities regarding the review process; issuing an advice booklet and requesting feedback on the contents.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

The Licensing Team are in contact with the Police Liaison officer on a daily basis; this includes updates and information exchange on all licensing matters.

Licensing is in the process of gaining SIA (Security Industry Act) 2001 Accreditation, report going to Committee November 2009. To enable authorised Licensing Officers to carry out actions and enforcement under this Act; this will include the checking, enforcement and reporting of any offences and/or breaches of the legislation by premises using unlicensed door staff.

June 2010

SIA Accreditation has now been received and RBC Licensing Officers have made visits to licensing premises alongside the Police and the SIA.

1.5.1. Multi-agency visits result in a structured action plan or revised licensed conditions agreed with the premises and designed to improve compliance with the licensing objectives.

Police and Trading Standards - August 2009

Previous success with face to face meetings have yet to result in a structured action plan or voluntary /enforced change of conditions being required.

The circumstances surrounding the closest occasion a premises has recently come to being required to apply additional voluntary conditions are as follows:

A licensed premises insistence on their provision of a 'community service' by opening their doors to teenage customers during school holidays invariably led to large number of youths, some under the influence of alcohol and drugs, descending on the town from a wide area including south Birmingham.

The crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour occurring as a consequence of these events resulted in large numbers of police officers being required to be deployed (greater than those required for normal Friday/Saturday night operations).

A meeting between police and the premises management resulted in the police requiring the manager to impose new conditions on the sale of tickets and management of the event. The police expectation was that these would be new conditions voluntarily applied to the licence.

The premises were not prepared to accept such conditions and withdrew the event instead.

June 2010

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

As previous – improved management and less instances of obvious and regular crime and disorder have meant such visits have not been required. Use of the revised risk assessment will be made when complete to better inform intervention processes.

Licensing Team & Environmental Health – August 2009

The Licensing Team have discussed with the Police and other responsible authorities at the Licensing Forum the need for working closer together on enforcement action and have offered to update premises licenses (variations to conditions/improvement plans) in line with the licensing objectives if all parties are in agreement; free of charge to aid the improvement of problem premises and the enhancement of night time economy.

June 2010

A new Licensing Forum which serves Redditch, Bromsgrove and Wyre Forest has had it's first meeting. Positive feedback was received by Officers and another meeting has been scheduled.

- 1.6. In order to protect the public and the integrity of the licensing system, partner agencies should strengthen their licensing enforcement and review capabilities to deal with cases of sustained non-compliance or high risk. To do this the Police, Licensing Team, Environmental Health and Trading Standards should:
- 1.6.1. Provide a detailed consideration of the resources and skills required to initiate license reviews and other enforcement action against problematic premises.

August 2009

The police have attended and participated in a review training event that allowed all agencies in attendance to assess their levels of knowledge in licensing matters. A further event is planned. Such events allow attendees to understand the complexities of the Act and talk through frustrations concerning an often apparent inability to take firm and decisive action

It is in some ways unfortunate that agency intervention prior to review have always resulted in premises management changes that have taken away the need for formal review processes to be commenced.

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

Trading Standards has developed its own internal processes for initiating licensing reviews. Now, after each underage sales exercise, consideration is given to the most appropriate way of dealing with any sales that have occurred, with License Review being seen as a primary remedy for persistent sales.

The Licensing Team has provided training to Councillors, Officers, Responsible Authorities and other agencies to aid those responsible under the Licensing Act in gaining the knowledge and understanding needed to take a premises to review. We have also provided an information booklet to Licensing Forum members to help with the collection and production of evidence relating to a review of a premises.

Environmental Health did not provide an update.

June 2010

Police have produced and presented a review for an off-licence resulting in a pleasing outcome. Experience gained in what was a relatively low key review will be of assistance with larger and more complex processes in the future, assuming there is no staff de-skilling.

Trading Standards have now brought a successful review with the Police in relation to one premise, so we hope that this will send the right message out to other license holders.

The Licensing Team have taken no further action.

Environmental Health did not provide an update.

1.7. Taken as a whole, each of these components should be integrated into an effective system. A process diagram summarising this system was shown at appendix 1 of the original report.

LICENSING

COMMITTEE 19th July 2010

TAXI RANK, EVESHAM ROAD - OBJECTIONS

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Juliet Brunner, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jorden, Head of Regulatory Services
Non-Key Decision	

1. <u>SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS</u>

Further to minute 8 of the Committee's 3rd June 2010 meeting and minute 25 of the Committee's 25th January 2010 meeting, to site an additional and an alternative rank on Evesham Road, Headless Cross with an increase of 6/7 rank spaces, the Committee is asked to consider objections received to the proposals following the publication of the statutory notice as required by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked, in light of the objections received during the consultation process for an additional and alternative ranks on Evesham Road, Headless Cross, to RESOLVE that

 the Committee's decision of the 25th January 2010 be confirmed and the additional and alternative ranks be approved;

OR

2) amend the decision.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At it's meeting on the 25th January 2010 the Licensing Committee approved the provision of an additional Hackney Carriage rank for 6/7 spaces outside Steps Bistro and to re-site the current provision of 3 spaces situated outside the White Hart on the pavement; to the roadside opposite the White Hart public house.
- 3.2 The licensed premises on Evesham Road have a thriving night time economy and the lack of rank spaces has been a problem and has helped

LICENSINGCOMMITTEE

19th July 2010

to create congestion issues which are un-enforceable under the current rank arrangements.

- 3.3 A site visit was undertaken with the Leader of the Council, West Mercia Police and the Licensing Manager to discuss the issues and try to find a solution to the problems.
- 3.4 The allocation of a proper rank outside Steps night club and the moving of the rank off the pavement and onto the road opposite the White Heart where the bus stop is situated were felt to be a part solution to the problems.
- 3.5 The siting of the new ranks will be in opposite directions and at bus stops which are not used between the hours of 8pm and 6am.
- 3.6 The Highways Authority will cover the cost of any required amendments to the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's).
- 3.7 The Highways Authority have to apply to the Department for Transport for special authorisation to have bus/taxi & taxi/loading facilities sharing the same carriageway space, as these are non standard arrangements. This shouldn't pose a problem but the Highways Authority needs to do this before the start of formal consultation on the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) from their side.
- 3.8 When the Highways Authority have resolved this issue they will forward the relevant information to the Local Authority to enable the advertisement of the new ranks. This is expected to be early in this new financial year.
- 3.9 It is expected that there will be 6/7 rank spaces available outside steps night club and 3 spaces opposite the White Heart. This will be an increase of 6 to 7 spaces on the current arrangements.
- 3.10 West Mercia Police alongside Civil Parking Enforcement Officers and Licensing Officers can then enforce the appropriate legislation which in turn may help the heavily congested areas.
- 3.11 The Redditch Taxi Association, Highways Agency, West Mercia Traffic Police and West Mercia Police Officers (beat officer) have been consulted on this proposal between 1st October 2009 and 31st December 2009 and are in agreement with the suggestions.

LICENSINGCOMMITTEE

19th July 2010

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 This matter was put before the Licensing Committee on 3rd June 2010 where the Committee decided that:
 - a) a decision on the proposals be deferred pending a late night site visit on 18th or 25th June 2010;
 - b) Officers investigate the possible utilisation of local business parking at night for taxis; and
 - c) Officers clarify Police information regarding the proposals and invite a representative to attend the meeting on 19th July 2010.
- 4.2 West Mercia Police are re-considering their position on the proposals and have confirmed that position in writing; this can be found at Appendix 2.
- 4.3 A site meeting will be undertaken on the 25th June 2010 at 11pm; any feedback from this site visit will be reported to the meeting on the 19th July 2010.
- 4.4 A Ward Councillor has withdrawn her support for these proposals and raises the following points:
 - a) There are 30-40 taxis in the area on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, we would only be increasing rank space by 6 bays. Therefore for most of the evening there would be 30 plus vehicles parked in exactly the same places as at present or cruising up and down the road waiting for a taxi rank space to become available.
 - b) There is a big parking problem in this area already as the Dog and Pheasant has no parking, our own sheltered scheme has parking for residents only and that is already over subscribed. Local residents fronting onto that part of Evesham Road have no garages or drives and it is obviously an issue for some of the shops, particularly the hair dresser. At the moment the situation is not ideal but they are able to park on the road.

and suggests:

c) That the rank could be replaced by a bay but it would require the Borough, the Police and the County Council to agree.

LICENSINGCOMMITTEE

19th July 2010

- 4.5 Further consultation with the Highways Authority has been conducted and their response is as follows:
- 4.6 The intention of the proposal from a traffic management/road safety perspective is to remove the inappropriate taxi rank from the footway, which is deemed a safety hazard. The loss of this facility would be offset by the utilisation of the bus stop clearway areas for taxis during the evening and also the additional provision of taxi facilities outside Steps public house. There will actually be a net increase in taxi ranks spaces available, which will help to formalise taxi parking and therefore minimise indiscriminate parking which currently takes place.
- 4.7 Regardless of these proposals going forward, we are obliged to remove the unofficial marking from the pavement area, and we would encourage Redditch Borough Council to remove any formal Hackney Carriage Stand Order that may exist.
- 4.8 We wouldn't support the general principle of a lay-by when facilities can be accommodated within existing highway arrangements as proposed. I would also say that a lay-by at this location would leave a substandard footway width and interfere with visibility from the pub accesses".
- 4.9 The Redditch Taxi Association have responded to this consultation stating that they feel the implementation of these new and revised ranks would improve the congestion problems and that noise and anti social behaviour problems would increase if no rank provision in that area was provided.
- 4.10 Following the publication of the statutory notice objections have been received; these are available as background papers and the results of which are reported below:

LICENSINGCOMMITTEE

19th July 2010

	NUMBER OF OBJECTIONS		
REASON	PETITION 1	PETITION 2	LETTERS OF OBJECTION
Parking spaces needed for staff and customers	35		1
Resident and visitor parking needs	14	11	11
Unspecified parking needs	19	2	
Window cleaning	1		
Noise	9	1	
No requirement for change	4	1	
No taxis	13		
No parking	17		
Dangerous		5	
Blocking the church		1	
Taxis obstructing access and parking on double yellow lines		1	1
Too many taxis		2	
Taxis turning in driveway		1	
Road congestion		4	
Nuisance		1	
Not discussed		1	
Vomit, urine and damage to business premises			2

- 4.10 A letter has been received supporting the new ranks stating that taxis take away drunks from area and this alleviates anti-social behaviour incidents.
- 4.11 A map of the proposals can be found at Appendix 1

LICENSINGCOMMITTEE

19th July 2010

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The cost of installing new ranks by the County Council Highways
Department, to include any necessary signs, road markings and road
works is £1500. This cost is an estimate by the County Council and has
not been included in the current year's budget. However, in consultation
with finance the money can be found from the existing budget.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Under Section 63 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Borough Council may from time to time appoint stands (ranks) for Hackney Carriage for the whole or any part of a day in any highway in the district which is maintainable at the public expense and, with the consent of the owner, on any land in the district which does not form part of a highway so maintainable and may from time to time vary the number of Hackney Carriages permitted to be at each stand.
- 6.2 Before appointing any stand or varying the numbers to be at each stand, the Council is required to notify the Police for the areas in which the stands will be situated.
- 6.3 The Council is required to give public notice of the proposals by advertising in at least 1 local newspaper and take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposals which may be made to them in writing within 28 days of the first publication of the notice.
- 6.4 A District Council may not appoint a stand:
 - a) So as unreasonably to prevent access to any premises;
 - b) So as to impeded the use of bus stops, or in such a position to interfere with access to any station or depot of any passenger road transport operations, except with the consent of those operators;
 - c) On any highway except with the consent of the Highways Authority.
- 6.5 It is necessary for ranks to be signed and the road marked out accordingly.

LICENSINGCOMMITTEE

19th July 2010

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

See legal implications

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

This item links with the Council Priority – Safe

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The current provision of rank space on Evesham Road is for three spaces. This rank is situated on a pavement close to a licensed premise "The White Heart". There is some doubt as to the legalities of this rank; the problem of encouragement by the Local Authorities of Hackney Carriages parking on the narrow pavement and issues around enforcement for both the Local Authority, Civil Parking Enforcement Officers and West Mercia Police.
- 9.2 There is also major traffic congestion on Evesham Road especially during the evening with Hackney Carriages and privately owned vehicles parking both sides of the road. This new proposal will help legalise Hackney Carriages ranking up on Evesham Road and enable responsible authorities to enforce the new order, discourage Hackney Carriages parking on pavements and reduce the risk of accidents and road blockages.

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None

12. <u>VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT</u>

None

LICENSING

COMMITTEE 19th July 2010

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

The provision of the additional rank and the alternative rank could have a possible impact on carbon emissions if enforced as it may cut down on the congestion issues and the number of vehicles in that location at any one time.

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

None

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None

16. <u>COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF</u> CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

Provision of the new ranks will improve the safety of residents and users of the licensed premises by reducing to a minimum the walking distance of those enjoying the night time economy of Evesham Road whilst also having, if enforced, a reduction impact on the congestion within the area.

17. <u>HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS</u>

None

18. LESSONS LEARNT

- 18.1 The area of Evesham Road has a vibrant night time economy and is densely populated. There are a number of licensed premises in the area which are very popular. The current provision of 3 rank spaces has proved to be inadequate for the area and has had an adverse impact; Hackney Carriages, when the rank is full are currently parking half on and half off the pavements, u turning in the street and generally adding to the already heavily congested areas. At the closing time of these licensed premises the area becomes extremely busy and it is essential to get these visitors away from the area safely and as quickly as possible to help reduce any noise, litter and other related issues.
- 18.2 The provision of two ranks each facing opposite directions will cut down on u-turns; provide adequate transport for visitors leaving the area and help ease the congestion problems.

LICENSINGCOMMITTEE

19th July 2010

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 19.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with relevant Borough Council Officers.
- 19.2 Other consultees were Redditch Taxi Association; West Mercia Traffic Police, West Mercia Police, the Ward Councillor and Leader of the Council and the Highways Agency.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	yes
Chief Executive	yes
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	no

21. WARDS AFFECTED

The Wards of Headless Cross and Crabbs Cross are affected by this report.

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Map of Evesham Road showing new rank details.

Appendix 2 - Letter from West Mercia Police.

LICENSING

COMMITTEE 19th July 2010

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

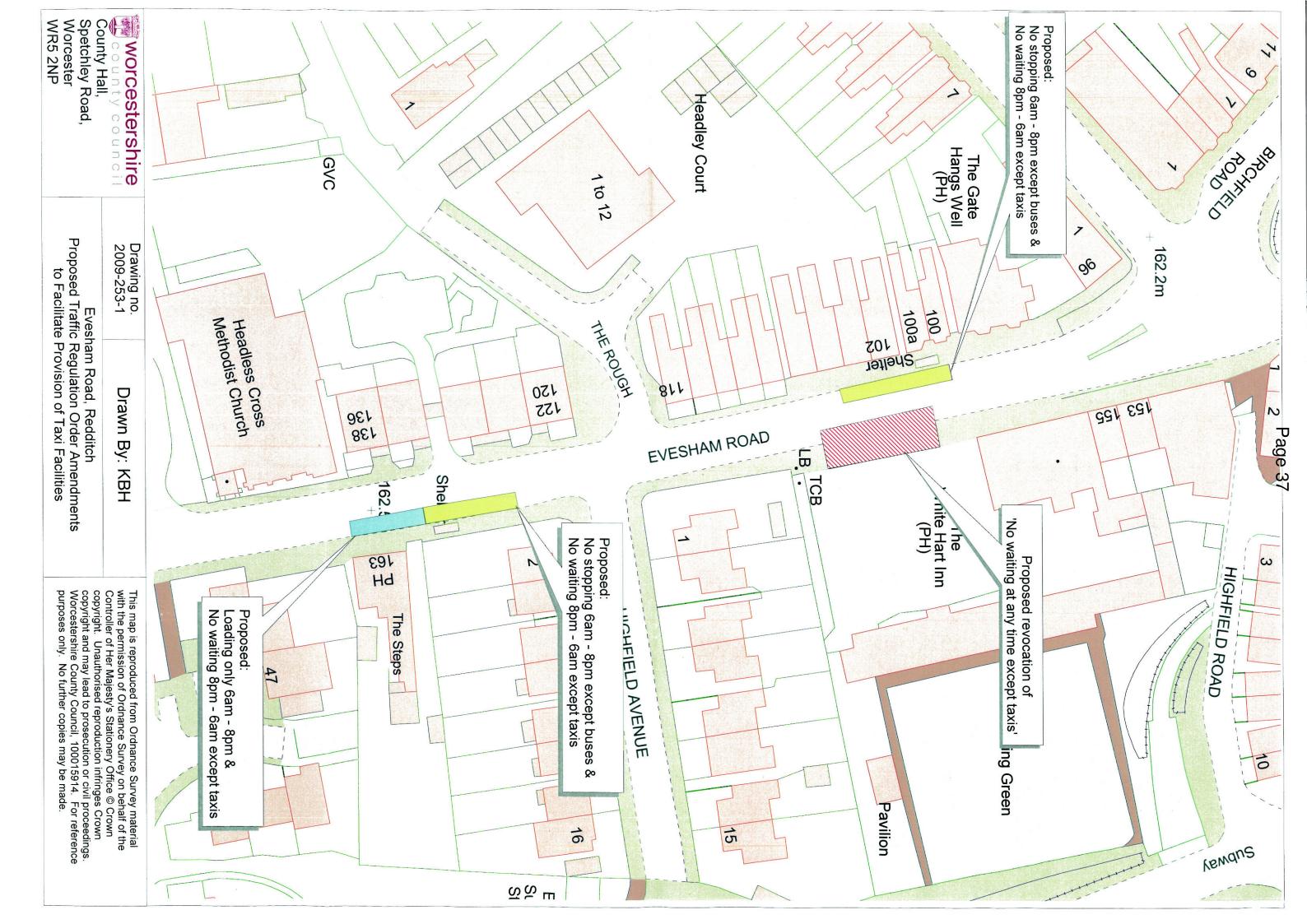
Previous report
Details of previous rank allocation on Evesham Road.
Emails from Highways Authority
Email from Redditch Taxi Association

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sue Garratt – Licensing Manager

E Mail: <u>sue.garratt@redditchbc.gov.uk</u> or <u>s.garratt@bromsgrove.gov.uk</u>

Tel: (01527) 534100



Page 39

North Worcestershire Division Kidderminster Police Station Habberley Road, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY11 6AN Tel: 0300 333 3000



21st June 2010 REC ____ 24 JUN 2010

Mr Kieran Hemstock Worcestershire County Council County Hall Spetchley Road Worcester WB5 2NP

Dear Kieran,

Re: Evesham Rd, Headless Cross, Redditch. Proposed TRO Alterations for Taxi Ranks.

I reply on behalf of the Chief Constable following the objection period for this TRO proposal having read the objections listed by Redditch Borough Council. I have also consulted with the local police officer, PC Simon WORLEY and his area line manager Inspector Ian JOSEPH.

Whilst the police support the creation of the taxi ranks on either side of the road as planned we do have reservations and comments as follows:

- 1. This is the best option available out of a number considered. The removal of the 'unofficial' taxi rank adjacent to the White Hart public house will prompt the need for a rank or ranks elsewhere regardless of any decision on the current proposal. The proposed ranks are of insufficient size to manage the normal number of taxis congregating in this area and those unable to use the rank will probably continue to ignore traffic regulation signs concerning no waiting or driving on the footpath. Where this occurs now there is a narrowing of the road adjacent to the White Hart public house and down the Evesham Road towards Steps public house as a consequence of taxis parking, illegally in some instances. Where this occurs it should be noted that normal vehicle speeds will be reduced along the road.
- The police cannot enforce breaches of parking regulations concerning the proposed taxi ranks and would encourage the council to consider how parking enforcement officers could and should be deployed to manage this. The police can and will, where appropriate, take action concerning offences such as obstruction of the highway but see (3) below.
- 3. The police would discourage the active removal of taxis from zones outside the ranks created as this will inevitably lead to an increase in vehicular traffic along the Evesham Road and raise the prospect of disputes between drivers as they jostle and compete for taxi rank position, thus leading to complaints of noise and nuisance from local residents. Increased vehicle traffic coupled with the possibility of increased pedestrian traffic might increase the risk of collisions.





Page 40

4. The council may wish to consider some form of taxi marshalling process in this area to alleviate the concerns of local residents but the police recognise the budgetary restraints now in place would make such a scheme difficult to achieve. Whichever solution is identified, the council may need to be prepared to deal with increased complaints of noise nuisance, not amounting to offences of disorder, as a consequence of the creation of the new ranks.

I have recently raised these issues at the taxi forum on 16th June 2010.

Yours sincerely,

PC Julian Turner MBE MIHT Traffic Management Officer West Mercia Police North Worcestershire Division

CC: Sue Garrett – RBC
Nick Churchill – WCC
Worcestershire County Council Legal Section
Insp Ian Joseph & PC Simon Worley – West Mercia Police





LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

LICENSING - REGULATION OF SEXUAL ENCOUNTER VENUES UNDER SCHEDULE 3 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Juliet Brunner
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jorden – Head of Worcestershire
	Regulatory Services.
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2009 reclassifies lap dancing clubs as Sexual Encounter Venues and gives Local Authorities in England and Wales the power to regulate them as Sex Establishments under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
- 1.2 These new measures took effect on the 6th April 2010 in England and when adopted by the Council will give local people a greater say over where, and how many, lap dancing clubs open and operate in their neighbourhoods.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that

- 1) the adoption of Schedule 3 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, and adopt Section 27 paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 3 to the Policing and Crime Act 2009 with effect from (no more than 1 month after the day on which the resolution was passed) be re-affirmed.
- 2) a fee for a Sex Shop and/or a Sexual Encounter Venue Licence and include that fee within the Council's Fees and Charges register be set as follows:-

a)	Grant	£920.00	
b)	Renewal	£890.00	
c))	Transfer	£135.00	

the Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services be delegated all powers under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, and section 27 paragraph 2(2) of Schedule 3 to the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has adopted the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Act 1982 and, under Schedule 3 can regulate the licensing of Sex Shops.
- 3.2 The Policing and Crime Act 2009 came into force on 6th April 2010 and introduced a new category of sex establishment called a "Sexual Encounter Venue" which will allow Local Authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar venues as an amendment to Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1982.
- 3.3 Such venues offer entertainment commonly described as:
 - a) Lap dancing
 - b) Pole dancing
 - c) Table dancing
 - d) Strip Shows
 - e) Peep shows
 - f) Live sex show
- 3.4 A full definition of Relevant Entertainment is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Premises that are not sexual encounter venues include:
 - a) Sex shops and sex cinemas (which are separately defined in Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act).
 - b) Premises which provide 'Relevant Entertainment on an infrequent basis.
- 3.6 It also includes premises where:
 - a) No 'Relevant Entertainment' has been provided on more than 11 occasions within a 12 month period.
 - b) No such occasion has begun within a period of one month beginning with the end of the previous occasion; and
 - c) No such occasion has lasted longer than 24 hours
 - d) Other premises or types of performances or displays exempted by the Secretary of State.
- 3.7 These premises will continue to be regulated under the Licensing Act 2003.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

4. KEY ISSUES

Local Authorities are not required to publish a licensing policy relating to Sex Establishments but can produce a different policy or criteria for different types of sex establishments. This might be appropriate to reflect distinctions between the operating requirements of different Sex Establishments or the fact that the location deemed appropriate for a Sex Shop may be different to that of a Sexual Encounter Venue. A draft Policy statement is attached at Appendix 2.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act states that an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a sex establishment licence shall pay a reasonable fee determined by the appropriate authorities, but does not expand on what would be considered to be reasonable.
- 5.2 The suggested fee for a Sexual Encounter Venue is as follows:

a) Grant £920.00 b) Renewal £890.00 c) Transfer £135.00

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Licenses for Sexual Encounter Venues can be granted for up to one year and most Sexual Encounter Venues will also require a 2003 Act Licence.
- 6.2 The Council is able to impose conditions and restrictions on a Licence, in the form of Conditions and may address such matters as:
 - a) The hours of opening and closing
 - b) Displays and advertisements on or in sex establishments
 - c) The visibility of the interior of a sex establishment to passers-by
 - d) Any change of use from one kind of sex establishment to another.
- 6.3 When considering an application for grant, renewal or transfer of a licence, the appropriate authority should have regard to any observations submitted to it by the Chief Officer of Police and any objections that they have received from anyone else within 28 days of the application.
- 6.4 Objections should not be based on moral grounds or values.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

- Objectors must give notice of their objection in writing, stating the terms of the objection.
- 6.6 In the event that the appropriate authority refuses an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a Sexual Encounter Venue, the applicant may appeal the decision in a Magistrates' Court.
- 6.7 Authorities may refuse an application on grounds related to an assessment of the 'relevant locality'
- 6.8 Where adopted, these provisions will allow Local Authorities to refuse an application on potentially wider grounds that is permitted under the 2003 Act and will give local people a greater say over the regulation of lap dancing clubs and similar venues in their area.
- 6.9 A licence can be refused if either at the time, the application is determined the number of sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality is equal to or exceeds the number that the authority considers appropriate for that locality; or that a sex establishment would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality, the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put, or the layout, character or condition of the premises.
- 6.10 Nil may be the appropriate number.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Please refer to 4.1 and Legal implications.

8. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

This proposal contributes to the Council's objective "One Community".

9. RISK MANAGEMENT INCLUDING HEALTH & SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The main risk associated with the detail included in this report is:
- 9.2 Entertainment as described in 3.3 being conducted without the necessary licence or safeguards in place.
- 9.3 This risk is being managed as follows:

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

9.4 Risk register: Planning and Environment Services

Key Objective Ref No. 7

Key Objective: Effective, efficient and legally compliant Licensing Service

10. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

None

11. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None

12. <u>VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS, PROCUREMENT AND ASSET MANAGEMENT</u>

None

13. CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON IMPLICATIONS AND BIODIVERSITY

None

14. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

These changes will be incorporated within the current licensing workforce.

15. GOVERNANCE/PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

None

16. <u>COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS INCLUDING SECTION 17 OF</u> <u>CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998</u>

None

17. HEALTH INEQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

18. <u>LESSONS LEARNT</u>

None

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

19. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 19.1 Consultation with Local People; while there is not statutory duty to do so, prior to deciding whether to pass a resolution, Local Authorities may, as a matter of good practice, seek the views of local people and businesses.
- 19.2 Each application for a Sex Encounter Venue will be consulted upon within its location and in line with local policy.

20. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	No
Executive Director (S151 Officer)	No
Executive Director – Leisure, Cultural, Environmental and Community Services	No
Executive Director – Planning & Regeneration, Regulatory and Housing Services	Yes
Director of Policy, Performance and Partnerships	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Resources	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Corporate Procurement Team	No

21. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards are affected by this report

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19th July 2010

22. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Definition of relevant entertainment

Appendix 2 - Draft Policy Statement

23. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Policing and Crime Act 2009 (Web based) Home Office Guidance for England and Wales (Web based)

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sue Garratt – Licensing Manager

E Mail: sue.garratt@redditchbc.gov.uk or s.garratt@bromsgrove.gov.uk

Tel: (01527) 534100

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Appendix 1

19th July 2010

Definitions (S.27 Policing and Crime Act 2009)

MEANING OF "SEXUAL ENCOUNTERS VENUE"

2A

- (1) In this Schedule "sexual encounter Venue" means any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer.
- (2) In this paragraph "relevant entertainment" means -
 - (a) any live performance; or
 - (b) any live display of nudity;

Which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience (whether by verbal or other means).

- (3) The following are not sexual encounter venues for the purposes of this Schedule -
 - (a) sex cinemas and sex shops;
 - (b) premises at which the provision of relevant entertainment as mention in sub-paragraph (1) is such that, at the time in question and including any relevant entertainment which is being so provided at that time
 - there have not been more than eleven occasions on which relevant entertainment has been so provided which fall (wholly or partly) within the period of 12 months ending with that time;
 - (ii) no such occasion has lasted for more than 24 hours; and
 - (iii) no such occasion has begun within the period of one month beginning with the end of any previous occasion on which relevant entertainment has been so provided (whether or not that previous occasion falls within the 12 month period mentioned in sub-paragraph (i));

NOTES

'audience' includes an audience of one

'display of nudity' means -

- (a) in the case of a woman, exposure of her nipples, pubic area, genitals or anus; and
- (b) in the case of a man, exposure of his pubic area, genitals or anus;

'the organiser' in relation to the provision of relevant entertainment at premises, means any person who is responsible for the organisation or management of –

- (a) the relevant entertainment; or
- (b) the premises;

'premises' includes any vessel, vehicle or stall but does not include any private dwelling to which the public is not admitted.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Appendix 2

19th July 2010

SEXUAL ENCOUNTER VENUE POLICY STATEMENT AND GUIDELINES

POLICY STATEMENT

The Redditch Borough Council will treat each case on its own merits but is unlikely to approve applications for a Sexual Encounter Venue in areas that are predominantly residential or close to 'sensitive premises' such as schools, places of religious worship etc., or where they consider such an application is inappropriate to the character of the relevant locality or the use or layout, character or condition of the premises, vessel or vehicle.

GUIDELINES

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 (Section 27) introduced from 6th April 2010 a new category of sex establishment called "Sexual Encounter Venue" which will allow local authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar venues under Schedule 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

Meaning of 'Sexual Encounter Venue'

'Any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer'

Relevant Entertainment is

'Any live performance or live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any ember of the audience (whether by verbal or others means)'

An audience can consist of just one person (e.g. where the entertainment takes place in private booths).

The Local Authority will judge each case on its merits but would expect that the definition of relevant entertainment would apply to the following forms of entertainment as they are commonly understood:

- Lap dancing
- Pole dancing
- Table dancing
- Strip shows
- Peep shows
- Live Sex Shows

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Appendix 2

19th July 2010

For the purpose of these provisions a premises includes any vessel, vehicle or stall, but does not include a private dwelling to which the public are not admitted.

A licence must not be granted

- (a) to a person under the age of 18 years
- (b) to a person who is for the time being disqualified due to the person having had a previous licence revoked in the area of the authority within the last 12 months
- (c) to a person, other than a body corporate, who is not resident in an EEA State or was not so resident throughout the period of six months immediately preceding the date when the application was made; or
- (d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA State; or
- (e) to a person who has within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused the grant or renewal of a licence for the premises, vehicle, vessel, or stall in respect of which the application is made, unless the refusal has been reversed on appeal.

A Licence may be refused where:

- (a) the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason;
- (b) if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal, or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself; or
- (c) the number of sex establishments, or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time of the application is determined is equal to or exceeds the number of which the authority consider it appropriate for that locality; Nil may be an appropriate number.
- (d) That the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate having regard:-
 - (i) to the character of the relevant locality
 - (ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - (iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

A decision to refuse a licence must be relevant to one or more of the above grounds.

LICENSING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009/11

28th September 2009

Hackney Carriage Fares

2nd November 2009

- Gambling Act
- SIA Authorisation
- Licensing Standards

14th December 2009

- Licensing Act Annual Report
- Cardiff Report Update (James Cooper)

25th January 2010

- Taxi Inspection Testing
- Scheme of Delegation
- Taxi Rank Report

26th April 2010

19th July 2010

- Licensing Act 6 Monthly Report
- Cardiff Report Update

11th October 2010

- Hackney Carriage Fares
- Review of Statement of Licensing Policy for the Licensing Act 2003
- Report on route and language testing for drivers (HC & PH)

17th January 2011

Licensing Act – Annual Report

11th April 2011

To Be Allocated To Suitable Available Dates, Dependent On Agenda