



LICENSING COMMITTEE

4.30pm – 6pm

8 March 2012

Present: Councillors Driver (chair), Banham, Haynes, Henderson, Jeraj, Kendrick, Sands (M), Sands (S) and Thomas

Apologies: Councillors George and Wright

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2011.

2. LATE NIGHT LEVY

(Superintendent Paul Sanford and Chief Inspector Gavin Tempest of the Norfolk Constabulary, attended the meeting for this item)

The superintendent provided a presentation on Norwich's night time economy, specifically in relation to a rising level of serious violent crime associated to late night licensing. He outlined the government's proposals to provide new powers and tools including a late night levy and early morning restriction orders, to licensing authorities to address some of the problems caused by late night drinking. A public consultation was taking place on the proposals until 10 April 2012, with implementation proposed for October 2012. The Norfolk Constabulary were keen to agree an approach with the council.

In response to members' questions, the Chief Inspector said that the introduction of a charge could result in the reduction of the opening hours of night clubs and therefore a reduction in the level of serious violent crime, reducing the risk of harm to the public. The additional income could also be reinvested into club safety. The chief executive said that there needed to be a break between the night time economy and early morning and that working with the Norfolk Constabulary would be essential. Members were concerned that earlier closure of night clubs could move the problem on to takeaways and off licences. In response, the licensing manager confirmed that the night light levy could apply to the whole area and any premises selling alcohol.

Members queried what was causing the problems in Norwich and whether licences were being breached through the sale of alcohol to those already inebriated. The Chief Inspector explained that it was often difficult to identify those that were inebriated. Norfolk Constabulary worked with the licensed operators to try to raise

standards and covert operations were used to observe and take action if necessary. Norwich was not unique and similar issues were experienced in other UK cities. He explained that limited funding was available to reduce the issues and this was directed through the Norfolk Nightsafe Campaign and educating people through the Matthew Project.

The licensing manager said that members would need to consider if they wanted to adopt a late night levy and consider the current cost to the police. The superintendant would be able to collate and provide the full cost of policing the Norwich night time economy.

RESOLVED to note the update on the late night levy.

3. LICENCE AND REGISTRATION FEES

The licensing manager presented the annual report and answered members' questions. No comments had been received from taxi drivers regarding the proposed increase to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire fees for 2012/13. However if the proposals were agreed by members, the proposed increase would be advertised and comments may then be received.

RESOLVED to approve the fees detailed within the column headed 'recommended charge' of appendix A of the report.

4. REQUEST TO RESTRICT HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES

The licensing manager presented the report and said that the consultation was taking place until 30 April 2012. It was proposed that the results would be reported back to members in June 2012. The survey was published in the citizen magazine and available on the council's website. All Hackney Carriage vehicle owners had been contacted directly.

RESOLVED to note the current position.

5. STANDING ITEM - REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the regulatory sub committee meetings held on 21 November 2011, 19 December 2011 and 16 January 2012.

CHAIR