



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

B349

Cabinet 1 December 2010

Recommendations from Licensing and Regulatory Committee: 8 November 2010 (Dec10/12)

*Cabinet Member: Cllr Robert Everitt Chairman of the Committee:
Cllr Frank Warby*

1. Amendments to Licensing Statement of Policy (Report B279)

RECOMMENDED:- That, subject to the approval of full Council:-

- (1) following the tri-ennial review and the public consultation undertaken earlier this year, the Licensing Statement of Policy, attached as Appendix A to Report B279, be approved; and***
- (2) the Corporate Director for Community, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for licensing, be authorised to make minor typographic, grammatical and/or factual changes.***

In Spring 2010, the evidence available for continuing the Cumulative Impact Area Policy (commonly known as Special Area Policy) for the historic core of Bury St Edmunds was reviewed, subjected to public consultation and subsequently considered by the Committee on 12 July 2010 (Report B111 and Minute 8 referred). The Committee resolved at that meeting that there was insufficient evidence to support the Cumulative Impact Area Policy within the Licensing Statement of Policy. Instead, the Committee resolved to undertake a public consultation on the draft Licensing Statement of Policy without the inclusion of the Cumulative Impact Area Policy, and to set up a Licensing Forum for Bury St Edmunds, and subsequently Haverhill.

Taking into account the responses received during the consultation period, the revised Licensing Statement of Policy was attached as Appendix A to Report B279, with a summary of the proposed changes attached as Appendix B. The consultation responses received were attached as Appendix C. Of the submissions, five respondents had expressed concern that the Cumulative Impact Area Policy had been removed from the Licensing Statement of Policy.

On 8 November 2010, a detailed discussion on the Cumulative Impact Area Policy was held, during which the Chairman allowed local residents present at the meeting to make further contributions. There was some discussion of how the crime statistics provided should be interpreted, with some Members and residents making a distinction between recorded crimes and incidents of anti-social behaviour, which would be far higher.

Councillor Farmer considered that due to the number of responses received from local residents in the historic core of Bury St Edmunds regarding the removal of the Cumulative Impact Area Policy, both in the consultation on the Cumulative Impact Area Policy and on the current Licensing Statement of Policy, that further public consultation should be undertaken on the Licensing Statement of Policy, incorporating the Cumulative Impact Area Policy. He emphasised that a Cumulative Impact Area Policy did not make it more difficult for a business to obtain a licence, as no licence had been refused in the past two years. He concluded by stating that approximately one thousand residents had benefitted from the Cumulative Impact Area Policy and no business had been denied a licence.

There was a consensus that the Committee should give serious consideration to the comments made by the residents and, on being put to the vote, Councillor Farmer's amendment in respect of additional consultation was approved, and is as follows:-

Having reconsidered the evidence presented at its meeting of 12 July 2010, and taking into account the relevant responses to the recent public consultation, that a further public consultation be undertaken on the Licensing Statement of Policy, incorporating the Cumulative Impact Area Policy as set out in the current Statement of Licensing Policy, and that a decision on the inclusion of the Cumulative Impact Area Policy be made by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 21 March 2011, following consideration of the responses to that public consultation.