

Minutes of meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020
at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor Legg (Chair)
Councillors Akter, Alexander, Bowyer, Carr, Cryer-Whitehead,
Lancaster, Marlow, Miles, Trendall, Wallis and Williams

Officers: N Allen (Head of Regulatory Services), S Teesdale (Licensing and
Business Manager), K Hulatt (Acting Head of Legal Services), J Agar (Taxi
Licensing Manager), E Fisher (Senior Practitioner), M Marshman (MK
Together Strategic Partnership and Business Manager), J Sloan
(Licensing Officer), M Smith (Strategic Housing Finance Manager) and
J Crighton (Committee Manager)

Also Present: S Lawrence (Public Health Practitioner [Drug and Alcohol (Central
Bedfordshire Council)]) and four members of the public

Apologies: Councillor Green

LC15 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on
25 November 2019 and the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committees
held on 14 November 2019 and 28 January 2020, be approved and
signed by the Chair as correct records.

LC16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

LC17 CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FROM THE CASINO 2019/20

The Committee considered a briefing note regarding contributions
received from the Casino for 2019/20.

The Strategic Housing Finance Manager reported that

The Committee expressed concern that there was no clear
understanding where the contributions were being utilised and
funding to support vulnerable gamblers could potentially be increased.

Councillor Miles asked when the report outlining the financial contributions would be made available to Cabinet for consideration.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

LC18

MILTON KEYNES PUBLIC HEALTH DATA TOOL FOR STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered a report from the Licensing Officer on the Milton Keynes Public Health Data Tool for Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Committee noted that the Public Health Data Tool would enable Public Health to be more effective in making evidence based decisions on licensing applications, while at the same time helping to develop a health-impact assessment of alcohol harm in local areas.

The Licensing Officer informed the Committee that the next review of the Statement of Licensing Policy would take effect in 2023 and, whilst the Data Tool was not required to be included in the Policy, it would add greater weight to Public Health evidence and increase the visibility of data being utilised.

The Licensing Officer informed the Committee that, under the Licensing Act 2003, amendments to the Statement of Licensing Policy would require a consultation period, however, it was suggested that the Data Tool should be adopted by the Committee and data provided by the tool be provided for information to Sub-Committees when considering licensing applications, until such time that, following consultation, the Policy was amended.

RESOLVED -

1. That the development of the Public Health data tool be supported.
2. That Public Health use the data tool to review licensing applications and submit representations based on available data.
3. That the following be included as part of the refresh of the Statement of Licensing Policy in 2023:

“An Alcohol Licensing Data Matrix Tool has been developed by Public Health and can be used by Responsible Authorities to assist them in making evidence based responses to licence applications and policy review.”

LC19

AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY (LICENSING ACT 2003)

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Practitioner on amendments to the Statement of Licensing Policy, which the Council was required to adopt under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Committee noted that, under the current Policy, the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children's Board was the responsible authority for the protection of children from harm.

It was reported that, during 2018/19, there had been a change in legislation whereby the Safeguarding Children's Board ceased to exist and its role had been included within a new structure of the Council known as MK Together.

The Committee noted that the change only reflected the name to an existing responsible authority and that a statutory consultation of the Policy was not required.

RESOLVED -

That the revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy, changing the reference 'Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children's Board' to 'MK Together', be endorsed and recommended for adoption by the Council.

LC20

AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF GAMBLING PRINCIPLES (GAMBLING ACT 2005)

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Practitioner on amendments to the Statement of Gambling Principles (Gambling Act 2005).

The Committee noted that, under the current Statement, the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children's Board was the responsible authority for the protection of children from harm.

It was reported that, during 2018/19, there had been a change in legislation whereby the Safeguarding Children's Board ceased to exist and its role had been included within a new structure of the Council known as MK Together.

The Committee noted that the change only reflected the name to an existing responsible authority and that a statutory consultation of the Statement was not required.

RESOLVED -

That the revisions to the Statement of Gambling Principles, changing the reference 'Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children's Board' to 'MK Together', be endorsed for adoption by the Council.

LC21

DELEGATIONS TO THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

The Committee considered a report from the Acting Head of Legal Services on the Delegations to the Licensing Sub-Committee and officers.

It was reported that, following significant changes to the Council's Constitution, there was a requirement to amend the Scheme of Delegation.

It was also reported that, under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005, licensing functions be discharged by the Committee, but, in many cases, it was not appropriate to discharge these in its full form and the Committee could delegate these functions, or decision to be undertaken or made by officers or by a Sub-Committee of the main Committee.

RESOLVED -

That the item be deferred to a future a meeting of the Committee to allow further discussions between officer colleagues and the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

LC22

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Licensing Committee would be provisionally held on Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 6.30 pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.00 PM