

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

Meeting held 10 October 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Nikki Bond, Jillian Creasy, Roger Davison, Neale Gibson, Adam Hurst, George Lindars-Hammond, Denise Reaney, Clive Skelton (Deputy Chair), Stuart Wattam, Cliff Woodcraft and Joyce Wright

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1. CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

1.1 RESOLVED: That (a) with effect from 1st October, 2013, Councillor Clive Skelton be appointed Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the 2013/14 Municipal Year; and

(b) this Committee places on record its appreciation for the outstanding contribution made to the Licensing Committee by Councillor John Robson.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Robson.

3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

3.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 12th, 15th, 19th, 20th and 30th August and 2nd and 3rd September, 2013 were approved as correct records, subject to the amendment of the minutes of the meeting held on 20th August by the deletion of the question marks after the words "Pub Operator" in paragraph 4.2.

6. LICENSING ACT 2003 - HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION - PERSONAL LICENCES

6.1 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report to (a) inform Members of a consultation paper that had been released by the Home Office proposing to abolish personal alcohol licences, (b) consult with Members regarding the new proposals outlined in the consultation paper and (c) obtain comments for the Licensing Authority's formal response to the consultation.

6.2 Claire Bower, Principal Licensing Officer, stated that the Home Office objective is

to reduce regulation on businesses and cut “red tape” surrounding the sale of alcohol. She stated that, in the opinion of officers, the proposals in the consultation would undermine some of the priorities, values and outcomes in the “Standing Up for Sheffield: Corporate Plan 2011-14”. Claire Bower added that the current system for personal licences provides individuals with training in licensing legislation, thereby improving employment chances and providing a higher skilled workforce in the licensed sector and also a higher degree of social responsibility, thereby, in turn, improving safety in the community.

- 6.3 In response to questions from Members of the Committee, Claire Bower and Matt Proctor, Senior Licensing Officer, gave instances of recent personal licence applications that had been heard and the reasons why they felt the current legislation should be widened, and also that research carried out had not found anyone involved in the licensed sector to be in favour of the proposed abolition of Personal Licences.
- 6.4 RESOLVED: That having considered the details of the consultation document on proposals to abolish personal alcohol licences, the draft response to the Government consultation, appended to the report now submitted, be approved.