

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE  
HELD ON MONDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2024**

**COUNCILLORS**

**PRESENT** Mahym Bedekova (Chair), Mahmut Aksanoglu, Sinan Boztas, Elif Erbil, Peter Fallart, Alessandro Georgiou, Suna Hurman, Sabri Ozaydin and Jim Steven.

**OFFICERS:** Esther Hughes (Head of Service - Consumer Protection & Waste Enforcement), Ellie Green (Licensing Team Manager), Catriona Mcfarlane (Legal Adviser) and Harry Blake-Herbert (Governance Officer).

**Also Attending:** a member of the public.

**1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: George Savva (Vice Chair), Maria Alexandrou, Hivran Dalkaya, Chris Dey, Guney Dogan and Paul Pratt.

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllrs: Peter Fallart and Elif Erbil.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**3 REVISED LICENSING POLICY, GAMBLING POLICY, CASINO RESOLUTION & SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE RESOLUTION**

Esther Hughes introduced the key aspects of the report:

- a. The Licensing Act and Gambling Act policies were both being reviewed, as was the statutory requirement every 5 and 3 years respectively.
- b. The Licensing Committee were to note the recommend the proposals outlined in the report to Council for approval, with the aim for them to be published/ adopted in January 2025.
- c. A public consultation had taken place for both policies, with 20 responses being received in relation to the Licensing Policy and 4 for the Gambling Policy, which the team were relatively pleased by.
- d. The Licensing Policy sought to retain the existing 4 Cumulative Impact Zones in Edmonton (which covered Upper Edmonton, Lower Edmonton and Edmonton Green), Enfield Highway, Enfield Town and Southgate. Two new Cumulative Impact Zones would be introduced in Bowes and

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Palmers Green wards. Cumulative Impact Zones previously had timeframes, until which they were not active, but these had been removed, so they would become 24 hour.

- e. Refusal in respect of sexual entertainment venues was being continued.

The following questions and comments were received with regards to the Licensing Act:

- a. In response to members queries relating to the proliferation of betting premises on high streets, officers responded that the Cumulative Impact Zones, were in relation to the Licensing Act. They previously had core hours of 8am to midnight, but as more complaints had been received earlier in the day, the evidence supported the change for them to apply all day. The Gambling Vulnerability Zones were very similar in area to the Cumulative Impact Zones, and meant that there was an onus on operators in those areas to give more consideration to their risk assessments and the local area profile, but these did not have a timeframe.
- b. In response to Members' questions and comments regarding Cumulative Impact Zones in other wards, officers replied that there was certain criteria which needed to be met for an area to qualify as a Cumulative Impact Zone, namely levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. All wards had been looked at and compared, and there wasn't enough evidence to justify introducing new Cumulative Impact Zones in other wards, but these were on the radar and could be reviewed and added in the future if there was evidence to support this.
- c. In response to Members' enquiries in respect of a introducing a maximum number of betting premises in an area, officers advised that this was not possible under the Gambling Act, and that any such controls would fall within planning policy.

Esther Hughes highlighted the key aspects of the Gambling Policy:

- a. There were two new Gambling Vulnerability Areas, which mirrored the current Edmonton and Enfield Highway Cumulative Impact Zones. The report and supplementary detailed exactly which wards and roads/areas these referred to.
- b. The nil casino resolution, which the borough historically always had, was also sought to be retained.

The following questions and comments were received with regards to the Gambling Act:

- a. In response to Members' questions relating to the number of gambling premises required in a ward for a Vulnerability Area, officers responded that Gambling Vulnerability Areas were not necessarily related to the number of gambling premises. They were instead more to do with

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economic deprivation within the area, and the extent to which residents there were susceptible to harm as a result of gambling activity. Officers conveyed that should circumstances change prior to the next time the policy was reviewed, the wards included as Vulnerability Areas could be reconsidered.

- b. In response to members queries relating to the Council making representations to governments to review the legislation, officers replied that the authority had always responded to white papers reviewing the Gambling Act. The previous Leader had lobbied, and Cllr Erbil had written a letter to the government, arguing that the current legislation did not give councils enough power to control gambling premises, but there had been no changes to the regulation. The Licensing Team carried out inspections of gambling premises, to ensure the Licensing Conditions were being complied with, but did not receive many complaints about such premises, and as the policy was permissive, there wasn't much they could do without evidence of issues, particularly for new premises.
- c. In response to Members' questions and comments regarding gambling premises frontage and signage, officers advised that this was a planning concern.
- d. In response to Members' enquiries in respect of consultations, officers responded that they had engaged more with social media, the business newsletter and the press team. The trading landscape post Covid was also thought to have changed, with residents believed to be more aware and mindful of matters relating to high streets.
- e. In response to Members' questions relating to the biggest changes to the policies, officers replied that in relation to the Licensing Act, there were two new Cumulative Impact Zones, the data/statistics had been refreshed and Martyn's Law was being supported, so was something that larger events needed to consider. There were other positive, non-restrictive changes, which highlighted new trends/tools such as working with the Police on tackling violence against women, including getting premises to sign up to the charter, training staff to identify issues and offer safe havens. In respect of the Gambling Act, the Vulnerability Areas were new, and highlighted to operators the issues to be aware of and the need take actions to address existing problems.
- f. In response to members queries relating to the process for introducing new Cumulative Impact Zones, officers advised that they would hope to be aware of when and where there would be cause for new zones to be introduced, but councillors could contact the Licensing Team if they felt a further areas may need to be considered.
- g. In response to Members' questions and comments regarding gambling premises in the borough, officers responded that permission for an example raised had been refused but was then appealed. The legislation was permissive, so for new premises which had risk assessments, operating policies, trained staff, etc, officers had no evidence or reason to support refusal. When applications were submitted by companies, issues that may have occurred at any of their

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other premises was considered, but if they hadn't been reviewed, they didn't have evidence to support refusing them.

The Licensing Committee AGREED to note and recommend the proposals outlined in the report to Council.

Some Members expressed that Police representations submitted for hearings should highlight the potential issues with premises, as well as crime and anti-social behaviour statistics in the surrounding areas to a greater extent. Members praised the Licensing Team for the brilliant and proactive work they were doing.

The Chair thanked Members and officers for their time and contributions, and the meeting ended at 19:31.