

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

19 APRIL 2005

**MEMBERS:** Councillors: **Boast** (Chairman), *Price* (Vice Chairman), *Adams*, *Buckland*, *Brett*, *Charalambous*, *Costello*, **Dreblow**, **Ford**, **Giladi**, **Heathwood**, *Mattingly*, *Schofield*, **T. Smith** and **Zinkin**

**OFFICERS:** **Ray Brewer**, Head of Trading Standards and Licensing, **Angie Allin**, Senior Licensing Admin Officer, **Dave Murphy**, Metropolitan Police, **Dominic Stagg**, Licensing Team Leader, **Stephen Addison**, Democratic Services, DCI Raffaele D’Orsi, Metropolitan Police and Adam Cox, Metropolitan Police.

*Italics denote absence*

**1281**

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adams, Brett, Buckland, Costello, Mattingly, Price, Schofield and Zinkin.

**1282**

### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**1283**

### **MINUTES**

NOTED that because of the recent changes to the Council’s Constitution, the minutes of the Licensing Panel meetings would in future be agreed by the Panel.

**1284**

### **LICENSING ACT 2003 – PROGRESS REPORT**

NOTED

1. the report of the Head of Licensing and Trading Standards (No.329) updating on the implementation of the new licensing regime and confirming that as of 6 April 2005, the Council had received 32 applications for personal licences and 4 applications for conversions to premises licences.

2. that the low level of applications was reflected across all Licensing Authority areas.

3. the letter, dated 30th March 2005, from members of the DCMS Stakeholder Group sent to the Minister Rt. Hon. Richard Caborn MP outlining concerns about the lack of applications during the transition period and requesting Government action.

4. the action taken by the Licensing Team detailed in the report to inform licensees and encourage the early submission of applications.

5. that two licensing surgeries were being held to help and advise applicants wishing to convert their existing licence.

**1285**

**LICENSING ACT 2003 – PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT HEARINGS OF THE LICENSING SUB - COMMITTEE**

RECEIVED the report of the Head of Licensing and Trading Standards (No.330) highlighting that the Council as Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, was required to determine the procedure to be followed at hearings of the Licensing Sub-Committee. The power to determine this procedure is delegated to the Licensing Committee.

NOTED that the Committee would be able to review the procedure at a later date in the light of experience at meetings.

**RESOLVED** that the procedure set out in the appendix to the report be adopted for the purposes of regulation 21 of the Licensing Act (Hearings) Regulations 2005.

**1286**

**EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** in accordance with the principles of Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in as defined in Paragraphs 7 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**1287**

**LICENSING ENFORCEMENT AND POLICE CRIME STATISTICS AFFECTING LICENSED PREMISES**

NOTED

1. the presentations regarding joint Council and Police enforcement activity affecting licensed premises (codename operation LEMA) and an analysis of police crime statistics affecting licensed premises.

2. that Under the Licensing Act 2003, the Committee had a responsibility to receive reports on crime and disorder and to ensure that this was properly reflected in Committee decisions.

3. that there had been a 50% reduction in reported crime associated with licensed premises since 2002/03.

4. the comments of the Chairman regarding the need for the Metropolitan Police Service, where appropriate, to raise objections and highlight concerns for the applications submitted to the Committee.
5. that officers would establish if it was appropriate and or helpful for the Chairman of the Licensing Committee to be a member of the Crime and Disorder Partnership Sub Committee on alcohol.
6. that Operation Lema I ran from November 04 – January 05, during which time 278 visits were made to licensed premises. Operation Lema II was run as part of the Responsible Licensee Scheme and 47 premises had been audited.