

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Minutes

**Friday, 6th February 2015
(10.00 a.m.)**

PRESENT: Councillor J.N. Hails (Chair)

Councillors Mrs. G. Burton, Mrs. E. Fallows, Mrs. B.A. Hughes, H.W.G. Jebb, Mrs. M.M. Lovatt, Mrs. M.A. Lovatt, T. McNicol and D.J.T. Shaw.

OFFICERS: Robert Weaver - Head of Regulatory Services
Alicia Patterson - Principal Officer – Regulatory Services
Caroline Cooke - Corporate Electoral Administration Advisor
Pat Trafford - Member Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs J.D. Bull, B.T. Cowie and B.C. Johnson.

19. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE HELD ON 17th OCTOBER 2014** (19)

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the above meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

20. **URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair confirmed that a Licensing Sub-Committee was due to take place immediately after this meeting.

21. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

22. **PROPOSED POLLING STATION CHANGE**

The Council had received notification that the British Red Cross Centre, Southbank Street, Leek was due to be sold at auction on 28th February 2015. This meant that the Centre may well not be available for use as a Polling Station location in the scheduled elections on 7th May 2015 for Leek East Ward (KKK).

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22. PROPOSED POLLING STATION CHANGE (CONTINUED) (22)

Suitable alternative premises had been located at the nearby All Saints Church Hall, Compton, Leek. The venue was able to accommodate 2 Polling Stations and complied with the requirements as laid down in Electoral Commission guidance.

In response to a member query regarding the provision of parking facilities, the Corporate Electoral Administration Advisor confirmed that 1 extra Poll Clerk would be appointed to provide parking assistance.

RESOLVED – That All Saints Church Hall be **APPROVED** as the polling station location for KKK – Leek East Ward.

23. POLLING STATIONS ONGOING REVIEW

The Council was aware that the sale of Cheadle Council Offices was close to completion. In view of the proximity of the scheduled elections on 7th May 2015, alternative premises needed to be identified and approved in the event of the Council Offices becoming unavailable on that date.

Suitable alternative premises had been located at the Hammersley Hayes Community Centre, Dovedale Close, Cheadle for use as the Polling Station for the Cheadle North East District Ward – EC.

In response to member queries, the Electoral Administration Manager confirmed the following points:-

- *Additional signage would be provided for voter guidance in order to locate the revised venue;*
- *Polling cards issued to voters would be clearly marked to show the revised venue;*
- *In both this and the previous item, the original venues would be returned to if possible following the sale of each property.*

RESOLVED – That Hammersley Hayes Community Centre, Dovedale Close, Cheadle be **APPROVED** as the polling station location for EC – Cheadle North East District Ward if Cheadle Council Offices become unavailable following its sale.

24. LICENSING ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014

The Committee received a report on licensing enforcement activity for the period October to December 2014, indicating that a total of 26 enforcement actions had been undertaken, as set out in the report. The actions had been a mixture of reactive and proactive in nature.

The Chair noted the continuation of multi-agency enforcement actions and members were advised that more such actions were planned during the remainder of February 2015 and beyond.

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24. LICENSING ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2014 (CONTINUED) (24)

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

25. STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCHOOL ALCOHOL SURVEY RESULTS

The survey was completed in the summer term 2014 involving pupils in year groups 7-12 (ages 11-17 years old) with the purpose of providing organisations with an understanding of Staffordshire young peoples' views and experiences of alcohol.

The survey results were appended to the report in 2 forms. Appendix A showed the results for schools in the whole of Staffordshire County and Appendix B showed those for schools in the Staffordshire Moorlands area. The key findings of the report were:-

- Over half (57%) of young people who had responded to the survey had had an alcoholic drink.
- Respondents that had their first drink before the age of 10 were considerably more likely to be a frequent drinker now (once a week or more frequently).
- The majority of heavy drinking (6 or more drinks on one occasion) took place socially - parties, family gatherings.
- The main source of alcohol (by a considerable amount) was parents, with their permission.
- Young people whose parents had spoken to them about alcohol and had been clear about rules and expectations were less likely to be frequent drinkers than those whose parents had not spoken to them at all, or just had a general discussion.
- There was a difference between how much and how often young people were actually drinking and how much and how often they thought their peers were drinking. 42.3% of respondents to the survey never drank alcohol, but when asked how often they thought that most people in their year group drank alcohol, 72.7% answered never or rarely (no more than once every 6 months).

Members discussed the report at length, considering that, whilst schools had a role to play, the main responsibility lay with parents. Schools which were most successful in dealing with the subject were those which were more proactive, involving school visits from the Police. It was noted that participation in the survey had been on a voluntary basis.

RESOLVED – That the report be **NOTED**.

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26. **CHAIR/MEMBERS QUESTIONS/ISSUES**

There were no questions or issues raised.

27. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, pursuant to Section 100A (2) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings whereby it is likely that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (3) of the Act would be disclosed to the public in breach of the obligation of confidence or exempt information as defined in Section 100 I (1) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act would be disclosed to the public by virtue of the Paragraphs indicated.

_____ Chair _____ Date

SUMMARY OF EXEMPT ITEMS

APPLICATION TO VARY THE GENERAL CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE

(Paragraph 3 – Financial or business affairs of any particular person).

The Committee considered an application by a Private Hire Operator to vary certain conditions on his Licence.