



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

DRAFT MINUTES

Licensing Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee** held on **Wednesday 8 July 2020**,
This meeting was held virtually.

Members Present: Councillors Heather Acton (Chair), Barbara Arzymanow, Rita Begum, Margot Bright, Susie Burbridge, Maggie Carman, Peter Freeman, Murad Gassanly, Jim Glen, Louise Hyams, Aicha Less, Tim Mitchell, Karen Scarborough, Aziz Toki and Jacqui Wilkinson.

Officers present: Annette Acik (Interim Director of Public Protection and Licensing), Kerry Simpkin, (Head of Licensing Policy, City Policy and Strategy), Heidi Titcombe (Principal Solicitor) and Kisi Smith-Charlemagne (Senior Committee and Governance Officer).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors: Peter Freeman.
Andrew Ralph (Head of Licensing and Regulatory Service)

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 There were no changes to the membership of the committee.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Licensing Committee on 25th February were approved.

4. BUSKING AND STREET ENTERTAINMENT POLICY CONSULTATION RESULTS

4.1 The Licensing Committee received a report from the Director of Public Protection and Licensing. The report summarised the results of the Council's recent consultation on the draft Busking and Street Entertainment Policy and outlines the next steps to take. Members were advised that officers ran a 6-week consultation on the council's first draft of the Policy from 14th January – 24rd February 2020.

- 4.2 Members were advised the consultation sought feedback on each of the area-based approaches including the borough wide code of conduct, busker and street entertainer self-regulation in Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden, and licensing proposals in Oxford Street, Piccadilly, Chinatown and Leicester Square. The committee were informed that the response rate to the proposals was high, with 712 completed surveys, and 17 written responses received. The committee were informed that overall 62% of respondents agreed with the proposals laid out in the policy, however strong disagreement was evident between stakeholders that the policy struck the right balance.
- 4.3 The Committee received two representations, one representing residents and one representing busker and street entertainers. Members welcomed the report and agreed that the policy required further work as the balance was not quite right. Members strongly felt that they had a responsibility to residents and businesses, but also wanted to ensure that the borough remained vibrant and felt that they still needed to find the right balance for busking and street entertainment. Members noted the report.
- 4.4 **RESOLVED:** That the report was noted by members of the committee.

5. TACHBROOK STREET MARKET ELECTRICAL UPGRADE AND PITCH REALIGNMENT PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The Licensing Committee welcomed a report from the Director of Public Protection and Licensing and the Director of Economic Development Economic Development. The Committee were advised that the report set out the proposed electrical infrastructure upgrade and subsequent pitch realignment for Tachbrook Street Market. It was noted that the report included the rationale to realign the current market layout, a background to the electrical upgrade and the benefits the changes will deliver.
- 5.2 The Committee was informed that the proposals had been designed to implement the necessary improvements to trader's electricity access, in line with commitments made in the Council's Markets Strategy, whilst improving health and safety and wayfinding at the market. The Committee were advised that the plans were part of a wider holistic vision for the future of the market.
- 5.3 Members were informed that the vision included the introduction of pay as you go electricity charging for market traders, a reprofiling of the storage space to both benefit traders and reduce vehicle congestion in the area, consistent and visible market branding, a transformation of the existing toilet facilities into refurbished toilets and kitchen space for traders, and free WiFi on the market.
- 5.4 Members welcomed the report and raised queries regarding the temporary relocation of the market and also enquired as to the [possibility of providing improves washing facilities for traders. Members of the Committee agreed the recommendations for the electrical update.

5.5 **RESOLVED:** That the report be agreed by members of the committee.

6. REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY ON LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

6.1 The committee received a report on the review of proportionality on the Licensing Sub-Committee from officers. It was explained that this was an annual review which was usually presented to the General Purpose Committee, however the report was unable to be presented to the Committee in May due to Covid-19. It was therefore agreed that the report should be presented at the next full Licensing Committee meeting for agreement by the committee members.

6.2 The report set out the current membership and proportionality of the Licensing Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee.

6.3 **RESOLVED:** That the report be agreed by members of the committee.

7. LICENSING APPEALS

7.1 The members of the committee received a report which provided a summary of recent appeal results. The committee were informed that there had been no new appeals since January 2020 and the Opium appeal had been withdrawn. Members were updated on the Hemings judicial review, it was advised that an application had been made to the Administrative Court to recover the costs payable to the Council for monitoring and enforcing the licensing regime.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That the report was noted by members of the committee.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business raised by the Committee.

The meeting ended at 11.30am.

CHAIRMAN: _____ **DATE** _____