

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Venue: Council Chamber - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor M J Ford, JP (Chairman)

Councillor T M Cartwright, MBE (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs S M Bayford, T Davies, Mrs P Hayre, Mrs J Kelly,
Ms S Pankhurst, R H Price, JP, Mrs K K Trott, Mrs S M Walker
and Mrs K Mandry (deputising for I Bastable)

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I J Bastable, Mrs P M Bryant and L Keeble.

2. MINUTES

(1) Minutes of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee held on 25 January 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

(2) Minutes of meeting of Licensing Panel 01 February 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Panel held on 01 February 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

(3) Minutes of meeting of Licensing Panel 15 February 2022

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Panel held on 15 February 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. UPDATE ON POLICE LICENSING MATTERS

The Committee received an update from Sgt Pete Rackman and PC Neil Cotton from Hampshire Constabulary on local Police licensing matters.

The update provided information about the different geographical areas covered by the Licensing Team, the level of staffing available and an overview of the ethos of the team's collaborative approach in working with licenced premises to promote the licensing objectives.

The Committee heard that during the Pandemic, licensable activity was very limited, however the teams worked with Local Authority Licensing Teams to help with enforcement of restrictions imposed as a result of lockdowns. There is a strong indication that many premises are now back to pre-pandemic levels of business, although some of the smaller premises are finding this more difficult.

An issue that has received a lot of publicity recently is a reported increase in the dangers of spiking drinks. This is more prevalent in the larger night-time economies such as Portsmouth and Southampton but does also occur in some of the smaller towns. Many of the cases that have been investigated have been due to young people not knowing how to drink sensibly rather than spiking of drinks, but the Licensing Team is continuing to work hard to raise awareness of the issue and to give practical help and guidance on how people can keep themselves safe.

There has been an increase in violence and sexual assault across the County and a key challenge being faced by the police is the intent on causing harm to women & girls, particularly in light of recent high profile cases such as the deaths of Sarah Everard, Julia James, Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman. As with other issues, these types of offences are more prevalent in the larger night-time economies of the bigger towns and cities, but they are starting to be seen in more local areas. A number of visits have been made to licenced premises in Fareham to encourage them to sign up to use a toolkit that has been developed that can help to keep vulnerable people safe from this sort of offence.

Fareham's night-time economy is getting busier and licensed activities currently take place until 1am. There were 2 cases of GBH and 1 of violent rape reported in the last week. The Police Licensing Team carefully monitors the cases that are received each day so that they are aware of any licenced premises that have been involved and to identify any trends that are emerging with any particular premises.

The Committee was advised that Fareham has one of the most successful Pub Watch schemes in the county. Local issues are discussed by a committee of over 50 participants and all members of the scheme are kept informed. 6 licenced premises in the Gosport area have recently joined the scheme and the Police Licensing Team is aiming to expand on this so that the sharing of information and best practices can help to create and maintain a safe environment over a much wider area.

Local relations with HMS Collingwood continue to be very good. The Master at Arms gives guidance to new recruits on how to behave when out in the local area and any issues that the police report back to him are quickly dealt with. Local licenced premises also have a feedback system which enables them to report any issues direct to HMS Collingwood so that individuals can be held to account.

The Committee heard that there will be some challenges to face over the coming year with the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee taking place over the summer and the World Cup in November. Planning for these events will take place early to ensure that links are made with partner agencies to help deal with any potential impact on the night-time economy.

Finally, the Police Licensing Officers reported that a Public Health scheme is being promoted across the area to encourage all licenced premises to purchase a defibrillator to keep on site for use in emergency situations. This will be discussed and promoted via the Pub-Watch scheme.

After having had the opportunity to ask questions or make comments for clarification, the Committee thanked the Police Licensing Officers for attending and providing their update.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee notes the content of the update.

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation by the Head of Democratic Services which provided members with an update on the Local Government Boundary Review. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

The presentation outlined that the first part of the review has determined that Fareham should have a total of 32 Councillors representing 16 wards with 2 Councillors representing each of the wards. However, in order to even out current and projected variances in elector numbers, it will be necessary to change some of the ward boundaries.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that she had hoped that she would be in a position to present a proposed plan of the revised ward boundaries at this stage but, regrettably, this has not been possible. The Boundary Commission has agreed in principle to extend the consultation period for the review until July which will allow a few more weeks for the proposed plan to be prepared for members' consideration and comment at the meeting of the Committee in June.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee notes the content of the presentation.

8. FAREHAM & GOSPORT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Councillor Mrs S M Walker left the meeting at the start of this item.

The Committee received a presentation by the Head of Environmental Health which provided members with an update on the Fareham and Gosport Environmental Health Partnership. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

The presentation outlined the Partnership management arrangements, the scope of the services provided, the current employee structure, comparable statistics & financial information and an update on current issues.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee notes the content of the presentation.

9. FINAL REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22 AND DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Environmental Health which provided members with the opportunity to carry out a further review of

the Work Programme for the current municipal year and finalise a proposed, draft Work Programme for the 2022/23 municipal year.

In discussing the draft Work Programme for the 2022/23 municipal year, it was requested by members that the update on Police Licensing matters scheduled for the meeting in March 2023 have a greater focus on the Fareham area rather than the larger surrounding towns and cities.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee:

- (a) notes the progress on actions arising from the meeting of the Committee held on 25 January 2022, attached as Appendix A to the report;
- (b) reviewed the Work Programme for the 2021/22 municipal year, attached as Appendix B to the report;
- (c) approves the proposed draft Work Programme for 2022/23, attached as Appendix C to the report; and
- (d) agrees to submit the proposed draft Work Programme for 2022/23 to Council for approval.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.55 pm).