

**LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE  
8 APRIL 2014**

**PRESENT** – Councillors Nutt (in the Chair); Councillors CLB Hughes, Lawton, Newall, Stenson, Thistlethwaite, L. Vasey and J. Vasey. (8)

**APOLOGIES** – Councillors L. Haszeldine, B. Jones, D. Jones, Lee and J Lyonette. (5)

**LA19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

**LA20. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Licensing Act 2003 Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2014.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.

**LA21. MINUTES** – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Licensing Sub-Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2014.

**RESOLVED** – That the Minutes be accepted as a correct record.

**LA22. RESPONSE TO THE HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION IN RESPECT OF LOCALLY SET LICENCE FEES** – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to approve a response at the earliest possible time, the Director of Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) to invite Members of this Licensing Committee to respond to the Home Office consultation into the proposal to introduce locally set licence fees in respect of the Licensing Act 2003.

Licence fees in respect of licences and permissions issued under the Licensing Act 2003 were set centrally by government in 2005 and these national fees have not been revised since their inception and it was of concern to licensing authorities from the commencement of the legislation that the set fees would not cover the cost of the function.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced a power for the Home Secretary to prescribe in regulations that these fee levels should be set by individual licensing authorities. A consultation document had been issued by the Home Office inviting comments by 10 April, 2014.

The submitted report included the joint response from the majority of the Tees Valley Authorities and proposed that the response should be sent from this Council's Licensing Act Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That this Licensing Act Committee approve the response to the consultation and confirm that the response be emailed to the Home Office prior to the closure of the consultation on 10 April 2014.

**LA23. THE RELAXATION OF LICENSING HOURS DURING THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2014** – With the prior approval of the Chair to the matter being treated as urgent to inform Members of the Government’s proposal at the earliest possible time, the Director of Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) to inform Members of the Government’s proposal to relax the hours during which hot food and alcohol may be sold for consumption ON the premises during the FIFA World Cup 2014.

The submitted report outlined that under Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003, where the Secretary of State considers that a period marks an occasion of exceptional international, national or local significance, he may make a Licensing Hours Order to extend the hours of premises licences and club premises certificates during a specified relaxation period. A ‘specified relaxation period’ means the hours specified for the duration of a celebration period if that period does not exceed four days or any part of that period not exceeding four days.

The Licensing Manager advised Members that during 13 March and 26 March 2014 a two week consultation exercise was undertaken by the Home Office, proposing that licensed premises be permitted to stay open later to sell alcohol for consumption ON the premises; to put on regulated entertainment; and to sell hot food and drink in those venues where alcohol is sold for consumption ON the premises in respect of any game in which England is playing in the World Cup 2014.

Full details of the outcomes of the consultation exercise were detailed in the submitted report and it was reported that the relaxation will apply to all England matches with a kick off time of 8 pm or later for a maximum of four hours to a latest time of 1.00 a.m. Premises wishing to extend their hours beyond 1.00 a.m will need to apply for a Temporary Entertainment Notice.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_