

Licensing Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Licensing Committee held on Thursday 11 February 2021 at 7.00 pm at Online/Virtual: please contact andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk for a link to the meeting and the instructions for joining the online meeting

PRESENT:

- Councillor Renata Hamvas (Chair)
- Councillor Adele Morris
- Councillor Sunil Chopra
- Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
- Councillor Jon Hartley
- Councillor Sunny Lambe
- Councillor Sirajul Islam
- Councillor Margy Newens
- Councillor Charlie Smith
- Councillor Jane Salmon
- Councillor Kath Whittam
- Councillor Ian Wingfield

OFFICER SUPPORT:

- Debra Allday, legal advisor to the committee
- David Franklin, licensing team leader
- Andrew Heron, principal licensing officer
- Jackie McGeever, regulatory services business unit manager
- Andrew Weir, constitutional officer

1. APOLOGIES

This was a virtual licensing sub-committee meeting.

The chair explained to the participants how the virtual meeting would run.

Everyone then introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lorraine Lauder MBE, Maria Linforth-Hall and Sandra Rhule.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The voting members were confirmed verbally, one at a time.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES FROM THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK - LATE NIGHT LEVY REVIEW

The principal licensing officer presented their report. The principal licensing officer was supported by the licensing team leader and the regulatory services business unit manager

The principal licensing officer outlined the options available to the members and members had questions for the principal licensing officer, the licensing team leader and the regulatory services business unit manager.

There was a discussion regarding the costs of removing the levy and the impact that this would have on the funding of the night time economy team.

There was also a discussion regarding the law, which meant that local authorities could not suspend a late night levy. The only options available were to continue with the levy or to remove the levy. Members expressed their frustration with this situation as they would have liked to have been able to temporarily suspend the levy to help businesses until they started to recover, once they were allowed to reopen.

There was also a discussion about whether the council's 30% of the levy could be used to help businesses. Officers advised that unfortunately the council would not be able to do this as the law was prescriptive as to what the council could spend its 30% of the levy on.

Following the discussions the Chair proposed that the committee vote to maintain the levy. This was seconded by Councillor Sunny Lambe. All other members of the

committee supported this, other than Councillor Sunil Chopra who abstained from the vote.

There was then a discussion regarding how to spend the council's 30% levy for the year 2019-2020. There was a unanimous decision that this money would be given to the police in order to maintain the funding for the night time economy team.

RESOLVED:

1. That the licensing committee agreed that the Southwark late night levy (LNL) shall be maintained.
2. That the licensing committee noted that the licensing committee shall convene a meeting to agree how the council's 30% portion of the levy revenue shall be spent after the current late night levy year ends (31 August 2021).
3. That the licensing committee agreed that the council's 30% portion of the levy revenue for the year 2019-20, equating to £88,048.50, be utilised to pay for the night time economy police.

The meeting ended at 8.47pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: