



ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2004 at 7.00 PM at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)
Councillor Lisa Rajan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Mark Glover
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Dominic Thorncroft

OFFICERS: Richard Parkins – Licensing Unit Manager
Des Waters – Head of Street Scene & Public Protection
Rachel Prosser – Legal Services
Peter Roberts – Scrutiny Team

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Beverley Bassom and David Bradbury and, for lateness, from Councillors Lisa Rajan and Dominic Thorncroft.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

There were none.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

RECORDING OF MEMBERS' VOTES

Council Procedure Rule 1.17(5) allows a Member to record her/his vote in respect of any motions and amendments. Such requests are detailed in the following Minutes. Should a Member's vote be recorded in respect of an amendment, a copy of the amendment may be found in the Minute file and is available for public inspection.

The Sub-Committee considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the Minute File. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29 June 2004 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

1. DRAFT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

1.1 Members of the Sub-Committee considered that it would be a useful exercise to look at how specific cases were managed by the Southwark Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (SASBU) as a way of understanding how the Council approaches anti-social behaviour generally. This would clarify how decisions were taken and whether there were any tensions within the system that prevented cases from progressing to a final stage. Officers emphasised that there might be problems in considering confidential casework at a Sub-Committee meeting.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That appropriate Officers be invited to brief the Sub-Committee on the work of SASBU and, if possible, provide examples of individual cases to demonstrate the process from original complaint onwards;
 2. That the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy be circulated to members of the Sub-Committee.

2. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 [see pages 5 - 12]

2.1 The Licensing Unit Manager introduced the report and updated the timetable for implementation. In response to questions from Members, Officers clarified that there was now a greater emphasis in the legislation on anti-social behaviour, for instance the noise made by customers leaving premises. Officers also clarified the effect of the changes on the Council's formal decision-making bodies.

2.2 Members asked whether there was any discretion that would allow Councils to encourage live music in particular venues. The Licensing Unit Manager explained that there was no ability to waive or set nominal fees, but that fees were now much lower than those previously charged. Regulations had yet to be received from central government. Officers were concerned that fees would not cover the additional resources necessary to respond to the changes.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the Sub-Committee consider the draft Statement of Licensing Policy at its next meeting;
 2. That interested members of the public be invited to attend, e.g. representatives from pubs, music venues, restaurants, clubs, licensed victuallers' association.

3. FORWARD PLAN [see pages 1 - 4]

3.1 The Sub-Committee considered the Council's Forward Plan and items carried over from its previous year's work together with possible new areas of scrutiny inquiry.

4. WORK PROGRAMME 2004/2005

4.1 The Sub-Committee considered its draft work programme.

RESOLVED: That the work programme be amended as follows:

- Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (September)
- Licensing Statement of Policy (September)
- Cross River Transit (scoping in November)

The meeting finished at 8.40 pm.

CHAIR:

DATE: