
CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE 4 March 2024

Attendance: Councillor Gwynfor Owen (Vice-chair)

Councillors:

Alan Jones Evans, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Gareth Tudor Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Arwyn Herald Roberts, Huw Rowlands, Angela Russell and Gareth Williams

Officers:

Gareth Jones (Assistant Head - Environment), Gwenan Mai Roberts (Licensing Manager) and Lowri Haf Evans (Democracy Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Anwen Davies, Linda Ann Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams and Elfed Williams

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of a meeting of this committee, that took place on 4 December 2023, as a true record.

5. MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

Submitted and received, for information, the minutes of the General Licensing Sub-committees held on 26 January 2024 as true records.

6. REVIEW OF A DRAFT STATEMENT OF POLICY - LICENSING ACT 2003, FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Submitted - a report by the Licensing Manager highlighting the need for every Licensing Authority to publish a statement of the Licensing Policy every 5 years. It was explained that the current Statement of Policy was approved by the Full Council in December 2015 therefore the 5-year period had ended since 2021. Although the Committee had approved a draft version of the Statement of Licensing Policy for public consultation in June 2021, there had been a delay before moving forward with the revision because the Service prioritised the covid lockdown enforcement work.

It was noted that six North Wales counties had decided to establish a Task Group to collaborate to draw up a statement of Licensing Policy that reconciled general elements across the region. It was reiterated that the Task Group also had tried to collaborate on

the consistency, structure and content of the statement, however, due to different economic and social factors, it was noted that each statement has been worded slightly different and continued to apply to its specific area.

Reference was made to minor changes to the policy such as reference to the Well-being of Future Generations (2015) Act, the role of Public Health Wales and the Health Board in the process of policy forming and responding to applications for a premises licence. Despite these changes, it was reported that neither the spirit nor the vision of the policy had changed.

In the context of a formal consultation, a consultation was held over December 2023 and January 2024 with North Wales Police, North Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board, People/Bodies that represent the county's businesses and residents, People/Bodies that represent current licence/certificate holders as well as a copy of the document that was available for examination at Siop Gwynedd and online. It was reported that no response had been received, possibly attributable to the fact that the new draft policy did not include any contentious changes. It was highlighted that an Equality Impact Assessment was also completed on the current statement because changes had been made to the policy since 2015.

Thanks was given for the report.

It was proposed and seconded to approve the Policy.

RESOLVED:

- **To accept the report**
- **To approve the Statement of Licensing Policy and to refer it for the Full Council to adopt it (May 2024).**

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 10.10am.