

Licensing Committee

7 April 2016

Present: Councillor M A Green (Chair)
Councillors G Bell, L Bell, L Darke, D Drummond,
E Hodson, M Huscroft, G Madden, T Mulvenna,
K Osborne and J O'Shea.

LQ01/04/16 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Brooks, W Lott and J Wallace.

LQ02/04/16 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations reported.

LQ03/04/16 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LQ04/04/16 Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committees

The Committee received copies of the minutes of the following sub-committee hearings held since its last meeting:-

10 April 2015	Beach House, Tynemouth
14 May 2015	Bertram Grange Community Centre
7 July 2015	The Majestic, Whitley Bay
26 August 2015	The Wooden Doll, North Shields
18 September 2015	Omni, Monkseaton
24 November 2015	Riley's Fish Shack, Tynemouth
7 December 2015	Longsands Fish Kitchen, Tynemouth
17 December 2015	Caprice Hotel, Whitley Bay
6 January 2016	Alnwick Castle, North Shields
20 January 2016	Monkseaton News, Food and Wine
16 March 2016	56 Victoria Terrace, Whitley Bay
21 March 2016	North Shields Football Club

During consideration of the minutes members who had served on the sub-committees shared their experiences and licensing officers were able to provide brief updates in relation to some of the premises and applications.

Resolved that the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee hearings as listed above be noted.

LQ05/04/16 Decisions taken under Delegated Authority

The Committee considered a report which detailed those applications that had been granted by officers under delegated authority during the period from 1 March 2015 to 29 February 2016. During this period licensing officers had granted 18 new Premises Licenses, 128 Personal Licences and 183 Temporary Event Notices and carried out 331 inspections.

Resolved that the decisions taken by officers under delegated authority during the period from 1 September 2014 to 28 February 2015 be noted.

LQ06/04/16 Provision of Child Sexual Exploitation Training for Personal Licence Holders

In response to the number of national high profile cases and reviews in relation to child sexual exploitation (CSE), the Children, Education and Skills Sub-Committee had examined the Council's role and practice on issues relating to child sexual exploitation in North Tyneside. The sub-committee had presented a series of recommendations to Cabinet including a recommendation that Cabinet should consider amending the process of applying for a private hire or a hackney carriage licence and a personal licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 to require the applicant to have undergone CSE training prior to issue.

Under the Licensing Act 2003 it was not possible for the Council to add a condition that an applicant must have undergone CSE training before being issued with a personal licence. It was however possible on the grant of a personal licence to provide the licence holder with information in relation to CSE and/or offer voluntary training on CSE. Cabinet therefore requested the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure to look into the possibility of voluntary training on CSE being offered to existing licence holders and new applicants for such a licence and asked that a report be submitted to the Licensing Committee.

Officers were currently considering options for the provision of any training and/or the supply of information to personal licence holders. A further report would be presented to the Licensing Committee for consideration when this work had been completed.

In response to questioning officers indicated that the Council had granted approximately 2000 current personal licences and that there would be other personal licence holders living and working in the area who had obtained their licences from other local authorities. Experience in other local authorities indicated that the take up of training on CSE by personal licence holders operating off licences had been very poor.

Members of the Committee considered that the provision of training on CSE for personal licence holders should be mandatory but they acknowledged that this was not possible within the existing legal framework. The Committee therefore agreed that the Council should make representations to the Home Secretary calling for an amendment to Licensing Act 2003 which would enable local authorities to require individuals to undertake CSE training prior to grant of a personal licence.

Resolved that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Housing, in consultation with the Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, be requested to make representations to the Home Secretary seeking an amendment to the Licensing Act 2003 which would enable local authorities to require individuals to undertake CSE training prior to grant of a personal licence.