

Durham County Council

General Licensing and Registration Committee

At the **Special Meeting** of the **General Licensing and Registration Committee** held in the **Committee Room 2** at **County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 27 October 2010 at 1.30pm.**

Present:

Councillor C Carr in the Chair

Members of the Committee:

Councillors R Arthur, J Blakey, D Boyes, J Gray, G Huntington, P May, M Plews, O Temple, L Thomson and A Wright.

Other Members:

Councillor K Holroyd

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Councillors J Bailey, D Brown, P Gittins, D Marshall, L Marshall, J Shiell, D Stoker and R Todd.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

A2 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

A3 Designated Public Place Orders

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which provided information on the legislation surrounding Designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) and to obtain agreement to a process for applications for DPPOs, a copy of which had been circulated.

Members were advised that Sections 12 and 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 provided local authorities the power to designate an area 'a public place' where there was evidence of problems of nuisance, annoyance or disorder because of the consumption of alcohol.

Once an area had been designated a public place it became an offence for an individual over the age of 18 to drink alcohol in the area after being requested not to do so by an accredited officer.

DPPOs were not alcohol free zones and did not make it illegal for people to drink in the area.

A number of DPPOs were already in place which were implemented prior to local Government Reorganisation. These were still in operation, however there were a number of additional areas where Officers felt that the Orders would be beneficial and a draft procedure for making application for a DPPO was attached to the report at Appendix 2.

In response to a question relating to the proposed procedure, the Strategic Manager, Safer Communities confirmed that Area Action Partnerships could be included as consultees on an application.

A Member asked if existing DPPOs had been effective. The Officer advised that anecdotal feedback from the Police had indicated that they had been useful in problem areas.

The cost of making application for a DPPO would be borne by the LMAP Groups (Local Multi-Agency Partnership Problem Solving Groups). It was suggested that the Policy be amended to reflect this.

Members discussed the role of accredited officers and were advised that at present they were made up of Police Officers and PCSOs. The officers were trained by the Police.

With regard to communicating the Policy to Residents Groups etc, it was suggested that if adopted the Area Action Partnerships be used as a mechanism for disseminating the information.

RESOLVED:

That

- (a) the procedure for Designating a Public Place as attached at Appendix 2 be agreed;
- (b) the power to implement a designation be delegated to the Area General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committees.