

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Monday 21 July 2014 at City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 1610
Concluded 1620

PRESENT – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR
Ellis	Ruding (Ch)
B M Smith	Swallow (DCh)
	Engel
	Abid Hussain
	Jamil

Apologies: Councillors Ikram, Middleton and Morris

Councillor Swallow in the Chair

5. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

6. MINUTES

Resolved -

- (1) That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 10 June 2014 be signed as a correct record (previously circulated).
- (2) That the minutes of the Licensing Panels held on the following dates be signed as correct records (previously circulated):

Bradford District Licensing Panel

30 April 2014
25 June 2014



7. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

8. REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENCE FEES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

The Assistant Director, Environmental and Regulatory Services presented **Document "A"** which sought approval of the maintenance of the current level of fees for premises licences issued by the Council under the Gambling Act 2005 for the 2014/15 financial year.

Members were informed that the Secretary of State had set a maximum fee payable for each band and the current fees were set at 76% of the statutory maximum. It was noted that a full costing exercise had been undertaken which took into account the cost of administering and processing the applications from receipt to issue of a licence and the full costs to the Council of the democratic process in determining applications at a Licensing Panel. The current Gambling Act fees met these costs, therefore, it was recommended that the current level of fees be maintained.

Members then raised the following queries:

- The current fees amounted to two thirds of the maximum fee payable set by the Government. Were all the costs covered?
- If the current costs were being met, would issues such as inflation rises be covered? Were the fees future proof?
- Did the fees have to be set before April?

In response Members were informed that:

- Service costs information for the last four years had been used to cost the full process and all recoverable charges and costs were included.
- The current charges met current service costs but it was possible that fees could be increased in future years. The fees were reviewed on an annual basis and would be referred to Members for approval each year.
- Although the fees must be reviewed on an annual basis, there was no statutory requirement to set the fees in April.

It was suggested that in future the report in relation to the premises licence fees could be submitted to the inaugural meeting of the Licensing Committee.

Recommended –

That the current scale of fees be maintained for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix 1 to Document "A".

ACTION: Assistant Director, Environmental & Regulatory Services

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.