

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

7 March 2023

7.30 - 9.13 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Nick Churchill (Chair)
Councillor Clive Souter (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jodi Dunne
Councillor James Griggs
Councillor Nancy Watson

Officers

Hannah Marriott, Governance Support Officer
Adam Sherwood, Principal Licensing Officer
Julie Galvin, Legal Services Manager
Norah Nolan, Assistant Director Environment

35. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Carter, Andrew Johnson and Lanie Shears.

36. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

37. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2022 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

38. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

39. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

40. **COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

Councillor Nick Churchill advised the Committee that he would be meeting with Licensing Officers to devise the work plan for 2023/24 and would arrange for the work plan to be circulated to the Committee, around June time.

RESOLVED that the work plan was noted.

41. **STREET DRINKING REDUCTION SCHEME UPDATE**

The Committee received an update report on the street drinking reduction scheme.

The Committee was keen for the scheme to start to be rolled out to other areas across the town. Councillor Nick Churchill advised that he would discuss this with Licensing Officers and provide an update to the Committee mid-May.

RESOLVED that:

A The Licensing Committee note the content of the report.

B A report be brought to the next Licensing Committee meeting to consider recommendations in paragraph 28 of the report.

42. **ESSEX POLICE LICENSING TEAM QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

Gordon Ashford and Ronan McManus, Essex Police, attended the Committee meeting to provide a brief overview of what Essex Police's role was as the lead responsible authority for the Crime and Disorder Licensing Objective, what work they carried out in the district of Harlow and explain how they make decisions on police representations on applications, license conditions, hearings, applying for a review or summary review etc.

Gordon Ashford and Ronan McManus showed the Committee the various systems and databases that they use to monitor licensed premises and investigate any incidents potentially relating to licensed premises.

They explained how Essex Police collated and presented evidence for local authorities for licensing reviews. The Committee noted that the quality of evidence provided had improved in recent years.

They also explained Essex Police's "Operation Benison" which helped to support the night-time economy across Essex and involved regular visits to licensed premises as a preventative measure.

The Committee noted the success of Pub Watch in Harlow and the good working relationship that Essex Police had with Harlow Council's Licensing Officers.

43. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

44. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE