

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the LICENSING AND PROTECTION PANEL held in Civic Suite 1a, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Thursday, 6 November 2014.

PRESENT: Councillor J W Davies – Chairman.
Councillors K M Baker, I J Curtis, R S Farrer, R Fuller, G J Harlock, S M Van De Kerkhove, M C Oliver, T D Sanderson and R J West.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor J P Morris.

13. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 24th June 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising from Minute No. 14/06 Councillor West questioned whether organisational changes had impacted on service delivery during the year. The Head of Community assured the Panel that he was confident that the Food Service Plan 2014/15 would be delivered despite the reduction in staff and was mindful that it might be more useful for the Panel to receive and deliberate on the 2016/17 Plan prior to it coming into operation. In response to a further question Mr Stopford advised that some income had been generated with regard to food safety within the stringent confines of legislation, which was currently being reviewed by the Government.

14. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

15. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 - PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS

With the aid of a report by the Head of Communities (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) Members were provided with details of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), one of 6 new powers dealing with anti-social behaviour brought about as a result of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Panel was advised that the PSPO replaced the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO), one of 19 previous powers for dealing with anti-social behaviour. In order to maintain the two current DPPOs in St Ives and implement new PSPOs in the future the new provisions would need to be adopted by the Council and its Scheme of Delegations amended.

Having been requested by a Member to provide further details of the

new powers the Head of Community advised that a comprehensive report was scheduled for presentation to both Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet during December in advance of formal adoption of the powers it was

RESOLVED

1. That the requirements of the Public Space Protection Orders, as contained within Part 4, Chapter 2 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Police and Crime Act 2014 be noted, and
2. that after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Economic Development and Legal, the Head of Community be authorised to create and maintain policies and procedures arising from Public Space Protection Orders under the 2014 Act and the District Council's Scheme of Delegation be updated accordingly.

16. FOOD INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2014 - DELEGATIONS

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Community (a copy of which is appended to the Minute Book) providing details of new powers contained within the Food Information Regulations 2014 which would come into force on 13 December 2014.

The Panel noted that the Regulations include a requirement for food business operators to provide allergen information to customers and associated information and training to staff. Officers would also be required to respond to enquiries from residents and customers of the District's food businesses.

As a Food Authority for the purposes of the Regulations, Huntingdonshire District Council has a power to enforce certain provisions under those Regulations and may issue Hygiene Improvement Notices for breaches of those requirements. Having been informed that the Council's scheme of delegations would require updating to include the enforcement arrangements, it was

RESOLVED

1. that the implementation of the new powers contained within the Food Information Regulations be noted;
2. that the Head of Community after consultation with the Executive Councillor for Strategic Economic Development and Legal, be authorised to create and maintain policies and procedures under the Regulations;
3. that the Head of Community after consultation with the Legal Services Manager be authorised, for the purposes of enforcement of the Food Information Regulations 2014, to appoint such other officers as considered appropriate to initiate legal proceedings for offences under the Regulations, and

4. that the Panel's scheme of delegations be updated accordingly.

17. LICENSING AND PROTECTION APPLICATIONS SUB-GROUP

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Community (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel noted details of the five meetings of the Applications Sub-Group which had taken place between 20 June and 8th Oct 2014.

18. TRAINING

The Panel noted that the annual licensing training day for members of the Licensing and Protection Panel had been arranged for 10 June 2015 with James Button.

Chairman