
REPORT OF LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2008

Chairman: * Councillor Mrs Lurline Champagne

Councillors: * Husain Akhtar * Mrs Kinnear
* Robert Benson * Ashok Kulkarni
* Mrinal Choudhury * Mrs Vina Mithani
* G Chowdhury * Phillip O'Dell
† Mano Dharmarajah * Raj Ray
* Thaya Idaikkadar † Tom Weiss
* Nizam Ismail * Jeremy Zeid

* Denotes Member present
† Denotes apologies received

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1 – Report on the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007, and to extend the existing zone to the whole of the Borough and to withdraw the existing zone

The Committee welcomed John Edwards, Director of Environmental Services, to his first meeting. Members expressed their appreciation of the work undertaken by Gareth Llewellyn-Roberts, Chief Environmental Health Officer who had recently left the Council.

The Committee received a report which set out the powers available to the Local Authority under the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007. At its meeting on 3rd March 2008 the Committee approved proposals for a 12 week consultation regarding an extension of the existing Controlled Drinking Zone to the whole of the Borough.

An officer updated the meeting and indicated that, if the Committee approved the proposed action, a recommendation would be made to the Council meeting on 10 July 2008, with a view to implementation two weeks later. The two weeks was to allow for advertising of the intention to introduce the scheme.

In response to concern that the new zone would include parks and other areas where individuals might wish to have a drink such as at a picnic or football match, the Committee was informed that the enforcement by the police would be in accordance with Home Office guidance that action would only be taken if the police suspected that a nuisance was about to be caused. It was not a total ban on drinking. It was further noted that the ban would not be valid in private houses or forecourts of public houses.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To Council)

That the existing Controlled Drinking Zone be extended to cover the whole of the Borough and that the current zone be withdrawn on the date of implementation of the new zone.

(see also Minute 7)