

LICENSING AND REGULATORY PANEL

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES WORKING GROUP

16TH JULY 2010

PRESENT Councillors Armitage, Grayshon and Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE S Holden – Principal Project Officer
N Raper – Section Head, Entertainment Licensing
S Kennedy – Principal Enforcement & Liaison Officer
R Des Forges - Solicitor
H Gray - Clerk

APOLOGIES Councillor R D Feldman
Ms P Carville, Principal Licensing Officer

1 WELCOMES AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Armitage welcomed all present and brief introductions were made

2 BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION UPDATE

The Licensing and Regulatory Panel on 22nd June 2010 resolved to create a small Working Group of Members to consider the development, content and implementation of a policy for the local authority to regulate Sexual Entertainment Venues in Leeds. The Policing and Crime Act 2009 had made powers available to local authorities to do so through an amendment to the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 (Section 2 Schedule 3).

This introduced a new classification of Sex Establishment namely “Sexual Entertainment Venues” and a new licensing regime to Lap Dancing; Pole Dancing and “relevant entertainment” venues.

The documents before the SEV WG included:

- Letter from Mr A Campbell MP, Home Office
- Home Office Guidance on SEV's
- Copy of Schedule 3 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982
- First draft of an LCC Statement of Licensing Policy “Licensing of Sexual Establishments”

Members noted the legislation extended to shops and cinemas, but they stated their emphasis as being Lap Dancing clubs in the first instance as concern about the proliferation of such venues had been noted.

It was reported that 8 LD Clubs already existed in Leeds city centre. Members commented that historically these venues had not caused problems in terms of the Licensing Act 2003 objectives however comments had been made about some of the clubs with regards to possible links to criminality. The WG also noted factors which could be considered under the terms of the new schedule with regards to

- location (such as not near culturally sensitive areas);

- numbers (the possibility of choosing a stated number as being “appropriate for the city” within the policy); and
- conditions (such as advertising, window display).

The WG also discussed

- the role of stretch limousines as advertising vehicles in the city centre
- The approach adopted by other licensing authorities
- Relevant case law
- The benefits of undertaking an informal site visit in order to observe the business. It was suggested that an appropriate venue should be found – where the WG could observe without intrusion into the normal business of the club (such as CCTV room, or VIP area)

3 **EXPERT PANEL**

Members considered which of the suggested experts to liaise with from the list submitted. It was suggested that they would further consider the role of the Citizens Panel after a draft policy had been drawn up.

The WG were keen to meet with Professor Sanders who it was believed could provide an unbiased view of the entertainment and business as a whole, and guide members on which venue to visit. Comments would also be sought from WYP and HMCRS

AGREED – that the following be invited to attend the next SEV WG
 Professor Sanders, Leeds Met Uni
 UK Border Agency/ West Yorkshire Police
 Reps of the Taxi & Private Hire Licensing Section

4 **TIMETABLE/PROJECT PLAN**

AGREED:

Overall:

- To undertake discussions with the experts at an early stage
- To commit to undertaking a site visit
- To draft a policy prior to going out to public consultation

Short Term

- To request a map showing the location of existing LD Clubs currently licensed under the licensing act 2003 in Leeds
- To place emphasis on regulation of LD Clubs in the first instance

Long Term:

- Public consultation period January to March 2011
- Council approval anticipated in July 2011

5 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

AGREED - Friday 3rd September 2010 at 10.00 am in the Civic Hall, Leeds