



Report Reference Number: L/20/3

To: Licensing Committee
Date: 20 August 2020
Ward(s) Affected: All
Author: Sharon Cousins, Licensing Manager
Lead Executive Member: Councillor Pearson, Lead Member for Housing, Health and Culture
Lead Officer: Alison Hartley, Solicitor to the Council

Title: Temporary Pavement Licences

Summary:

The report updates the Licensing Committee on the urgent decisions made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee on the 24th July 2020 and 31st July.

Recommendations:

The Licensing Committee note the details of the urgent decisions at appendix 1, which were required to expediently implement the temporary pavement café licence process in the Business and Planning Act 2020.

Reasons for recommendation

The Business and Planning Act 2020 received Royal Assent on 22 July 2020 and came into force immediately. The aim of the Act is to support the economy to recover from the disruption caused by COVID-19 by introducing a number of urgent measures.

The Act introduced a new Pavement Licence and provides a fast track procedure for the grant of a licence through temporary changes to the current regulatory procedures until 30 September 2021.

The Act makes District Councils responsible for issuing the pavement licences and applications can be submitted to the Council. This is a new responsibility for the Council and the Council had to react expediently to put a procedure in place

1. Introduction and background

1.1 A temporary pavement licence allows an operator of a business selling food and drink to place removable furniture over certain highways adjacent to the

premises in relation to which the application was made. The aim is to help support local businesses to recover and succeed in these challenging times and for members of the public to benefit from this outdoor environment.

- 1.2 On 31st July 2020, the Chief Executive and the Chairman of the Licensing Committee, together subsequently agreed to lower the fee for the pavement licence from £100 to £50 to help businesses further during the COVID pandemic. No applications had yet been made that would have been affected by this change.

2. The Report

- 2.1 The Licensing Committee is asked to note the urgent decisions made to implement the new temporary pavement licences process and refer the same to Council for noting.

3. Alternative Options Considered

None

4. Implications

4.1 Legal Implications

None – the report is for noting.

4.2 Financial Implications

None – the report is for noting.

4.3 Policy and Risk Implications

Not applicable

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report to the Chief Executive (urgency) and decision records

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