

## REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

(Meeting held 16 November 2007)

### 1. REVIEW OF THE LICENSING POLICY (REPORT B).

The Committee considered the revised statement of Licensing Policy.

The Licensing Act 2003 required Licensing Authorities to produce a Statement of Policy which must be reviewed every three years. The Council's first policy was published on 7 January 2005 and remained in force until 6 January 2008.

The Committee considered for publication the revised policy, which had been structured on the national LACORS template. The policy was a 'high level' document which set out the Authority's approach to decision making.

The Committee supported the revised policy for publication.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

***That the Statement of Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to Report B to the Committee, be approved for publication on 7 January 2008 and that the advertisement of details of the Policy be agreed prior to 7 January 2008.***

### 2. POLLING PLACES AND POLLING DISTRICTS REVIEW (REPORT D).

The Committee reports having considered the recommendations of the Polling Districts Working Party on the representations received in response to the review of polling districts and the designation and future use of polling stations.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a requirement for all electoral registration authorities to undertake a review of the polling districts and polling places in their areas by 31 December 2007, and at four-yearly intervals thereafter.

The designation of polling districts was a matter for the Council, while polling places were a matter for the Executive. The Council delegated authority to the General Purposes and Licensing Committee to undertake the review of polling districts. The Committee in turn appointed a Working Party to consider representations received in response to the review.

As part of the review process, all councillors, parish and town councils, political parties and disability groups were consulted. Particular views were sought on low usage polling stations and where costs per elector were high. These were considered at a meeting of the Working Party on 15 October 2007. At that meeting, officers were asked to undertake further investigation into some of the representations received, and there was further consideration of these issues at a second meeting of the Working Party on 8 November.

As a result of the review, the Committee, exercising the authority delegated to it by the Council, has agreed some changes to polling districts in Totton, and Hythe. They have also made some recommendations to the Returning Officer regarding polling stations in Totton, Hythe, Fawley and Pennington. The Committee has decided to review further those polling stations that are little used after the next Parliamentary elections when it is felt that more meaningful comparisons on turnout can be made.

### **3. LOCAL PAY SETTLEMENT (REPORT E).**

The Committee has considered the national pay settlement and the local pay settlement following recent local pay negotiations through the Council's Pay Panel which had met on 23 March, 29 October and 6 November 2007.

The Council's position on pay negotiations was that the Council participated in national negotiations, but reserved the right to determine its own award should the national award be detrimental to the Council's pay structure. The Council had defined its own pay structure which was based on its business needs and the local pay market.

In practice the Council had generally undertaken local pay negotiations informed by the national position. The national pay negotiations concluded on 29 October 2007 with the offer being accepted by the National Joint Council Staff Side.

Local negotiations had taken place through the Pay Panel which comprised of three Council Members, namely - Cllrs Kendal; Mrs Holding and Mrs Robinson and three employee side representatives.

The Pay Panel recommended a local pay award of 2.5% with effect from 1 April 2007. The Committee accepted this recommendation under its delegated authority granted by the Council on 29 October 2007.

The Committee was, however, concerned that staff would not receive back pay until the New Year but recognised the technical practicalities that prevented this.

The Pay Panel had also recommended the deletion from the pay structure of employees on spinal column point 6 from 1 April 2007. The Committee endorsed this recommendation.

#### ***RECOMMENDED:***

***That spinal column point 6 be deleted from the pay structure from 1 April 2007, and all employees currently on this point be progressed to scp 7.***

**Cllr L R Puttock  
Chairman**