

REGULATION OF SEX ESTABLISHMENTS

The Licensing Officer and Executive Manager (Corporate Governance) had prepared a joint report setting out for consideration by Members regulations that prescribe conditions for the Licensing of Sex Establishments within Uttlesford and the ability of the Council to control the number of sex shops within localities.

Currently there were no such establishments within Uttlesford District. However Murray Hardy had been approached by a company wishing to set up such a business at the Parsonage Farm Industrial Estate, Stansted.

An application for a licence would require advertisements to advise local residents to see if any objections were received. When submitting an application to the Licensing Authority a fee of £4,500 must be paid, this was due to be reviewed on 31 March 2007.

Local Authorities were permitted under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to make regulations that prescribe standard conditions applicable for sex establishments. It also gives the Council power to adopt a policy as to how many sex establishments would be appropriate in particular localities. The Act states "nil" could be an appropriate number, but it would not be legitimate to apply a zero policy to the whole district. It would be necessary to identify parts of the district where sex shops could be tolerated and by exclusion apply a nil policy to the remainder of the district.

Councillor Loughlin suggested that the Council write to Parish Clerks asking their views on the subject, whilst stipulating the Council were not promoting sex establishments.

Some Members felt they did not wish to see any sex establishments in Uttlesford. The Executive Manager (Corporate Governance) said that Uttlesford could not make a district wide policy. It could refuse applications on the grounds of appropriateness, but this would not apply as a policy.

RESOLVED that

1. the committee recommend that the Council adopt regulations which prescribe the standard conditions as outlined in the report.
2. the Executive Manager (Corporate Governance) consult with Town and Parish Council for their views
3. following consultation the committee determines whether it wishes to consider a policy regarding the number of sex establishments it would consider appropriate within various parts of the District.