

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

4TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Licensing Policy Statement Review

OPEN	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	None

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To propose that the Committee set up a working party to consult with stakeholders and responsible authorities, to assess the impact of the Licensing Policy of the District, during the first twelve months of operation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 **A number of members be nominated to form a working party to receive evidence from stakeholders and responsible authorities and to include their findings in the Annual Licensing Report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Licensing Policy Statement was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Act.
- 3.2 The Council's Licensing Policy took effect on 7th February 2005.
- 3.3 The policy is a live document, subject to continuous review, to meet the changing needs of the community, business circumstances and legislation.
- 3.4 A formal review of the policy and further consultation will be carried out by February 2008.

- 3.5 Various groups have an interest in the licensing of premises under the Licensing Act 2003, in addition to the licensed trade. These include residents, businesses and enforcement agencies. All have views and concerns that require consideration as part of the licensing function.

The transition of licensing from the Magistrates Courts to local authorities was finalised on 24th November 2005 and the first twelve months have almost been completed.

4.0 LOCAL STRATEGIES

- 4.1 The Licensing Authority has to secure the proper integration of its licensing policy with other strategies adopted by the Council and:

- will take account of any input from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership;
- identify and take action where necessary to ensure that effective local transport strategies include provision of night-time and evening services;
- ensure that planning, building control and licensing functions will be properly separated to avoid duplication and inefficiency; and
- conduct the licensing function in a way that will promote good race relations and with due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination.

5.0 WORKING PARTY

It is proposed that the working party (composition to be decided by the Committee) will attend various forums, involving representatives of responsible authorities and interested parties, to receive evidence of how the new licensing arrangements have affected the lives of local people.

6.0 ANNUAL REPORTS

- 6.1 The Licensing Authority will learn about relevant county and local strategies by means of an annual report. The report may include information relating to:

- Local crime prevention strategies
- Needs of the local tourist industry
- The cultural strategy for Worcestershire
- Employment issues in the area
- Local relevant partnerships and their objectives.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no financial implications.

8.0 LEGAL AND POLICY ISSUES

8.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that consultation is entered into with all stakeholders wherever possible.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 Liaison with this group will ensure regular and consistent contact with the licensing trade and assist the Committee when dealing with licensing issues.

10.0 CONSULTEES

10.1 Head of Legal and Democratic Services

11.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None

22/8/06