
Licensing Committee

Report of the meeting held on 23rd October 2007

Matters for Information

6. LICENSING ACT 2003 - GUIDANCE

The Committee has been acquainted with changes that have been made in new guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under the Licensing Act 2003 and updated on the status of the authority's Statement of Licensing Policy. Members have noted the implications for the Council of the clarification received in relation to the authorisation of the sale of alcohol, temporary events notices and representations by individual Councillors, together with the changes introduced by the new Fire Safety Order. As the existing Statement of Licensing Policy will expire in January 2008, a new draft statement has been issued for consultation to all Members and a wide variety of organisations. The Committee has authorised the Head of Administration, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to make any changes to the Statement in light of the replies received and invited the Cabinet to endorse the content of the document and recommend its approval to Council.

(A separate item on this subject appears elsewhere on the Agenda for the meeting of the Council.)

7. LICENSING ACT 2003 – CURRENT UPDATE

The Committee has been acquainted with the work undertaken by the Licensing Section under the Licensing Act 2003. Information was presented on the number of licences, certificates and temporary events notices that have been issued during the past year and are currently in existence, the number of hearings that have been held and the inspections and enforcement undertaken by the Section. This has included a review of two licensed premises in St. Neots which resulted in the suspension of their licences and the closure of the premises for a temporary period.

8. GAMBLING ACT 2005 – IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee has been apprised of the progress to date with the implementation of the Gambling Act 2005 and the work still to be undertaken. Members were advised of the number of licences processed, the anticipated volume of permits that will need to be dealt with and details of statutory fees set under the legislation.

J M Sadler
Chairman