
Licensing Committee

Report of the meeting held on 27th October 2009

Matters for Information

2. EUROPEAN SERVICES DIRECTIVE

The Committee has noted the implications of an EU Services Directive which requires that a system be introduced to allow service providers located in the European Union to apply for, vary and pay for licences and permits on-line by 28th December 2009.

The Licensing Act contains fixed timescales for the determination of applications, the issue of counter notices etc. and requires forms and certificates to be dealt with in certain prescribed ways. As a consequence, changes will be required to accommodate the Directive's requirements and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched a brief consultation exercise prior to making the Regulations required to alter the present arrangements.

The new Directive will apply only to regulated entertainment within the context of the Licensing Act 2003 but for the purpose of consistency will also be extended by DCMS to the sale and supply of alcohol and late night refreshment.

Members have been advised that DCMS estimate savings for applicants to be in the region of £500,000 to £1,500,000 per annum. However, amendments to various aspects of the legislative procedure including transferring responsibility to the licensing authority to notify responsible authorities of applications is likely to marginally increase costs for the Council as the licensing authority.

The Directive similarly applies to many other of the Council's licensing responsibilities which are dealt with by the Licensing and Protection Panel.

3. GAMBLING ACT 2005 - STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

The Committee has reviewed the contents of a revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, which has been revised and updated to take into account the latest Regulations and guidance issued by the Gambling Commission. In so doing, the Committee has authorised the Head of Democratic and Central Services, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, to make any amendments to the Statement that are considered necessary as a result of any comments received from the public

consultation exercise. At the same time the Committee has invited the Cabinet and Council to approve the Statement of Principles, to come into effect on 31st January 2010 for a period of three years. A separate report on the matter is included elsewhere on the Agenda.

J M Sadler
Chairman