
Licensing Update

1.0 Matter for consideration

- 1.1 The Committee to consider a licensing update.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To note the update.

3.0 Information

- 3.1 Since 1st April 2010, the licensing service has processed 47 applications for new premises licences, 17 variations, 89 transfers, 152 variations of DPS, 17 reviews, 107 temporary event notices and 187 personal licence applications.
- 3.2 This compares favourably with figures covering the period 1st April 2009 until 31st March 2010. In that 12 month period there were 52 new applications, 24 variations, 161 transfers, 18 reviews and 244 personal licence applications.
- 3.3 The Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has recently issued the latest statistical bulletin which deals with licensing activity over the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. A summary of the findings can be found at Appendix 6a.
- 3.4 On 1st April and 1st October 2010, new mandatory conditions came into force. All premises licence holders have been contacted and informed of their new obligations. A list of the new mandatory conditions can be found at Appendix 6b.
- 3.5 On 1st October 2010 changes to the Licensing Act 2003 made by The Legislative Reform (Licensing) (Interim Authority Notices etc) Order 2010 came into force. Previously if a premises licence lapsed due to the death or insolvency of a licence holder, there was only a seven day window where the licence could be re-instated by either an interim authority or an application to transfer. This time period has now been extended to 28 days. Changes have also been made to temporary event notices (TEN). Previously the police had only 48 hours to object to a TEN. This meant that if a notice was handed in late on a Friday, it might not have been seen by the Police licensing department before the period for objections had passed. The time period for objections has now been extended to 2 working days.
- 3.6 Further changes to the Licensing Act 2003 are anticipated. Responsibility for licensing other than regulated entertainment has passed to the Home Office. Over the summer they consulted on proposed changes to the Licensing Act aimed at implementing the Coalition Governments stated commitments within the remit of licensing. The commitments are:
- ban the sale of alcohol below cost price

- review alcohol taxation and pricing to ensure it tackles binge drinking without unfairly penalising responsible drinkers, pubs and important local industries
- overhaul the Licensing Act 2003 to give local authorities and the police much stronger powers to remove licences from, or refuse to grant licences to, any premises that are causing problems
- allow councils and the police to shut down permanently any shop or bar found persistently selling alcohol to children
- double the maximum fine for underage alcohol sales to £20,000
- permit local councils to charge more for late night licences to pay for additional policing

The results of the consultation are not known, however the changes are to be implemented via the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill which is due to be introduced in October/November 2010.

4.0 Financial considerations

4.1 None

5.0 Legal considerations

5.1 None

Relevant officer:

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Appendices attached:

Appendix 6a Statistical bulletin summary
Appendix 6b Mandatory Conditions

Background papers:

None

Websites and e-mail links for further information:

None

Glossary:

None