

6 LICENSING PANEL HEARING ARRANGEMENTS- POST SECOND APPOINTED DAY

Matter for Consideration

The relevant arrangements for Licensing hearings post Second Appointed Day.

Information

The Licensing Committee at its meeting on the 31st January 2005, agreed implementation arrangements for Panel meetings between the First and Second Appointed Days of the Licensing Act 2003. It is considered that these arrangements have worked well and some 197 hearings have been scheduled (113 of which have been cancelled and 84 held or still to be held) between these dates in accordance with the guidelines agreed. The arrangements were that panels of 3 members would be drawn on as many days as possible to deal with hearings with on some occasions more than one hearing per day. This was necessary to deal with the level of workload due to the requirement to convert previous Justice's Licences within this timeframe.

The period from the Second Appointed Day will it appears have a far less of a workload for the Licensing Panels as there will no longer be any applications for Conversions of Justice's Licences, the Panel will deal solely with New applications, Variations to existing licences and Reviews of Current licences.

It is proposed that as the current system of allowing panels to be selected by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on a rota system continue. In view of the reduced number of hearings, it is proposed that a hearing be set once a week in advance and as far as possible, hearings would only take place on this date. All meetings would take place at the Town Hall. It is proposed that meetings would take place alternately on a Tuesday and Thursdays and Members would be asked to make themselves available on a rota basis.

Members' views are sought on these arrangements.

Financial Considerations

None

Legal Considerations

None

Personnel Considerations

None

Relevant Officer

Mark Lewis, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Background Papers

None

Recommendations

1. To agree the arrangements for Licensing Panel hearings as outlined in the report.
2. That the Head of Legal and Democratic Services continue to appoint Panels, as necessary to consider Licensing applications.