



Committee and Date
Strategic Licensing Committee

12th March 2013

Item

8

Public

Licensing Review Topic for Scrutiny

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines a proposed review topic for Scrutiny to consider in relation to licensing.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Strategic Licensing Committee (the Committee) approves, with any relevant amendments, the licensing review topic for Scrutiny to consider, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 For the purposes of this report, there are no specific risk management issues and there are no anticipated adverse implications under the Human Rights Act 1998. The review will promote the principles of Article 6 of the Act and also equalities more generally by assisting the Council to consult on a revised Licensing Policy that has had the benefit of an independent Scrutiny review prior to full consultation with key stakeholders.
- 3.2 The review focuses on the Licensing Policy and how this affects the communities in Shropshire's market towns; in particular the effect on the night time economy and the challenge that comes with maintaining vibrancy without compromising the statutory licensing objectives.
- 3.3 The review aims to consider the impact on the level of crime and disorder in general but in particular as it relates to alcohol with respect to the number and extent of licences issued, together with improvements that could be achieved in relation to health and well-being outcomes in communities.
- 3.4 The review aims to bring a positive benefit to communities by constructively challenging the current Licensing Policy in light of the changes introduced by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

- 3.5 The review will involve consultation with key agencies and operational groups.
- 3.6 The review is unlikely to lead to negative environmental consequences; in fact a fit for purpose Licensing Policy is likely to have a positive impact on the environment, particularly in relation to the control of noise pollution.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations contained within this report.

5. Background

- 5.1 The Committee, at the meeting held on the 19 December 2012, considered a request that Scrutiny be asked to examine the effect of licensing policies on the night time economy of Shropshire as well as creating a healthier environment for Shropshire’s communities. It was agreed that this was an important area for Scrutiny to examine.
- 5.2 A suggested review was presented to the Committee; however, it was agreed that the scope was too wide and would have to be tightened. It was suggested that drawing up terms of reference for the review would assist with the process.
- 5.3 The Group Manager for Public Protection and Enforcement has taken this matter forward with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and the Chair of Strategic Licensing in consultation with the Chair of Scrutiny.
- 5.4 The licensing review topic, incorporating relevant terms of reference, which was agreed between these parties is produced at Appendix 1. This is now made available for further consideration by the Committee.

6. Additional Information

None

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Councillor Steve Charmley
Local Member
Appendices Appendix 1 – Proposed Scrutiny Review Topic for Licensing (Jan13v.2)