

LICENSING ACT REVIEW POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 10TH OCTOBER, 2007

Present – Councillors Adia, R. Allen, Hamilton, Morris, Mrs. Rothwell and R. Wilkinson.

Also in Attendance

Mr. D. Grogan	-	Assistant Director Democratic Services
Chief Inspector Greenhalgh	-	Greater Manchester Police
Mr. M. Kelly	-	Chief Economic Officer
Ms. D. Harkins	-	Deputy Director Public Health
Mr. N. Maher	-	Community Safety Manager
Mr. P. Green	-	Town Centre Development Co-ordinator
Mr. A. Fisher	-	Licensing Group Manager
Mrs. V. Ridge	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Shaw.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor Morris be appointed Chairman of the Policy Development Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Morris here took the Chair.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor R. Allen be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Policy Development Group for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3. REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY CONTEXT

Mr. D. Grogan, Assistant Director Democratic Services, advised members that there was a statutory requirement on all Local Authorities to review their Licensing Policy Statement every three years and, therefore, there was now a need to review this Authority's statement.

Furthermore, it was also stated that the Government had made substantive changes and additions to national guidance, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting. Such changes should be incorporated within the licensing policy statement, where applicable, and it also should try to reflect local conditions.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

4. IMPACT OF THE LICENSING POLICY

Mr. D. Grogan, Assistant Director Democratic Services advised that, as part of the review of the licensing policy statement, it was felt appropriate to assess the impact of the policy in relation to other areas. Therefore, a presentation was given to members on each of the following areas, viz:-

- a) crime and disorder – Chief Inspector Greenhalgh;
- b) alcohol and health in Bolton – Ms. D. Harkins, Bolton PCT; and
- c) the evening economy – Mr. P. Green.

Following the presentations, members discussed in detail the issues which had been highlighted. In particular, members felt that the introduction of 'A Statement of Intent' could prove to be a useful tool in ensuring that licencees shared responsibility for the night time economy. Furthermore, this could also be rolled out to include supermarkets/off licences.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

5. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Mr. D. Grogan, Assistant Director Democratic Services recommended that a paper be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy Development Group detailing a proposed 'Statement of Intent'. Following agreement of this, it was then proposed that this be subject to consultation with major stakeholders.

It was agreed that a proposed 'Statement of Intent' be submitted to the next meeting of the Policy Development Group for members' consideration.

6. TIMETABLE

Mr. D. Grogan, Assistant Director Democratic Services advised that the review of the Licensing Policy Statement needed to be completed by 7th January, 2008.

It was agreed that the report be noted.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 3.40 p.m.)