

LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

Home Office Consultation on Rebalancing the Licensing Act 2003

1st September 2010

Report of the Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to seek members' views on the proposed responses to the questions posed by the Home Office as part of the consultation on Rebalancing the Licensing Act 2003 and to seek their approval to submit a response on behalf of Lancaster City Council to the consultation.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

That members consider the Home Office Consultation on Rebalancing the Licensing Act 2003 and the draft response prepared by officers, and authorise the Licensing Manager to respond to the Home Office on behalf of the licensing authority.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On 28th July 2010, the new Coalition Government issued a Consultation on 'Empowering Individuals, Families and Local Communities to Shape and Determine Local Licensing.' The Government are seeking the views of the licensed trade, interested parties and licensing authorities on an intended overhaul of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 1.2 The overall theme of the Consultation and the specific reform proposals is the Government's belief that local communities have not had a strong enough voice in determining licensing applications and an 'overly bureaucratic' licensing regime has restricted local authorities from adequately responding to local concerns. The Government believes that the changes will result in a fundamental shift in the licensing regime with "more emphasis on local accountability and less emphasis on central interference."
- 1.3 The Consultation asks a series of questions about the proposals with responses required by 8th September. The Consultation Document is attached as appendix 1 to this report.

1.4 Officers have considered the questions and have drafted responses for consideration by this Committee. These responses are attached as appendix 2 to this report.

2.0 Conclusion

In summary, members are requested to consider the consultation document and the proposed response, and to approve any amendments to the response that they see fit, and to authorise the Licensing Manager to submit a response to the Home Office.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The report has been prepared on behalf of the Head of Legal and Human Resources.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Home Office Consultation Paper on Rebalancing the Licensing Act 2003.

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