

Warminster Area Board 13 January 2011

Chairman's Announcements

Advance notice of Area Board consultation on Street Trading

Wiltshire Council's Licensing Committee considered a report of the future of street trading at its meeting on 30 November 2010.

Currently there is no harmonised street trading policy for Wiltshire Council; this is due to the former District Councils choosing to control street trading in different ways:

- The North and West areas operate two different consent street trading schemes with different fee structures and different conditions.
- The East operates a prohibited street (trading) scheme for a limited number of streets in the town centres.
- There is no street trading scheme in the South area as Salisbury District Council did not adopt the powers in the 1982 Act.

The Licensing Committee agreed to introduce a new harmonised consent street trading scheme across the Wiltshire Council area. This will provide a flexible means of controlling street trading activity. There is scope for the fees charged for a street trading consent to cover the costs of administration and enforcement. It would also be possible for Wiltshire Council to generate income through the introduction of a new harmonised consent street trading scheme. A consent street trading scheme would allow greater scope for local decision making.

Council officers will produce a draft scheme to formally consult on with external stakeholders (area boards, street traders, members of the public, local businesses, town and parish councils, farmers markets organisation, chambers of commerce and MPs), and invite general comments and feedback. Survey / focus groups will be used to ask specific questions on controversial aspects.

Formal consultation with area boards will be taking place in January and February. Due to the priority that Wiltshire Council has attached to the introduction of a new street trading scheme, this project is operating on an accelerated timescale. Therefore, council officers will be unable to attend area boards in person, but will provide an executive summary of the draft scheme and a consultation document accompanied by a complete draft of the scheme.

Please return **written responses** on the draft scheme and consultation document to the Licensing Team as soon as possible. Written responses should be emailed to alissa.davies@wiltshire.gov.uk.

If members of the public would like to complete the survey form individually, paper copies will be provided at the area board and can be found on the Wiltshire Council website at <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/consultations.htm> from the middle of January.