

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

15 MAY 2012

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

FROM CLLR CLLR CHRIS CASWILL, CHIPPENHAM MONKTON DIVISION

TO CLLR JONATHAN SEED, CHAIRMAN LICENSING COMMITTEE

Question 1

- a) What progress has been made towards revision of the Council's Licensing Policy to take account of recent legislative changes and the Government's published Alcohol Strategy?
- b) Will that revision process include consideration of introducing Cumulative Impact Zones in Wiltshire towns?

Response

- a) The question regarding the review of the Licensing Policy was raised at the last Full Council meeting (item 22 draft minutes, Council meeting 28th February 2012).

At this time Councillors were advised that members of the Licensing Policy Committee were aware of the impending changes within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act.

It was also reported that the commitment to review the policy was already contained within the work programme of the Committee and that this process would start as soon as full details of the proposal (and guidance) were available. These are now known and officers are working to consider the impact these will have on the review of the Licensing Policy, together with the proposals contained within the National Alcohol Strategy. This review will include a consultation process with both the public and partners together with appropriate training for members of the Committee.

Two measures specifically outlined in the National Alcohol Strategy, the Late Night Levies and Early Morning Restriction Orders will not be available until October 2012.

It is hoped that a revised Licensing Policy will be considered by the Licensing Policy Committee at its meeting in September 2012, and subsequently commended to Council.

- b) Any review of the licensing policy will consider whether it is appropriate to include provisions relating to cumulative impact. Any decision to have such provisions must be based on relevant evidence and will be considered in light of the revised guidance.