

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

18<sup>TH</sup> FEBURARY 2013

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**LICENSING ACT 2003**

**Home Office Consultation On Proposed Changes To Statute In Connection  
With The Governments Alcohol Strategy**

**Executive Summary**

This report informs Members on the response of the Licensing Authority to the current Home Office consultation on the measures proposed to promote the Governments Alcohol Strategy.

**Recommendations**

**It is recommended:**

- That the Licensing Committee notes this report and agree the response of the Licensing Authority to the Home Office consultation.

**Reason for Proposal**

To enable Wiltshire Council acting as the Licensing Authority to shape future Government policy concerning the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol in the Wiltshire Council area.

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## **Purpose of Report**

To inform Members on the response of the Licensing Authority to the Home Office consultation on the measures proposed to promote the Governments Alcohol Strategy.

## **Background**

In March 2012 the Home Office announced a range of measures in the Alcohol Strategy to radically reshape the approach to alcohol and reduce excessive drinking. The Home Office is consulting on a range of measures and proposals set out in the strategy including:

- A ban on multi-buy promotions in shops and off-licences to reduce excessive alcohol consumption;
- A review of the mandatory licensing conditions, to ensure that they are sufficiently targeting problems such as irresponsible promotions in pubs and clubs;
- Health as a new alcohol licensing objective for cumulative impacts so that licensing authorities can consider alcohol-related health harms when managing the problems relating to the number of premises in their area;
- Cutting red tape for responsible businesses to reduce the burden of regulation while maintaining the integrity of the licensing system; and
- Minimum unit pricing, ensuring for the first time that alcohol can only be sold at a sensible and appropriate price.

This approach is not about stopping the sensible, responsible drinking which supports pubs as part of the community fabric, creates thriving town centres, and provides employment and growth. The measures in the consultation are targeted explicitly at reducing harmful drinking; views are sought on how to end the culture of excessive drinking that causes so much damage to our society.

At its meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2012 the Chair of the Licensing Committee encouraged Members to examine the Home Office consultation due for release on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and form views to contribute to the Licensing Authorities response.

The proposed Licensing Authorities response to the Home Office consultation and a copy of the full consultation document are attached to this report as Appendix A.

## **Environmental Impact**

None

## **Equality and Diversity**

None

## **Risk Assessment**

If the Licensing Authority do not respond to the current Home Office consultation on the Alcohol Strategy an opportunity to shape future Government policy would have been lost.

## **Financial Implications**

None

## **Legal Implications**

None

## **Conclusion**

It is **recommended:-**

Following consideration of the proposed response to the Home Office consultation on the measures contained in the Alcohol Strategy the Licensing Committee agrees the proposed response.

The Licensing Committee direct the Licensing Manager to complete the online consultation response on behalf of Wiltshire Council acting as the Licensing Authority.

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## **Background Papers**

- The Licensing Act 2003
- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- The Governments Alcohol Strategy
- Home Office consultation on delivering the Government's policies to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour

## **Appendices**

Appendix A. : Licensing Authorities response to the Home Office consultation and the Home Office consultation on delivering the Government's policies to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour.