

**Report to Safer Cleaner Greener
Standing Scrutiny Panel
Date of meeting: 26th August 2010**

Portfolio: Safer Cleaner Greener

Subject: Consultation – Rebalancing the Licensing Act



Officer contact for further information: A Mitchell, Assistant Director Legal (01992 56 4017)

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To comment on the suggested replies to the questions raised in the government's consultation document – Rebalancing the Licensing Act 2010

Report:

1. The government acknowledges in this consultation document the importance of licensed premises to the economy of local areas. However, it also acknowledges that the changes to the licensing regime introduced by the Licensing Act 2003 have caused problems in some areas and the government would wish to give local licensing authorities additional powers to regulate licensing in their areas to allow them to respond more effectively to local concerns.
2. The consultation document raises a number of questions and officers have in their suggested replies taken into account issues that have been raised in the past. Members are requested to review these answers and make changes and additional comments where they consider necessary.

A copy of the Consultation Document and suggested replies are attached.

Reason for decision:

If the Authority comments it may be able to influence the government's proposals to amend the licensing legislation so that the issues identified by the Authority are addressed.

Options considered and rejected:

Not to respond, but the Authority would not then be able to take advantage of bringing the issues identified to the attention of government

Consultation undertaken:

The Senior Licensing Officer, The Environment and Neighbourhood Manager, The Safer Communities Manager

Resource implications:

Budget provision: None required
Personnel: Nil
Land: None

Community Plan/BVPP reference: Council Plan - Safer Community

Relevant statutory powers: Licensing Act 2003, Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Background papers: The Consultation Document

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:

The government policy will impact on all of these issues

Key Decision reference: (if required)