

Report to Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 8 January 2013

Portfolio: Safer, Greener, Highways

Subject: Home Office consultation on the Government's policies to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour

Officer contact for further information: J Gilbert

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To note the receipt of the Home Office consultation on the Government's policies to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour;**
- (2) To consider the response, if any, to be made; and**
- (3) To consider whether any response should be from the Council alone or as part of an Epping Forest Safer Communities Partnership combined response**

Report:

1. The Home Office has issued a consultation on its proposals to introduce policies to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour. The consultation document is attached for the Panel's consideration.
2. The consultation majors on the introduction of the following approaches:
 - (a) setting a minimum unit price for alcohol;
 - (b) preventing discounted pricing of alcohol;
 - (c) reviewing the mandatory alcohol licensing conditions;
 - (d) including health in cumulative impact policies; and
 - (e) reducing red tape.
3. In view of the need to formulate the agenda ahead of the Christmas and New Year break, it has not been possible to provide officer suggested responses to be attached to this agenda. Officers will however circulate suggested responses, if possible ahead of the meeting, or table them on the night to assist in the Panel's considerations. Furthermore, the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) also intends to submit a partnership response, and this cannot take place until all of the partners, of which this Council is one, have indicated what their response is to be. Whilst it is accepted that a partnership/multi-agency response is normally more readily received by Government departments, that is not to say that this Council should not submit its own response as well. Any available information on the CSP responses will be made available to Members at the meeting.

Reason for decision:

To consider whether to respond to the Home Office consultation and whether that response would carry greater weight as part of the Community Safety Partnership response

Options considered and rejected:

To not respond in any capacity. This is not recommended, since alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour are issues for the Council, especially where town centres have active night time economies.

Consultation undertaken:

Community Safety Partnership

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Within Partnership and Council existing resources

Personnel: Within Partnership and Council existing resources

Land: Nil

Community Plan/BVPP reference:

Relevant statutory powers:

Background papers:

Home Office Consultation - attached

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

Proposals to control alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour