

# AGENDA ITEM 9

## RURAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

29 MAY 2013

### REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

#### LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE ALCOHOL AND LICENSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the aims, objectives and outcomes of the Leicester and Leicestershire Alcohol Licensing Improvement Project.
- 1.2 This report will also be presented to the Licensing Committee (4<sup>th</sup> June 2013).

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the activity of this project and its outcomes.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee agrees with the implementation of the project outcomes as set out at para 3.5 below.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 This project was initiated by the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership under the 'Better Business for All' pilot project for which the Partnership is the co-ordinating body in the local area.
- 3.2 The aims of the project were to ensure that adequate, effective and appropriate arrangements are in place across Leicester and Leicestershire to deal with alcohol licensing and enforcement.
- 3.3 The key areas of focus were consistency and clarity of process, competency, communication, sharing of information and recognising compliant businesses.
- 3.4 The project deliverables and outcomes were:
  - Training packages for Officers and Members;
  - A set of model conditions to be used when appropriate by Members (i.e. Licensing Committees/Panels when granting licenses, and to assist applicants to devise applications;
  - A range of procedures and policies including applications processes and Licensing Sub Committee procedures;
  - A reviewed guidance for Magistrates on Licensing appeals;
  - New terms of reference have been devised for the Leicester and Leicestershire Licensing Forum providing more structure and accountability. A work plan will be devised and the forum will report directly to the Regulatory Services Partnership;
  - Alcohol Licensing Information Scheme to help identify compliant businesses;
  - Hotspot mapping - Analysis of crime and hospital admissions data has been undertaken and mapped, highlighting crime hotspots. This work will be undertaken annually.

- 3.5 There is no obligation on Licensing Authorities to adopt any or all of these outcomes. However, officers have consider the content and advise that:
- Training materials have been updated so as to be consistent with other Authorities. This means that Members with Licensing responsibilities will receive consistent messages about the role, purpose and procedures associated with Licensing and it will assist the sharing of training across Authorities boundaries.
  - The conditions will be made available to Panels for their use as they consider appropriate on a case by case basis. This will help to introduce a level of consistency across the LLEP area. The model conditions are drawn from best practice and as such will assist in providing an improved standard of licence.
  - The new procedures were very similar to those existing at Melton BC and as such no changes are proposed.
  - Melton is a full participant in the Licensing Forum and will receive benefit from the sharing of good practice and as a forum for advice. Its inclusion within the Project facilitates direct interfaces with other BBfA project areas (e.g. Environmental Health, Trading Standards and the emerging Planning area) and will allow transfer of good practice and initiatives between all project areas.
  - A future paper will be produced to discuss the merits of the Alcohol Licensing Information Scheme for Melton once its operational details have been developed.
  - Information is being collated by partner agencies which will form an evidence is to inform future decisions on licences, reviews and policy decisions such as 'saturation zones' etc.

#### **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 All current policies are in line with the policies identified and reviewed in this process.
- 4.2 A new set of model conditions is available for use when appropriate.
- 4.3 Any current procedures have been aligned with procedures recommended by this project.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial or other resource implications. All of the initiatives can be incorporated into existing work streams.

#### **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The reviewed Guidance to Magistrates will help to ensure a consistency of decision making countywide at appeal level.

#### **7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY**

- 7.1 The Licensing Officer and Enforcement Officers will continue to work with Police and other agencies. The outcomes of this project will assist in a consistency of approach across Leicester and Leicestershire and help to reduce crime and disorder and have an impact on alcohol abuse and anti social behaviour.

#### **8.0 EQUALITIES**

- 8.1 There are no equality impact assessment implications.

9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 There are no risks identified with this report.

10.0 **CONSULTATION**

10.1 None

11.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

11.1 All Wards

12.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

12.1 There are no climate change implications relating to this report.

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Date: 9 May 2013

Background Papers: None

Reference: