

Licensing Committee Report

Item
No. 5

10 JUNE 2003

Report of: Democratic Services Manager
/Head of Regulation

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Title: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT : LICENSING

1. Decision Required

- 1.1 To note the arrangements that have been put in place for a Member Development Session in relation to the new licensing framework.

2. Supporting Information

- 2.1 There will be significant training demands to understand the new act, regulations and guidance. Members serving on the Licensing Committee and its sub-committees will have an important role in determining the many contested applications likely to arise under the new regime. It is fair to say that those who have been critical of the transfer of responsibilities from the Licensing Justices to the local authority have particularly pointed to alleged procedural inconsistencies and illegalities in the past handling of public entertainment licence applications at Council Licensing Hearings. It will be essential that the authority can demonstrate that it has a programme of on-going training to ensure that Committee Members are competent to perform this quasi-judicial function.
- 2.2 An all-day Member Development Session on alcohol and entertainments licensing has been arranged for Wednesday, 3rd September 2003 from 9.45 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. in Committee Room 2. The facilitator for the session will be Mr. R. Butterfield of the Public Health Legal Information Unit. A draft programme for the session is attached at ap5a **Appendix A**. Mr. Butterfield is an experienced speaker and an acknowledged expert in the field of local authority licensing.
- 2.3 A joint initiative between the Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) and the British Institute of Innkeeping are expected to promote one-day seminars for Council Members on the subject, which will hopefully be available later this year. These courses should complement the training session with the Public Information Health Unit on 3rd September 2003.

- 2.4 If any Members are unable to attend the session on the 3rd September, alternative arrangements will be made.

Background Documents

There are no background documents