

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods)	Licensing and Public Safety Committee	16/09/2009

LICENCE LIAISON PANEL - REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek Members agreement to review the current arrangements for liaison with the licensed trade in Chorley

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. It is recommended that Members approve the reviewing of the current liaison arrangements with the licensed trade in Chorley to provide a forum which is fit for purpose and contributes to the licensing objectives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. There are currently two forums in Chorley by which Council officers are able to liaise with the licensed trade on matters relating to the Licensing Act 2003 and the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. One forum is specific to the licensed premises trade and is the Bar Watch or Pub Watch meeting. The other is the Licence Liaison Panel, hosted by Chorley Council and is open to anyone with an interest in licensed business. Neither forum have any legal standing or status.
4. The Bar Watch forum meets on a monthly basis and is seen as an effective channel for Council Officers to discuss premises licence issues with the trade and was effective during the introduction of recent smoke free legislation.
5. The Licence Liaison panel meets on a quarterly basis and its purpose is to provide a forum for all businesses subject to the Councils licensing regime. However of late the panel has been predominantly exercised on issues relating to hackney and private hire issues with other business types unable to get a 'hearing'.
6. In order to provide an equitable business liaison framework it is proposed that the existing arrangements are reviewed in consultation with business to establish a liaison framework that is fit for purpose and meets the varied needs of the licensed business community and the Council.
7. It is anticipated that if approved this review and consultation will be undertaken over the next two months and recommendations brought back to Members on a framework that meets the Councils licensing objectives.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

(If the recommendations are accepted)

8. To ensure the Council provides the most appropriate framework for liaison with the licensed trade.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

9. The option of not undertaking a review and leaving the current arrangements in place was

considered and rejected on the basis that recent liaison meetings have failed to provide a satisfactory forum for the wide spectrum of licensed business.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

10. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region		Develop local solutions to climate change.	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chances		Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	√
Involving people in their communities	√	Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization	√

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

11. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Corporate Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		No significant implications in this area	√

ISHBEL MURAY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (NEIGHBOURHOODS)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
S Clark	5732	3 Sept 2009	Lic/liaise