

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director (Neighbourhoods)	Licensing and Public Safety Committee	2 December 2009

LICENSING LIAISON PANEL REVIEW

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform Members of the results of the review of the current licensing liaison arrangements

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Members to accept the results of the licensing liaison panel review and agree to the implementation of the proposed amendments.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- The Licensing and Public Safety Committee approved the undertaking of a review of the Licensing Liaison Panel at its meeting on 16 September 2009.
- The matter was addressed at the Licensing Liaison Panel on Monday 28 September 2009 and through consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee.
- The review has resulted in the general view that the existing arrangements should be retained with some minor amendments and additions to the remit and make up of the Panel. These are detailed below.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To maintain a vibrant and appropriate forum for all agencies and trades involved in activities and business that are subject to licensing requirements by Chorley Council

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- The current arrangements have been subject to a review and a variety of options were considered as part of that review.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 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.	
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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	√

BACKGROUND

9. The licensing liaison panel was established several years ago to provide a discussion platform between Members, Officers and the licensed trade on issues arising out of the licensing process.
10. The recent change and transfer of the administration and enforcement function of licensing to the Neighbourhoods Directorate provides an opportunity to review aspects of the service and it was determined that a review of the liaison arrangements should take place.

CONSULTATION

11. The most recent Panel meeting has been consulted on the issue and it was agreed that subject to some minor improvements the make up and remit of the Licensing Liaison Panel should remain in the same format.
12. The proposed improvements can be summarised as follows:
 - a. Written constitution and code of conduct to be produced to outline the purpose of the panel and the conduct of its members. A draft document is attached to this report as Appendix A
 - b. Membership should include anyone with an interest in licensing issues and invitations should be extended to groups such as the Disability Forum
 - c. Matters for discussion should not be focussed on individual licensing applications or issues, but should consider the wider issues of how the licensing regime and business can better serve the economic development of the community whilst at the same time delivering services that meet the licensing objectives.
13. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee were consulted on their views and it was expressed that Member representation should continue on the panel by way of an open invitation to all L & PS Committee Members

OUTCOME

14. The outcome of the review and consultation results in the following proposed operation of a Licensing Liaison Panel in Chorley:
 - a. A Panel that meets on a quarterly basis to discuss wider matters of interest in the licensed trade in its widest sense.
 - b. A Panel consisting of an open membership drawn from Council Members, licensed premises trade, taxi licensing trade, other licensing trades, disability forum, Council enforcement officers, police, fire service and other Council Directorates.
 - c. A Panel that operates to a published constitution and code of conduct.
 - d. A Panel that does not have any decision making powers but through open discussion and published minutes will endeavour to influence decisions taken by other organisations and bodies.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

15. 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 MURRAY
CORPORATE DIRECTOR (NEIGHBOURHOODS)

There are no background papers to this report.

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