

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

Date of Meeting:	8 th June 2015
Report of:	Miss Kim Evans – Licensing Team Leader
Subject/Title:	Update on the Licensing Committee's working group
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Les Gilbert – Communities

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To provide Members' with an update on the progress of the Licensing Committee working group tasked with looking into the Late Night Levy.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the report.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To update Members of the Committee on the work of the group.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The work and any recommendations of the working group would link directly to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 None identified

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 None identified

9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 Not applicable

10.0 Background

- 10.1 On the 14th January 2014 the Licensing Committee was asked by Cabinet, following a Notice of Motion, to consider whether it would be appropriate or not to implement a Late Night Levy. Following consideration of the request, the Licensing Committee resolved:

'That a Working Group, formed from Members of the Licensing Committee, be set up to identify options which may reduce the harmful effects of alcohol consumption within the Cheshire East area.'

- 10.2 The Working Group recognised the broad mandate given by the Licensing Committee and determined that it was necessary to look at the full range of powers at the Licensing Authority's disposal to achieve positive outcomes in the late night economy.
- 10.3 The Working Group set its own project plan (appendix 1) in line with the resolution and instruction from the Licensing Committee. The group is considering a number of other options available in addition to the Late Night Levy:

- § Early Morning Restrictions Orders
- § Designated Public Place Orders/Public Space Protection Orders
- § Cumulative Impact Policies
- § Voluntary and best practice schemes
- § Any other matter the Group considers appropriate

- 10.4 To help it formulate its recommendations to the Licensing Committee, the Group has identified a number of key stakeholders to provide information and evidence. These stakeholders are set out in full in the project plan and include; Cheshire Police, CEC Public Health Team, licence holders and trade representatives. The group has met on the following occasions:

7th March 2014 – Initial meeting to elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and to set and agree the project plan.

24th March 2014 – Meeting to discuss information circulated to Members by email; examples of the different types of voluntary schemes and how they work, Business Improvement Districts, Drinking Banning Orders, and information on action taken by other Licensing Authorities.

12th June 2014 – Considered licensing income and expenditure in a meeting with the Finance Portfolio Holder. Members wanted to establish what scope there was to use current income from fees.

21st August 2014 – Members invited Cllr Jos Saunders to provide information on the ways Poynton Town Council had successfully tackled alcohol related anti-social behaviour. Members were keen to identify any examples of good practice that might be extended Borough wide.

22nd September 2014 - Meeting with the Council's Public Health Team and the Cabinet Member for Care and Health in the Community, to discuss the impact of irresponsible drinking on the drinker and the NHS.

22nd December 2014 – Review of progress

14th January 2015 – Meeting with the Managing Partner of Poppleston Allen (leading firm of Licensing Solicitors representing various sectors of the trade).

- 10.5 It is also intended to invite representatives from the Cheshire Constabulary and the North West Regional Chairman of the British Institute of Innkeepers.
- 10.6 The Working Group has not met as frequently as anticipated and the initial deadline for completion has passed. The timing of meetings has been frustrated by co-ordinating the availability of Working Group Members, Officers and proposed attendees. Additionally, the deadline was set with the anticipation that the group would be looking solely at the Late Night Levy. The group's plan and aim have rightly been extended beyond just the discussion of the Levy and consideration should have been given to extending the deadline to allow for the proper scrutiny of all options.
- 10.7 Following the recent local elections, membership of Licensing Committee has changed and there will be a need for the new Chair to reinstate the group and ensure that any outstanding actions are completed and relevant decisions made.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report author:

Name: Miss Kim Evans

Designation: Licensing Team Leader

Tel No: 0300 123 5015

Email: kim.evans@cheshireeast.gov.uk