

## **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **LICENSING COMMITTEE - 28 OCTOBER 2013**

#### **ATTENDANCE AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP IN LICENSING EVENT**

##### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To propose the attendance of members of the Licensing Committee at the Leadership in Licensing event organised by the Local Government Association at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 7 November 2013.

##### **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF DECISION**

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to consider the attendance at the event of members of the Committee.

##### **3.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Local Government Association are organising a number of regional events looking at the impact that the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Alcohol Strategy and a move from premises based licensing to area considerations.

##### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The northeast regional event is being held at the Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne on 7 November 2013. An agenda for the event is attached to the report as Appendix 1.

##### **5.0 REASON FOR DECISION**

- 5.1 To approve the attendance of members of the Licensing Committee at the Local Government Association event.

##### **6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 None submitted.

##### **7.0 RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 None.

##### **8.0 GLOSSARY**

- 8.1 None.

**9.0 APPENDICIES**

**9.1** Appendix 1 – Agenda for Local Government Association Leadership in Licensing event 7 November 2013 at Newcastle Civic Centre.

**10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**10.1** None.

# Appendix 1

## **Leadership in licensing**

### **Newcastle-upon-Tyne - 7 November 2013**

This is an interactive training exercise for all councillors involved in, or with an interest in, any licensing activity, and it is not necessary for delegates to be a licensing committee member.

#### **About the event**

##### **Free regional events for councillors**

Examples will be drawn from licensing pubs and clubs, taxis, and street trading but the principles will apply to all forms of licensing; including that for gambling, scrap metal dealers, and discretionary activities such as tattooists and sunbeds.

Delegates will have access to a range of councillor handbooks, case studies and the new LGA e-training module on regulation throughout the day. LGA staff will also be on hand to answer questions and provide advice.

**You will also have chance to hear about Rewiring Public Services, the LGA's ground breaking proposition for local government, and how you can apply it through your licensing work.**

#### **Agenda**

**10:00 am** – Tea, coffee and networking

**10:35 am** – A shifting emphasis – making the links to public health, community safety and economic growth.

The licensing regimes have long focused on ensuring individual premises or operators are fit to trade, yet this can leave councils without the ability to shape their area in response to emerging local trends or concerns from residents. However, recent announcements in both the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act and Alcohol Strategy, along with an increasing focusing on promoting local economic growth, indicate a shift from premise- or activity-based licensing to licensing on an area basis.

This session will explore the implications of this shift, including the implications for committee members.

**10:50 am** – Making decisions under increasing scrutiny

It is only natural for residents and businesses to want reassurance that decisions impacting on their local surroundings, environment, health and economy are fair, legally sound and consider the views from local communities. Recent cases, such as *Hemming v Westminster*, show that residents and industry are placing licensing decisions under increasing scrutiny and it is important that councils understand the implications of such cases for their decision making processes.

**11:10 am** – Back to basics – re visiting the role of licensing committees, officers, interested parties and others

Back in 2003 the Licensing Act set out the legal powers and responsibilities for all those involved in the licensing process for alcohol. Over time there have been minor amendments to this foundation, which are worth visiting and comparing to the roles under other licensing regimes.

**11:30 am** – Leading from the front to set out the local strategy and priorities for your community

The role of the licensing committee is essential, but the work starts long before you consider an application. Your licensing policies allow you extensive flexibility to set out your views, on behalf of your residents and business, on how your licensed premises and activities should contribute to a thriving and vibrant local offer. This should be a completely transparent process that considers the views of all relevant parties.

This session will explore what makes a good policy, the role of all councillors in developing it and how it sets the foundation for local measures to address public health issues, community safety concerns and boost the local economy.

**12:00 noon** – An in-depth look at the role of committee members

Councillors are the elected representatives of the public and make their decisions based on what is best for the area and its inhabitants. Yet this can be a daunting proposition when you are surrounded by officers with years of experience and subject to challenge in a magistrate's court or higher if there is a dispute.

This session explores the skills that councillors need to scrutinise applications and manage advice from officers, while having the confidence to make their own decisions. It will draw on the commitments in the Members Code.

**12:30 pm** – Lunch and networking

**1:00 pm** – Practical exercises

This session will take delegates through a series of practical exercises, from developing licence conditions to making representations, and culminating in a mock hearing.

**2:00 pm** – Other measures – working with industry

Councils have a responsibility to review licensing policies regularly, but this should never be considered the only time that you communicate with licensed businesses and the communities they serve. An ongoing discussion will create a flexible licensing system that is responsive to resident and business needs.

This session will look at how strong partnerships can be developed, the improvements that have voluntarily been implemented as a result and wider joint initiatives such as Purple Flag.

**2:20pm** – Local issues

This session will explore 2 licensing areas which delegates have indicated in advance that they would like to focus on in more depth: Public health and scrap metal.

**3:20 pm** – Final discussion and any points for the LGA to take away

**3:30 pm** – Meeting close

**Date and venue**

7 November 2013, The Civic Centre, Newcastle-upon-Tyne