

HOME OFFICE ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Committee	Licensing Committee
Officer Contact	Stephanie Waterford x7232
Papers with report	Appendix 1 – Home Office consultation
Ward(s) affected	All

SUMMARY

To update the Committee on the current Home Office consultation document and summarise the proposals.

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee note the information

INFORMATION

The Government has released proposals to tackle alcohol-related harms and further reducing the burden on responsible businesses.

The Home Office is inviting views on the key proposals. The consultation runs between 28th November 2012 and 6th February 2013.

The key proposals are summarised as follows;

A Minimum Price for Alcohol

The Home Office propose to introduce a minimum unit price for alcohol sold in England & Wales. It is hoped that this will help to reduce excessive alcohol consumption, alcohol related crime and ASB and the number of alcohol related hospital admissions. It is proposed that the minimum price should be .45p per unit of alcohol sold. The proposals are unlikely to effect the on trade or responsible drinkers.

A Ban on Multi-buy Promotions in the Off Trade

This proposal will apply to discounted alcohol where it is sold in bulk which, in the Governments view, encourages excessive drinking.

A Review of the Mandatory Licence Conditions

The Mandatory Conditions were revised in 2010 as part of the 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act' regulations. A further review is proposed however the specifics have not yet been released.

Health as a Licensing Objective for Cumulative Impact Policies

This proposal will ensure that Licensing Authorities can have regard to alcohol related harm when considering the introduction of a cumulative impact policy.

Freeing up Responsible Businesses

The Government propose to deregulate ancillary sales of alcohol, e.g. a guest house selling alcohol occasionally. The Home Office are consulting on two possible options – Remove the requirement for a Personal Licence Holder in certain premises or remove the need for a premises licence in certain circumstances.

The Government is also proposing to extend the number of TEN's at certain individual premises. The current limit is 12 per year.

A further proposition is to remove the requirement for applicants to advertise their applications in the local press. The Government believes that the way in which people receive information has changed and should therefore be reflected in the application process.

The full consultation document is attached as Appendix 1.