

REDUCING THE STRENGTH UPDATE: Working alongside the Metropolitan Police

Committee name	Licensing Committee
Officer reporting	Ian Meens, Residents Services
Papers with report	None
Ward	All, but report focussed on Botwell/Townfield

HEADLINES

From the Committee meeting in April 2017, an update on partnership efforts with the Police, work together with Hayes Town Partnership on licensing enforcement matters within the Town.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee are informed of the actions taken and are updated with the progress made.

INFORMATION

The term Reducing the Strength relates to the initiative seeking to reduce the sale of 'super-strength' alcohol across the Borough, or in specific areas, such as Hayes Town. This initiative asks off-licenses to voluntarily stop the sale of 'super-strength' alcohol. This alcohol is classed as any beer, lager or cider with an alcohol volume of 6.5 percent or over.

The Police report that they have undertaken a number of initiatives in the Hayes Town area addressing the problem areas of concern.

The main aspects of the Council's attention has focussed around the behaviour of street drinkers and other identified aspects of the problems currently affecting the area. As the Council has an enforcement role relating to premises selling alcohol and ensuring that they comply with the terms and conditions of their licence, along with abiding by the four Licensing Objectives. The sale of super strength alcohol in individual units or single can sales is believed to significantly contribute to public nuisance and crime and disorder issues which have been reported in the Hayes Town area.

The Police have worked with British Waterways on identifying "make do" camps along the canal tow path and this action identified five different 'shacks'. Official warnings were served or placed upon these 'structures'. This 'warning' being the first stage for action to be taken if these dwellings remain, and removal becomes necessary.

The Police conducted a joint operation with the London Borough of Hillingdon Trading Standards officers on off-licensed premises in May. A number of alleged non-compliance practices were discovered and these are currently under review by the Council.

Classification: Public

Licensing Committee: 17th October 2017

Visits and inspections of premises have continued on six different occasions between June and August.

Generally the joint initiative has undertaken a number of actions, visits, inspections, meetings and training in an attempt to give a wider approach to the problems identified within the remit of the Licensing Service.

Implications on related Council policies

Meeting the objectives of the Council's Licensing Policy

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

To reduce alcohol abuse and related anti-social behaviour in the Borough.

Financial Implications

None arising from this report.

Legal Implications

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL