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COUNCIL**

To:	**Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee**

Date: 22 February 2012   **Item No:**

Report of: **Head of Environmental Development**

Title of Report: **Response to Home Office Consultation: Relaxation of Licensing Hours For The Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To update Members regarding the response sent by the Licensing Authority to the Home Office consultation: Relaxation of Licensing Hours For The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Report Approved by:

Finance: Emma Burson
Legal: Daniel Smith

Policy Framework: Statement of Licensing Policy

Recommendation(s):
The Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

INTRODUCTION

1.   The central government responsibility for the licensing of alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment premises has transferred from the Department of Culture media and Sport to the Home Office following the election of the coalition Government.

2.   The Government proposes to make a licensing hours order under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 to mark the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June 2012.

3.   Plans have been announced for a special four-day Jubilee weekend to allow communities the time to come together to celebrate and commemorate the events of the last 60 years. The late May Bank Holiday has been put back to Monday 4 June and there will be an additional Jubilee Bank Holiday on Tuesday, 5 June. The Consultation document is attached at **Appendix One**.

4. The proposed order will extend licensed hours on Friday, 1st June to 1am on Saturday, 2nd June 2012 and on Saturday, 2nd June to 1am on Sunday, 3rd June 2012 for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises and the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment in licensed premises in England and Wales.

BACKGROUND

4. Under section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003, the Secretary of State may make an order relaxing opening hours for licensed premises to mark an occasion of 'exceptional international, national or local significance'.

5. A 'licensing hours order' can be used to override existing opening hours in licensed premises, i.e. any premises with a premises licence or club premises certificate for a period of up to four days.

6. An order may be applied to all licensed premises in England and Wales or restricted to one or more specified areas. It is also possible to impose different opening hours on different days during the relaxation period and to allow different licensing hours for different licensable activities.

7. The Government believes that it is likely that many pubs and other licensed premises will wish to open later over the Queen's Diamond Jubilee weekend to take advantage of the celebrations.

8. Licence holders currently have the option of using a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) to extend their opening hours for a limited period. A TEN costs £21.00 and must be submitted at least 10 working days before the event begins. However, they are subject to certain annual limits (for example 12 per premises) and may be refused if the police object on the grounds of crime and disorder.

9. Unlicensed premises would not benefit from the proposed licensing hours order and would still need to apply for a TEN to put on events involving licensable activities.

10. The consultation ran for 7 weeks from 12th October 2011 to the 1st December 2011 and covers England and Wales, where these proposals apply.

11. All Members of the Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee were contacted by the Licensing Team Leader seeking their views on the proposal. All Members who responded (including the Chair and Vice-Chair) did so in favour of the proposals, and the Licensing Team Leader responded according to the consultation.

12. Any financial implications regarding this matter are covered within existing budgets.

Recommendations

13.   The Committee is recommended to note the response to the Home
       Office consultation.

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Background papers:

Version: 1.0

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