

# Government consultation 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act'

**Licensing Committee**

**Date: 2 September 2010**

**Author: Head of Licensing**

**Wards Affected: All**

## **Purpose**

To discuss a draft response to the Home Office consultation 'Rebalancing the Licensing Act'.

## **Recommendation**

Licensing Committee is asked : -

- Using the attached draft response as a starting point, to discuss the text of a response to the consultation.

## **1. Reasons**

- 1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 is to undergo a review, with major changes expected. An opportunity has been given to local authorities to comment.

## **2. Detail**

- 2.1 The consultation is wide-ranging and comments must be submitted by 8 September, if they are to be taken into account. Government has announced that major reform will not be implemented until 2012 at the earliest.
- 2.2 Rather than set out arguments in the body of the report, a proposed response is attached, to provide a starting point for the discussion. It can be freely amended to produce a final submission to the consultation.

## **Alternative Options**

- Committee could resolve not to submit any observations.

## **Risk Management**

### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

The proposal is to comment. There are no costs to doing that but there are proposals in the consultation which would have major financial implications for local authorities if implemented.

*Legal / Human Rights Implications* It is open to anyone to comment on the consultation proposals. .

*Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Lionel Starling on 01793 466109 or e-mail [lstarling@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:lstarling@swindon.gov.uk).

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The exercise of licensing and associated powers relates particularly to reduction of crime and the fear of crime.
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## **Consultees**

- The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

## **Background Papers and Appendices**

- Consultation document
- Suggested consultation response