

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

8 JANUARY 2009

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEGAL AND
REGULATORY SERVICES**

LICENSING ACT 2003
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY MEETING

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of a meeting of the Responsible Authorities Group.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Licensing Act 2003 created statutory Responsible Authorities which are public bodies that must be fully notified of all licence applications and are entitled to make representations to the licensing authority in relation to the grant, variation or review of licences. The Responsible Authorities are the South Wales Police, the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, together with the Council's Planning, Public Protection and Child Protection Departments. As well as making representations to the Licensing Authority, these bodies give professional advice on promoting the licensing objectives and some have direct enforcement powers.
- 2.2 In addition to the licensing authority functions on the grant or review of licences, developing partnership working with the Responsible Authorities is key to promoting the licensing objectives.
- 2.3 Since the implementation of the Act in 2005, some of these bodies have successfully worked together on a number of exercises and projects. The creation of a Responsible Authorities Group provides a more formal means of sharing information and implementing joint working projects to target problem areas and premises via a Memorandum of Understanding.
- 2.4 The Group are currently discussing specific problem areas for underage and proxy sales within the County Borough. Other partnership projects which integrate with the licensing objectives include the Designated Public Places Order for Bridgend Town Centre and the development of a Trade Guidance Pack aimed initially at Bridgend Town Centre licensees. The Pack provides guidance and advice on a number of issues from legal responsibilities to specific issues such as under age sales and preventing public nuisance. In addition, partnership working also provides an opportunity for sharing resources such as surveillance

equipment and training, for example training of Police Community Support Officers by Trading Standards Officers is to be arranged. Finally, issues raised by the Group can inform future changes to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

- 2.5 Quarterly meetings of the Group are planned although meetings will be called more frequently if required and further updates will be reported to the Committee.

3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 Partnership working with the Responsible Authorities supports the aims of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and the statutory guidance accompanying the Licensing Act 2003.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications to the report.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to note the above report.

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Date: 30 December 2008

Background documents:

Bridgend County Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy:
www.bridgend.gov.uk

Statutory Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003:
www.culture.gov.uk

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