

LICENSING COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2010

Present: County Councillor Bridges (Chairperson);
County Councillors Ford, Grant, Goddard, Griffiths,
Kelloway, Derrick Morgan, Elgan Morgan and Smith

Apology: County Councillor Cox

L10 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2010 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

L11 : REBALANCING THE LICENSING ACT

The Government has set out a programme of reform around alcohol licensing intending to tackle the issue of crime and anti-social behaviour associated with binge drinking and the night-time economy. Members received a report setting out the Government's five main commitments.

On 28 July 2010 the Home Office published a consultation document entitled "Rebalancing the Licensing Act – A Consultation on Empowering Individuals, Families and Local Communities to Shape and Determine Local Licensing". Members were advised that it is the Government's intention to legislate using the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill later this year. Responsibility for alcohol licensing and enforcement was previously shared between the Home Office and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. However, Members were advised that it was recently made the entire responsibility of the Home Office.

The Government intends to introduce more flexibility in order to enable local authorities and the police to control alcohol-related crime and disorder hot spots within local night-time economies. The report identified the main government proposals contained within the consultation document and provided members with details of the Authority's responses to each proposal set out in Appendix A to the report.

Members discussed the consultation responses. Following some debate Members agreed that the Chief Strategic Planning and Environment Officer be requested to make minor amendments to the consultations responses to Questions 2, 6 and 10.

RESOLVED – That the Committee considered and approved the responses to the consultation document outlined in Appendix A to the report, subject to the Chief Strategic Planning and Environment Officer amending the responses to Questions 2, 6 and 10 as agreed by the Committee.

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Chairperson