

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE

17 MARCH 2010

REPORT OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

Report prepared by Neil Harris

1. MEMBERS TRAINING

1.1 Issue for Decision

1.1.1 To consider a program for the training for Members for Licensing Committee and the Licensing Act 2003 Committee.

1.2 Recommendation of Democratic Services Manager

1.2.1 That the training program as set out in paragraph 1.3.2 below be approved.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

1.3.1 A number of Members have asked me to draw up a training program for the Licensing Committee and Licensing Act 2003 Committee Members to ensure that all Members are fully trained and able to undertake all aspects of the work relating to Licensing Committee. During these discussions it was believed that the best approach would be to establish an ongoing annual training scheme which could be used each year particularly following the appointment of a new committee at the annual meeting in May.

1.3.2 The program which has been developed for this year and which can be adapted for use in subsequent years is as follows:-

- 14 June - Licensing Act 2003 matters including sub-committee meetings.
- July - Street Trading and Sex Establishments.
- September - Taxi and Private Hire.
- November - Gambling Act 2005.

In addition to these specific training sessions there will be nighttime visits organized for the Committee as follows:-

- Town Centre / CCTV room / CCTV Lockmeadow
- Rural area

These particular visits will be organized around the above training sessions but within the same time frame.

1.3.3 The model set out above can then be adapted for use in subsequent years and perhaps in the years when there are no elections held, there would just be refresher training.

1.3.4 Additionally, it is found that if it is appropriate some of these meetings could be opened up to the other Licensing Committees from those authorities within the Partnership. This may be particularly relevant for the one on the Licensing Act 2003 training as for this year we have been able to obtain the services of Philip Kolvin QC, the President of the Institute of Licensing, and most senior lawyers in the Licensing field within the country.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

The alternative would be to take no action and remain with an ad hoc training policy which is believed would not be appropriate for the training of new members entering into the Licensing field or for refresher training for existing Members.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

None.

1.6 Risk Management

The risks to the authority are limited but if Members do not receive the appropriate training it is possible that they will apply correctly the law in the cases that could come before them.

1.7 Other Implications

1.7.1

1. Financial
2. Staffing
3. Legal
4. Equality Impact Needs Assessment
5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
6. Community Safety

x

- 7. Human Rights Act
- 8. Procurement
- 9. Asset Management

1.7.2 There is a cost to the provision of training particularly of obtaining the services of Philip Kolvin QC and the cost of this training can be met from within the existing budgets.

1.8 Background Documents

None

NO REPORT WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THIS BOX BEING COMPLETED

Is this a Key Decision? Yes No

If yes, when did it appear in the Forward Plan? _____

Is this an Urgent Key Decision? Yes No

Reason for Urgency

[State why the decision is urgent and cannot wait until the next issue of the forward plan.]