

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

17 SEPTEMBER 2014

**JOINT REPORT OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE AND LICENSING ACT 2003
COMMITTEE**

Report prepared by Caroline Matthews

**1. PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE AND THE
LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE**

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 In October 2013 the council invited the Local Government Association to conduct a peer review of the Licensing function in order to:

- Explore how licensing can more effectively support the council's priorities;
- Review the role and effectiveness of the licensing function, to include the roles of the Cabinet Member and Licensing Committees;
- Examine the future capacity of licensing in light of anticipated future funding reductions.

1.1.2 Following feedback from the Peer Review Team to an informal meeting of the relevant Cabinet Member and Members from both Licensing Committees, a report was presented to Cabinet on the 12 February 2014 that considered and agreed a list of recommendations made by the peer review team.

1.1.3 One of the recommendations made was to consider moving to a single committee.

1.1.4 On 4 August 2014 the Licensing Committee and the Licensing Act 2003 Committee considered a report of the Director of Regeneration and Communities which asked the Committees to recommend to Council the reduction of the number of Committees dealing with licensing functions from two to one to enable a more efficient use of member and officer resources and improved service to the public. The Committees considered this and recommended the following to Council.

1.2 RECOMMENDED:

- 1.2.1 a) That the Licensing Committee and Licensing Act 2003 Committee be combined into one functioning committee called the Licensing Committee;
- b) That the size of the new Committee be set at 12 Members to allow for cross party representation if possible;
- c) That Council delegate all permitted licensing functions to the new Licensing Committee; and
- d) That the Constitution be amended accordingly.