

**Decision Session – Cabinet Member for
Crime and Stronger Communities**

24 January 2013

Report of the Assistant Director of Housing &
Public Protection

The Government’s Alcohol Strategy

Summary

1. This report asks the Cabinet Member to approve the licensing authorities response to the Home Office consultation on delivering the Government’s policies to cut alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour.

Background

2. The Government has already legislated a wide set of reforms to tackle binge drinking and the effect it has on individuals and the community. The Government wants to continue the work to tackle the drink fuelled antisocial behaviour and crime blighting our communities.
3. This consultation puts forward proposals and questions on five key areas set out in the Government’s Alcohol Strategy, which was published on 23 March 2012:
 - The price level and mechanisms for a minimum unit price for alcohol;
 - Introducing a ban on multi-buy promotions in the off-trade;
 - Reviewing the mandatory licence conditions;
 - Introducing health as a licensing objective for cumulative impact; and
 - Reducing the burden of regulation on responsible businesses.
4. A copy of the consultation document and the Government’s Alcohol Strategy can be found on the Home Office website at

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/alcohol-consultation/> Officers' responses can be found at Annex 1.

Consultation

5. The Home Office has consulted a wide range of persons and organisations with regards to their consultation. The Council has consulted with relevant bodies/partners with regards to this response; they include the Director of Public Health, Safer York Partnership, North Yorkshire Police and Trading Standards.

Options

6. Option 1: approve Officers' responses.
7. Option 2: amend Officers' responses.

Analysis

8. Officers' views are set out in the proposed response to the Home Office at Annex 1. The Licensing Act 2003 has been in force since November 2005, in light of experience of dealing with the legislation, Officers believe that some of the proposals within the Alcohol Strategy are necessary; however Officers also believe that some are not required.

Council Priorities

9. The Licensing Act 2003 has 4 objectives the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.
10. The promotion of the licensing objectives will support the Council's priorities to protect vulnerable people, build strong communities, and protect the environment.

Implications

11. **Financial:** There are no financial implications associated with this report.
12. **Human Resources:** There are no Human Resources implications associated with this report.

13. **Equalities:** A community impact assessment has been carried out.

There are no Equalities implications associated with this report. However, if changes to legislation are implemented by Government as a result of their consultation, the introduction of a minimum unit price for alcohol and a ban on multi-buy promotions could impact on older people on low incomes.

14. **Legal:** There are no legal implications associated with this report

15. **Crime and Disorder:** There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report. The aim of the consultation is to reduced alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour.

16. **Information Technology (IT):** There are no IT implications associated with this report.

17. **Other:** There are no other implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

18. There are no known risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

19. That the Cabinet Member approves option 1 and instruct Officers' to submit the response to the Home Office.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



Date

**Specialist Officer Implications: None
Wards Affected:**

All

Background Papers:

The Government's Alcohol Strategy

Annexes

Annex 1: City of York Council response.