

North Dudley Area Committee - 30th January 2008

Report of the Director of Law and Property

Alcohol Consumption in Public Places – Sedgley Town Centre

Purpose of Report

1. To consider a proposal for an Order making Sedgley Town Centre a designated public place where the consumption of alcohol would be prohibited other than within the curtilage of licensed premises.

Background

2. At its meeting on the 17th December 2007, the Licensing and Safety Committee agreed, in principle, but subject to public consultation, to make an Order under Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 designating Sedgley Town Centre, as a place where the consumption of alcohol in public places would be banned.
3. Attached at Appendix 1 is the report considered by the Licensing and Safety Committee at its meeting on the 17th December 2007.
4. As explained in the report to the Licensing and Safety Committee, the statutory process requires extensive public consultation and, in accordance with our usual practice, the views of the Area Committee are requested before a final decision is taken by the Licensing and Safety Committee in a few months' time.

Finance

5. The cost of public notices in the Press and signs in the street will be met from existing resources. However, if the Area Committee is minded to support the proposed designation, it is suggested that the cost of providing signs should be met from its Capital Allocations' budget. The estimate for this will be reported verbally at the meeting.

Law

6. The relevant statutory provisions referred to in this report are contained in Sections 12-13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Places) Regulations 2001.

Equality Impact

7. This report has no direct equality implications. The making of an Order will help the Police to tackle the growing problem of under-age drinking in public places in and around Sedgley Town Centre.

Recommendation

8. It is recommended that the Area Committee support a Designation Order for Sedgley Town Centre, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report to the Licensing and Safety Committee, and that the cost of signage be met from the 2007/8 Capital Allocations budget.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Correspondence with West Midlands Police.