

Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services

10th September 2009

Report of the Interim Director of Law and Property

Alcohol Related Anti-Social Behaviour

Purpose of Report

1. To enable Members and the Police to discuss alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the Borough in the context of orders, banning alcohol consumption in designated places, approved by the Licensing and Safety Committee.

Background

2. Over the last seven years The Licensing and Safety Committee have approved the following Orders Designating Places for the Banning of Alcohol Consumption in Public: -

Area	Date of Designation
Halesowen Town Centre	7 th June 2002
Stourbridge Town Centre	2 nd January 2004
Dudley Town Centre	29 th April 2005
Lye Town Centre	10 th July 2007
Mary Stevens Park and Swinford Common	1 st February 2008
Sedgely Town Centre	12 th May 2008
Brierley Hill Town Centre	11 th May 2009

3. At the meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee on the 24th February 2009, Members expressed some concern that problems associated with the public consumption of alcohol were being displaced to adjacent areas from areas where an alcohol ban was in force. The Interim Director Law and Property confirmed that Dudley had approached the creation of such orders in the correct manner through the designation of specific areas where anti social drinking had been identified as a problem by the Police. After considering this information Members requested that the Interim Director of Law and Property write to the four Members of Parliament for the Borough and the Home Office highlighting the need for consideration to be given to a national approach, rather than individual Borough approach to the banning of alcohol consumption in public. No response has been received to this letter.

4. The Committee also resolved that the Chairman of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services be requested to consider, at a future meeting of the Committee, a proposal that Police Superintendent Dyer and Johnson be invited to attend a meeting of the Select Committee to discuss issues relating to alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the Borough and to consider sending a letter to the four Members of Parliament for the Borough on similar lines to the letter referred to in paragraph 3 of this report.
5. Superintendent Johnson will be attending the Select Committee meeting on the 10th September 2009. Superintendent Dyer has sent his apologies but Inspector Bradbury will be attending in his place.
6. On the 28th May 2009, the Licensing and Safety Committee expressed further concern that anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol was being displaced from the designated areas banning the consumption of alcohol to various parks around the Borough. They resolved that the Licensing Officer should write to all Sector Inspectors outlining these concerns. A copy of that letter is attached to this report as appendix (1).

Finance

7. The financial Implications in relation to the implementation of the Orders to ban the consumption of alcohol in public in designated areas within the Borough have been :
 - a) Costs of advertising have been met within existing budgets
 - b) The cost of the signage has been split between the West Midlands Police and the appropriate Area Committee.

Law

8. The making of Orders for the Designation of Places for the Banning of Alcohol Consumption in Public are governed by Sections 12 –13 of The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Places) Regulations 2001
9. The Licensing Act 2003 governs the granting of Premises and Personal Licences, Club Certificates and Temporary Events.

Equality Impact

10. This report has no direct equality implications. The Orders help the Police to tackle the growing problem of under-age drinking in public places.
11. The licensing of premises and individuals will impact on children and young people through their attendance at licensed premises.

Recommendation

12. That the Committee note the information contained in this report.



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DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

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List of Background Papers