

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LICENSING & APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**21 September 2010**

**Report of the Central Services Director**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Information**

**1 HOME OFFICE REFORMS TO THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

**1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 The Home Office launched a consultation on proposed changes to the Licensing Act 2003. The proposed changes are contained in Annex 1.
- 1.1.2 Unfortunately, due to staff long term sickness, we were not made aware of the consultation period at its commencement and, as such, our response time has been severely limited.
- 1.1.3 In the past, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council have been part of the Kent Licensing Steering Group, producing a joint response on Home Office Consultation. I attach at Annex 2 the Kent Joint Response.
- 1.1.4 As a Council we have some reservations regarding the Kent Joint Response and, following consultation with Management Team, the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of Licensing and Appeals Committee have made additional comments, as shown in Annex 3.
- 1.1.5 The deadline for responding to the consultation was 8 September.

**1.2 Proposed way forward**

- 1.2.1 In the future, every effort will be made to consult our Members on proposed changes by the Home Office and a response prepared from this Council. It was very unfortunate that circumstances did not allow for this in respect of the proposed changes to the Licensing Act 2003.
- 1.2.2 Following the publication of the Government's response to the consultation, a further report will be made to Members.

Background papers: Nil

contact: Katie Iggulden

Julie Beilby  
Central Services Director