

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT &
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**
**LICENSING COMPARISON EXERCISE VISIT TO BLACKPOOL BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the results of a recent visit to Blackpool Borough Council. The visit being made as part of a benchmarking / comparison exercise and as an element of training for members of the Licensing Committee.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Committee note the contents of this report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Blackpool was chosen for this visit because of its similarity to Nottingham in a range of licensing issues.
- 3.2 The council operate a Door Supervisor scheme, have many large capacity nightclubs including national chains found in Nottingham. The council has close working links with the Police and are together pursuing crime and disorder issues similar to those in Nottingham.

4 FINDINGS

- 4.1 The Council's area is part of the Fylde Coast where there are some 2,200 licensed premises of all types. A number of national companies have licensed outlets in the town centre including Yates and Walkabout Inns.
- 4.2 The Council licenses Hackney Carriages and has an active trade group with which they have developed close links to pursue matters of passenger safety and Hackney Carriage standards. Surveys of unmet demands have been undertaken with no indication of a need to issue further licences. There is no proposal at present to deregulate the trade.
- 4.3 Public Entertainment Licensing is administered in a similar manner to here at Nottingham. The Blackpool has conditions and undertakes consultations that closely resemble Nottingham's. The Licensing Committee at Blackpool appears very active in terms of applying and enforcing strict standards, which is followed through by a proactive operational enforcement role by officers.

- 4.4 Blackpool has developed some new initiatives that are being examined by officers at Nottingham including bottle deposit banks outside licensed premises and marketing the 'Drink Wisely' message to pub/club goers.
- 4.5 Crime and disorder was mainly alcohol driven and Blackpool found that it was attracting the wrong type of person for the image the Council wished to project. The Council had no proposal at the time for a policy towards licensing control as a means of influencing street crime, anti social behaviour or drug control.
- 4.6 The impression gained was that in many areas Blackpool had similar aims to Nottingham in the application of standards, cross cutting links with partners and stakeholders, procedures and in readiness for the impending liquor licensing reforms. Close links are now established between respective Members and officers that bode well for both Councils to exchange ideas and develop new initiatives.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

8 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 The visit contributes to the strategic aims of Making Nottingham a Safer City, Promoting the Health and Wellbeing of People and Making Nottingham an Attractive Place to Live and Work.

9 List of background papers other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information

None

10 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The exchange of information and ideas about Blackpool's crime and disorder issues will better enable the development of both policies and strategies in support of this Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

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