

Urgent Update Report to GP&L Committee for 17 July 2013.

Introduction of the Local Policing Model (LPM) and the potential impact on the Licensing Act 2003

The Metropolitan Police are implementing a new model of local policing (LPM) which will see a greater emphasis on the role of Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's).

Cllr Stevens as the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Public Protection and Community Safety and Chair of the Safer Bromley Partnership has been in communication with Bromley Police senior management team and has raised concerns about the future of the Bromley police boroughs Licensing Team under this new model of service delivery.

The view being taken by the Metropolitan Police Service is that licensing will be part of the new and wider roles for local SNT's without a dedicated officer / team taking a borough wide view and responsibility.

Chief Inspector Carron Schusler has informed Cllr Stevens that there is some local discretion and that she has successfully bid for a temporary licensing post, however this is a one full time equivalent position and represents a reduction from the current position of 1.6 fte.

The police plan that the dedicated licensing officer will have responsibility for responding to applications, making representations and attending hearings of Licensing sub Cttee. , but the SNT's will deal with licensing visits.

The Police are a statutory consultee under the Act and lead on matters of crime and disorder associated with a range of licensing functions not just the Licensing Act 2003, including Gambling Act 2006, scrap metal dealers and special treatments.

Members may be partially concerned about Temporary Events Notices where the police have 3 working days make representations. We currently receive over 900 applications a year. If the dedicated licensing officer is on leave TEN notices will not be subject to appropriate scrutiny.

Members of the Council's licensing team work very closely and successfully with the Police licensing team and make many joint visits to deal with and resolve problems. This arrangement may be jeopardised under the new LPM proposal. It will be extremely difficult to have to coordinate with each individual SNT when we or they wish to arrange joint visits.

Members may have some concerns as to the potential impact of these proposals on their ability to respond to crime and disorder from licensed premises and seek further clarification from the Metropolitan Police.

Paul Lehane – Head of Food, Safety & licensing 12 July 2013