

REPORT FOR: LICENSING AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 21st November 2011

Subject: Amendment to Harrow Council's Licensing Policy to include a statement in relation to the Olympics 2012

Responsible Officer: Brendon Hills – Corporate Director, Community & Environment

Exempt: No

Enclosures: None, but note that responses to the consultation will follow in a supplemental agenda

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the proposed Olympic statement to be added to Harrow Council's current Licensing Policy and the reasons for it. The results of the consultation exercise will be provided to the Committee once the consultation period ends by way of a supplemental agenda and will be available for the meeting on 21 November 2011.

Recommendations:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Consider the proposed Olympic statement for addition to the Licensing Policy and the responses received to the consultation exercise.
2. Subject to any comments, refer the amendment to Full Council.

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Background & Current Situation

London will be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games during the summer of 2012. Due to the dynamic and busy environment in the capital next summer, the Greater London Authority (GLA) has worked with London public service agencies to understand the impacts and issues arising from the non-sporting, or 'parallel' events planned for summer 2012.

In November 2010 the GLA asked all event organisers to work with their relevant Local Authority to enter information about planned events for 2012 on to the London Events Coordination Calendar (LECC), or into the Culture Diary by the closing date of March 31st 2011. London boroughs were also asked to identify a person within their organisation to take a lead on overseeing the events being added, including borough's own proposed events.

Since the closing date the GLA, in consultation with the Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, Transport for London, British Transport Police, Port of London Authority and the National Health Service, has been assessing the information provided on these proposed events.

Through this process of assessment it has become apparent that the volume of activity in London will be much greater than usual and this will mean demand for public services, private security, event equipment, portable sanitation etc. during the Games period is likely to outstrip supply. No single event can be treated in isolation, so it is important that borough event teams, licensing officers and committees maintain an awareness of the impact of events on both their local geographical area as well as across the whole of London.

Games Time Plus

The period of primary focus for resourcing agencies is what is known as Games Time Plus (GTP), which runs from mid July – mid September, 2012¹ and includes the following periods of activity:

Athletes village opens	15 th July
Torch Relay (London leg):	20 th July – 26 th July
Olympic Games:	27 th July – 12 th August
Transition:	13 th – 28 th August
Paralympic Games:	29 th August – 11 th September
Athletes' village closes:	16 th September

¹ This is a slight expansion of the previous GTP which ran from 20th July to 10th September.

2.2 Main Options

1. Add the following statement to Harrow Council's Licensing Policy (otherwise known as the "Statement of Licensing Policy"):

"The council is fully committed to a safe and successful Olympic and Paralympic Games in London during 2012. The council recognises that the resources of the police, transport and emergency services will be planned out and prioritised for the security of major events before, during and after the Games, as a minimum from 15th July 2012 until 16th September 2012. Due consideration will be given by the council to representations from the Police in relation to licence applications for activity during Games time on the grounds of public safety and security when police and other emergency services resources are insufficient to deal with the risks presented. Where, as a result of representations from a responsible authority, it is identified that a licence or proposed event presents a risk that the licensing objectives will be compromised, it is likely that such applications will not be granted."

2. Make no change to Harrow Council's Licensing Policy in light of the Olympics 2012

Reasons for recommendation

To raise awareness among those involved in the licensing process for the borough - primarily members of the Licensing & General Purposes Committee but also licensing officers and borough events teams – of the intense pressures on pan London resources during Games Time Plus. And also to make a set of suggested recommendations to support borough licensing processes which will hopefully alleviate some of that pressure, allowing as much activity as possible to go ahead smoothly during Games Time Plus, without jeopardising the 2012 Games themselves.

This Report takes account of the licensing process, including the independence of the Licensing Committee. It therefore does not propose any changes to this process, but rather it suggests a recommendation to help the borough ensure that due consideration of Games Time Plus issues, especially for Olympic/Paralympic venues (including road events), is made when considering granting licences to events in this borough.

2.3 Consultation

A consultation exercise was conducted in relation to the proposed addition to the Licensing Policy and this took place from 10 October 2011 to 11 November 2011. The draft policy with the proposed amendment was also published on the Council's website for the duration of the consultation period. The consultation was carried out in accordance with section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003, which requires the licensing authority to consult the following on the policy statement or any subsequent revision to it:

- (a) the chief officer of police for the licensing authority's area,
- (b) the fire and rescue authority for that area,
- (c) such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of premises licences issued by that authority,
- (d) such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of club premises certificates issued by that authority,
- (e) such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of personal licences issued by that authority, and
- (f) such other persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of businesses and residents in its area.

As the consultation period ends on a date after this report is published, the responses to the consultation will be attached to a Supplemental Agenda and provided to Committee members before the meeting on 21 November 2011.

2.4 Legal Implications

It is a statutory requirement under the Licensing Act 2003 for a licensing authority to publish a licensing statement (policy) every three years, but also to keep its policy under review during the three year period and make such revisions to it, at such times as it considers appropriate. The Act requires that the bodies/persons listed in 2.3 above are consulted for any revisions to the policy, as is required for the original policy too.

2.5 Equalities Impact

As noted above, a consultation exercise in relation to the proposed addition to Licensing Policy was carried out in accordance with section 5 Licensing Act 2003 and was advertised on the Council's website for the duration of the consultation period. In addition an Initial Equality Implications Assessment, in line with the Corporate Equalities Policy, has been carried out which concluded that a full Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. However,

once the consultation period has closed and all the responses to it have been gathered, a further Initial Equality Implications Assessment will be conducted to establish whether a full assessment is required.

2.6 Community Safety - Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

The key remit of the Licensing Policy is the manner in which it and the decisions based on the policy address the need for partner agencies to work together to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder which may be related to the implementation of the Licensing Act and related controls and enforcement. Implementation of the Policy amendment will serve to provide additional safeguards to the delivery of crime reduction strategy priorities and as such directly support section 17 key objectives and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

2.7 Financial Implications

None

2.8 Risk Management Implications

By including the proposed statement, the Authority will be better able to manage expectations of applicants and the Emergency Services during this period and is likely to assist the emergency services in their duties. The Olympics (and Diamond Jubilee events) are already in the directorate risk register and are standard agenda items in Joint area task group meetings.

2.9 Equalities implications

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

An Initial Equality Implications Assessment, in line with the Corporate Equalities Policy, has been carried out which concluded that a full Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. However, once the consultation period has closed and all the responses to it have been gathered, a further Initial Equality Implications Assessment will be conducted to establish whether a full assessment is required.

2.10 Corporate Priorities

Please identify which corporate priority the report incorporates and how:

- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe.
During this particular period, it is expected that the Police and Fire Authorities may be stretched in their operations. This proposed statement would give the Harrow Police adequate notice and powers to plan and resource so that it can keep the neighbourhoods safe.

- Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses.

By adopting this change to the policy the Licensing Authority will be able to licence and manage events that celebrate Olympics and support the local communities and businesses.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Kanta Hirani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 09/11/11		
Name: Paresh Mehta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 09/11/11		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: P Sivashankar, Licensing Services Manager x 6237

Background Papers:

1. Responses to consultation to follow in supplemental agenda