

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 21 APRIL 2004

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION

SATURATION POLICY

Members will recall from previous discussion over the development of a Statement of Licensing Policy reference has been made to the term "saturation policy".

This provision is provided for in the legislation and draft government guidance and is intended to provide the licensing authority with the ability to adopt a special policy of saturation within a given area to the effect that the authority would not be disposed to granting further premises licences in that area. Except, there would be the caveat, that each case would still have to be considered on its merits for the grant of a premises licence dealing with, for example, certain entertainment may not cause an issue in the area concerned.

Members in discussion did make reference to the situation we have in Ashby de la Zouch and in particular the Market Street area. Consequently I was asked to consult with the police and research team at the Leicestershire County Council for statistics on alcohol related crime throughout the district which would enable the committee to give consideration as to whether it would be necessary to apply a saturation policy to any given area.

... A report has now been produced by the Leicestershire County Council research team and is attached as an appendix to this report.

Members will see from the submitted statistics that drunkenness incidents have increased year on year in the Whitwick, Thringstone, Greenhill and Bardon wards, violent crime is shown to increase in the Coalville ward and all the wards covering Ashby de la Zouch and disorder is shown to increase in all the wards covering Ashby de la Zouch, Whitwick and Thringstone.

Information is also given on drugs offences and assault incidents across North West Leicestershire which are then broken down further within the Ashby and Coalville town centres.

The inspectors for Coalville and Ashby will be in attendance at the meeting and the committee is asked to debate the subject on the basis of these statistics.

Background papers: Research provided by Leicestershire County Council

Roy Eaton
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