

## **Item 5      Application for a Personal Licence – Police objection as applicant has a relevant offence**

### **1      The application**

- 1.1      The application is by Mr Alan Arthur whose details are set out in Annex 1 to this report. The applicant has applied for a new Personal Licence under section 117 of the Licensing Act 2003. As part of the application the applicant has provided a criminal records disclosure providing details of any unspent criminal convictions. The disclosure shows that the applicant has been convicted of a “relevant offence” as set out in Schedule 4 of the Act, the details of which are shown in Annex 1 to this report. As required by the Act, the Licensing Authority has provided these details to Hampshire Constabulary and they have objected to the application as is their right under section 120 of the Act.
- 1.2      Hampshire Constabulary are the only persons able to object to such an application thus needing the matter to be determined by a hearing.
- 1.3      The Licensing Act 2003 states that in the case of this type of application, if the chief officer of Police is “satisfied that granting the licence would undermine the crime prevention objective, he must ... give the authority notice stating the reasons why he is so satisfied”. The Act further states that where such a notice is given the licensing authority must hold a hearing (unless all parties agree a hearing is unnecessary) and having regard to the notice, reject the application if it considers it necessary for the promotion of the crime prevention objective to do so. Details of the Police objection notice are set out in Annex 1 to this report.

### **2      Background**

- 2.1      The Licensing Authority has discretion whether or not to grant the personal licence only if an objection is received from the Police. Once the Police have received a notice from the authority that the applicant has a conviction for a relevant offence, they have 14 days within which to give the authority an objection notice. The Police can only object if they are satisfied that granting the licence would undermine the crime prevention objective and reasons why this would be the case must be given.

### **3 Promotion of the Licensing Objectives**

- 3.1 In this type of application only the licensing objective of prevention of crime and disorder can be considered. The applicant is not required to make any comments in relation to the steps taken to promote this licensing objective. The achievement of the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder must be considered in light of the representation from the Police (see 4 below).

### **4 Relevant Representations – Responsible Authorities**

- 4.1 **Hampshire Constabulary** – The Police are lodging an outright objection to the application as detailed in Annex 1 to this report.
- 4.2 No other responsible authorities are entitled to make representations on this application.

### **5 Relevant Representations – Interested Parties**

- 5.1 Interested parties are unable to make representations on this application.

### **6 Policy Considerations**

- 6.1 It is considered that the following extracts from the guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 are relevant.

#### 4.5-4.9 – Criminal Record

A copy of the Secretary of State's Guidance will be provided at the meeting for Members of the Committee. Additional copies can be obtained from the website of the Department of Culture Media and Sport.

- 6.2 It is considered that the following extracts from the Licensing Authority's own Statement of Licensing Policy are relevant to this application:

#### Section A: The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The Statement of Licensing Policy is enclosed with a copy of this report for Members of the Committee. Additional copies will be provided at the hearing. Copies can also be obtained from the Licensing Section of the Administration Service or downloaded from the Council's website.

## 7 Observations

7.1 The Committee is obliged to determine this application with a view to promoting the licensing objective of prevention of crime and disorder. In making its decision, the Committee is also obliged to have regard to the national Guidance and the Council's own Statement of Licensing Policy. The Committee must also have regard to the representation made and the evidence it hears. The Committee must take such of the following steps as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objective:

- a) Grant the application.
- b) Reject the application.

The Committee is asked to note that it may not reject the application merely because it considers it desirable to do so. It must actually be necessary in order to promote the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder. The Committee should note that paragraph 4.8 of the secretary of State's Guidance states: 'The Secretary of State recommends that, where the Police have issued an objection notice, refusal of the application should be the normal course unless there are, in the opinion of the licensing authority, exceptional and compelling circumstances which justify granting the application'.

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| <u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>                                                                                                              |                         |       |                             |
| New Personal Licence application                                                                                                                                               |                         |       |                             |
| <u>Confidentiality</u>                                                                                                                                                         |                         |       |                             |
| It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public. |                         |       |                             |
| No of Annexes:                                                                                                                                                                 | One                     |       |                             |
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| Report to:                                                                                                                                                                     | Licensing Sub Committee | Date: | 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2007 |