

NOTES OF MEETING BETWEEN SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL, BASILDON DISTRICT COUNCIL, CASTLE POINT BOROUGH COUNCIL AND ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL ON 13TH JUNE, 2003

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF DELIVERY FOR LICENSING UNDER LICENSING ACT 2003

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. In considering options for service delivery, the intent of the legislation has to be borne in mind. Key considerations include:-
 - The requirement for greater local democratic accountability
 - Forging strong links with other local authorities, particularly crime & disorder reduction, planning
 - Building upon existing functional links with enforcement of health and safety at work, food safety and environmental protection
 - Improving accessibility for the public, local business and other stakeholders to the local decision making process
 - Ensuring confidence of local Councillors in the licensing process
 - Taking maximum advantage of local knowledge in terms of enforcement of existing licensing controls
2. Some aspects of the option appraisal have been influenced by the tight timescale imposed on licensing authorities
3. The current appraisal has been carried out against a background where there are still many important areas of uncertainty including:-
 - Levels of income through fees
 - The roles and responsibilities of the Police and Fire Authority
 - The level of activity – applications, variations, objections, requests for licence review, appeals, number of premises and persons
 - The final details of the Act, subordinate legislation and guidance
4. Based on experience of changes in entertainment culture so far, it is likely that the new licensing regime will assume a high public profile. Licensing policies and decisions will have a direct impact on local communities. The intensive workload during the initial transition period is likely, therefore, to be more than matched by a growing workload in future years arising from the increased public concern about licensing issues.