

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2004

Part I

To deal with written questions to and receive recommendations to the Council from the Executive.

1. COUNCILLOR MRS LEWIN-HARRIS – COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – Strategy

The Executive have considered a strategy which will enable the Council to achieve compliance with The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995.

The DDA has been introduced to prevent discrimination against disabled people. It is based on the principle that disabled people should not be treated less favourably, simply because of their disability, by those providing goods, facilities or services to the public or by those selling, letting or managing property.

The Council has been pro-active on disability issues not necessarily covered by the Act. This includes the Equality Policy and the Equality Improvement Plan 2003-2006.

The Community Leadership Review Panel also considered the DDA Strategy in September 2004 and recommended that the Executive support the strategy and that it be adopted by Council.

Full details of the Strategy together with an explanation of how it is intended to be implemented, are contained in the agendas of the meeting of the Executive on 20 October and the Community Leadership Review Panel meeting on 21 September. It is therefore RECOMMENDED that the Disability Discrimination Act Strategy for Taunton Deane be formally adopted.

Councillor Mrs J Lewin-Harris

2. COUNCILLOR EDWARDS – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Licensing Policy

The Executive, at its meeting on 8 December 2004, will have given consideration to a draft Licensing policy. This is something that all local authorities have to do in line with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003. Each Licensing Authority is required to publish a policy framework document every three years. Consultation with existing licence holders, local residents and businesses, the police and the fire authority has been taking place since September 2004.

The Health and Leisure Review Panel also considered this matter at its meeting on 30 September 2004 and a presentation on the effects of the legislation was made by the Council's Chief Solicitor at last week's Member Briefing Forum.

A copy of the report that was submitted to the Executive has been circulated to all Councillors together with the draft Licensing Policy. Any changes that are subsequently recommended by the Executive will be reported at the Council meeting.

(If any councillor has not, for some reason, received a copy of the report to the Executive and the draft Licensing Policy , further copies can be obtained from Greg Dyke, Member Services Manager (Tel. (01823) 356410)

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that the Council adopt the Licensing Policy as submitted to the Executive at its meeting on 8 December 2004.

Councillor Mark Edwards