



Notes of evidence

Name of meeting	POLICY COMMISSION FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES
Date and time	THURSDAY, 26 July 2007 AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT
Commission	Cllrs David Williams (Chair), Vanessa Churchman, Mike Cunningham, Heather Humby and Susan Scoccia
Cabinet	Cllrs David Pugh and Ian Ward
Cabinet Secretary	
Other Councillors	Cllr Diana Tuson
Officers Present	Stuart Love – Director Environment and Neighbourhoods, IWC Rob Owen – Head of Consumer Protection, IWC Louise Biggs – Overview and Scrutiny Team, IWC
Stakeholders	
Apologies	Cllr Henry Adams
1.	Notes of Evidence
1.1	The Notes of evidence arising at the meeting held on 7 June 2007 were agreed. (Paper A)
2.	Declarations of Interest
2.1	During the meeting, Cllr Cunningham declared an interest as the former chairman of the Licensing Committee.
2.2	Cllr Soccia declared an interest as the current Chair of the Licensing Committee.
3.	(a) To take evidence from:
	<u>Rob Owen</u>
3.1	The Isle of Wight Act had seen an increase in attention over the past few years because of the increased number of events held on the Island.

- 3.2 The Isle of Wight County Council Act (The Act) was a discretionary piece of legislation and from a Licensing officers point of view sat alongside the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.3 The Act was there to protect the public and the environment.
- 3.4 The reason for the introduction of the Isle of Wight Act was in order to avoid a repeat of the problems caused by the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival. This included environmental damage, the resolution of which used public money to correct.
- 3.5 Section 5 of The Act covered assemblies of 5000 people or more and required a notice period of four months prior notice. This gave the council time to consult water authorities, health authorities, police and fire service about the degree of protection required. The Council could then serve a notice and ask that certain considerations be complied with in order for the event to run smoothly. Expenditure by the event organiser may be incurred as a result of this counter notice.
- 3.6 The Licensing Act 2003 also allowed for authorities to charge event holders; this was a maximum of £41,000 for the Isle of Wight Festival. This fee does not cover damage that required a remedying after the event.
- 3.7 The Policy Commission will need to weigh up the economic advantages of The Act, versus the need for organisations to comply with the law.
- 3.8 Most officers involved with licensing would be in favour of the IW Act, whereas most organisers will not.
- 3.9 Members of the Policy Commission asked whether there were other pieces of legislation that could replace The Act. Detailed discussion around the other legislation available to the Council and other authorities would be the subject of a future meeting.
- 3.10 The Licensing authority was not there to make surplus from any fee charged to an event holder.
- 3.11 There were fewer difficulties with event organisers this summer (2007) as compared to last summer.
- 3.12 With regards to the Garlic Festival, the Council's licensing team worked through any concerns, which had been a problem previously.
- 3.13 The Policy commission will need to investigate what other local authorities with large event do: Do they have County Acts or do they use other legislation?

3.14 The Policy Commission will also need to look at the cost of amending or repealing section 5 of The Act.

3.15 The use of The Act in relation to the Island Games would be considered as part of the overall strategy for the Games.

Stuart Love

3.16 The impact upon the viability of smaller events will be covered as part of the Policy Commission's review of the Section 5 of The Act and will make an important part of the review.

3.17 There are other pieces of legislation to cover events. For example, The Highways Act 1980 allowed The Council to recover money. It would be the Commission's job to decide whether these are sufficient.

3.18 There was a need to encourage events on the island and use the discretion on when the Act should apply.

3.19 The decision as to whether to apply the Act was currently at officer-level. This could be changed to a Member-level decision.

3.20 There was also the suggestion that the Policy Commission should look at whether 5000 people is the right number.

(b) Agreeing the scope of the enquiry

The Policy Commission agreed the scope of the enquiry with the following amendments:

1. Hampshire Constabulary were added to the stakeholders.
2. Cllr David Pugh, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure and Communications was added to the list of stakeholders.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm