

## AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

**REPORT TO:** Regulatory Committee

**DATE:** 14 November 2005

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** Application for a variation of premises licence – Murco Costcutter Warrington Road Widnes

**WARDS:** Halton View

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To hold a hearing to assess relevant representations made in response to an application in respect of Murco Costcutter Warrington Road Widnes

### 2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee considers the relevant representations**

### 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 An application has been made under section 34 Licensing Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”) for a variation of premises licence in relation to the above property.
- 3.2 This hearing is held in accordance with the 2003 Act and the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005.
- 3.3 The procedure to be followed has been circulated to all parties and will be repeated at the beginning of the hearing.
- 3.4 The hearing is solely concerned with those aspects of the application which have been the subject of relevant representations as defined in the 2003 Act.

### 4. RELEVANT REPRESENTATIONS

#### 4.1 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

- The following responsible authorities have made relevant representations  
Cheshire Constabulary  
The relevant representations relate to

## **Proof of Age/ Challenge 21**

1. This venue was first licensed on 1/6/2005 and failed a Trading Standards Test Purchase within three months, on 16/9/2005. This is despite the fact that the venue already purports to operate the Challenge 21 Scheme. To compound this with such an increase in the hours in which alcohol is available will lead to this venue becoming a problem with underage drinkers. The only other way to address this issue is to increase the level of training within the venue. I would require, therefore, that one extra person pass the NCPLH course and for one of the so qualified members of staff to be on duty between the hours of 5pm and closing.

## **Minimum Staff Levels**

2. There is an existing Undertaking that there will be a minimum of two members of staff on duty during permitted hours. I would seek for this to become a Condition that such staff levels would be maintained at all times when alcohol is offered for sale.

## **4.2 INTERESTED PARTIES**

The following interested parties have made representation  
Mr & Mrs Derbyshire 228 Warrington Road Widnes  
D Timperley 222 Warrington Road Widnes  
The Rev J Leffler St Ambrose Vicarage 45 Hargreaves Court Widnes  
Mr & Mrs Oldfield 218 Warrington Road Widnes  
Mrs S O'Connor 236 Warrington Road Widnes  
Mrs S M Kelly 7 Bilton Close Widnes  
J Redmond 23 snowberry Close Widnes on behalf of Halton View  
Action Group

The relevant representations relate to the following, which will be expanded upon at the hearing  
Worries that drunks etc will be sitting on the wall outside the premises drinking.

Current licensing hours sufficient if longer hours are granted it will encourage more noise and a danger to the area encouraging people from the town and drunk drivers.

There are a number of off licences in the immediate area.

Considerable public nuisance and litter caused by illegal underage drinkers in the area.

Increased trading hours will affect health and well-being

Murco want to attract alcohol sales at a time when most people are still in bed the increased trading hours will attract more unsavoury members of the public and would not greatly increase their profits

The proprietors of Murco have been known to sell alcohol to underage teenagers on one occasion.

**5. OPTIONS**

**5.1** The Committee has the following options:

- Grant subject to conditions
- Reject the application.

**6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**7.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

None

**8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**Document  
Application  
Documents**

**Place of Inspection  
Legal Services**

**Contact Officer  
John Tully/Kay Cleary**