

Report to the Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 14 April 2010



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Subject: EU Services Directive

**Responsible Officer: Alison Mitchell
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Democratic Services: Adrian Hendry (01992 564246)

Recommendation:

To note that the licences and permits, other than those associated with taxis, which are managed by the Licensing Committee may now be applied for on-line.

Report:

1. The European Services Directive was introduced to assist cross border trade in services throughout the European Union (EU), by making it easier to offer their services anywhere in the EU. Authorities are therefore required to permit electronic/on-line applications, and payment of associated fees for Licences or permits within the scope of the Directives. This means most of the licensing provisions administered by this committee other than taxi licences.

Background

2. The Services Directive provided that after 28th December 2009 it should be possible for applicants from within the EU to apply for certain licences on line through the government website, Electronic Licensing Management System (ELMS) and the Council's own website.
3. The government test site on ELMS was not made available until after that date. This meant that officers had concerns as to the security of payments received. This led the Council to take a cautious approach and each type of application on the ELMS site was deployed separately. This delayed completion of the deployment of the licences managed by this committee onto the ELMS website for a few weeks
4. This implementation of this initiative involved officers from IT, Finance, the Website Officer, the Performance Improvement Officer, the Senior Licensing Officer and the Assistant Head (Legal) working closely to achieve this.
5. The Authority was contacted by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills which asked the Authority to take part in further consultations as it had been one of the more pro-active authorities. However, the resources were not available.
6. No electronic applications have yet been received.

Resource Implications:

None – within existing resources

Legal and Governance Implications:

European Services

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None

Consultation Undertaken:

None

Background Papers:

EU Services Directive

Impact Assessments:

None

Risk Management