

Licensing Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2007

#### 4. Statement of Licensing Policy

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##### **Purpose of the Report**

To inform the Licensing Committee of the proposed revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy.

##### **Recommendations**

- (1) The Licensing Committee are invited to discuss the changes contained within the Statement of Licensing Policy and recommend that District Executive and Full Council agree the Committee's final approved version on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 and December 2007.
- (2) The Licensing Committee are invited to comment on any amendments following the close of the consultation period on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2007.

##### **Background**

The Council approved the first Statement of Licensing Policy in December 2004. The policy was amended in February 2006, and is known as Edition 2.

The updated version will become known as Edition 3 (attached).

The policy is subject to tri-annual overhaul to reflect changes in the legislation and revisions to Licensing Act Guidance.

Whenever major changes are made to the policy, they must be subject to consultation. Statutory consultees as listed in S5(3) Licensing Act 2003 have been consulted along with other consultees who have expressed an interest in the policy. As per the statutory requirement, notice of the consultation has also been placed in the Western Gazette.

To meet the statutory requirement the revised policy must be published by January 2008.

##### **Consultation**

The consultation period commenced on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2007 following publication of the Notification in the Western Gazette.

All previous consultees were sent a copy of the proposed policy along with the Statutory Consultees listed in S5(3) Licensing Act 2003.

Although over 300 bodies, interested parties and statutory consultees were consulted there were no direct responses to the Licensing consultation.

## Details of Amendments from the Edition 2

The policy has been slimmed down considerably to make it more user friendly, and is effectively a 'new' document rather than an updated one.

The major changes are as follows:

- 1) Removal of all transitional information
- 2) Removal of all information duplicated with the Licensing Act Guidance
- 3) Clearer definition of "vicinity" (3.4)
- 4) Removal of Cumulative Impact strategy
- 5) Removal of pool of Licensing conditions
- 6) Nudity and striptease section removed as we have a separate stand-alone policy.
- 7) Section on Temporary events condensed (4.1)
- 8) Section on Applicants for Premises Licences condensed. (4.2)

## Financial Implications

The time taken to prepare the new policy and conduct the consultation (staff time for printing, preparing and addressing mail shot, and postage costs)

## Implications for Corporate Priorities

Corporate Aim 4: Ensuring safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

## Other Implications

None

**Background Papers:** *Licensing Act 2003*  
*Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003*

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