

TITLE	Review Of Statement Of Licensing Policy
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Licensing and Appeals Committee 21 March 2018
WARD	Non-specific
DIRECTOR	Sean Murphy - Public Protection Manager

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Wokingham Borough Council is required to prepare and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy ('SLP') every five years in accordance with section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act'). The SLP outlines the general approach of the licensing authority when making licensing decisions under the Act and can be reviewed and revised by the authority at any time. The Wokingham Borough Council SLP must undergo a review and be re-published by the end of September 2018.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee agrees

- i) for consultation to commence with the proposed revised policy at Annex A, and
- ii) for the matter to return for consideration at the next meeting in June prior to Council approval.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a chance to give initial comments on the draft policy to go out for consultation. Members of the Committee will be consulted on the content of the Policy as a matter of course. Members may also wish to add details of any proposed consultees to the list at Annex B.

Background

Before determining the policy for any five year period, the licensing authority must consult the persons listed in section 5(3) of the Act. These are:

- The chief officer of police for the area
- The fire and rescue authority for the area
- Persons or bodies representative of holders of local personal licences, premises licences and club premises certificates
- Persons or bodies representative of businesses and residents in its area

The views of all consultees should be given appropriate weight when the policy is determined. Beyond the statutory requirements, it is for the licensing authority to decide the full extent of its consultation. Whilst it is clearly good practice to consult widely, this may not always be necessary or appropriate.

Analysis of Issues

If the authority does not have a robust policy in place then there is an increased risk of successful challenges to decisions made by the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	No impact	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	No impact	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	No impact	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications

There are no implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

List of Background Papers

Statement of Licensing Policy (Sept 2013)
Section 182 Guidance (April 2017)

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List of Consultees

- Association of Convenience Stores
- Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers
- Bingo Association
- British Amusement Catering Trade Association
- British Institute of Inn Keeping
- British Beer and Pub Association
- Committee of Registered Club Associations
- Community Safety Team
- Drug and Alcohol Action Team
- Federation of Licensed Victuallers Associations
- Guild of Master Victuallers
- National Federation of Community Organisations
- Parish and Town Councils
- Premises licence / club premises certificate holders
- Pubwatch
- Responsible Authorities including Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Public Health
- Society of Licensed Victuallers
- Wokingham Borough Citizens Panel

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