

TITLE	Review of Statement of Licensing Policy
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 20 September 2018
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	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 Council approves the revised Statement of Licensing Policy, attached at Annex A to the report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report introduces the revised SLP which has been updated to reflect the results of the consultation exercise carried out as required by legislation.

Background

The updated Statement of Licensing Policy was approved by the Licensing and Appeals Committee on 4 September 2018.

In addition to general re-formatting, updates and addition of minor areas of clarification, the material changes are as follows:

- Revised section 1, which previously simply outlined the licensing objectives and now introduces the policy and explains its purpose and scope
- Added section 2 which outlines the principles and process of licensing – this includes some sections from throughout the previous policy
- Added section 3 about making an application, including the recommendation that applicants for large scale events should refer the event to the Safety Advisory Group in advance of making an application
- Added section 4 to clarify the suggested requirements for an operating schedule
- Revised and expanded sections 5 to 8 on the licensing objectives
- Added a new section 9 reference representations and mediation
- Revised section 11 on decision making, which incorporates the previous sections 11 and 12, and move the table of delegations to Appendix A
- Added sections 12-14 on temporary event notices, personal licences and club premises certificates
- Added sections 15-17 to deal with management of licensed premises, complaints, enforcement, inspections and reviews, which incorporates the previous section 14 on enforcement, and
- Added a glossary at Appendix B.

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 2018)
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Contact Charlie Fletcher	Service Public Protection Partnership
Telephone No 01344 352550	Email charlie.fletcher@westberks.gov.uk
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