

**LICENSING ACT 2003 –
REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor G Prosser
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Council's current Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 took effect on the 1st October 2014.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Council is required to determine and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy at least every five years. Therefore a new Statement of Principles must be published by 1st October 2019.

The Licensing Committee are now asked to approve a draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy for the purpose of consultation with relevant parties.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to RESOLVE;

To approve the revised draft Statement of Licensing Policy shown at Appendix 1 for the purpose of consultation with relevant parties.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The costs involved in carrying out the consultation would be met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 The Council has a statutory duty to have a Statement of Licensing Policy. It is important that the Statement of Licensing Policy provides an open and transparent policy regarding the Council's functions under the Licensing Act 2003. The Statement of Licensing Policy forms an essential part of the decision making process for licensing applications.
- 3.3 The Act also requires that the Statement of Licensing Policy should be kept under review and must be re-published at least every five years.
- 3.4 When revising its Statement of Licensing Policy, the Council is required to consult with:-
- the chief officer of police for the authority's area;
 - the fire and rescue authority for that area;
 - each local authority in England whose public health functions within the meaning of the National Health Service Act 2006 are exercisable in respect of an area any part of which is in the licensing authority's area;
 - such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of premises licences issued by that authority;
 - such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of club premises certificates issued by that authority;
 - such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of personal licences issued by that authority; and
 - such other persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of businesses and residents in its area.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.5 Redditch Borough Council's existing Statement of Licensing Policy was published with effect from 1st October 2014.
- 3.6 Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires licensing authorities to review Statements of Licensing Policy every five years, and therefore a reviewed Statement of Licensing Policy must be approved by Council and published before 1st October 2019.
- 3.7 A draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy can be seen at **Appendix 1**.

- 3.8 The draft revised policy is based on the same template as the existing policy, which all of the Statements of Licensing Policy across Worcestershire are now based upon.
- 3.9 The revised policy contains a number of amendments and additional sections that have been made to the document to reflect changes to legislation and guidance that have taken effect since the last Statement of Licensing Policy took effect on 1st April 2014.
- 3.10 The changes that have been made are shown by way of “track changes” within the document at **Appendix 1** and the more significant changes that have been made are also summarised below.
- 3.11 A new section has been included to explain the implications of the Immigration Act 2016 on the exercise of the Council’s functions under the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.12 New sections have been included providing information on how the Council will deal with applications for personal licences and how it will deal with situations where it is considering suspending or revoking personal licences. The power to suspend or revoke personal licences was given to licensing authorities as a result of provisions within the Policing and Crime Act 2017.
- 3.13 The section explaining the Live Music Act 2012 and other entertainment licensing deregulation has been updated to reflect further deregulatory measures that have taken effect since the last Statement of Licensing Policy was published.
- 3.14 The section regarding cumulative impact has been rewritten to reflect changes that have been made to licensing authorities powers to adopt special policies on cumulative impact as a result of the provisions of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.
- 3.15 A new section has also been included providing information in relation to the local powers to deregulate the licensing of late night refreshment providers that were introduced under the Deregulation Act 2015.
- 3.16 Consultation on the revised draft Statement of Principles will take place with all relevant parties including:
- The Chief Officer of West Mercia Police
 - Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Services
 - Worcestershire County Council (Public Health)
 - All other responsible authorities identified under the Act
 - Relevant Trade Associations
 - Feckenham Parish Council
 - The general public

- 3.17 The consultation will also be made available for comment via the Council's website and publicised via social media and also through the local press. Given the number of changes being proposed to the Council's existing Statement of Licensing Policy, it is proposed that consultation take place over a period of 8 – 12 weeks.
- 3.18 Any responses received during the consultation exercise will be reported back to the Licensing Committee at a future meeting.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Failing to prepare and publish a new Statement of Licensing Policy before 1st April 2019 would leave the Council in a position where it was failing to comply with its duties as a licensing authority under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Revised Statement of Licensing Policy

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