

## **Licensing Committee**

**Monday, 4th March, 2024**

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### **MINUTES**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Karen Ashley (Chair), Councillor Timothy Pearman (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Salman Akbar, Juma Begum, Sharon Harvey, Chris Holz, Emma Marshall, Monica Stringfellow and Sid Khan

#### **Officers:**

Vanessa Brown and Dave Etheridge

#### **Democratic Services Officers:**

Gavin Day

#### **30. REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY UNDER LICENSING ACT 2003 - CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION ON REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

The Principal Licensing Officer, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), presented the report to Members. The purpose of the report was to consider the responses to the consultation regarding the statement of licencing policy.

Officers detailed that during the Licencing Committee held on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Members directed Officers to begin the consultation process for the renewed statement of licencing policy, this was detailed on pages 27 to 74 of the Public Reports Pack.

The consultation was advertised using a variety of outlets which included the Council's website, social media and letters sent to consultees. The consultation period was between 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Two responses were received by Officers, detailed on pages 23 to 25 of the Public Reports pack.

1. West Mercia Police, who supported the policy without amendment.

Chair

2. The Wine/Spirit trade who did not raise any objection but provided further information to Officers regarding some suggested guidance in relation to rapid delivery services.

Officers asked Members to resolve to recommend to Council that the revised Statement of Licensing Policy shown at Appendix 3 be approved and published to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

Members enquired about the “ask Angela” initiative and bleed kits and if WRS provided training on those initiatives. Officers replied that there was no direct training provided, however, WRS would direct new applicants to guidance which included the areas in question, it would also encouraged licence holders to adopt those initiatives.

Members enquired about government progress regarding Martin’s Law and Counter Terrorism policy. Officers detailed that the legislation was under review at a central government level and that once it was finalised, WRS would be able to signpost licence holders to appropriate guidance. Officers further detailed that it was not known what role local Authorities would take, as draft legislation mentioned “regulators”, however, no information was available on who those regulators would be. The Bill was likely to be introduced in late 2024.

On being put to a vote it was

**Recommended to Council that**

**the revised Statement of Licensing Policy shown at Appendix 3 on pages 27 to 74 of the Public Reports pack be approved and published to take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm  
and closed at 8.04 pm