

Committee: Statutory Licensing Committee

Date of meeting: 8th March 2021

Report Subject: Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy
Review 2021

Portfolio Holder: Statutory Licensing Committee

Report Submitted by: Steve Osborne, Team Manager – Trading
Standards and Licensing

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Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Statutory Licensing Committee
23.2.21								8.3.21

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report seeks approval to consult on a revised Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy recently formulated in partnership with Gwent Licensing Authorities.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 The Licensing Act 2003 stipulates that each licensing authority publish a Licensing Policy which sets out the manner in which the Council will consider applications for licences in accordance with the Act. The Act also stipulates that the Council must review this policy every five years following consultation with various stakeholders and interested parties. The Council must consider any representations received, and determine if any changes are required to be made to the existing policy.

2.2 The current policy came into force in October 2016 and therefore the new updated policy must be implemented before October 2021.

2.3 Licensing Officers have been working in collaboration with the other Licensing Authorities in Gwent, including Gwent Police and the Health Board, in order to revise the policy in preparation for a formal policy review.

2.4 The Policy has now been formulated in draft version and it is therefore proposed that a consultation is undertaken with relevant licence holders under the Licensing Act 2003, Responsible Authorities, "Other Persons" such as interested parties (to include Councillors) and other groups and organisations. The matter will then be reported back to the Statutory Licensing Committee for consideration at the conclusion of the consultation.

2.3 Members may recall that a timetable for the review was reported to the Committee in February 2020, however, due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the process was delayed. In the meantime, all four other licensing authorities have now published their revised policies and Blaenau Gwent is now in a position to resume the process. An amended timetable is attached at **Appendix 1**.

3. Options for Recommendation

3.1 (Option 1 – Preferred Option)

That Members approve a consultation on the revised draft Statement of Licensing Policy, in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. Following the consultation, the matter will be reported back to Licensing Committee to formally consider the draft Policy and consultation responses.

3.2 Option 2

That Members do not approve the consultation required under the Licensing Act 2003.

4. Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan

4.1 Links to the Corporate Plan and the Well-being plan are covered in any reports implementing or varying any area of work delivered

by the Licensing Team, and there are therefore no direct links to this report.

5. Implications Against Each Option

5.1 Budgetary implications - Only relatively minor financial implications are associated with the proposal to enter into a consultation on the policy. These are to cover postage costs and staff time.

5.4 Reputational risk – There are no reputational risks in approving the preferred option to consult on the Policy.

5.5 Legal implications – The Council is legally obliged to review its Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

5.6 Resources – The global pandemic has placed the Authority under unprecedented pressures requiring flexibility from staff to help bolster the response to the pandemic while maintaining essential services such as licensing. There are however no resource implications in respect of this proposal other than responding to the demands on service during the consultation period.

6. Supporting Evidence

6.1 There is no relevant supporting evidence to include.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 Collation and reporting of consultation responses that may be received will be undertaken in due course.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

None