

**LICENSING ACT 2003  
STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY  
(Report by Head of Administration)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Council in its role as the licensing authority to adopt a statement of licensing policy with respect to the exercise of its functions under the Act. The statement must be approved by the Council prior to 7th January 2005 and the policy will apply for the subsequent period of three years prior to its further review.
- 1.2 The Council approved a draft statement for consultation at their meeting held on 29th September 2004 with a closing date for comments of 26th November 2004.

**2. CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 228 copies of the draft statement were issued for consultation to relevant authorities and organisations, together with a questionnaire to assist in the analysis of the results. The draft was also published on the Council's website for comment and attracted a number of articles in the local press.
- 2.2 Forty questionnaires and associated comments were returned, together with ten more detailed replies from the Police and from representative bodies involved in the licensing and entertainment industry.
- 2.3 A summary of the replies from the latter bodies, together with comments on the matters raised is attached at Annex A. An analysis of the questionnaire returns is attached as Annex B. As a result of the comments raised, amendments have been made to the draft statement. A copy of the revised statement of licensing policy has been circulated with the agenda.
- 2.4 Once adopted, the policy can be amended by the Council at any time during the ensuing three years, prior to its renewal in 2008. However, if the statement is to be amended, consultation will again be required before any change is adopted.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

3.1 The Licensing Committee and Cabinet are invited to consider the responses received to the consultation exercise and the amendments proposed to the statement of licensing policy prior to their formal consideration by the Council at a special meeting to be held on 20th December.

3.2 It is therefore

#### **RECOMMENDED**

that the statement of licensing policy attached as Annex C to this report be approved and implemented with effect from 7th January 2005 for a period of three years.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Draft statement of licensing policy approved by the Council on 29th September 2004.

Responses received to the consultation exercise held in the Licensing Section.

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