

Licensing Acts Committee



Report of Head of Housing and Environment

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To: Licensing Acts Committee

DATE: 26 January 2021



Review of Joint Statement of Licensing Policy

Recommendation(s)

The committee is recommended to consider the outcome of the consultation and recommend Council to

- (i) authorise the Head of Housing and Environment to make minor editorial changes to the Joint Statement of Licensing Policy, and
- (ii) adopt the proposed Joint Statement of Licensing Policy with effect from 12 February 2021.

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the Joint Statement of Licensing Policy following the statutory consultation.

Strategic Objectives

2. The relevant strategic objectives are 'Openness and accountability' and 'Improved Economic and Community Wellbeing'. The policy will also ensure the council is meeting its statutory responsibilities.

Background

3. The council's current Joint Statement of Licensing Policy came into effect from 7 January 2016. The policy is subject to statutory review every five years. As a result of the workload associated with the covid-19 pandemic, the review has been delayed.

Proposed policy

4. The proposed new policy is attached at **Appendix A**.
5. A summary of changes that were made prior to the consultation, and an explanation of the reasons for the changes, can be found at **Appendix B**.

Consultation results

6. The consultation ran from 23 November 2020 to 17 December 2020. It was a public consultation, and in addition was sent to:
 - all the responsible authorities as defined in the Licensing Act 2003
 - South Oxfordshire District Council Community Safety team
 - All other licensing authorities in Oxfordshire
 - All councillors
 - Town and Parish Councils
 - Trade bodies, associations and representatives
7. A report on the results of the consultation can be found at **Appendix C**. There were eight responses to the consultation, and the report details how the comments and suggested amendments have been incorporated into the proposed new policy.
8. There is no reason, from the consultation responses, not to recommend the adoption of the Joint Statement of Licensing Policy to take effect from 12 February 2021. The policy will next be due for review by 11 February 2026.

Financial Implications

9. There are no anticipated financial implications arising from the adoption of the proposed policy.

Legal Implications

10. The policy has been drafted to reflect current legislative requirements and statutory guidance. The policy must be taken into consideration when making decisions in respect of matters relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

Risks

11. Failure to properly consider the policy could result in the councils not complying with the legislation or statutory guidance. Having a clear policy helps to ensure that licensing decisions are fair, consistent and comply with the legislation.

Other Implications

12. There are no other implications.

Conclusion

13. The committee is recommended to consider the outcome of the consultation and recommend Council to:

- (i) authorise the Head of Housing and Environment to make minor editorial changes to the Joint Statement of Licensing Policy, and
- (ii) adopt the proposed Joint Statement of Licensing Policy with effect from 12 February 2021.

Background Papers

- Appendix A – Proposed Joint Statement of Licensing Policy
- Appendix B – Summary of changes
- Appendix C – Report on results of consultation