

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND SPORT

TO:	COUNCIL		
DATE:	16 OCTOBER 2007	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	LICENSING ACT 2003 - ADOPTION OF REVIEWED LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	STEVE WAITE	AREA COVERED:	ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SPORT
SERVICE:	ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 To request that members approve the proposed Licensing Policy Statement in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. Copies of the Statement (Appendix 1) have been placed in the Group Rooms.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Note the proposed amendments as shown in italics and in the shaded areas of the Licensing Policy Statement as detailed at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Approve the Licensing Policy Statement, as attached at Appendix 1.

3. THE PROPOSAL

3.1 Current Position:

- 3.1.1 In July 2003, the Licensing Act 2003 received Royal Assent. In July 2004, the Secretary of State for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport published the guidance accompanying the Act, setting out what local

authorities must do in order to put in place a "Licensing Policy Statement".

- 3.1.2 The original "Licensing Policy Statement" was approved by Cabinet on 6 December 2004, and adopted by full Council on 25 January 2005.
- 3.1.3 The development of a Licensing Policy Statement is a legal requirement placed upon the licensing authority by the Act. It must publish the policy every 3 years, prior to publishing its policy statement, the Authority must consult as prescribed in the Act, and must also have regard to the Secretary of States Guidance, which was updated in June 2007.
- 3.1.4 Consultations in respect of the authorities review of the Licensing Policy Statement, commenced on 15 May 2007 and concluded on 31 July 2007. In formulating the renewed Licensing Policy Statement, letters were sent out to all councillors, premises licence holders and members of the licensing trade. Consultations were also carried out with all statutory consultees and all other persons and organisations written to at the time of the original consultations in 2004.
- 3.1.5 Whilst there were only two written responses received, several verbal responses were also received, the details of which have been incorporated into the shaded areas of the proposed revised policy.
- 3.1.6 During the approval process of this policy statement, it was considered by Cabinet on 29 August 2007. Recommendations made at that stage, were incorporated into the shaded areas of the "Licensing Policy Statement".
- 3.1.7 The revised "Licensing Policy Statement" was then considered by the Licensing Applications Committee on 19 September 2007, where further recommendations were made. Details of these recommendations have been incorporated in italics in the "Licensing Policy Statement".

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

4.1 Community Safety Implications

The objectives of the legislation are clearly stated as follows:

- (i) the prevention of crime and disorder;
- (ii) public safety;
- (iii) the prevention of public nuisance; and
- (iv) the protection of children from harm.

These objectives fit well with the strategic aims of the Council.

4.2 Sustainability

Entertainment events can be a valuable part of a vibrant and lively town and have contributed towards making Reading the place it is today. However, it is vital that legislation is available to allow control of such venues in order to protect people who are living in the vicinity from noise and antisocial behaviour.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 5.1 In formulating the revised Licensing Policy a significant amount of public consultation and community engagement has been undertaken, in order to determine what sort of evening economy the people of Reading would like to see developed.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The revised Licensing Policy Statement is to replace the current policy and whilst it does not contain any significant changes it still requires approval by full Council under Part II of the Local Government Act 2000.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The costs associated with the development and adoption of the Licensing Policy Statement have been met from within existing budgets.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Revised Licensing Policy Statement.