

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY OF CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND SPORT

<b>TO:</b>	<b>LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 3</b>		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>2 OCTOBER 2013</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>LICENSING ACT 2003 - REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT</b>		
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR GITTINGS</b>	<b>AREA COVERED:</b>	<b>CULTURE, SPORT AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>
<b>SERVICE:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER SERVICES</b>	<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>BOROUGHWIDE</b>
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**1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Members approval of the proposed Licensing Policy Statement which includes the Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP), and which has been reviewed and produced in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Approve the Licensing Policy Statement as attached at Appendix 1 for submission to full Council for adoption on 22 October 2013.

**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 guidance to accompany 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 October 2012.
- 3.1.4 Consultations in respect of the Authority's review of the Licensing Policy Statement commenced on 1 July 2013 and concluded on 1 September 2013. In formulating the new Licensing Policy Statement, correspondence was sent out to all ward councillors, all premises licence holders and members of the licensing trade. Consultations were also carried out with all statutory consultees, local solicitors, local gambling establishments and residents associations. In addition, the existing Licensing Policy Statement, a copy of the proposed new Licensing Policy Statement incorporating the cumulative impact policy and research material in support of it, were placed on the Council's website.
- 3.1.5 A copy of the proposed new Licensing Policy Statement, which includes the cumulative impact policy, can be found at **Appendix I** to this report.
- 3.1.6 In relation to the full consultation, only one comment was received, indicating that the cumulative impact area should remain.

## **4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

### **4.1 Community Safety Implications**

The objectives of the new legislation are clearly stated as:

- (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
- 6.2 The Council is required to prepare and publish the Licensing Policy every 3 years.

## **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 **Appendix 1 - Revised Licensing Policy Statement.** (Councillors - copies of the appendices to the Licensing Policy Statement are available in the Group Rooms).

