

North East Derbyshire District Council

Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee

30 April 2024

Review of the Council's Policy under the Licensing Act 2003

Report of the Joint Assistant Director for Environmental Health

Classification: This report is public

Report By: **Lindsey Delamore (Email: Lindsey.Delamore@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk Tel: 01246 217237)**

Contact Officer: **Charmaine Terry (Email: Charmaine.Terry@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk Tel: 01246 217228)**

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To consider the responses to the consultation for the review of the draft revised Statement of Principles under the Licensing Act 2003 and recommend a final draft for adoption at full Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee notes the outcome of the consultation and approves the revised draft Statement of Principles under the Licensing Act 2003.
2. The Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee refer the Policy to full Council together with a recommendation that the draft Statement of Principles under the Licensing Act 2003 be adopted.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – for Environment and Place, Cllr Pickering
(Delete completely for Scrutiny Reports)

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

There will be a minor cost associated with carrying out the consultation. This can be accommodated from existing budgets.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): **Yes** **No**

Details:

It is a legal requirement under the Licensing Act 2003 that a licensing authority prepare and publish a statement of principles every five years. Having a policy which is up to date, compliant with the legislation, fit for purpose and clear, assists with the implementation of rules and reduces the risk of legal challenge by way of appeal or judicial review.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: **Yes** **No**

Details:

There are no staffing implications of the proposals in this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SAMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Public Stakeholders Senior Leadership Team

Links to Council Ambition (BDC)/Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

All

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

1.1 Under the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act'), North East Derbyshire District Council ('the Council') is responsible for the administration and regulation of licences and certificates which authorise the following activities:

- The sale and supply of alcohol;
- The provision of regulated entertainment; and
- The provision of late night refreshment.

1.2 The Act contains four licensing objectives which are central to the regulatory regime created by the Act, and are:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm
- Public Safety

When discharging its functions, the Council, as a statutory Licensing Authority, must make decisions with a view to promoting these objectives.

1.3 The Licensing Act 2003 imposes a statutory requirement upon the Council, to prepare and publish a Statement of Principles (alternatively referred to as a 'Policy') every five years.

1.4 In 2018 a review was undertaken to ensure that the Council's Policy was consistent with statutory guidance and in a format common to neighbouring authorities to enable consistency and transparency. The Act requires the Council to republish its Policy every five years. The current Policy was published in 2019 and is now due for renewal.

1.5 The Policy establishes a set of controls which the Council considers appropriate for the effective management of licensable activities within the district. The Policy acts as a guide for Members, applicants, responsible authorities, and members of the public and aims to promote fair, consistent, and proportionate decision making.

2 **Details of Proposal or Information**

2.1 The Joint Environmental Health Service conducted an initial review of the Policy and identified a number of amendments necessary to bring the policy up to date.

- 2.2 In summary the proposed amendments aimed to achieve the following:
- Ensure the Policy is consistent with legislation and statutory guidance
 - Increase the clarity of the Policy
 - Improve the standards of premises in the district through the recommendation of more robust management practices
 - Provide clarity on delegations; and
 - Update local demographics.
- 2.3 Following consideration of the draft policy through the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, a six-week public consultation opened between 26th February 2024 and 7th April 2024.
- 2.4 The Consultation was carried out through the Ask Derbyshire website and publicised via the Council’s website and social media platforms. A number of stakeholders were also contacted directly via email or letter. A full list of stakeholders consulted can be found at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.5 The Licensing Section received one response to the consultation. A copy of that response is attached as **Appendix 2** and raised the following concerns:

Issue Raised	Officer Comments
Any reference to ‘violence against women and girls’ is too specific and these sections of the Policy should apply to all ages and genders.	Local crime statistics have identified women and girls as a group of individuals adversely affected by crime in the district. Those sections of the Policy have therefore been included to address locally identified areas of concern. The Policy also contains provisions which are more generic in nature to promote the licensing objectives in relation to all individuals not just women and girls.

- 2.6 Despite carrying out an extensive consultation exercise, the Council did not receive any further responses to the consultation.
- 2.7 This lack of response likely indicates an indifference to the proposed changes to the Policy and that the updated Policy is fit for purpose.

Updates Following Consultation

- 2.8 Following the consultation, minor amendments have been made to the Policy to insert the dates the Policy will remain in force and a list of persons consulted in the preparation of the Policy. A copy of the updated draft Policy can be found attached as **Appendix 3**.
- 2.9 An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted in line with the Council’s Equality and Diversity Policy.

2.10 Following approval of a final draft Policy by the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, a further report will be submitted to Council with a recommendation that the Policy be formally adopted.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to prepare and publish a Statement of Principles under the Licensing Act 2003 every five years.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The Council can choose not to prepare and publish a new Statement of Principles under the Licensing Act 2003; however, this would leave the Authority open to legal challenges by way of appeals against decisions on licensing matters or judicial review.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
1	Stakeholder List
2	Consultation Response
3	Draft Statement of Principles 2024-2029 – Licensing Act 2003
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Flagged Crimes Performance Report for Community Safety produced by Derbyshire Constabulary in September 2023	
Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, Local Alcohol Profiles for England - Data - OHID (phe.org.uk)	
Office for Health Improvement & Disparities, Local Alcohol Profiles for England - Data - OHID (phe.org.uk)	
Monitoring alcohol consumption and harm during the COVID-19 pandemic: summary - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	