

## GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE – 11 JUNE 2010

### REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 Under Section 5 of the Act all licensing authorities have to publish a statement of licensing policy every three years. The policy sets out the principles which the licensing authority will follow as it exercises its licensing functions and promotes the licensing objectives.
- 2.2 The policy provides transparency for all those involved in the licensing regime including local residents, responsible authorities and applicants.

#### 3. Review of Licensing Policy

- 3.1 The Statement of Licensing Policy is only valid for any three year period without a formal review. The original policy came into force on the 7 January 2005 and the current policy on 7 January 2008. The current policy can be accessed using the following link  
<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=3374&articleaction=dispmedia&mediaid=7795>
- 3.2 The review of the policy should duplicate the original process and also take into account and reflect any developments or trends at both local and national levels.
- 3.3 Members are asked to consider the following timetable for the review process:-
- 11 June 2010 – start of consultation;
  - 12 November 2010 – report to GP&LC to consider amendments;
  - 13 December 2010 – Council to approve licensing policy.

#### 4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Under Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 all licensing authorities have to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy every three years. The current policy is due for renewal before 7 January 2011. In order to comply with the Act the consultation process must be repeated before any review of the policy can be published.

#### 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Any costs associated with the review, consultation and re-publication of the policy has to be met by licensing fee income.

## **6. Environmental Implications**

- 6.1 The policy is about the principles the Council will apply to licensing matters as authorised under the Licensing Act 2003. This will include the balance required between the rights of residents and the rights of licence holders to conduct business.

## **7. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 7.1 The policy will also state the approach taken by the Council to address crime prevention and anti-social behaviour concerns.

## **8. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues directly arising from this report.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 The committee is asked to approve the timetable as set out in paragraph 3.3 for the review process of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

### **Further information:**

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### **Background Papers:**

Licensing Act 2003  
Section 182 Guidance  
NFDC Statement of Licensing Policy – Jan.2008