

**REPORT OF GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE
(Meeting held on 11 September 2015)**

1. LICENSING ACT 2003 – REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF POLICY (MINUTE NO. 20)

The Licensing Act 2003 requires Licensing Authorities to produce a five-year Statement of Principles (Licensing Policy). The current policy expires on 6 January 2016. A new statement must therefore be published by 7 January 2016.

In compliance with the Licensing Act 2003, the draft policy document was circulated for consultation to interested parties; comments received during this period, which included views from Cllr Wise, Ringwood Town Council and the Police, were considered. The Committee was pleased to note that the Police wished to maintain and build on existing partnership working arrangements in regulating and enforcing existing and new legislation in a fair and proportionate manner.

The draft policy now before the Council for approval reflects the fact that new legislation provides that some aspects of regulated entertainment are no longer licensable activities.

The Committee considered the report of the Sky Lanterns Task & Finish Group, established following a notice of motion put to the Council by Cllr Mrs Bennison in February 2015. The Group's conclusions included a recommendation to the Committee that the statement of Licensing Policy includes a clear statement that the Licensing Authority does not support the release of sky lanterns from licensed premises. This has been included in the draft policy.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Statement of Licensing Policy, attached as Appendix 1, be adopted as the Council's Statement of Policy under the Licensing Act 2003, to remain in force from 7 January 2016 until 6 January 2021.

**CLLR S CLARKE
CHAIRMAN**