

REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE



DATE	Thursday 23rd June 2022
PORTFOLIO	Community & Environmental Services
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Licensing Act 2003 – Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

PURPOSE

1. The Statement of Licensing Policy (SoLP) sets out the principles that the Licensing Authority will apply when exercising its functions under the Licensing Act 2003 and should be prepared and published at least every 5 years. During this period it must be kept under review, and the Licensing Authority can make changes where appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To approve a formal 8 week consultation of the draft Statement of Licensing Policy provided at Appendix A.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To commence the statutory process to review the SoLP.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The current policy was approved in 2020 for the period from Jan 2021 to Dec 2026. In view of the ongoing opportunities arising from the Padiham town centre improvements, the Pioneer Place redevelopment, St James St Heritage Action Zone, the Council's acquisition of Charter Walk Shopping Centre and the Council's ambition to work towards Purple Flag status for Burnley town centre the SoLP is being reviewed early.
5. The Council wants to help and support responsible licensed premises to thrive. To do so the licensed activities must be carried on so that they complement other business uses and do not unduly interfere with people and residents who share the use of the neighbourhood. Recent problems associated with anti-social behaviour in and around the town centre, some of which has stemmed from licenced activities, damages the reputation of our Borough and discourages people from living in, working in or visiting the town.
6. The SoLP seeks to set the right tone in terms of working collaboratively with the licenced

trade and regulatory partners to ensure that the licensing objectives are promoted and upheld within licenced premises. The licensing objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- public safety;
- the prevention of public nuisance; and
- the protection of children from harm.

7. Burnley`s first SoLP was agreed in 2004 as a collaborative document with neighbouring authorities. That same document has been reviewed over time. The new draft SoLP focusses very clearly on the Borough of Burnley, outlining a policy framework that fits the issues experienced locally. It has been overhauled to take on board the findings of a Purple Flag baseline assessment carried out last year with a view to support a diverse, vibrant and safe evening and night-time economy for residents and visitors to enjoy. The two principal towns within the Borough are undergoing significant transformation, and the Council`s ambitions for the Borough are reflected in the draft document.
8. Prior to approval by Full Council statutory consultation is required. A pre consultation draft has been considered by the Chairs & Vice-Chairs of the Licensing and Scrutiny Committees. The draft appended to this report is now before Committee for approval to begin the formal consultation. Following consultation it will be brought back to Licensing Committee for endorsement later in the year, then proceed through Scrutiny Committee and Executive, prior to approval at Full Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

9. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

10. Once agreed the Statement of Licensing Policy will become part of the Council`s policy framework. It will explain to the public how the Council will carry out it`s functions, assist applicants with applications, and guide officers and Members when exercising delegated licensing powers.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11. Initial consultation has included Burnley BC Heads of Service with Responsible Authority status under the Act, Heads of Service with an interest in Town Centre/Public Space management, Chair & Vice-Chair of the Events Safety Advisory Group, Lancashire Constabulary and the Chairs & Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny and Licensing Committees.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

12. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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