

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
22nd NOVEMBER 2007

Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003) 2008 – 2011

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME:	Safer Communities
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Community Safety
KEY PRIORITY:	A Better Environment
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor A Hingley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Head of Planning Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	Appendix 1 – Draft Licensing Policy Statement 2008-2011 Appendix 2 – Existing Licensing Policy Statement 2005-2008 Appendix 3 – Schedule of Responses The Appendices to this Report have been circulated electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request (see front cover for details)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive a report on the Statement of Licensing Policy (in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003) for the Wyre Forest District.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to RECOMMEND to Council:

- 2.1 **The Draft Statement of Licensing Policy (in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003) (The Act) for the Wyre Forest District, as set out in *Appendix 1* of the report, be adopted as the Licensing Policy Statement for the period January 2008 – January 2011.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In December 2004, the Council agreed and published its first Statement of Licensing Policy (*Appendix 2*) as required by the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.2 The statement is used to support decision-making when matters are heard before the Licensing and Environmental Committee. It also informs applicants of the general approach to licensing prior to making an application. It is supported by extensive guidance and fact sheets published both by the Council and the Department of Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS)
- 3.3 In compliance with the Act, the Council must undertake the first 3 yearly review of the Policy for the next period of three years, i.e. 7th January 2008 – 6th January 2011.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A draft was prepared and circulated as part of the consultation process. Copies were sent to all Members, Town and Parish Councils, Senior Managers and other Officers of the Council, a sample of licensees, interested trade bodies and Statutory Consultees. (Police, Trading Standards etc)
- 4.2 The consultation was also posted on the Wyre Forest Council Web Pages.
- 4.3 The consultation period ended on the 5th November 2007 and a summary of the consultation responses is attached to the report (*Appendix 3*).
- 4.4 As a result of these responses a number of changes have been made to the draft Statement and a final draft is attached.
- 4.5 The Statement has been prepared in consultation with Licensing Officers across Worcestershire to ensure that information published by the Hub is consistent

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Implementation of the Licensing Act supports the Councils agreed vision of Safer Community and Better Environment.
- 6.2 The Licensing Objectives underpin all of the themes of the Councils Community Strategy and the Worcestershire Local Area Agreement.
- 6.3 The Council is required to review the statement of Licensing Policy and have in place an agreed revised Statement by 7th January 2008.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There are no identified negative impacts anticipated as a result of implementing the Statement.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Some changes have been made to the existing policy to provide a generic statement within the County, or through comments received during the consultation process.
- 8.2 The Policy also reflects revised Government Guidance published in June 2007 and offers clear guidance to applicants and objectors.

9. CONSULTEES

- 9.1 Head of Planning Health and Environment.
- 9.2 Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 The Licensing Act 2003
- 10.2 Guidance Notes published under Section 182, Licensing Act 2003.

25.10.07

