

COMMITTEE:	CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	4 March 2024
TITLE:	REVIEW OF THE DRAFT STATEMENT OF POLICY - LICENSING ACT 2003, FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATION
PURPOSE	FOR DECISION
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003, every licensing authority is required to publish a statement of Licensing Policy every five years.
- 1.2 During the five-year period, the licensing authority must adhere to the policy in question and carry out such amendments that are considered appropriate. At the end of the five-year period the licensing authority must review its policy and amend it as required.
- 1.3 The current statement of policy was approved by the Full Council in December 2015, and it came into force in 2016. The five-year period has come to an end since 2021, and this Committee approved the draft review of the Statement of Licensing Policy for public consultation at its meeting on 7 June 2021.
- 1.4 There was a delay in moving forward with the review in 2021, because of the Service's enforcement work priorities during Covid lockdown periods at the time.

2. **COLLABORATION**

- 2.1 Before the review period of the current policy, the six North Wales counties decided to establish a Task Group to collaborate to draw up a statement of Licensing Policy that reconciled general elements across the region.
- 2.2 The Task Group decided to collaborate once again for consistency of structure and content; however, due to different economic and social factors that affect every authority, each statement has been worded slightly different and continues to apply to its specific area.

3. **AMENDMENTS TO THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

- 3.1 A copy of the new draft statement of policy can be seen in the Appendix. The changes to the existing policy appear in red in the document. The draft policy contains minor changes only; for example the wording in the policy has been amended to refer to the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

3.2 There is also reference to the role of Public Health Wales and the Health Board in the process of forming a policy and responding to applications for premises licence.

3.3 Despite these changes, neither the spirit nor the vision of the policy have changed.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 In accordance with the Act, the new draft licensing Policy has been the subject of a formal consultation with

- North Wales Police
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board
- People/Bodies that represent the county's businesses and residents
- People/Bodies that represent current licence/certificate holders

4.2 In addition to the above, the draft policy document was available for examination at every Siop Gwynedd and was available to be seen online.

4.3 The consultation was open for six weeks during December 2023 and January 2024. The responses to the previous consultations have been low; and there were no responses to the consultation this time; it could be because the new draft policy does not include any contentious changes to the current policy.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed on the current statement of Policy in 2015, because substantial changes had been made to the policy at the time.

5.2 So as to comply with the additional duty imposed since 2021 to consider socio-economic factors in the Assessment, a review of the Equality Assessment is currently underway, before the final Statement of Licensing Policy is referred to the full Council to be approved for adoption.

7. RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Following statutory public consultation, the Licensing Committee is asked to approve the Statement of Licensing Policy to be referred to the Council to be adopted.