

Item 7 (a) - Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy.

The attached report was considered by the Licensing Committee, and the relevant minute extract is below:

Licensing Committee (Minute 18, 7 January 2020)

Members considered the report which detailed that the current Statement of Licensing Policy would expire at the end of March 2020 and a new Statement of Licensing Policy was required from 1 April 2020. The policy, as set out in Appendix A defined how the Council's responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 would be carried out and administered by the Council as the Licensing Authority. Public consultation on the draft policy took place over an 8 week period between 21 October 2019 and 13 December 2019. Feedback, suggestions and comments within the scope of the Licensing Act 2003, were presented in Appendix B to the report.

The Licensing Partnership Manager advised that formatting and typographical errors had been brought to his attention by the Chairman and this would be changed in the final Policy. He also highlighted to Members the comment received in Appendix B regarding CCTV, and the proposed wording as detailed in paragraph 17.14 in the Policy. Members discussed the pros and cons of CCTV and the proposed wording.

As a result of the debate, the Chairman put to the vote whether the suggested wording in paragraph 17.4 should be kept in the policy and it was agreed.

Members further discussed some of the changes in the policy and suggested that the final two bullet points in paragraph 12.4 should be removed.

Members asked questions of clarification, and were informed that at the beginning of December 2019 there were 342 premises licences. Members were advised that the late night levy, if introduced, it would mean all premises who operated late night across the district would be charged an additional fee regardless of whether they were in problem areas, as required by law. The levy income was distributed so that a percentage would go to the Police for dealing with the crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour caused by the late night licence. It was suggested by the Head of Licensing that if and when the law changed to allow the levy to be targeted only in problem areas that would be the time to consider it.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council, that the 'Statement of Licensing Principles 2020-2025' as revised policy be adopted subject to

- a) formatting and typographical corrections; and
- b) the removal of the final two bullet points in paragraph 12.4.