

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director Enterprise, Tourism &
Environment

to

Licensing Committee

on

14th September 2007

Report prepared by: D R Krieger

Agenda
Item No.

**Licensing Act 2003 -
Review of Statement of Licensing Policy and
Overview of Progress on Licensing Administration and Enforcement**

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Licensing Committee on progress with the current consultation on the review of licensing policy, and to provide an opportunity for discussion on licensing policy prior to formal consideration by Cabinet.
- 1.2 To give an informal briefing, and provide an opportunity for Members to be apprised of changes to the Government's guidance to Licensing Authorities, the state of play in relation to licences presently in force, and future influences upon licensing work.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **Members are asked to note the report, and to contribute their views, as an addition to the formal licensing consultation process.**

3. Background

- 3.1 On 19th June 2007, Cabinet considered a report on the review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and a draft revised policy document. (Copies of these are attached for Licensing Committee Members, for ease of reference).
- 3.2 Subsequently, formal consultation commenced, with responses requested by 11th September. Officers are presently collating responses and preparing a draft of the final policy document, for consideration, to culminate in consideration by full Council on 13th December 2007. It is essential that the review process is completed in readiness for the revisions to come into force at the beginning of January 2008, so as to allow compliance with legal requirements.

- 3.3 Whilst the setting of policy remains an Executive function, it is considered that Members of the Licensing Committee, who have gained experience dealing with a wide range of applications, have a contribution to make.
- 3.4 Around the time of the commencement of the review process, a substantially revised version of the Government's statutory guidance to Licensing Authorities was introduced, and its requirements will need to be taken into account in both the final revision of policy and in certain procedural matters relating to applications.
- 3.5 Southend has a high proportion of licensed premises, and is an important centre for entertainment venues. This generates a significant level of activity in terms of applications, new or varied licences, and in ensuring compliance with licence conditions. Whilst the town has a Cumulative Impact Policy, there have been a number of exceptions to that policy, some of which have been considered at hearings of the Licensing Sub Committees. There has, as a consequence, been a further move towards a 24 hour economy amongst entertainment venues, which has implications for the town's infrastructure.
- 3.6 The meeting is intended to provide an informal focus for consideration of the above issues.

4. Background Papers

- 4.1 Report to Cabinet of 19th June 2007
- 4.2 Draft revision of Statement of Licensing Policy

5. Appendices None