

COMMITTEE:	CENTRAL LICENSING COMMITTEE
DATE:	7 JUNE 2021
TITLE:	APPROVAL TO COMMENCE A STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON A DRAFT STATEMENT OF POLICY – LICENSING ACT 2003
PURPOSE	FOR DECISION
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

I. 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 keep its policy under review and make such amendments that are considered appropriate. At the end of the five year period the licensing authority must review its policy and change it as required.
- 1.3 The current statement of policy was approved by the Full Council in December 2015.
- 1.4 The five year period has now ended; and the Council must approve and publish its new policy.

2. COLLABORATION

- 2.1 As part of the Public Protection collaboration project across North Wales, a Task Group was established at the beginning of the review period prior to the implementation of the current policy five years ago to work together to seek to create a 'common' statement of licensing policy across North Wales.
- 2.2 The Task Group has agreed to collaborate once more to ensure consistency of structure and contents; however, due to the varying economic and social factors that affect each authority, every statement has been worded slightly different and remains relevant to its own specific area.

3. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

- 3.1 A copy of the new draft statement of policy has been included 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 of 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 policy-forming and responding to applications for premises licences.
- 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 statement of licensing policy is 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 Licensing Unit will contact every Councillor, Community Council and responsible authority. The new draft policy will be available for examination at every Siop Gwynedd and will be available to view on-line.
- 4.3 The consultation will be open for 21 days. The responses to the previous consultations have been low. It is not anticipated that there will be many responses to this consultation because the new draft policy does not include any contentious changes to the current policy.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 The Head of Environment Department seeks the Committee's approval to commence the statutory consultation on the draft Statement of Licensing Policy.
- 5.2 At the end of the consultation period, a report will be submitted to this committee outlining the responses received. Any concerns raised about the new draft policy will be considered and changes will be made to the policy as required.
5. Upon approval from this committee after the consultation, the new policy will be submitted to the Full Council to consider; for a decision.