

STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY REVIEW

Report of the Corporate Director (Place) and Deputy Chief Executive

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Stockport Council is the Licensing Authority for the area of Stockport, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act). It is therefore responsible for the regulation of licensing matters within the borough.
- 1.2 The Act requires us to have a Statement of Licensing Policy which must be reviewed every 5 years.
- 1.3 The policy states how Stockport Council will exercise its licensing functions in order to promote the four Licensing Objectives which are:
 - 1.3.1 The prevention of crime and disorder;
 - 1.3.2 The prevention of public nuisance;
 - 1.3.3 Public Safety; and
 - 1.3.4 The protection of children from harm.
- 1.4 Our policy was last published in 2016 and so a review and publication is now due.
- 1.5 This report outlines the approach taken to review the policy, the next steps, and asks CLT to approve the report in readiness for ongoing approval up to Full Council on 21st January 2021.

2. APPROACH

- 2.1 Our current policy was last reviewed in late 2015 and published in January 2016. Therefore we must publish a revised policy by the end of January 2021.
- 2.2 The aim of the policy is to actively promote the Licensing Objectives, which in turn fully complement and support the values and priorities of the Council.
- 2.3 In reviewing the policy we have acknowledged the exceptional circumstances being experienced by the licensed trade and stakeholders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore this review has focused on updating outdated references and has made no significant changes to the current 2016-21 policy.
- 2.4 This comes with a commitment that we will carry out a full review within the next 18 – 24 months, when it is hoped that the impact of the pandemic on the licensing regime will be better understood. This route of compliance with our statutory duty relies on advice from the Minister of State for Crime and Policing (Appendix B) to reduce the burden on both the Licensing Authority and stakeholders during the pandemic.

2.5 The consultation on the policy took place from Monday 18th October – Friday 13th November 2020.

3. CONSULTATION RESULTS

3.1 No comments were received in response to the short consultation.

3.2 This was as expected, due to the minimal changes made to the policy along with the wider issues being faced by the hospitality sector.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is recommended to comment on and note the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A – Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2021

Appendix B – Letter from the Minister of State for Crime and Policing

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Mark Glynn on Tel: 0161-474-3700 or by email on mark.glynn@stockport.gov.uk