

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

6 JULY 2010

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

SP3: SAFE CITY

CORPORATE PRIORITIES:

C101: DELIVERING CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES,

C103: EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE COUNCIL

1. Purpose of Report:

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek the views of Members upon the Council's draft Licensing Policy Statement under the Licensing Act 2003 in association with their policy review of Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Licensing Act requires the Council to publish a policy statement that we propose to apply in exercising our functions under that legislation.

- 2.2** The current policy statement was agreed at a meeting of the Council on 21 November 2007 and was published on 7 January 2008 (this date being specified by legislation). The Act requires that this statement is reviewed by the Council every three years. Officers have completed an initial review of the current policy statement and have prepared a revised draft (attached as Appendix 1). The Act further requires that any revision of the statement is subject to a consultation exercise. The parties who must be consulted are:

- Northumbria Police;
- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service;
- Representatives of the licensing trade and members' clubs;
- Local businesses and their representatives; and
- Local residents and their representatives.

The consultation period has commenced and is due to expire on 24 August 2010.

3. Current position

- 3.1** The draft policy statement is based upon guidance to Licensing Authorities issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in March 2010 and a template statement provided for the use of Licensing Authorities by the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS). At this stage, the draft statement is wholly in line with the national advice. However, the Council is obliged to consider any responses received from consultees and these may prompt a revision of the draft. Ultimately, the finalised draft must be approved by the full Council and the reporting process to that end will commence after the consultation period expires.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1** The Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the draft Licensing Policy Statement and offer any views that they consider appropriate.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1** Guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003 by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (March 2010)

This will be available at the meeting

6. Glossary

- 6.1** None.

7. List of Appendices

- 7.1** Appendix 1 – Draft Licensing Policy Statement.

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Appendix 1