



Report to Council

Date: 15 December 2004

Author: Head of Planning and Environment

ADOPTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Licensing Act 2003 requires that each Licensing Authority must determine its Policy with respect to how it is going to exercise its licensing functions and requires them to publish a Statement of that Policy every three years. The first Statement must be published by 7th January 2005 in time for the first appointed day of 7th February 2005 when applications for licences can be made to the Authority for processing.

Extensive consultation has taken place on the Borough Council's Draft Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with Government Guidance. All Members received a copy of the Consultation Draft in August 2004. The consultation period ended on 12th November and a Summary of Responses document in the format recommended by Central Government has been prepared and circulated to Members. To date the Regulations providing details, amongst other things, of the application forms and fees have not been issued to Local Authorities and these will need to be applied to the Policy once received.

It is suggested, therefore, that the Council incorporate into the consultation draft Statement of Licensing Policy the amendments proposed following consultation as set out in the circulated Summary of Responses. The Statement, as so amended, is proposed for adoption as the Council's Licensing Statement. A copy of the Statement containing the proposed amendments has been circulated to Members.

Members are therefore asked to RESOLVE

1. To accept and adopt the policies set out in the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy for the Borough Council as licensing authority pursuant to section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.
2. To publish the adopted Statement of Licensing Policy by 7th January 2005.