

**REPORT TO:** Regulatory Committee

**DATE:** 17 September 2025

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director – Legal and Democratic Services

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**SUBJECT:** Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve a draft Statement of Licensing Policy for recommendation to full Council for adoption.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- 1) Having undertaken a consultation exercise, it is resolved that the draft Statement of Licensing Policy as set out in Appendix A be hereby approved by the Regulatory Committee and be recommended to full Council for adoption;
- 2) An appropriate form of wording for the Council resolution would be “The Council”:
  - a) adopts the Statement of Licensing Policy attached to the report to come into effect immediately following the expiry of the current policy on 6 January 2026; and
  - b) directs that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services publishes the Statement in accordance with section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 At a meeting held on 2 July 2025, the Regulatory Committee considered a report on the Statement of Licensing Policy which is due to expire at midnight on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026. A new Statement of Licensing Policy must be in place on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026. A draft was considered and debated by the Regulatory Committee. That draft provided for limited amendments which are detailed further in the Committee report.

3.2 Following no further proposed amendments by Members, the Regulatory Committee authorised the Director - Legal and Democratic Services to undertake a consultation exercise in respect of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

3.3 The consultation exercise was completed on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025. One comment was received from Cheshire Police regarding the consultation. The comment was in relation to **paragraph 103** in the draft Statement of Licensing Policy, which refers to the **Arc-Angel Scheme**. Cheshire Police have confirmed that this scheme no longer exists and that the recognised schemes that are now in place are Best Bar None and Licensing SAVI (which is a Police approved scheme).

3.4 Following the comments made by Cheshire Police, the Statement of Licensing Policy has been updated to remove the reference to the Arc-Angel Scheme and replace it with the wording **Best Bar None and Licensing Savi. The updated paragraph therefore reads:-**

*103. Certain kinds of physical environment within places subject to premises licences (such as an over preponderance of vertical drinking) are generally thought be less conducive to avoiding crime and disorder. Good management and adequate staff training are vital. Where appropriate the provision of food in addition to alcohol can have a beneficial effect. Where food is provided it is good practice (but not mandatory under the licensing system) to have regard to current practice on healthy eating. The Council encourages premises licence holders to take an active part in local Pub Watch ~~and Arc-Angel schemes,~~ **Best Bar None and Licensing Savi.***

3.5 As this amendment is purely factual and not of substance, Officers do not consider it is necessary to reconsult on the Statement of Licensing Policy. Furthermore, as no other comments have been received, it is recommended that the draft Policy, found at Appendix A of this report, is submitted to Full Council with a recommendation that it is adopted and to come into effect on 7 January 2026.

3.6 The appropriate Council meeting to consider this matter will be held on 22 October 2025.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Once adopted, the Statement of Licensing Policy will be used by applicants and the Regulatory Committee in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no other implications arising out of this report.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

None identified.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

None identified.

6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy operates under a separate statutory code but the protection of children and other vulnerable persons from harm is one of the licensing objectives of the Licensing Act 2003.

6.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

None identified.

6.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**

None identified.

6.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues to highlight.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no climate change implications since the decision will have no effect on the environment.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Section 182 Guidance	Licensing Section/ Government Website <a href="#">Revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003 - GOV.UK</a>	Kim Hesketh
Halton Council's current Statement of Licensing Policy	Licensing Section/ Council website <a href="https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/business/Licences/alcohollicence.aspx">https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/business/Licences/alcohollicence.aspx</a>	Kim Hesketh