

REPORT: Council

DATE: 22 October 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Director – Legal and Democratic Services

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Licensing Act 2003 – Statement of Licensing Policy

WARDS: Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Council

- 1. Adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy attached to this report to come into effect immediately following the expiry of the current policy on 6 January 2026; and**
- 2. Directs that the Director – Legal and Democratic Services publishes the Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003**

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1** The Council's current Statement of Licensing Policy is due to expire on 6 January 2026. A new policy must therefore be in place on 7 January 2026.
- 3.2** A review of the current Statement of Licensing Policy has been undertaken by Officers and amendments have been made to reflect the Council's updated Corporate Policies and to reference the Counter Terrorism and The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, which received Royal Assent in April 2025. As this law is not yet in force, no substantive changes have been made, with Officers advising that further amendments would be made on the next review of the Policy once government guidance on the Act has been published and the full impact on the licensing regime is understood. This review would take place sooner than the usual maximum 5 year review period. A copy of the

updated Policy can be found at Appendix A and a schedule of amendments can be found at Appendix B.

3.3 At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on 2 July 2025, the updated Statement of Licensing Policy was considered and the Regulatory Committee authorised the Director – Legal and Democratic Services to undertake a consultation exercise in respect of its contents as required by section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

3.4 The consultation exercise was completed on 15 August 2025 and only one response was received which was from the Police, as one of the responsible authorities. Their proposed amendment, which is detailed further in the Schedule of Amendments, simply sought to update the reference to a scheme that no longer existed. As this was not a substantive change, a further consultation exercise on the proposed amendment was not required.

3.5 At its meeting on 17 September 2025, the Regulatory Committee received a report on the consultation exercise and resolved to recommend the new Statement of Licensing Policy for adoption by the Council.

3.5 The Regulatory Committee also acknowledged that the Council had a duty to keep the Policy under review and to make such revisions to it, at such times, as it considers appropriate. It therefore welcomed a further review once the full implications of Martyn's Law was understood.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Once it comes into effect, the Statement of Licensing Policy will be used in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

5.0 FINANICAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 NONE

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

None

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

The Policy supports the building of a strong, sustainable local economy whilst also ensuring adherence to the legal requirements of the Licensing regime.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy operates under a separate statutory code but since it involves licensable activities it is designed to contribute to the licensing objective of the protection of children from harm.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

None

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

None

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

None

7.0. RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1. Under section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires the Council, as licensing authority, to determine and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least once every five years. The policy must be published before its carries out any licensing functions under the Act.

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 direct effect on the environment.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The report is based on the Licensing Policy 2003. See also the Councils existing Statement of Licensing Policy.