

LICENSING ACT 2003 STATEMENT OF POLICY

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Wards affected:	(All Wards);
Appendices (attached):	Appendix 1 Revised Statement of Policy

Summary

To recommend the Council adopt the revised Statement of Policy made under the Licensing Act 2003

Recommendation

The Council is asked to:

Adopt the revised Statement of Policy attached at Appendix 1 in accordance with the decision of the of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee on 10 March 2026.

1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 Under the Licensing Act 2003, local licensing authorities must publish a Statement of Licensing Policy every 5 years. This document guides local decision-making on the sale of alcohol, public entertainment, and late-night refreshments, ensuring all decisions uphold the four statutory licensing objectives.
- 1.2 The current Statement of Licensing Policy has passed its renewal date and a new Policy must be adopted. This is a statutory requirement, and as such there is no alternative option.

2 Background

- 2.1 A report to the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee ('LPPC') of 23 September 2025 set out the background to a draft updated policy, including analysis of publicly available crime and health data, and a proposal that Epsom Town Centre be subject to a 'Special Stress Area' policy. This policy would place an expectation on operators of licensed premises in Epsom Town Centre to include positive proposals to in any applications to ensure that their operation would not add to the levels of reported antisocial and violent behaviour in this area.

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- 2.2 The LPPC of 23 September 2025 approved the draft Statement of Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 for consultation, subject to the Special Stress Area expanding to include Upper High Street and Waterloo Road, and the wording of the Policy being amended in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair to ensure it was sufficiently robust.
- 2.3 The public consultation on the draft policy ran from Monday 27 October 2025 until Sunday 18 January 2026. On 10 March 2026 the LPPC agreed to amend the draft Statement of Policy in light of the consultation responses, and recommend Council adopt the updated Statement of Policy.

3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

- 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment/Crime & Disorder/Safeguarding
 - 3.1.1 The licensing objectives of 'The Prevention of Crime and Disorder', 'Protection of Children from Harm', and 'Public Safety' are central to the proposed Statement of Policy and ensure that the Council as Licensing Authority fulfils its statutory duties with respect to Crime & Disorder and Safeguarding.
 - 3.1.2 It is not considered that a separate Equality Impact Assessment is necessary as a result of revising the Statement of Policy.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Under the Act, the Council has nationally fixed fees and charges to help recover the costs of administering application and monitoring premises licensed under the Act.
- 4.2 The financial implications associated with the revision of the Statement of Policy can be financed from the Licensing budget.
- 4.3 **Section 24 considerations:** None identified.
- 4.4 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None for the purpose of this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council must approve and publish its revised Statement of Policy in order to undertake its role as a Licensing Authority.

- 5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** It is a requirement under Section 5 of the Licensing Act that each licensing authority determine and publish a statement of licensing policy every 5 years. The previous policy is significantly out of date and the new Policy must be implemented in order to comply with Statutory requirements. The draft policy strikes a balance between promoting and supporting the hospitality industry and regulating it, along with supporting the Licensing Objectives. The contents of the draft policy are in line with Statutory Guidance and have addressed the aims of the National Licensing Policy Framework.

6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

- 6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** The following Key Priorities are engaged:
- Opportunity & Prosperity: Boosting the local economy, supporting high streets
 - Safe & Well: Ensuring a safe environment and supporting community health.
- 6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.
- 6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** None identified.
- 6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** The policy seeks to increase public safety through the robust expected measures to be put in licensing application operating schedules, and the introduction of the Special Stress Area policy for Epsom Town Centre.
- 6.5 **Local Government Reorganisation Implications:** As a result of the Local Government Reorganisation, shadow authorities should make reasonable efforts to prepare a new Statement of Licensing policy, but if this is not completed before 1 April 2027, then they must be completed by 31 March 2029. Between 1 April 2027 and 31 March 2029 the previous policy that had been adopted by the predecessor authority and applied to that area will continue to remain applicable.

7 Background papers

- 7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

Previous reports:

- [Licensing and Planning Policy Committee - Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 7.30 pm](#)
- [Licensing and Planning Policy Committee - Tuesday, 10th March 2026 7.30 pm](#)

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Other papers:

- [Statutory Guidance](#)
- [National Licensing Policy Framework](#)