

ABERDEEN LICENSING BOARD

COMMITTEE:	ABERDEEN CITY LICENSING BOARD
DATE	4 SEPTEMBER 2018
TITLE OF REPORT	LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT 2018

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides information on the procedures for the statutory triennial review of the Licensing Board's Statement of Licensing Policy and seeks approval of the draft Policy to be issued for consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Licensing Board: -

- 2.1 notes the contents of this report;
- 2.2 approves the terms of the draft Statement of Policy (Appendix One);
- 2.3 allows Appendix One to be issued for consultation with interested parties until 31 October 2018;
- 2.4 agrees the locality or localities on which to consult in terms of the on-sales overprovision supplementary policy and instruct the Chief Officer of Governance to undertake the necessary consultation exercise; and
- 2.5 schedules a special meeting in the week beginning 5 November 2018 to analyse consultation responses in respect of items 2.3 and 2.4 and prepare a final draft Statement of Licensing Policy for approval at the Board Meeting on 13 November 2018.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Section 6 of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") places a duty on Licensing Boards to publish a licensing policy statement within 18 months after an ordinary election of councillors for the local government area. The current policy must be reviewed and published by 30 November 2018.

In preparing the statement, the Board must (a) ensure that the policy seeks to promote the licensing objectives, and (b) consult the Local Licensing Forum (“the Forum”), the relevant health board and such other persons as the Board thinks appropriate. It is intended to consult these parties and all other relevant parties.

Boards must have regard to any guidance issued to them by the Scottish ministers. The first guidance was published in April 2007 and has not been updated since.

As instructed by the Board the draft policy has been completely revamped in an effort to be user-friendly, concise and accessible. The Supplementary Policy on Off-Sales Overprovision and the Scheme of Delegation have already been approved by the Board, and so, although part of the document, will not be subject to the consultation exercise.

A similar consultation exercise to that carried out in respect of off-sales overprovision will be required for on-sale premises. Again, as a first step it is for the Board to identify the locality or localities in which to assess overprovision. Whilst the whole Board area was deemed appropriate in respect of off-sales it is considered that smaller areas are more apt for on-sales premises. It is suggested that Ward areas would be suitable, with the possible exception of the city centre areas which may benefit from being broken down further. Once the localities are agreed, a map indicating the location of all premises within the localities will be produced and the provision of such premises will be the subject of a consultation exercise.

It is recommended that a special meeting of the Board be convened in the week beginning 5 November 2018 to analyse the responses to both consultations and prepare the final Policy document for Approval at the scheduled Board Meeting on 13 November 2018.

The draft policy is attached as Appendix 1.

4. APPENDICES

Appendix One - draft Statement of Policy for 2018.