

Proposed Scrutiny Review Topic for Licensing

(January 2013v.2)

To review the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, taking into account recent changes to the Licensing Act 2003, and its impact on the night time economy in Shropshire's Market Towns.

Context

The measures set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act ([PRSA](#)) 2011 are now in place and include:

- doubling the fine for persistent underage sales to £20,000
- introducing a late night levy to help cover the cost of policing the late night economy
- increasing the flexibility of early morning alcohol restriction orders
- lowering the evidential threshold on licensing authorities
- removing the vicinity test for licensing representations to allow wider local community involvement
- reforming the system of temporary event notices (TENS)
- suspension of premises licences due to non-payment of annual fees

Purpose and Objectives of the Review

The purpose of this exercise would be to review the Statement of Licensing Policy, which came into force on 1 April 2009, in light of the changes introduced by the PRSA and assess its impact on the night time economy.

Key Questions

- What is the current position in relation to the number and extent of licences issues in Shropshire's market towns and their impact on the level of crime and disorder?
- What improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes could be achieved by reviewing the existing policy and approach to regulation and enforcement?
- To what extent are the current Licensing Objectives being met through the current Statement of Licensing Policy and what changes or improvements could be made to achieve the licensing outcomes?
- How can we ensure the maintenance of a vibrant night time economy without compromising the licensing objectives?
- What is the current position in relation to licences issued in Shropshire's market towns in relation to alcohol related crime and disorder?
- What has worked well in relation to the existing policy and more importantly what has not worked well?

Suggested Outcome

The publication of a revised Statement of Licensing Policy that is fit for purpose in achieving the four statutory licensing objectives:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public Safety
- The prevention of public nuisance; and
- The protection of children from harm

Key Agencies and Operational Groups

Licensing, Community Action Team, Police, Town and Parish Councils, Public Health, Bronze Level Tasking Groups, Licensing Enforcement Group