

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Licensing Policy Committee – 16 November 2020

Subject: Revised Licensing Act Policy 2021 – 2026

Report of: Director of Planning, Building Control & Licensing

Summary

To present for approval by the Committee the re-instatement of the current Statement of Licensing Policy

Recommendations

That the policy is submitted to Full Council on 26 November 2020 with a recommendation that the policy be approved and adopted with effect from 4 January 2020 subject to a full review being conducted in 2021 when feasible in light of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Wards Affected: All

Environmental Impact Assessment - the impact of the decisions proposed in this report on achieving the zero-carbon target for the city
None

Manchester Strategy Outcomes	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable City: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Licensed premises provide a key role as an employer, in regeneration, and in attracting people to the city. The efficient processing of applications as well as effective decision making in respect of them, plays an essential role in enabling businesses to thrive and maximise contribution to the economy of the region and sub-region.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	An effective licensing regime works with Operators and other agencies to ensure as far as it is able, matters of equality and local issues.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit and work.	The Licensing process provides for local residents and other interested parties to make representations in relation to licensing applications to safeguard local place based

	interests. Representations have to be directly related to the licensing objectives; in relation to the Licensing Act these are the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance, public safety, and the protection of children from harm.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Licensed premises play an important role in ensuring an economically successful City, and the Licensing Policy seeks to achieve desirable and high quality premises to help drive that growth.

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires Manchester City Council to review its Licensing Policy every 5 years. The Council's next 5-year policy is due to be published from January 2021.
- 1.2 Ordinarily a revised policy statement would be prepared, approved for consultation and a 12-week public consultation be carried out in advance of a final revised policy being approved.
- 1.3 Due to the extraordinary impact of the Coronavirus pandemic in 2020, this full review has not been able to take place.
- 1.4 Councils, including Manchester, sought a 2-year pause from the Government on the requirement to review statements of licensing policy, but this was deemed not to be feasible as to do so would require primary legislation.
- 1.5 Therefore, it is proposed to carry over the current policy subject to a full review being carried out in 2021, including a new cumulative impact assessment for the Fallowfield and Wilmslow Road cumulative impact policy, when feasible.
- 1.6 Responsible authorities, licensed trade networks and local councillors have been consulted on this proposed approach. An update will be given to the committee on any responses.

2.0 Reasons for this approach

- 2.1 The impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the city's licensed premises and night time economy has been severe.
- 2.2 Our night-time economy statistical data, which we would have relied upon for this process prior to March 2020, does not represent the reality which we are now in and it is not currently clear what the lasting impacts on the sector will be. We have unfortunately already seen several licensed premises close due to the pandemic, and venues such as nightclubs have been unable to open since March. It will be important to ensure that the reviewed policy effectively promotes the future for licensed premises as we move beyond the pandemic.
- 2.3 The Council is reviewing its 10-year Our Manchester Strategy in light of the pandemic, and the refresh will be published in 2021. Reviewing the licensing policy next year will enable us to ensure it align with the updated strategic vision.

3.0 Updates to policy

- 3.1 Only typographical corrections and updates to Responsible Authority details have been made. A copy is provided at Appendix 1.

4.0 Key Policies and Considerations

- 4.1 The proposals concern the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 That the policy is submitted to Full Council on 26 November 2020 with a recommendation that the policy be approved and adopted with effect from 4 January 2020 subject to a full review being conducted in 2021 when feasible in light of the Coronavirus pandemic.