Please comment …

… on Oxford City Council’s **Statement of Licensing Policy**

You will also need: a “Comments sheet”. (“SSP Guidance” can be found contained within the Statement of Licensing Policy)

| Why? | The Licensing Act 2003 requires Oxford City Council, as the Licensing Authority, to carry out a formal review, consultation and re-publication of its Statement of Licensing Policy every three years. The re-published policy will then set out the principles that the Licensing Authority will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions on applications for licences made under the Act.

The Act enables the targeting of premises, which are causing problems within our community, and a much lighter touch for those businesses and community activities which enhance people’s lives by providing opportunities for the enjoyment of leisure time.

Similarly in terms of enforcement, the licensing authority has focused on the premises failing in terms of the licensing objectives, with other businesses left to go about their activities without unnecessary interference.

The Council has also encouraged a much greater scope for the development within the communities of live music, dancing and theatre. The Council holds its own licences for the open spaces within the City to help facilitate this. |
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| What else? | The Council cannot set general conditions that would apply to all premises, such as standard closing times, because the 2003 Licensing Act says it must consider each licence application on its own merits.

So the Statement of Licensing Policy has to describe the general approach that the Council will take in deciding licence applications.

The 2003 Licensing Act sets down four licensing objectives, which the Statement of Licensing Policy must promote. When the Council grants licences, it can only apply conditions which promote the following same four objectives:

- The prevention of crime and disorder; “CD”
- Public safety; “PS”
- The prevention of public nuisance; and “PN”
- The protection of children from harm. “CH” |
| How to comment | If possible, please submit your comments via the online questionnaire, as this will help us to process the comments we receive.

Your comments should …

… be about general principles, not individual premises; and

… note which of the four above objective(s) apply to your comment. |

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1 (Local residents will have a chance to comment about particular premises only when the licence holder applies for changes to current activities or hours. However local residents can ask for a “review” of a premises licence, if problems occur.)
The consultation must take place before the policy can be revised and re-published. The consultation process is split into 2 parts.

1. Draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy
2. Whether to retain or revise the City Centre & East Oxford Special Saturation Policies

The timetable for this is as follows:

- Public consultation to run from 16th October 2015 to 26th November 2015
- To consult with “Responsible Authorities” (Police, Fire and Rescue, Trading Standards, Planning, Environmental Protection, Child Protection, Health & Safety), representatives of current licence holders and registered clubs, and others including Community Safety, Building Control, the local Accident and Emergency Department, the City Centre Management.
- 26th January 2016, Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee to consider consultation responses and approve the final LPS, in light of the consultation responses received
- 8th February 2016, Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee’s recommendations to Full Council for adoption of the final LPS

Government Guidance prescribes what must be included in its content in the interest of national consistency. The Council does not have much scope to make significant changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy. However, if there are good reasons, the policy can depart from the Guidance in order to reflect local circumstances.

The questions below highlight some issues. You may also want to raise other concerns, including matters that the draft Statement may seem to have left out.

In your comments, please note which of the four licensing objectives (“CD / PS / PN / CH”) apply to what you propose (there may be several).

Draft Revised Statement of Licensing Policy

1. To accept the proposed changes contained within the proposed Draft Revised Statement of Licensing Policy as detailed on the “Brief Guide to the Proposed Changes to the Statement of Licensing policy” sheet that can be found at www.oxford.gov.uk

Special Saturation Policy (SSP)

SSP’s can be adopted to address the cumulative impact on the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area. The SSP is a presumption of refusing new applications where the authority receives relevant representations and the policy applies. (Please refer to the SSP Guidance sheet.)

The Council has received evidence from Thames Valley Police supporting SSP’s for the City Centre and Cowley Road area of East Oxford.

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Objectives: “CD” “PS” “PN”

SSP City Centre

2. The Council adopted a SSP for the City Centre in January 2005. We are seeking views on whether the Council should retain, revise or revoke the existing SSP for the City Centre.

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Objectives: “CD” “PS” “PN”

SSP Cowley Road area of East Oxford

3. The Council adopted a SSP for the Cowley road area of East Oxford in January 2007. We are seeking views on whether the Council should retain, revise or revoke the existing SSP for this area.

The Council’s website has links to downloadable copies of these documents:
• the current Statement of Licensing Policy;
• Proposed changes sheet;
• the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy;
• the Licensing Act 2003;
• Notes on the Licensing Act; and
• the government’s Guidance.
• City Centre & East Oxford SSP evidence and map;
• Comments sheet.

(Visit www.oxford.gov.uk Look up “A-Z”, then “Licensing”)

For queries on the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy, or if you wish to see a copy:
  email: licensing@oxford.gov.uk
  phone: 01865 252792
  call in at: Oxford City Council, 109 St Aldate’s Chambers, 109 St Aldate’s, Oxford, OX1 1DS

Copies of the draft revised Statement of Licensing Policy are also available in Public Libraries.

Let us know your comments You should send comments by 26th November 2015 by email, phone, post (as above)