

TITLE OF REPORT: Local Licensing Guidance

REPORT OF: Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health; and

Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services & Governance

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek the Committee's approval to implement Local Licensing Guidance in accordance with the Statement of Licensing Principles.

Background

2. The Licensing Act 2003 requires the publication of a Statement of Licensing Policy which is refreshed at least every five years, the most recent version of which having come into effect on 7 January 2016. (<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/media/2465/LICENSING-POLICY-2016-2021/pdf/LICENSING-POLICY-2016-2021.pdf>)
3. Paragraphs 3.17 – 3.20 of the Statement of Licensing Policy set out that the Licensing Authority shall from time to time produce 'Local Licensing Guidance' which is intended to assist applicants and licensees in their understanding of local issues pertinent to their licensing obligations. This approach was recognised last month as an example of best practice - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reviewing-a-licensing-policy-think-local-act-local/think-local-act-local-how-public-health-teams-can-support-licensing-policy-reviews>
4. The Statement of Licensing Policy indicates that the Local Licensing Guidance will be produced by the Council's Public Health team with the input of Responsible Authorities and other stakeholders as appropriate; and presented to and approved by the Council's full Licensing Committee.
5. In 2016 the Council participated in a pilot project with Public Health England to develop an analytical toolkit to assist in the collation and interpretation of relevant data in respect of licensing matters, the findings of which have been published on the Government website - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alcohol-licensing-pilot-of-analytical-support-package/findings-from-the-pilot-of-the-analytical-support-package-for-alcohol-licensing>

6. It is proposed that the analytical toolkit (referred to as 'Halo') be published on the Council's website to provide applicants and licensees with free and ready access to the information relevant to their locality, as follows - <https://gis.gateshead.gov.uk/gatesheadmaps/HALO/app.html>.
7. It is also proposed in due course to develop guidance on the expectations of Responsible Authorities in respect of certain localities, activities, etc that may engender particular concerns, for instance areas where there are established 'bar crawl' routes, where there are problems associated with alcohol delivery services and where there are concerns regarding non-traditional service models.

Recommendations

8. The Committee Members are asked –
 - a. to note the content of this Report; and
 - b. to approve the implementation of the Local Licensing Guidance as above.

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PLAN REF: