

# Equality Impact Assessment

**Service Area:** Licensing

**Head of Service:** Jeremy Mann

**Lead Officer:** Katy Nicholls

**Date of Assessment:** 07/09/2023

**Person responsible for completing the assessment:** Katy Nicholls

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**Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:** Review of Licensing Act 2003 Policy

**Brief description of proposal to be assessed:** Proposed amendments to the policy, largely to ensure that it is up to date, to improve clarity, react to local circumstances, and reflect updated Section 182 Guidance.

**Proposed implementation date of project/proposal:** Approval recommended by Strategy and Resources Committee to Full Council for new revised policy to come into effect on the 7 January 2024

## Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Licensing Act 2003 Policy.	Policy in place effective until 7 January 2024.	Updated policy to last a further five years from 7 January 2024 in line with statutory obligation under the Licensing Act 2003.	Licensing Act 2003 prescribes the timeframes, consultation and policy period.

## Impact:

**Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral**

**impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic.** (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Neutral impact largely perceived due to the nature of the above amendments, albeit positive in terms of an updated section pertaining to equality which has been added at Section 21. Additionally, see comments below in respect of the inclusion of support to initiatives in support of the prevention of violence against women and girls.

### **Consideration of Alternatives:**

**Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):**

Not particularly applicable as this is a statutory requirement to review. In terms of content it should be noted that a full six week consultation has been undertaken on those aspects of the policy which are proposed to be amended and two committees have been given opportunity to make any further reflection to the proposal based upon those comments received.

### **Consultation:**

**Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:**

Consultation with those licence holders and the public etc., as per the list outlined in the Licensing Act 2003. Full comments received from the consultation exercise are included in the report at Appendix B which in turn lists in italics whether any amendment to the policy is deemed justified based upon the information provided. It should be noted there were two comments pertaining to the inclusion of a statement supporting initiatives specifically targeted around the prevention of violence against women and girls and the allegation was that this was inappropriate given violence is relevant to men also. Comments on this point provided by Devon and Cornwall Police and linking to national data and reports are provided in Appendix B alongside the comments received, in order to provide suitable feedback and to justify its continued inclusion.

### **Funding Considerations:**

No funding considerations relevant in terms of the proposals.

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 07/09/2023

### **Reporting and Publication:**

**Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.**

**The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.**

**A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.**

**Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.**

This is a policy which is required to be reviewed by the Licensing Act 2003 on a five year basis and thus arrangements will take place upon the next cycle to consider any further necessary amendments.

**Monitoring Arrangements:**

**Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.**

Statutory review of policy in five years is prescribed and comments on the policy may be furnished to the Council in the interim and will be reported on to Licensing and Community Safety Committee if perceived necessary.

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 14/09/2023

**Corporate and Community Services Use Only:** Date of publication to NDC  
Website: 09/10/2023