

Review of the licensing policies for alcohol and entertainment premises, and sex establishments including sexual entertainment venues.

The public consultation period for the review of these two policies began on 19 July 2010 with a closing date of 15 October 2010. These are being conducted at the same time as they are closely related matters involving related business premises.

Stockport Council is the licensing authority for the sale / supply of alcohol, the provision of hot food and drink (after 23:00 hrs) and the provision of regulated entertainments (plays, indoor sports, live and recorded music and dancing etc.). Any amendments or additions to this policy must be agreed by the Council by 7 January 2011.

In addition, there has been a recent amendment to the law on the licensing of sex establishments to include sexual entertainment venues. The Council already controls the licensing of sex shops and sex cinemas and is now seeking the views of the public and interested parties as to whether it should adopt additional controls over sexual entertainment venues e.g. lap/pole dancing and strip shows etc.

The consultation has been advertised in the press and can be viewed on the licensing web pages at [Review Consultation](#) . Copies of these policies are available to be read at all of Stockport's libraries and Stockport Direct centres.

The Council is required to consult with a number of organisations, persons and bodies representing responsible authorities, interested parties (residents and businesses) and representatives of the licensed trade in our area. The policies should aim to reflect and take into account the freedoms and flexibility provided for the licensed trade and leisure industry by legislation. However, it also seeks to balance this against the powers of the Licensing Authority, the Police and the Courts, who together will act to protect the public wherever and when ever this may be necessary and prudent to do so.

Through the implementation of its licensing policies, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council aims to effectively integrate its aims and the four licensing objectives with other initiatives that will:

1. Reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour;
2. Promote public safety;
3. Prevent public nuisance;
4. Protect children from harm;
5. Promote and encourage the playing of local music;
6. Reduce drug and alcohol misuse;
7. Reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation on business;

Elected members are interested parties in licensing matters and, in addition to the passage of the review through the committee system during the coming months, may individually express their views on the effectiveness of our current licensing policies and necessary improvements for the coming three year period. The Environmental Health Service would be pleased to receive your comments on either of the policies and any evidence you may wish to submit by 15 October 2010. Contact: Norman Elthorpe, Floor 1 Stopford House. Tel: 0161 474 4322. e-mail: norman.elthorpe@stockport.gov.uk.