



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Licensing Committee

Thursday 18 December 2025

Draft Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation, 2026-2031

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Richard Overton - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Highways, Housing & Enforcement
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
Report Author:	Amitabh Singh - Licensing & Night-Time Economy Manager
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Licensing Committee – 18 December 2025

1.0 Recommendations for decision:

Licensing Committee is recommended to:

- 1.1 Consider the amended Statement of Licensing Policy; and
- 1.2 Agree that Licensing Committee recommends Full Council approve and adopt the amended Statement of Licensing Policy, to be implemented on 26 January 2026.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The statutory five yearly review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, made under the Licensing Act 2003, has been completed following a public consultation an amended policy produced by officers
- 2.2 Members are required to consider the amended Statement of Licensing Policy with a view to recommending its approval and adoption by Full Council.

3.0 Background

3.1 Under Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act'), Telford & Wrekin Council, (the Licensing Authority) must publish a statement of its licensing policy every five years. In carrying out its functions under the Licensing Act 2003, the Licensing Authority will have regard to its policy and to Home Office Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 when considering its responsibilities under the Act.

3.2 The Licensing Act 2003 provides for four different types of authorisations as follows:

- Personal licences – to sell or authorise the sale of alcohol from premises in respect of which there is a premises licence;
- Premises licences – to use a premises for licensable activities;
- Club premises certificates – to allow a qualifying club to engage in qualifying club activities; and
- Temporary event notice (TENs) – to carry out licensable activities at a temporary event.

The Licensing Authority is responsible for the administration and determination of applications for the above types of authorisation.

3.3 The policy also sets out the expectations of the Licensing Authority on the ways that the Licensing Authority and licensed premises can work together with other partners to improve the licensing economy of the Borough, both during the day and night.

3.4 This version, if approved, will remain in force until 2031, when it will be subject to review and further consultation as laid down by the legislation, unless a further review or consultation is required in the interim.

3.5 The draft document for the revised Statement of Licensing Policy has been prepared in accordance with the Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003.

3.6 A six-week public consultation of the revised draft document closed on the 5 December 2025.

3.7 All responsible authorities were engaged during the drafting of the policy and their comments incorporated into the draft policy statement. Each of the Responsible Authorities has also received a copy of the draft statement as part of the consultation process.

3.8 All licensed premises and Club licence holders were sent an email with details of the consultation and a link to the draft policy.

3.9 A full list of consultees is attached at **Appendix A**.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 Licensing received seven responses to the consultation, from the following organisations and individuals and are attached at **Appendix B**.

- Public Health requested the following updates to the draft document:

New or amended content:

- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Martyn's Law – Counter Terrorism Measures
- Drink and Needle Spiking

Expanded sections:

- Prevention of Children from Harm: Include recommendations on alcohol deliveries and child sexual exploitation.
- Role of Public Health: Provide a clearer explanation of Public Health as a Responsible Authority.
- Cumulative Impact: Add reference to the South Water Night-time Economy.

- The World Heritage Site Coordinator has requested inclusion of a paragraph on the Iron Bridge to ensure consideration of the World Heritage Site's character in licensing decisions.
- Licensing Security and Vulnerability Initiative (LSAVI) has asked for additional wording to reflect academic research demonstrating the positive impact of LSAVI accreditation on licensed premises in Telford.
- Public and Councillor Feedback

Three members of the public and one councillor submitted comments on:

- Serving alcohol near lakes or rivers.
- Licensing provisions for Christmas and New Year.
- Use of gender-neutral terms in sections on Women's and Vulnerable Safety and exit strategies.
- Proposal for a standard closing time of 11:00 pm for alcohol retailers.
- Concerns about tables and chairs placed on highways causing nuisance.

4.2 These issues raised are already addressed under the Licensing Act 2003, on a case-by-case basis or separate legislation, such as the Business and Planning Act 2020 for highway furniture. The *Ask Angela* scheme, supported by the Council, remains inclusive for all individuals. Licensed premises are expected to assist all customers regardless of age, sex, race, or sexuality to be safe in licensed premises. The wording on exit strategies has been amended to reflect the feedback.

4.4 The submissions received have been considered by the Service Delivery Manager and Licensing Manager, and the draft document has been amended where

appropriate. (These amendments are shown in red in the policy document.) The revised Statement of Licensing Policy is attached at **Appendix C**.

4.3 The draft document for the revised Statement of Licensing Policy has been prepared in accordance with the revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003.

5.0 Alternative Options

It is a legal requirement placed upon the authority to publish a statement of its licensing policy every five years. Were the Council not to agree a revised statement of licensing policy, the Council would be in breach of its statutory obligations.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 A failure to review and consult in respect of the Statement of Licensing Policy as required by the Licensing Act 2003 could lead to decisions made by either the Licensing Committee, or Officers under delegated authority, being appealed or challenged by way of judicial review due to the Council's failure to comply with their statutory duty. This would be accompanied by the associated costs and reputational risk involved with this. Having identified this risk, processes and procedures have been put in place to ensure that the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy is carried out in a manner and within a timescale that should minimise such a risk so far as possible

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 The recommendations in this report, support the following Council policies:

- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy; and
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The cost of the consultation exercise to be undertaken on the amendments made to the Statement of Licensing Policy will be met from budgets within Public Protection. Licence fees are made by Statutory Regulation and cannot be calculated by the Licensing Authority.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 The Licensing Authority is required to act in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State, and Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, in its determination of applications

9.2 Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides that a Licensing Authority must determine and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy every five years.

10.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

10.1 None arising from this report; however, Public Health and other relevant bodies or individuals have had the opportunity to provide comments and information as part of the consultation process. Those very useful comments have been fed into the revised draft which Members are now asked to consider.

11.0 Economic Benefits

11.1 There are potential economic benefits to the changes outlined within this report which potentially may create more jobs and employment within the Borough.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no direct equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report although many of the inclusions within the draft statement of licensing policy will ensure that all licence holders conduct themselves in full accordance with equality legislation.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 Not applicable for the purposes of this report

14.0 Background Papers

- 1 Licensing Act 2003
- 2 Revised Guidance issued under S.182 of the Licensing Act 2003

15.0 Appendices

- A Consultees List
- B Email responses to Consultation
- C Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2026-2031

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	10/12/2025	10/12/2015	SH