

Meeting of:	LICENSING ACT 2003 COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	30 SEPTEMBER 2025
Report Title:	STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CHIEF OFFICER – LEGAL AND REGULATORY SERVICES, HR AND ELECTORAL
Responsible Officer:	KIRSTY EVANS LICENSING TEAM MANAGER
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	The report content has no direct effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	A Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact Assessment

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with a proposed draft Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) along with a draft Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) for consideration and noting before proceeding to Cabinet and Council for approval.

2. Background

- 2.1 Under section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 each licensing authority must produce a Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) with respect to the exercise of its licensing functions. This policy should outline the licensing authority's approach to licence applications and the processes used to address any issues associated with such applications.
- 2.2 The Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) is required to be reviewed on a 5-year basis in consultation with:
- Chief Officer of Police for the area
 - Fire and Rescue Authority for the area
 - Local Health Board in Wales for an area any part of which is in the licensing authority's area
 - Persons/bodies representative of local premises licence holders

- Persons/bodies representative of local club premises certificate holders
- Persons/bodies representative of local personal licence holders
- Persons/bodies representative of businesses and residents in its area

2.3 The Statement of Licensing Policy was last revised in 2019.

2.4 The Home Office Guidance, issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, provides direction to local authorities on what should be contained within their Statement of Licensing Policy. The determination and publication of the Statement of Licensing Policy is a matter for the Authority and will require formal Council approval.

2.5 In addition to the Statement of Licensing Policy, in accordance with Section 5A of the Licensing Act 2003 the licensing authority may publish a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) stating that the licensing authority considers that the number of relevant authorisations in respect of premises in one or more parts of its area described in the assessment is such that it is likely that it would be inconsistent with the authority's duty under section 4(1) to grant any further relevant authorisations in respect of premises in that part or those parts ie. that it would undermine the licensing objectives.

CIA's can relate to applications for new premises licences, new club premises certificates as well as applications to vary existing premises and club premises certificates in a specified area.

2.6 Once a CIA has been introduced it must be reviewed every three years, if the licensing authority remains of the opinion that a CIA is required then they must publish a statement to that effect and set out the evidence why they are of that opinion.

2.7 A CIA is required to be reviewed on a three-year basis in consultation with those listed in paragraph 2.2 of this report.

2.8 The Council has a CIA covering specific streets within Bridgend Town Centre. This was last reviewed at the end of 2023 and was approved to run to coincide with the revision of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

3. Current situation / proposal

3.1 A review has been undertaken of the Statement of Licensing Policy and other than administrative amendments, the following changes have been made:

- Removal of Council's wellbeing objectives as this is separate from the Licensing Act 2003 and is detailed in the Corporate Plan.
- Cumulative Impact section updated to reflect the above changes.
- Rewording of paragraph 8.2 which details the separation of regimes between Planning and Licensing.

- Rewording of paragraph 8.3 which relates to the Licensing Authority's duties under the Equality Act 2010.
- Clearer guidance in relation to Section 13 – Temporary Event Notices and the addition of Late Temporary Event Notices.
- The addition of Section 14 – Large Scale Events which provides details about the Council's Events Liaison Panel.

3.2 The draft Statement of Licensing Policy can be found in Annex A.

3.3 A review was also conducted of the current Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) after receiving evidence from relevant Responsible Authorities and other agencies. The review concluded that there is a considerable amount of crime and disorder on specified streets within Bridgend Town Centre which is linked to the presence of licensed premises.

3.4 Following a review of all the relevant data, it is proposed that other than administrative amendments, the following changes should be made to the CIA:

- The addition of "other evidence considered" which details the number of noise complaints received by Shared Regulatory Services.
- Police evidence has been updated which highlights Wyndham Street and Market Street as areas where there is a considerable amount of crime and disorder, linked to licensed premises.
- Derwen Road has been removed from the CIA as there is no evidence to support its inclusion.
- Off-sales only premises and Late-Night Refreshment only premises have been removed from the CIA as there is no evidence to support their inclusion.

3.5 The draft Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) can be found in Annex A.

3.6 A consultation on both documents was undertaken with those detailed in paragraph 2.2, between 8 August 2025 and 8 September 2025.

3.7 Two consultation responses were received and as a result, the following changes were made to the policies:

- The removal of the phrase "rebuttable presumption" in the Cumulative Impact Assessment and Statement of Licensing Policy which was replaced with a strong statement of intent as detailed in the Statutory Section 182 Guidance.
- In the Statement of Licensing Policy, the addition of measures relating to alcohol deliveries which applicants may wish to consider when drafting their operating schedules.

3.8 A summary of the comments received during the consultation exercise are detailed in Annex C along with officers' comments.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change or nature implications arising from this report.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from the report.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the draft Statement of Licensing Policy and draft Cumulative Impact Assessment and refers the policies to Cabinet and Council for final approval.

Background documents

None.