

Summary of the key changes to the Draft Revised 2022 – 2027 Statement of Licensing Policy

The revised Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) has been refreshed to make it more resident and business friendly.

The Leader has now added a forward to the policy explaining his vision for the borough as a place for investment and area of opportunity for new businesses.

A lot of the legal jargon has been removed. The specific technical and legal detail and guidance has been put into one section at the end of the policy in annexes 1-7.

The new annexes have been added to the policy which to assist businesses when making applications. These include guidance on completing an application and information on how to complete an operating schedule. There is also a new policy which outlines the support offered for new businesses.

Broadly speaking there are three sections:

Section	Content	Location
First section	Introduction, Scope and Overview of the Policy	Sections 1- 9
Middle section	Specific policy detail and key principles	Sections 10
Last section	All the detailed legal and technical stuff	Annexes 1 - 7

The key changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) are as follows:

- a) The '*Foreword*' section has been removed and key elements retained and incorporated into the revised '*Introduction*' which sets out the '*Purpose of the Licensing Statement*'.
- b) The policy statement purpose in relation to Members of the Licensing Committee, licence applicants, local residents, businesses and Responsible Authorities has been updated from stating: '*To inform*' to '*To inform and advise*'.
- c) The '*Introduction*' has been updated to include and reflect new details about the borough, such as the ward changes, reinforcing our clear commitment to climate change and highlighting some of the very best licensed, entertainment, leisure and hospitality venues that H&F has to offer.
- d) Included in the '*Introduction*' is a new distinct section setting out the '*Aims of the Licensing Authority*'.
- e) Three new key themes have been identified and introduced as a focus of the policy:
 - i. A sustainable, well-run licensed sector which seeks to encourage new investment whilst supporting existing operators
 - ii. Hammersmith and Fulham as a good place to live, work and enjoy leisure; and,
 - iii. A safe licensing environment and night-time economy.
- f) The '*Fundamental Principles*' section has been revised and updated and renamed '*Key Principles*' and now includes a reference to the Human Rights Act 1998, which was previously under its own, separate section 25.

- g) There is now a distinct section setting out the '*Scope of the Policy*', which were previously under the '*Introduction and Purpose*' section.
- h) Under the '*Scope of the Policy*' section the previous bullet point list of stakeholders has been removed and replaced by the statement: '*The Policy has been drawn up in consultation with a number of responsible authorities, bodies and organisations, including members of our Licensing Action Group and Night-Time Economy Working Group*'.
- i) There is now a new streamlined, revised combined '*Licensing Objectives*' section. It has been kept particularly short. It clearly states that the Licensing Authority will require applicants to include specific details in their operating schedule. The detail that was previously included under the old sections 8, 9, 10 and 11 has now been included in the new Annex 1.
- j) There is now a new streamlined, revised combined '*Licences*' section 6. Again, it has been kept particularly short. The detail that was previously included under the old sections 12 and 13 relating to '*Premises Licence*' and '*Variations to existing Premises Licence*' has now been included in the new Annex 2.
- k) New information about '*Documents which demonstrate entitlement to work in the UK*' has been included under the above '*Licences*' section.
- l) The new streamlined '*Operating Schedules*' section 7 provides an overview of key considerations, particularly where the licensable activities include the supply of alcohol or dance. Applicants are signposted to further details in Annex 1, which were previously included in the old '*Operating Schedule*' 15.
- m) A new '*Licensing Committee*' section 8 provides a simple overview of the licensing decision process and includes a simple flowchart to help illustrate this and the possible outcomes.
- n) New information has been included clarifying licence holder's responsibilities under the Immigration Act 2016 and the Modern Slavery Act 2015, under section 9.
- o) It has been proposed that the policies for Shepherd's Bush and Fulham Broadway are removed from the new licensing policy, with the option of new policies possibly being introduced in future.
- p) Annexes 2 – 5, in the 2017 – 2022 SLP, which relate to the Special Licensing Policies for Shepherd's Bush and Fulham Broadway and the respective 2015 Cumulative Impact Zone Data Reports, have been removed so that they may be adopted separately, should the Council decide to do so.
- q) Section 10 now includes a new specific policy section, which sets out the general principles for 16 Policy areas.
- r) Policies 1 - 13 seek to try and limit any nuisance, crime and anti-social behaviour from licensed premises and have been taken from the 2017 – 2022 SLP and incorporated as distinct policies.
- s) Policy 3 now includes a 'suggested hours' table for different types of licensed premises in different areas of the borough.
- t) Policies 14 – 16 help to protect vulnerable people when using licensed premises. These include specific policies on drink spiking, the safety of woman and girls in licensed settings and delivery services.

- u) The old '*Section 7 Promotion of other Strategies*' has been included in the new Policy 5: '*Alignment with Other Policies and Strategies*'. References to other policies and strategies have been updated and specific laws removed. New information has also been included concerning equalities and diversity and how to support diverse businesses and communities.
- v) A new Annex 5 relating to '*Grounds for Considering a Review*' has been added.
- w) A new Annex 6 providing details of the assessment criteria that was used as part of the review and development of this Statement of Licensing Policy, has been added.