

Item No. 30	Classification: Open	Date: 9 April 2003	MEETING NAME Community Support and Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Report title:		Review of public disorder associated with public houses	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:			

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE FOR MEMBERS

Project title: *Public disorder issues associated with late night entertainment in public houses and clubs and arrangements on licensing.*

Suggested Project brief

- *To consider how to improve arrangements on partnership working with such organisations as the Police to reduce the incidences of public disorder associated with public houses and late night entertainment under current licensing arrangements.*
- *To have input to the Licensing Statement to be prepared by the authority to meet new legislative requirements in the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Bill 2002*
- *To consider how consultation and liaison with local residents and Ward Councillors can be improved in any new policies and processes arising under both current arrangements and in the future.*

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on Tuesday 4 March, Members had sight of an initial briefing on a review of public disorder issues associated with late night entertainment in public houses and clubs and arrangements on licensing. Key details of the original briefing note are repeated below:

1.1 At its meeting on 19th February 2003, Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved a request from Councillor Andy Simmons that the Community Support and Safety Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee should be asked to review issues to do with public disorder associated with late night entertainment in clubs and public houses. The review will look, in particular, at partnership arrangements with such bodies as the Police on preventing crime and disorder at late night events and the issuing of late night entertainment and liquor licences.

1.2 Councillor Simmons cited an incident of serious public disorder in support of his request for a review as follows:

1.3 Pharoahs is a pub on Peckham Road, formerly known as the Warmer Castle.. In August 2002 its licence was renewed "without objection" despite Councillor Simmons having submitted a letter of objection and a history of concerns to do with the venue raised by the local Tenants and Residents Association (PUFFIN) and the

local Neighbourhood Forum (Pelican) via Ward Councillors, the Police and Housing Officers. Letters have been sent from Ward Councillors to Officers, some of which have gone unanswered.

1.4 The request for a review is timely in the light of a new Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Bill 2002, now progressing through Parliament arising from a White Paper "Time for Reform: Proposals for the Modernisation of Our Licensing Laws" At the heart of the White Paper are recommendations for a single, integrated licensing system to be administered by local authorities covering all premises which are used for the sale of alcohol, the provision of public entertainment or the provision of late night refreshments. The Bill will require the Council to prepare a Licensing Statement" to form the basis for future licence application decisions under the new proposed legislation. In addition, a duty will be placed upon the local authority to carry out the functions under the Act with a view to promoting licensing objectives given as:

- a) The prevention of crime and disorder
- b) The maintenance of public safety
- c) The prevention of public nuisance; and
- d) The protection of children from harm

1.5 The Community Support and Safety Scrutiny Sub Committee have been asked to report back to OSC with recommendations arising from the review by the end of this municipal year (mid-May).

Following the initial briefing note, the Chair of the Sub Committee, Councillor Barrie Hargrove, has met with policy, legal and constitutional support officers to consider how they review should be taken forward and in order to bring proposals to other members of the Sub Committee at the meeting on Wednesday 9 April.

Licensing Officers have supplied details of the circumstances surrounding the renewal of Pharoah's licence and these are attached. Officers from the Borough Solicitors Office have advised that the Sub Committee cannot overturn the decision to renew Pharoah's license but that issues arising, in that case, can be used to consider how consultation with Councillors, the community and partnership agencies such as the Police, can be improved in the future.

At its meeting on 9th April, Sub Committee Members will need to scope and approve the content of the review. A suggested project brief has been offered at the top of this briefing note. The points below may assist members further with their discussions:

Currently, on the matter of the process for renewal of late night licences the position is that the Council has responsibility for:

- The licensing of public entertainment, principally under Schedule 12 of the London Government Act 1963; and
- The licensing of night cafes and night café take-aways under the London Government Act 1990.

None of the associated legislation makes any statutory requirements regarding public consultation but makes provision for local authorities to establish its own procedures and practices. Southwark's adopted licensing processes and procedures follow established common practice in London.

Generally, at renewal of licences, an advert is placed in a local paper by the Service alerting members of the local community that all licences of a certain type and located within a designated area are due for renewal at a set date and that any person who so wishes may lodge objection to the licence of any premises in that area by sending written grounds of opposition to the Licensing Service by the stated deadline date. The advert is placed several weeks in advance of the specified renewal date.

For instance, public entertainments licences on the northern side or to the north of the New Kent/Old Kent Road become due for renewal on 1 April each year and those on the southern side or to the south of the same two roads become due for renewal on 1 October. Night Café licences are renewable en masse from 1 April each year.

Alongside the local advert the Licensing Service writes to the following parties:

- The Police
- The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority,
- Ward Councillors within the renewal area
- Known Tenants and Residents Associations,
- Neighbourhood Housing Officers; and
- The Council's Environmental Health Noise Team

As per the local advert each party is offered an opportunity to lodge opposition to the renewal of any licence by the set deadline date.

Licensing legislation carries a presumption to grant. If no opposition is received by the set deadline then the licence will be renewed as a matter of course.

The consultation carried out at renewal is less than that carried out at the first application for licences or for applications to further extend either a premises licensed area (and thereby capacity) or operating hours. In such cases consultation may include direct letter drops to local residents living either within a 50 metre or 100 metre radius of the premises.

New Legislation

The timetable for transition to the anticipated new licensing regime remains unknown. It is expected that Royal Assent will be given to the new Licensing Act 2003 in July 2003. There is industry opposition to transition taking place so quickly but the government's intention is that the transition should be complete within 12 months.

Licensing Statement

Forming the basis for all future licensing determinations, it is envisaged that the Licensing Statement will be the subject of extensive public consultation. It has to be approved and published before the Council can take on board any of its new licensing responsibilities. Currently it is anticipated that we will have the Licensing Statement approved and published before the end of 2003. Fuller proposals for the Licensing Statement are also attached to this briefing note.

Community Councils

Shortly, Community Councils will be taking decisions on licensing. It is also intended that all 8 Community Councils will be included in consultation on the Licensing Statement as vehicles for holding full local public consultation within its own area. The process will provide focused local feedback and enable the Licensing Statement to fully take account of local variation and needs.

Officers from the Licensing Department have been asked to attend the Sub Committee meeting on Wednesday 9 April.

Investigation of Service Complaint Regarding Handling of Renewal of Entertainments Licence for Pharaoh's 102 Peckham Road SE15

Investigating Officer: Trevor Withams

Complainant: Councillor Andy Simmons

1. The Complaint:

Councillor Andy Simmons wrote to Richard Parkins, Unit Manger of licensing Team on 28th October regarding the renewal of the entertainments licence at Pharaoh's 102 Peckham Road SE15. His complaint is that;

- *The letter of objection he sent in was lost*
- *The Tenants and Residents Association representing the adjoining estate were not consulted.*

2. Background

Pharaoh's is a Pub in Peckham Road which has a Music and Dance licence allowing extended opening hours to 12 midnight Monday to Thursday and 2am on Friday and Saturday.

The premises was first licensed for Public Entertainment in 1984 subsequent renewals have received objections in 1988 and 1994. In 1999 the current Licensee, Mr Pinnock, pleaded guilty to a charge of providing public entertainment in breach of conditions. The Licensing sub-committee of May 1999 decided against revoking the licence. In October 1999 the Licensing sub-committee refused an application to extend the permitted hours to 5am Friday and Saturday.

In February 2000 the Licensing sub-committee met to consider the renewal of the annual licence. The matter went to committee because objections had been received from local residents. The renewal was granted although conditions were added. The licence was renewed without objections in September 2001.

On 19th August an application for renewal of the licence was sent to Mr Pinnock. On 30th September 2002 a completed application form was received together with the requisite fee.

On 7th October 2002 The Licence was renewed for a period up to September 2003.

The file shows a copy of a letter from Councillor Simmons dated 25th October enclosing an anonymous note of objection to the licence dated 17th October The file shows another letter from Councillor Simmons dated 25th October 2002 enclosing a letter from 'PUFFIN' residents and tenants association objecting to the licence.

The file also shows faxed copies of two letters from Andy Simmons to Diane Kraus dated 28th September 2002 and 24th October 2002 expressing objections to the renewal of the licence. These copies were faxed on 24th October 2002. There is no record of these two letters on the file before they were faxed on 24th October.

Since the licence was renewed a double shooting occurred at the premises. The premises is currently closed and boarded.

3. The Investigation

The investigation was carried out as follows:

Review of case file and ITECS records

Discussion with Customer Service Officers and review of correspondence monitor.

Telephone conversation with Councillor Andy Simmons, complainant.

Discussion with Diane Kraus and Jane Dyer case officers, EH&TS Licensing Team.

I telephoned Councillor Simmons who confirmed his complaint outlined above and added that he had made other complaints about the premises in the past so the Licensing team knew that there was a problem. He stated that he was concerned about a lack of communication between EH&TS and Local Neighbourhood Housing Office which was well aware of the complaints about the premises.

With regard to the missing letters from Councillor Simmons. I have discussed the procedure with the Customer Service Officers, there appears to be some confusion as to whether correspondence from Members should be logged or not, I was advised that all correspondence from Members would be sent to Chelle Baker-Duff and not logged on to the correspondence monitor however some correspondence from Councillor Simmons had been logged.

The correspondence monitor does not show receipt of either of the two letters dated 28th September or 24th October 2002.

The two case officers, Diane Kraus and Jane Dyer were interviewed. They explained that they had not received either of the two letters until they were faxed on the 24th October. On this date they also received faxed copies of letters of objection from Councillor Simmons regarding RnB Bar 12a Station Way, and Red Cow 116 Peckham High Street both dated 28th September. This was the first time that the team had received any of these letters.

With regard to the lack of consultation of the local residents association, the case officers explained that the consultation procedure is not as extensive for renewal of licences as it would be for obtaining a licence in the first place or for a substantial alteration to a licence. In the case of a new licence application a full consultation is carried out involving letters to all residents and

premises within a 100m radius. For renewals, members are sent lists of premises with renewal dates, Police and Fire Brigade are consulted and lists of renewals are sent to local residents and tenants associations. In this case the local tenants group, 'PUFFIN' were not on the consultation list as the licensing team were not aware of their existence.

As the licensing team had received no objections to the renewal the licence was renewed on the 7th October.

4. Conclusion

I would respond to the main areas of the complaint as follows;

That the letter of objection sent in by Councillor Simmons was lost.

The letter dated 24th October outlining the objections of the PUFFIN Tenants and Residents Association was sent after the renewal date and therefore was not able to be considered in the decision to renew.

The letter dated 28th September 2002 was not received in this office until it was faxed on 24th October (after the licence was renewed) The file and correspondence monitor show no record of the original letter coming in and the case officers confirm that the first time they saw the letter was when it was faxed on 24th October.

It would therefore appear that the original letter has been mis-directed or lost in the internal postal system before it arrived at the Chaplin Centre.

That The Tenants and Residents Association representing the adjoining estate were not consulted.

The Puffin Tenants and Residents Association were not consulted about the renewal. This was because they were not on the list of consultees for the area. A list of local tenants and residents associations is maintained however this is not always 100% up to date as associations close and new ones form on a regular basis.

That the Licensing team knew that Councillor Simmons had concerns about Pharaoh's

The officers would have been aware that historically the premises had been a source of complaints. The last correspondence on file from Cllr Simons prior to the renewal was dated 8th April 2002 and related to complaints from residents. This complaint did not, however, relate to the renewal of the licence and could not be taken into account in its consideration.

That there was a lack of communication between the local Neighbourhood Housing Office and the Licensing team.

I am advised by the Licensing Officers that the local housing office are sent a list of renewals in their area. However they do not appear to be on the list of local consultees.

In view of these points I find the complaint to be part founded.

5. Recommendation

- 1. That the procedure for operating the correspondence monitor be reviewed to provide clearer guidance as to what should and should not be entered onto the correspondence monitor system*
- 2. That staff responsible for incoming mail be trained as to when mail is to be entered onto the correspondence monitor and that the procedure for dealing with correspondence from councillors be clarified.*
- 3. That Puffin Tenants and Residents Association be added to the list of consultees for the area.*
- 4. That the Pelican Neighbourhood Housing Office be added to the list of consultees*
- 5. That once Pharaoh's has re-opened, during performance inspections are carried out and, if warranted, prosecution action is taken.*

Trevor Withams
Principal Enforcement Officer - Residential Group

23rd December 2002

Item No	Classification Open	Committee Licensing	Date
From Director of Environment & Leisure		Title of Report <i>The Alcohol & Entertainment Licensing Bill 2002 – Preparation of a Licensing Statement</i>	

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report back to the Committee on proposals for the development and preparation of a Southwark Licensing Statement following release of the draft guidance issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee's endorsement is sought to proposals contained within Section 5 of this report for public consultation aimed at informing the preparation of a Licensing Statement under the anticipated Licensing Act 2003.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 4 February 2003 the Council's Licensing Committee considered a report outlining the content of the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Bill 2002. In particular, the report drew Member's attention to a requirement for each licensing authority to prepare and publish a "Licensing Statement" every three years. The Statement is intended to form the basis for all future alcohol and entertainment licence determinations following the enactment of the Bill.
- 3.2 Officers undertook to report back to Members on proposals for formulation of the "Licensing Statement" following the publication of promised guidance from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). This guidance was released in draft form on 17 February 2003.
- 3.3 The new Licensing Act 2003 is anticipated to receive Royal Assent in July 2003. At the time of writing this report it is understood that only 12 months transitional period is provided for establishment of the new licensing regime. Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires each licensing authority to have prepared and published a statement of its licensing policy before the authority carries out any functions in respect of individual applications made under the Act. While the guidance

produced is currently only in draft form it is considered prudent to begin the consultation process at this stage.

4 FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 The DCMS Draft Guidance

4.1.1 The guidance provides direction on the development and preparation of local statements of licensing policy for publication by licensing authorities, the general principles that should underpin them, and the core content to which licensing authorities would be free to add. In determining its statement of policy local authorities must have regard to the guidance. The guidance is very prescriptive. An overview of its content follows.

4.2 Consultation

4.2.1 Before determining its policy for any three year period, the licensing authority must consult the following –

- (a) The chief officer of police for the authority;
- (b) The fire authority;
- (c) Bodies representing local holders of premises licences;
- (d) Bodies representing local holders of club premises certificates;
- (e) Bodies representing local holders of personal licences; and
- (f) Bodies representing businesses and residents in its area.

4.2.2 The views of all the bodies listed above should be given “proper weight” when the policy is determined. The Act does not prevent local authorities from consulting other bodies or persons but authorities are reminded to have regard to cost and time. Fee levels under the Act are currently undisclosed. While it is said that the Secretary of State will establish fee levels to include full cost recovery of all licensing functions, including the preparation and publication of a statement of licensing policy, it is also stated that this will be based on statutory requirements.

4.3 Fundamental Principles

4.3.1 All statements of policy should begin by stating the four licensing objectives which the policy will promote –

- (a) The prevention of crime and disorder;
- (b) Public safety;
- (c) The prevention of public nuisance; and
- (d) The protection of children from harm.

4.3.2 Statements of policy may set out a general approach to the making of licensing decisions but they must not undermine the right of any

individual to apply under the Act for any of the range of available permissions nor to have their application considered on its individual merits. Similarly, no statement of policy should override the right of any person to make representations or seek a review of a certificate where the Act allows them to do so.

- 4.3.3 The primary focus of the statement of licensing policy should be upon the direct impact of the activities taking place at the premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned. It should not be a mechanism for the general control of anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are beyond the direct control of the licensee.

4.4 **Cumulative Impact**

- 4.4.1 The guidance makes clear that the cumulative impact of licensed premises on the promotion of the four licensing objectives set out in paragraph 4.3.1 of this report is a proper matter for a licensing committee.
- 4.4.2 Licensing authorities will not, however, be able to deal with the cumulative impact of licensed premises upon an area by either seeking to impose quotas of licensed premises that restrict the consideration of any application on its individual merits or by seeking to impose limitations on trading hours in particular areas.
- 4.4.3 Instead, it will be open to any licensing authority to adopt a special “saturation” policy whereby new licences may be refused because an area is already saturated with licensed premises. Such a policy should never be absolute. It should allow for the circumstances of each application to be considered properly and for licences that are unlikely to add significantly to saturation to be approved.
- 4.4.4 In the event that a licensing authority wishes to consider adopting a “saturation” policy the following steps should be followed -
- (a) Identification of serious and chronic concern from a responsible authority (e.g. police) or interested party (e.g. local residents) about nuisance and disorder;
 - (b) Assessment made of the causes;
 - (c) Where it can be demonstrated that disorder and nuisance is arising as a result of customers of licensed premises, the boundary of the area from which problems are arising should be identified; and
 - (d) The local authority adopts a policy about future licence applications from that area.
- 4.4.5 Special saturation policies should be reviewed every three years to assess whether they have been effective and whether they continue to be needed. A saturation policy should not be used for removing or modifying an existing licence.

4.4.6 The guidance proposes that there is other more appropriate mechanisms for dealing with public order problems caused by customers who behave badly once away from licensed premises and that the licensing statement should draw attention to these. This comprises –

- (a) Planning controls;
- (b) Positive measures to create a safe and clean town environment in partnership with local businesses, transport operators and other local authority departments;
- (c) Powers of local authorities to designate parts of the local authority area as places where alcohol may not be consumed publicly;
- (d) Police enforcement of the normal law concerning disorder and anti-social behaviour, including the issuing of fixed penalty notices;
- (e) The prosecution of any personal licence holder or member of staff who sells alcohol to people who are drunk;
- (f) The confiscation of alcohol from adults and children in designated areas;
- (g) Police powers to close down instantly for up to 24 hours any licensed premises or temporary events on grounds of disorder etc; and
- (h) The ongoing power to review licences.

4.5 **Licensing Hours**

4.5.1 In dealing with licensing hours the statement of policy is expected to emphasise that consideration will be given to the individual merits of each application. The Government has stated that one of the principles on which the Act is based is the avoidance of fixed and artificially early closing times, which will provide peaks of disorder and disturbance on the street when a majority of customers emerge simultaneously. While it is acceptable for the statement of policy to make clear that stricter conditions regarding noise control will be demanded in dense residential areas, there should be no limit on opening hours without regard to the merits of the application.

4.5.2 With regard to shops, stores and supermarkets the Government strongly emphasises that the permitted hours for alcohol sales should be consistent with the businesses general opening hours unless there are very good reasons to limit these. An example provided is where an isolated shop has become a focus of disorder.

4.6 **Children**

4.6.1 Nothing in a statement of licensing policy should limit the access of children to licensed premises of all kinds unless it is necessary for the prevention of harm to children. Whether such circumstances exist should be judged on the individual merits of each case. Areas of concern are likely to include premises –

- (a) Where there have been convictions for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for underage drinking;
- (b) Where there is a known association with drug taking or dealing;
- (c) Where there is a strong element of gambling taking place; and
- (d) Where adult entertainment is commonly provided.

4.6.2 The guidance envisages, however, that complete bans of children will be rare. Instead it proposed the following alternative approaches –

- (a) Limitations on the hours when children may be present;
- (b) Age limitations
- (c) Exclusions for certain activities;
- (d) Requirements for accompanying adults; and
- (e) Full exclusion for persons under 18 when licensable activities take place.

4.6.3 In the case of film exhibitions, licensing authorities should expect licensees to impose conditions that children will be restricted from viewing age-restricted films classified by the British Board of Film Classification. Where the licensing authority has its own classification scheme details of this should be published.

4.6.4 The statement of policy should provide details of the licensing authority's expectations concerning the presence of adult staff at places of public entertainment necessary to control the access and egress of children. This should be done by way of publication of a formula.

4.7 **Integrating Strategies**

4.7.1 Statements of policy should provide clear indications of how the licensing authority will secure proper integration with local crime prevention, planning, transport, tourism and cultural strategies.

4.7.2 Several new reporting arrangements are called for to ensure proper integration of strategies –

- (a) Local authority transport committee should receive joint reports from police and licensing officers on the needs to disperse people from town and city centres swiftly and safely to avoid concentrations producing crime and disorder;
- (b) Licensing committees should receive reports on the needs of the local tourist economy and the cultural strategy; and
- (c) Licensing Committees should also keep abreast of the employment situation in their area and the need for new investment and employment opportunities.

4.8 **Duplication**

4.8.1 Statements of policy should contain a commitment to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes. For example current health and safety at work legislation and fire safety legislation place responsibilities on employers and the licensing regime should not attempt to duplicate this. Conditions placed upon licences should only look to promote the stated licensing objectives.

4.9 **Standard Licence Conditions**

4.9.1 The guidance is against the imposition of standard licence conditions. The intention being that this will assist in avoiding the setting of unnecessary controls and re-inforce the commitment to avoid duplication. Conditions are to be tailored to the individual style and characteristics of each premises. The statement of policy may refer to pools of standard conditions from which appropriate and proportionate controls may be drawn in relevant circumstances.

4.10 **Enforcement**

4.10.1 Local authorities and police are expected to draw up protocols on enforcement issues. The 2003 Act will not require inspections to take place save at the discretion of those charged with the role. Where inspections take place these are expected to be targeted, by way of risk-assessment, at problem and high-risk premises.

4.11 **Live Music, Dancing & Theatre**

4.11.1 Proper account should be taken of the need to promote live music, dancing and theatre in accordance with local cultural strategies. Licensing authorities should avoid measures that deter live music, dancing and theatre by imposing indirect costs of a substantial nature. The views of vocal minorities should not be allowed to predominate over the general interests of the community.

4.12 **Administration, Exercise and Delegation of Functions**

4.12.1 Statements of licensing policy should indicate how the licensing authority intends to approach its various functions. Statements should underline the principle of delegation in the interests of speed, efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Where there is a presumption of grant these matters should be dealt with by officers.

5. **DEVELOPMENT OF THE LICENSING STATEMENT**

5.1 As has been noted the Licensing Act 2003 provides that in carrying out its licensing functions each local authority must have regard to the guidance published by the Government and this includes in the

preparation of the Licensing Statement. Each licensing authority is also required to have regard to its own Licensing Statement as it administers the licensing function. These requirements are binding. There is no doubt, therefore, that the Licensing Statement will become of considerable significance. A fully developed and comprehensive statement will provide a sound foundation for future licensing decisions. Anything less will provide a continual basis for challenge to the Council's decisions.

- 5.2 On this basis it is recommended that the consultation exercise undertaken as part of the development of the policy should go further than the parties recommended in the DCMS guidance albeit that the DCMS has already stated that its calculations on licence fees will not attempt to recover more than the government's estimates of the costs necessarily incurred.
- 5.3 The starting point for preparation of the first draft of the Council's Licensing Statement should be the other existing policies established within the Council, such as the Unitary Development Plan; the Community Strategy; the Crime and Disorder Strategy; the Cultural Strategy; and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. For the purpose of developing this information into a first draft policy document to form a basis for the main consultation exercise it is recommended that a Licensing Forum be established. The proposed membership would include representatives of
 - (a) The Licensing Committee;
 - (b) The Licensing Service;
 - (c) The Police;
 - (d) The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority;
 - (e) The Licensing Justices;
 - (f) Current Public Entertainment Licence holders;
 - (g) Current liquor licence holders;
 - (h) Current club certificate holders;
 - (i) Child protection agencies;
 - (j) Disabilities agencies;
 - (k) Transport authority;
 - (l) LBS Planning;
 - (m) LBS Building Control;
 - (n) LBS Environmental Health Noise Team; and
 - (o) LBS Leisure.
- 5.4 As the second stage it is proposed that the first draft be put to the Licensing Committee for discussion, development and initial confirmation.
- 5.5 Thirdly it is proposed that this first confirmed draft is taken to each of the 8 community councils and the community councils be used as a vehicle for holding full local public consultation within its own area. This local consultation should include

- (a) Elected Members of the Community Council;
- (b) Licensing Service;
- (c) Police;
- (d) Town Centre Managers;
- (e) Local licensed trade;
- (f) Other local business;
- (g) Local community representatives; and
- (h) Local residents.

5.6 Such a process will provide focused local feedback and enable the licensing Statement to fully take account of local variation and needs. The resultant feedback will then be reported back to the Licensing Committee for further development.

5.7 It is then proposed that the second draft statement is made widely available with opportunity for further comment. Each of the interested parties consulted to date should be included in this second round. A third and final version of the statement will be produced and published in conjunction with the Licensing Committee.

5.8 The proposed timetable for the development of the Licensing Statement is -

- (a) April 2003 – Establishment of Licensing Forum;
- (b) May 2003 – Development of first draft by Licensing Forum
- (c) June 2003 – Confirmation of first draft by Licensing Committee
- (d) July – August 2003 – Public consultation via Community Councils
- (e) September 2003 – Development of second draft and confirmation by Licensing Committee
- (f) October 2003 – Second round of public consultation
- (g) November 2003 – Revision of draft Licensing Statement and confirmation by Licensing Committee
- (h) December 2003 – Publication of Licensing Statement.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The exercise will demand considerable resource implications particularly for the Licensing Statement. As far as is possible the work will have to be absorbed under current resource provision. It is anticipated that public consultation meetings undertaken in each of the Community Council areas can be facilitated within the Councils normal roster of meetings.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 No consultation has been undertaken in preparation of this report. Proposed consultation arrangements for development of the Licensing Statement are outlined in full within this report.

8. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The consultation exercise is intended to take full account of the needs of all communities and persons with disabilities.

9 LEGAL ISSUES

- 9.1 Concurrent report to follow.

***Lead Officer: Director of Environment & Leisure
Report Author: Richard Parkins, Licensing Service Manager***

***For further background information on this report please contact
Richard Parkins of the Licensing Service at The Chaplin Centre, Thurlow
Street, SE17 2DG, during office hours. Contact telephone number 020
7525 5767.***