

X. UPDATED POLICY ON LICENSING OF SEX ESTABLISHMENTS

REPORT OF: Lynne Standing, Head of Service for Housing, Environmental Health & Building Control
Contact Officer: Paul Thornton, Senior Licensing Officer Tel: 01444 477
Wards Affected: All
Key Decision Yes/No

Purpose of Report

1. To seek approval of the updated Licensing of Sex Establishments Policy to commence on the (date).

Recommendations

2. **Members are requested to endorse to Council the Statement of policy for Sex Establishment Venues at appendix 1.**
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Background

3. The Council's existing policy on the licensing of sex establishments came into effect on 1 September 2010. It is now time to review the policy.
4. The policy enables the Council to regulate and control applications for:

- sexual entertainment venues
- sex cinemas
- sex shops

as defined in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. There are currently no such establishments in Mid Sussex.

5. The Act allows local authorities to place a limit on the number of the Sex Establishment Venues it will licence. Our existing policy states the number of sex establishment venues it will licence is zero. The zero policy on sex entertainment venues does not prevent applications being made to the Council for such licences. Any applications must be considered by the Licensing Committee in accordance with the principles and guidelines contained in the policy.
6. Since the policy was approved there have been no legislative changes that affect our policy position. Officers have reviewed the current policy with a view to ensuring it provides clear guidance to future applicants, but no changes to the policy are proposed.

Policy Context

7. Having appropriate controls around licensed sex establishments contributes to the Council's aims to achieve quality of life for all and strong and safe communities.

Other Options Considered

8. The council could consider having a less restrictive policy if such establishments were thought to be beneficial to the District.

Financial Implications

9. None.

Risk implications

10. None.

Equality and Customer Service implications

11. No equality implications have been identified. The policy aims to give customers i.e. those seeking a licence for a sex establishment, clear guidance on what is required, whilst protecting the public.

Background Papers

12. None