

Draft Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation

Southampton City Council is consulting on a Draft Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation.

We would like to hear your thoughts on the proposals and any impacts or alternative suggestions you would like us to consider. Now is your opportunity to have your say.

An online version of this questionnaire can be found on Southampton City Council's website at www.southampton.gov.uk/consultations

You can also email your consultation feedback or queries to yourcity.yoursay@southampton.gov.uk

This consultation closes on **Thursday 31 July 2025**.

Background

The Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) requires licensing authorities to publish a “statement of licensing policy” every five years. This sets out how they intend to exercise their functions. The policy also describes a general approach to making licensing decisions.

The current Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) was adopted by the Council in 2020 to run from 2021 until January 2026. Therefore, Southampton City Council are now required to review the overall policy.

The full Draft Statement of Licensing Policy can be found at www.southampton.gov.uk/consultations

The following sections of the questionnaire will guide you through and ask for your feedback.

Referring to the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) as a separate document

Currently, there is a requirement for the authority to conduct a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) every three years. The purpose of a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) is to help the authority limit the licences that it grants in areas where there is evidence to show that the number or density of licensed premises may be contributing to problems that are undermining licensing objectives.

The Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) is reviewed every five years, which means the two review periods are out of sync.

At the moment, we include the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) within the Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP), however, due to the review periods being out of sync for the different elements, it makes more sense for them to become two separate documents.

We are therefore proposing to remove the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) from the policy and hold it as a separate document that the Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) refers to.

The proposal will mean that the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) will hold the details of the stress areas and the evidence to support them.

This proposal can be found in section 6 in the full Draft Statement of Licensing Policy at www.southampton.gov.uk/consultations

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to refer to the CIA as a separate document?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

What impact do you feel this may have on you, your business or the wider community?

- ☐ A very positive impact
- ☐ A fairly positive impact
- ☐ No impact at all
- ☐ A fairly negative impact
- ☐ A very negative impact
- ☐ Don't know

If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

New emphasis on Counter Terrorism

Currently, there is no consideration on counter terrorism measures.

We are proposing to consider appropriate counter terrorism measures and advice when considering licence applications. These considerations will be held for high profile or large premises or events or where there are factors which may increase attractiveness to attacks.

This proposal can be found in section 3.13 in the full Draft Statement of Licensing Policy at www.southampton.gov.uk/consultations

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for new emphasis on counter terrorism?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

What impact do you feel this may have on you, your business or the wider community?

- ☐ A very positive impact
- ☐ A fairly positive impact
- ☐ No impact at all
- ☐ A fairly negative impact
- ☐ A very negative impact
- ☐ Don't know

If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

New emphasis on public health

Currently, there is not a specific licensing objective related directly to health within the policy.

We are proposing to consider health care provision and apply conditions when appropriate and proportionate. For example, the potential harm caused by alcohol consumption.

The proposal can be found in section 3.15 in the full Draft Statement of Licensing Policy at www.southampton.gov.uk/consultations

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for new emphasis on Public Health?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

What impact do you feel this may have on you, your business or the wider community?

- ☐ A very positive impact
- ☐ A fairly positive impact
- ☐ No impact at all
- ☐ A fairly negative impact
- ☐ A very negative impact
- ☐ Don't know

If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Promotion of the 'Ask for Angela' scheme

The Statement of Licencing Policy sets out the Authority's expectations in relation to certain matters.

Currently there is no expectation to promote the 'Ask for Angela' scheme. The 'Ask for Angela' scheme is a safety initiative that allows anyone feeling unsafe or vulnerable to discreetly ask for help in bars, clubs, and other venues by asking a staff member for "Angela."

We are proposing that late night venues promote the 'Ask for Angela' scheme and undertake training to support the VAWG safety initiatives in the city and support the introduction of other schemes such as Shout up! And White Ribbon.

This proposal can be found in section 5.2 in the full Draft Statement of Licensing Policy at www.southampton.gov.uk/consultations

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal for late night venues to promote the 'Ask for Angela' scheme?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

What impact do you feel this may have on you, your business or the wider community?

- ☐ A very positive impact
- ☐ A fairly positive impact
- ☐ No impact at all
- ☐ A fairly negative impact
- ☐ A very negative impact
- ☐ Don't know

If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Adopting the 4 E's approach (Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce)

We are proposing to adopt the 4 E's approach within the policy – 'Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce'.

Licence holders are ultimately responsible for the management of their business, following the guidance offered by the authority.

The 4 E's create a supportive approach to compliance by council officers identifying issues, engaging and explaining the issues to licence holders and encouraging them to become compliant. This approach outlines using enforcement as a last resort or in cases of serious breaches.

Enforcement applies once there has been failure to effectively address or respond to problems or isolated serious failures. As a result, the application is reviewed.

However, the 4 E's approach does not prevent council officers using the enforcement option at the outset when circumstances are serious enough to merit such an approach.

This proposal can be found in section 8.1 in the full Draft Statement of Licensing Policy at www.southampton.gov.uk/consultations

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to adopt the 4 E's approach?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

What impact do you feel this may have on you, your business or the wider community?

- ☐ A very positive impact
- ☐ A fairly positive impact
- ☐ No impact at all
- ☐ A fairly negative impact
- ☐ A very negative impact
- ☐ Don't know

If you disagree, or have any comments, impacts, suggestions or alternatives you feel we should consider, please provide details:

Reading the draft Statement of Licensing policy

Have you read the proposed draft Statement of Licensing policy?

- ☐ Yes, all of it
☐ Yes, some of it
☐ No, none of it

If you have read the proposed draft Statement of Licensing policy, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
"The draft policy is easy to understand"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"The draft policy provides sufficient information"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If there were parts of the draft Statement of Licensing policy that you did not understand or you feel need more information, please provide further details:

About you

Are you...?

	Yes	No	Prefer not to say
A premises licence holder?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A personal license holder?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A resident of Southampton?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Someone that works, visits or studies in Southampton?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responding on behalf of a business or organisation (including voluntary and community organisations)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An employee of Southampton City Council?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Only answer the following questions about your postcode, sex, gender, age, ethnicity, property and disability if you are responding as an individual, and not as a business or organisation.

What is your postcode?

This is used for geographical analysis only and will not be used to identify or contact you.

What is your sex?

☐

Male

☐

Female

☐

Prefer not to say

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Prefer not to say

If no, please write in your gender identity:

What is your age?

☐

Under 18

☐

35 - 44

☐

65 - 74

☐

18 - 24

☐

45 - 54

☐

75+

☐

25 - 34

☐

55 - 64

☐

Prefer not to say

How would you describe your ethnic group?

☐

Asian or Asian British

☐

White other

☐

Black, Black British, Caribbean or African

☐

Other ethnic group

☐

Mixed or multiple ethnic groups

☐

Prefer not to say

☐

White British

If other, please specify:

Do you own or rent the property where you currently live?

☐

Own

☐

Rent from a private landlord

☐

Rent from the council

☐

Rent from a housing association

☐

Other, please specify

☐

Prefer not to say

If other, please specify:

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Prefer not to say

If yes, do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

☐ Yes, a lot

☐ Not at all

☐ Yes, a little

☐ Prefer not to say

The following three questions are for those responding as a business or organisation.

Businesses and organisations

Can the name of your business or organisation be attributed to your response?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Can we contact you about your response to this consultation?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, please provide us with the following details:

Business/organisation name:

Contact name:

Contact email:

What happens next?

The consultation closes on **Thursday 31 July 2025**. After this date, all feedback will be analysed and considered before a final decision is made.

Please return completed surveys to:

*Consultations,
First Floor, West Wing,
Civic Centre,
Southampton,
SO14 7LY.*

Alternatively, please hand completed surveys back to any Southampton City Council-run library.

The information collected about you during this survey will only be used for the purposes of research. We may use it to contact you about this. We will only share your information with other organisations or council departments if we need to. We may also share it to prevent, investigate or prosecute criminal offences, or as the law otherwise allows. Please be aware that any comments given on this form may be published in the report. However, the council will endeavour to remove any references that could identify individuals or organisations. Our Privacy Policy (<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/privacy>) explains how we handle your personal data, and we can provide a copy if you are unable to access the Internet.