

Draft Sex Establishment Policy Consultation

Southampton City Council is consulting on a Draft Sex Establishment 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 **19 March 2025**.

Background

As a Licensing Authority, Southampton City Council aim to ensure that sex establishments in the city operate in a safe, fair and discreet manner and are sensitive to the local area in which they are situated.

Sex establishments fall into one of the following categories:

- Sex shops
- Sex cinemas
- Sexual entertainment venues

The current Sex Establishment Licensing Policy is dated from 2013, however, minor amendments to the standard rules and conditions were added in 2020. Southampton City Council are now reviewing the overall policy.

We are proposing the following:

- An updated list of offences for not granting licenses
- New section on placing a restriction on the density of venues
- Merging sections 1 & 2 together to create an easier read
- Suggesting no further changes to the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy

The full draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy can be found [here](#).

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

Adding more offences to the list for not granting licenses

We are proposing that the draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy contains an updated list regarding offences for not granting licenses. This is for applicants and licence holders to consider when making their applications.

The policy currently contains a list of the following offences to consider:

- Sexual offences
- Offences involving prostitution, drugs, dishonesty or violence; and
- Licensing offences.

The proposed additions will include:

- Slavery offences
- Offences involving exploitation

The proposed updated data can be found in section 4.2.4 in the full draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy [here](#).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed updates to the list of offences for not granting licenses?

- 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 section placing a restriction on density of venues

Currently, we do not decide on the density of the venues. However, we are proposing to introduce a new section detailing placing a restriction on the density of venues.

Southampton City Council would like to avoid unwanted marketing of these venues and are therefore, proposing each venue should be separated by at least 250 metres, as measured in a straight line.

The proposed new paragraph can be found in section 4.4.2 in the full draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy [here](#).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to include a section on placing a restriction on the density of venues?

- 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:

Merging sections 1 & 2 together

Currently, the Sex Establishment Licensing policy includes two sections titled 'Introduction' & 'Background information'.

We are proposing to merge these two sections together to create an easier read. Therefore, the updated policy will include the information under one title named 'Introduction'.

The proposed merging can be found in section 1 in the full draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy [here](#).

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to merge the Introduction and Background information?

- 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:

No further proposed changes

Finally, we are proposing to keep all other elements of the Draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy the same.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to keep all other elements of the Draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy the same?

- 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 Sex Establishment policy

Have you read the proposed draft Sex Establishment policy?

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

If you have read the proposed draft Sex Establishment 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 Sex Establishment policy that you did not understand or you feel need more information, please provide further details:

About you

Which of the following describes your interest in this consultation?

Please tick all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> As a performer at a sex establishment | <input type="checkbox"/> A private business |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As an employee at a sex establishment
(not a performer) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public sector organisation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As a customer at a sex establishment | <input type="checkbox"/> Third sector organisation (e.g. voluntary or
community groups and charities, etc) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As a business owner of a sex
establishment | <input type="checkbox"/> Employee of Southampton City Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident of Southampton | <input type="checkbox"/> Political member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resident elsewhere | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Someone that works, visits, or studies in
Southampton | |

If other, please specify:

Only answer the following questions about your postcode, sex, gender, age, ethnicity and disability if you are responding as an individual, and not as a private business and public or third sector 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?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 - 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 - 74 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18 - 24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 - 54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 - 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 - 64 | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |

How would you describe your ethnic group?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British | <input type="checkbox"/> White other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black, Black British, Caribbean or African | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British | |

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 private business and public or third sector 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 **19 March 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.