

**Stevenage Borough Council
Consultation – Review of Statement
of Licensing Policy – December 2019**



The British Beer & Pub Association is the UK's leading organisation representing the brewing and pub sector.

Our members account for some 90 per cent of beer brewed in Britain today, and own around 20,000 of the nation's pubs. A full list of our members can be found [here](#).

Our members operate pubs across the UK and, as such, are impacted by national and local licensing issues. We welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation and our views are set out below.

Introduction

The British Beer & Pub Association is the UK's leading organisation representing the brewing and pub sector. Our members account for 90% of the beer sold in the UK and own around 20,000 of Britain's pubs.

The pub plays a vital role in community cohesion and social life in Britain. They remain one of the few places where communities can come together to socialise. The British pub has been part of people's lives for hundreds of years. First and foremost, they are businesses which serve their local communities and contribute much to the social life of each and every community. The pub sector has enormous potential to generate economic growth and create jobs. It can also play an important part in local regeneration projects and has been at the heart of the regeneration of many of our key towns and cities over the last fifteen years. A major study undertaken by Oxford Economics in 2018 clearly identifies the significant local impact of brewing and pubs. Currently over £1.5 billion is invested in the pub sector per annum. Indeed, pubs are labour-intensive businesses so this investment directly correlates to jobs. Pubs employ 600,000 people across the UK, often providing vital work in small towns and villages. Indeed, 45% of those employed in the sector are aged 16-24 providing a vital route to work and first career-step for many young people.

Across Britain, 30 million people visit Britain's pubs each month, with over 15 million people drinking beer.

BBPA's Support for the Proposed Revisions to the Statement of Licensing Policy (SoLP) 2019-2024

Our review of the changes identified in the revised Statement of Licensing Policy Statement noted that these are mostly administrative, bringing the policy up to date and in accordance with recent legislation.

On the basis that all of the proposed changes are those that have been identified as such on the revised Policy Statement, we can confirm that we are content with the proposed changes subject to the specific points made below.

BBPA's Feedback on Proposed Revisions to the SoLP

Section 3 - we are encouraged to see the inclusion of partnership working, particularly with organisations like National PubWatch and the local Stevenage PubWatch.

Paragraph 3.4 – we would also highlight the Challenge 21 scheme as an example of an initiative that venues can use to ensure that under-age alcohol sales are prevented. This scheme could also be referenced as an example in the paragraphs that cover Protection of Children from Harm.

Paragraph 7.3 – we were unsure if the stated time period of 11pm to 8pm should in fact be 11pm to 8am.

Sections 9, 10 & 11 – we support the decisions not to implement either a CIA, an EMRO or Late Night Levy at this time. We agree that any such decision, if taken, should be based on robust evidence. We support the inclusion of a number of other mechanisms that can be used to address specific problems before resorting to either a CIA, or EMRO or Late Night Levy. We note that whilst the Licensing Policy confirms that a consultation would be held before deciding whether or not to implement a Late Night Levy, there is no equivalent confirmation for either a CIA or EMRO. We would suggest that the Policy be amended to confirm that a consultation would be required for both a CIA and an EMRO.

Paragraph 18.1 – whilst there may be no statutory requirement to for licence renewal reminders to be sent, it seems very unreasonable and counter-productive to purposely not issue a reminder and then suspend licences that that fail to renew on time. We would recommend that either a commitment to issue reminders is given, or greater leniency is

given to licence holders that miss the renewal deadline (e.g. a notification is issued that allows the licence holder a reasonable extension to renew before the licence is suspended).

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