



Sex Establishments Policy 2021 (revised)

Consultation Report
August 2021

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BCP Council

Contents

Executive Summary	1
Introduction	2
Background	2
Results	3
Policy of no limit on number of establishments	3
Local characteristics	4
Entertainment venues	6
Existing establishments	6
License conditions	7
Comments	9
Appendix – Comments	13

Executive Summary

- 60% of respondents agree with the policy's aim, to control and regulate the operation of sex establishments within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- When asked about not placing a specific limit on the number of venues
 - 75% disagreed in relation to Sex Entertainment Venues (SEVs)
 - 73% disagreed in relation to sex shops
 - 76% disagreed in relation to sex cinemas
- When asked about the list of local characteristics to be considered when a licence application is made
 - 75% agreed with the list in relation to SEVs
 - 75% agreed in relation to sex shops
 - 74% agreed in relation to sex cinemas
 - A small number of additional characteristics were suggested including bus routes, main thoroughfares / shopping streets, student accommodation, places serving alcohol, safe routes for staff leaving the premises and views of local people.
- 79% of respondents disagree that SEVs complement the entertainment offer in Bournemouth; 74% **strongly** disagree
- 53% disagreed that existing establishments should continue to be licensed.
- 50% disagree with the conditions for SEVs
- 46% disagree with the conditions for sex shops and cinemas
- Comments about the draft policy largely focused on women's concerns around safety and respect.

Introduction

This consultation sought views on the first Sex Establishment Policy for BCP Council since the establishment, on the 1st April 2019, of a single local government area for the now dissolved boroughs of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

This Policy will allow BCP Council to control and regulate the operation of Sex Establishments within the whole conurbation. The draft policy sets out the licence application process and the grounds for refusing an application. These do not include refusal on the grounds of moral/values objections as the activities are permitted by the legislation.

Sex Establishments falls into three categories: sex shops, sexual entertainment venues and sex cinemas.

Background

An initial consultation was carried out in January 2021 and received 206 responses. Following this process, some elements of the draft policy were changed and BCP Council were required to consult again on the new draft policy.

The main changes are:

- The inclusion of a section that specifically relates to existing licensed sex establishments
- A number of additional conditions in section B of the Appendix, relating to sex entertainment venues.

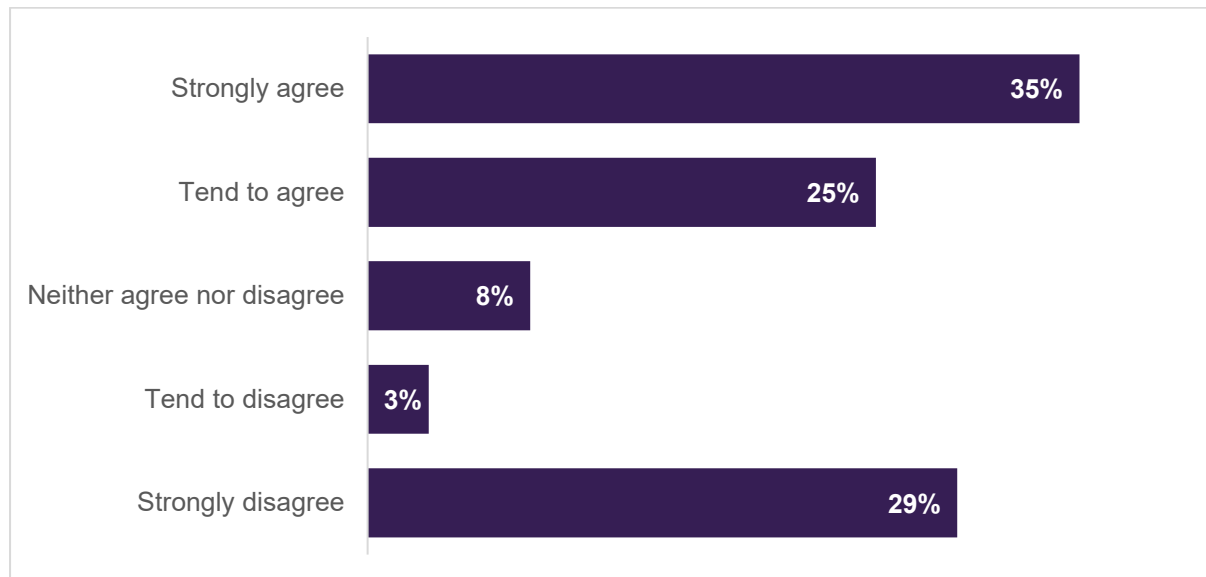
In addition, council members felt that they needed more understanding of views relating to different types of sex establishments before they could make a decision about whether to adopt the proposed Sex Establishments policy.

A second online consultation ran from 13 June to 15 July 2021 and received 176 responses. The consultation was available via BCP Council's 'Have Your Say' consultation site and was promoted on social media. The findings from this consultation are outlined below.

Results

The first question stated that the aim of the draft policy is to control and regulate the operation of sex establishments within Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and asked to what extent respondents agree or disagree with this statement.

Figure 1: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the aim of the policy?



Base: 170 respondents

Six in ten respondents said that they agree with the aim of policy while 32% disagree and 8% gave a neutral response.

Respondents **aged 45-54** (49%) are the age group most likely to disagree.

Males (73%) are more likely to agree than **females** (51%).

There were no significant differences by sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity or religion.

Policy of no limit on number of establishments

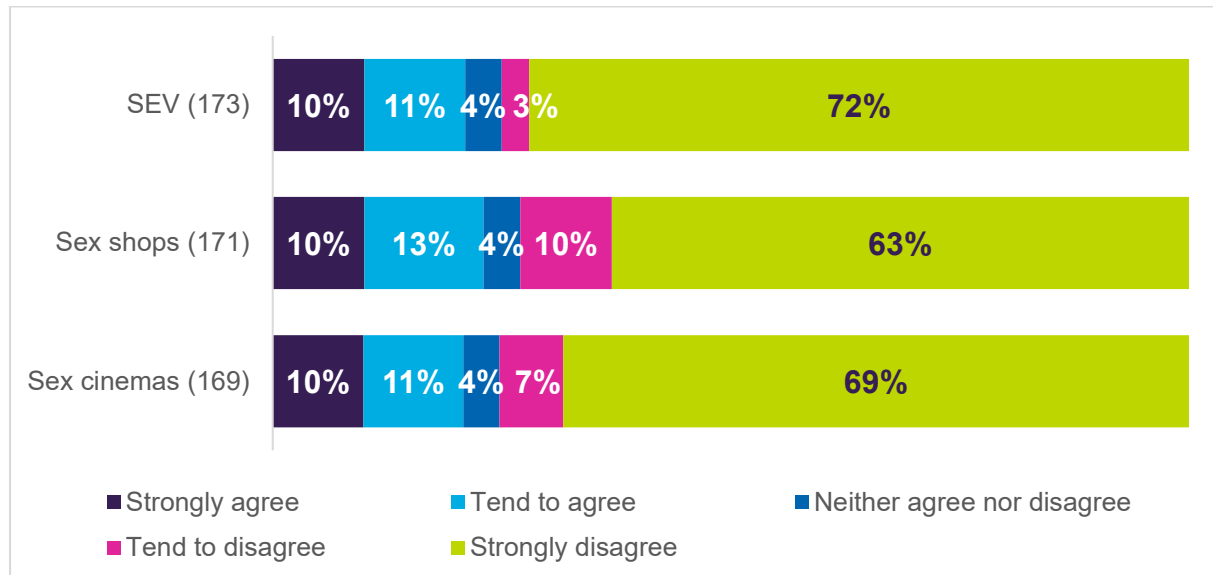
There are currently three sex entertainment venues and three sex shops in and around Bournemouth town centre. The previous policy for Bournemouth Borough Council identified these locations as appropriate for such establishments and set a specific number of premises that would be allowed in the area.

The new draft policy does not set a specific number of premises that are considered to be suitable in a particular area. This does not mean that the number of premises will not be regulated at all. We recognise that the characteristics of an area can change over time, for example if there are new residential developments and the number, and type, of premises that can be appropriately located in an area will be considered at the time that a new application is made.

The January consultation asked a single question as to whether or not respondents agreed or disagreed with the approach to not set a specific number of premises in a

particular area. Council members felt that it would help their decision to understand whether different views were held for different types of establishments. The question was therefore split into three parts for this consultation: sex entertainment venues (SEVs), sex shops and sex cinemas.

Figure 2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach for each of the categories of establishments?



Bases as labelled

There was a very strong level of disagreement with this policy approach for all types of venues, though respondents disagreed slightly less strongly in regard to sex shops than SEVs and cinemas. Three quarters of respondents (75%) disagree with this approach for SEVs, 73% for sex shops and 76% for sex cinemas.

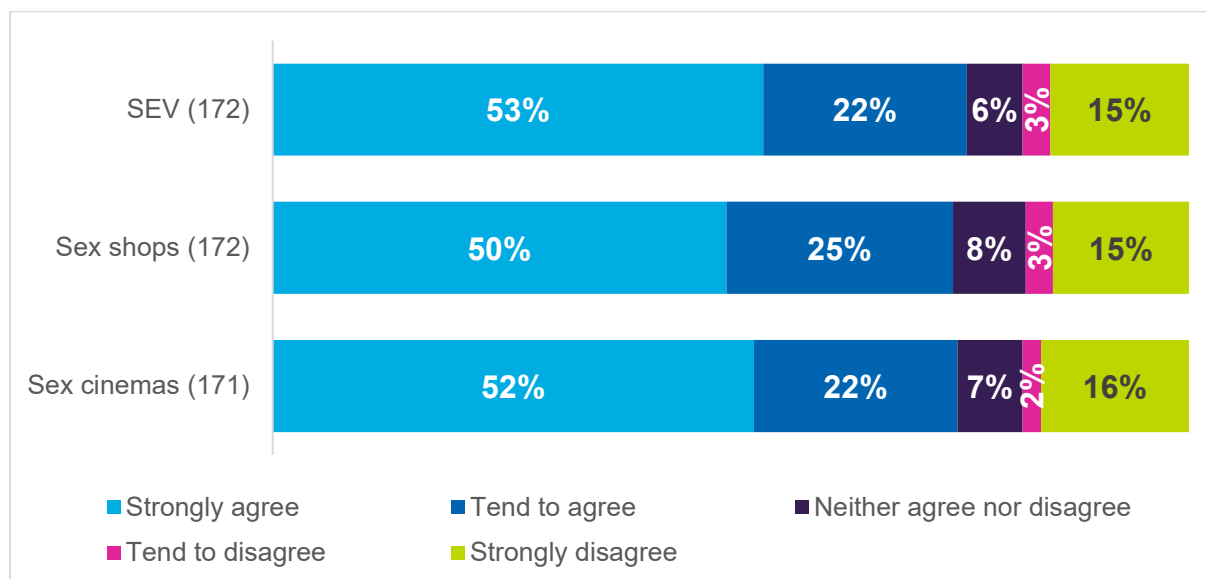
Female respondents are much more likely to disagree with this approach for all types of establishment than **males**, who are more likely to agree.

Local characteristics

The draft policy sets out a list of characteristics that will be used to assess the locality of a proposed establishment when an application is received.

The January consultation asked whether respondents agreed or disagreed with each of the characteristics. In this consultation, we have asked whether the whole list is appropriate for each of the different types of establishments.

Figure 3: To what extent do you agree or disagree with this list [of characteristics] for each of the categories of establishments?



Bases as labelled

There was a strong level of overall agreement with the list of characteristics for all types of establishments. Three quarters (75%) agree with the list for SEVs and for sex shops and 74% agree with the list for sex cinemas.

Respondents **aged 65+** are more likely to agree **strongly** than those **aged 16-44 years** for all types of establishments.

Males are more likely to agree overall than **females**.

Respondents were also asked if there were additional characteristics that should be considered for each establishment type.

There were 73 responses in relation to Sex Entertainment Venues. Of these, 43 said that they should not be allowed anywhere. Seven responses named characteristics already included in the list e.g., near schools, residential areas, parks, etc. A number of responses were not about locality characteristics, for example, citing impacts they believe such premises might have. Impacts are dealt with later in the report and all comments can be viewed in the Appendix.

In total, there were 15 responses which suggested other characteristics that could be considered. These included:

- High Streets / main thoroughfares / shopping areas
- Public transport hubs / bus routes
- Student housing
- Premises serving alcohol
- Safe routes for workers leaving the premises

- Views of local people

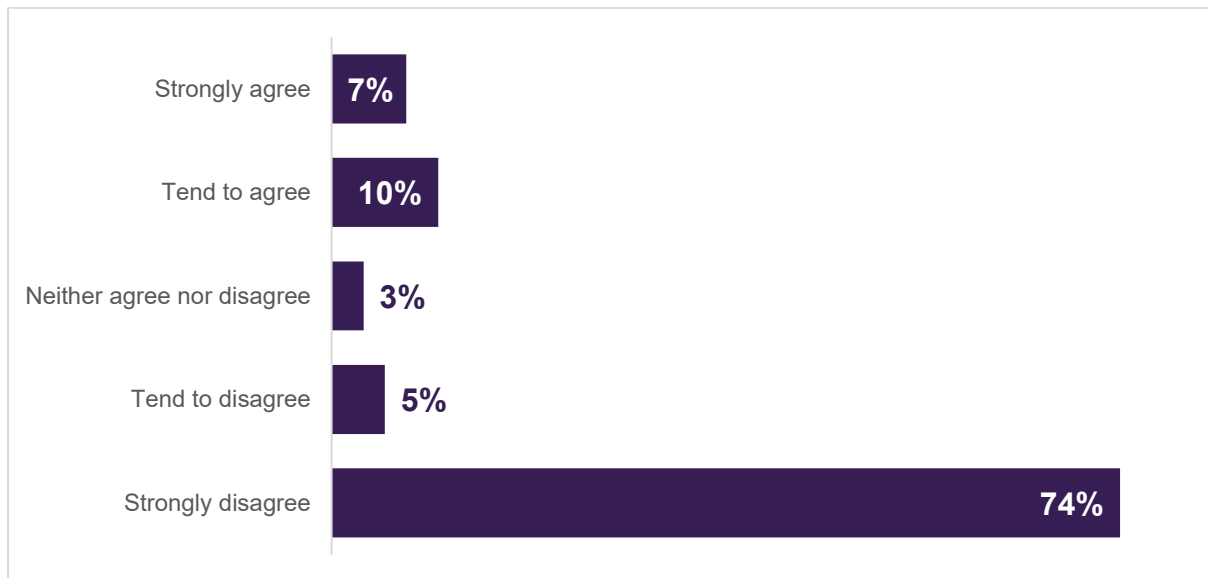
There were 57 responses regarding sex shops. Most of these responses were made by the same respondents as the previous question and gave exactly the same response. There were no characteristics suggested that are different to those for SEVs.

There were 59 responses regarding sex cinemas. Again, these were largely identical to the comments made about other types of establishments and nothing new was identified.

Entertainment venues

Respondents were next asked to what extent they agree or disagree that Sex Entertainment Venues (SEVs) complement Bournemouth’s entertainment offer.

Figure 4: To what extent do you agree or disagree that sexual entertainment venues complement Bournemouth’s entertainment offer?



Base: 175 respondents

Overall, four out of five respondents (79%) disagree with this statement.

Female respondents were much more likely to disagree (95%) than **males** (58%). More than a third of **male** respondents (36%) agreed with the statement.

Respondents **with a disability** were more likely to disagree (91%) than those with **no disability** (73%).

Existing establishments

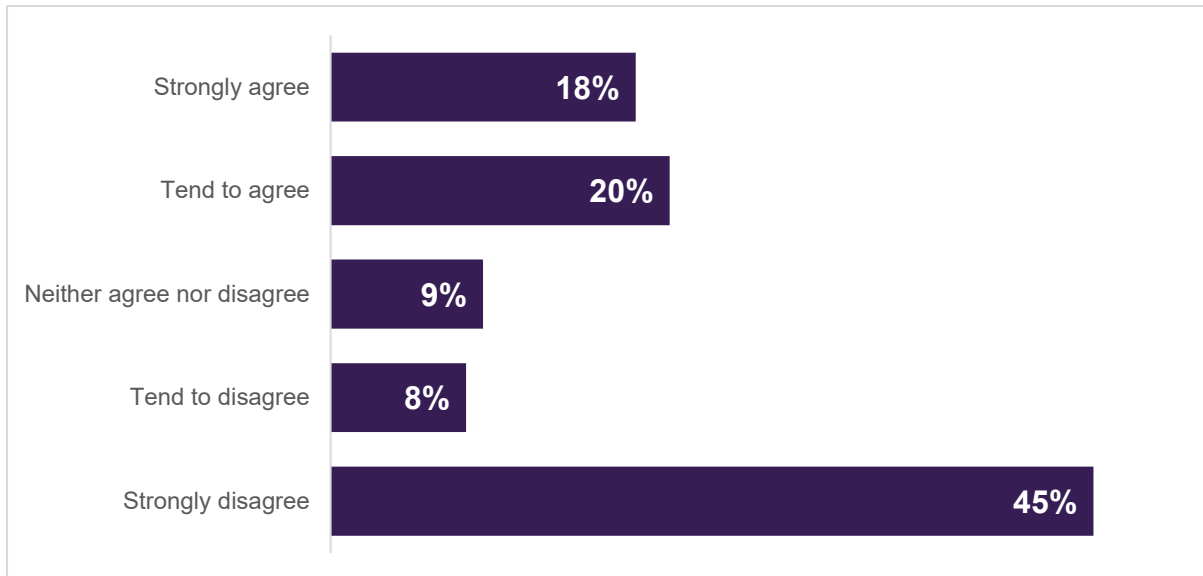
Following the consultation in January, a new section was added to the draft policy regarding existing licensed establishments. There are currently three SEVs and three sex shops licenced in Bournemouth, in and around the town centre; there are none in Christchurch or Poole.

Bournemouth Borough Council’s Sex Establishments Policy identified this as the appropriate number of establishments in the area. However, the nature of the area

has changed over time with more residential developments among other changes. The new draft Policy states that the existing licences will be renewed, on application, by the same applicant. Any new applications will be considered according to the new policy, taking into account the character of the locality at the time of the application.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree that existing premises should continue to be licenced.

Figure 5: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the policy approach of continuing to license these [existing] establishments?



Base: 172 respondents

Just over half (53%) of respondents disagreed with this approach while 38% agreed and 9% gave a neutral response.

Older respondents were more likely to agree than younger respondents. **54%** of those **aged 55-64** and **50%** of those **aged 65+** agreed, compared to **24%** and **25%** respectively of those **aged 16-44** and **45-54**.

Two thirds of **female** respondents disagreed (**67%**) compared to just over a third (**35%**) of **males**. More than half of **male respondents (57%)** agreed with this approach compared to a quarter of **females (25%)**.

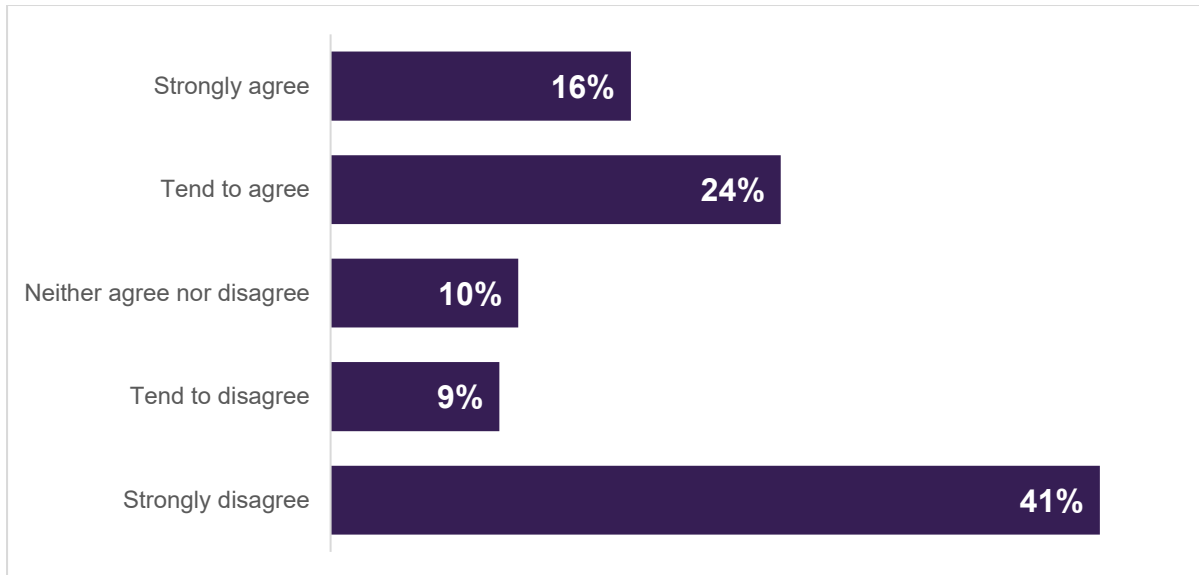
Respondents with **no religion** are much more likely to disagree (**69%**) than those of **Christian faith (43%)**.

License conditions

All licenced sex establishments are subject to conditions which regulate their operations. Conditions may cover things such as the layout of the building, opening hours, the conduct of staff and customers and the products or services that are permitted / not permitted. The draft policy sets out standard conditions for each type of establishment. These are a starting point for any licence and may be varied to meet particular circumstances of individual establishments.

Respondents were first asked whether they agree or disagree with the proposed conditions for SEVs. These conditions include a Code of Conduct for management, performers and customers.

Figure 6: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the conditions for SEVs?



Base 167 respondents

Half of respondents (50%) disagree with the conditions for SEVs while 40% agree and 10% gave a neutral response.

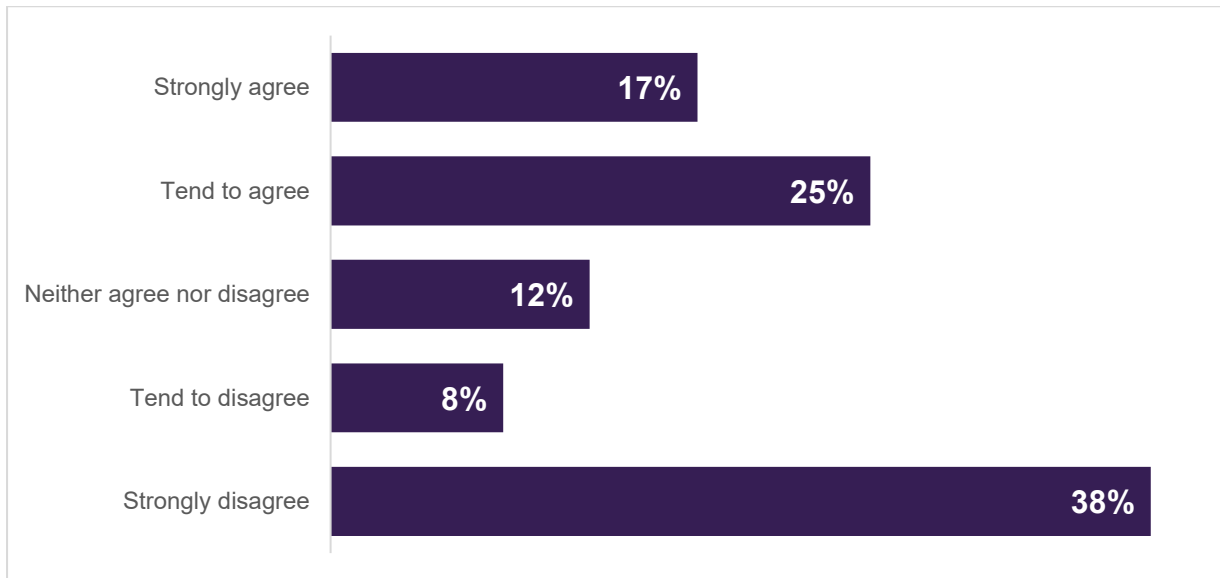
More than half of respondents **aged 16-44 (54%)** and nearly two-thirds of those **aged 45-54 (65%)** disagreed with the SEV conditions. Those **aged 55-64** were more likely to agree (**50%**) than to disagree (32%). Those age 65+ were equally likely to agree or disagree (both 44%)

Female respondents were more likely to **disagree (58%)** than to agree (30%) while **males** were more likely to **agree (55%)** than to disagree (38%).

There were no other significant differences between groups of respondents.

Respondents were then asked to what extent they agree or disagree with the conditions for sex shops and sex cinemas.

Figure 7: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the conditions for sex shops and sex cinemas?



Base: 169 respondents

Slightly more respondents (46%) disagreed with the conditions for sex shops and sex cinemas than agreed (42%).

The groups of respondents most likely to **disagree** are those **aged 16-44 (50%)**, those **aged 45-54 (68%)** and **females (55%)**

The groups more likely to **agree** than to disagree are those **aged 55-64 (56%)**, those **aged 65+ (49%)**, **males (57%)** and **Christians (46%)**

Comments

Respondents were invited to make further comments about the policy and 99 respondents chose to do so.

To make sense of these, we have attempted to categorise the responses; some make points that fit into more than one category hence the numbers shown will add to more than 99.

There were 36 responses that either stated that these establishments should not be allowed without giving any reason why, or were based on moral grounds i.e., the respondent finds them distasteful. Some examples are shown below.

“It is morally wrong to have a policy to encourage this sort of thing to destroy the make-up of society and just to please some abhorrent people in our mi[d]st.”

“How seedy to you want BCP Council area to become? The[re] should be no more types of these establishments in the area.”

“I would prefer no such establishments in the BCP area, or at least no additional establishments.”

A number of respondents did give reasons why they felt the establishments should not be allowed. **Nineteen** responses mentioned equalities and respect / attitudes towards women and girls, while **17** responses mentioned concerns around crime and personal safety stemming from these venues.

“It’s madness. The message given, wherever they are situated, is plain - this is the worth of a woman! How dare you put a price on women and girls, especially in light of the male violence against us already!”

“How can the sexual exploitation, degradation and dehumanisation of women and girls EVER be classified as ‘entertainment offer?’”

“These types of establishments have no place in our society. Sex should not be sold. Women should not have to put up with seeing these establishments. This is discriminatory and leads to misogyny.”

“Licensing Sex establishments legitimises the sexual objectification of women and girls. Such objectification is linked with violence against women and girls. Extensive research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. Objectification dehumanises those who are objectified, making it easier, by removing or weakening cultural taboos that prohibit violence, for men to be violent. That is the link. To license these exploitative set ups does not comply with all council’s obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty to foster good relations between the sexes and would leave the Council open to litigation.”

“There should be no strip clubs allowed to operate as they help to create norms and a culture where women are objectified and sexualized. This effects women and girls of all ages. The presence of strip clubs has also been shown to increase sexual harassment, domestic violence and sexual violence against women.”

“BCP council granting more venues like this will only serve to tell women that they do not matter and their safety and respect is placed beneath male gratification.”

Seven responses mentioned the impact on the image of the town and the tourism sector.

“I feel taking the limit away would mean that Bournemouth would lose its attractiveness as a family resort and cause more young adults to visit the town making it uncomfortable for family groups”

“We are better than this: I love the scale of the “Big Plan” - in its opening line it says “make BCP a place where people and businesses want to be”; is taking off the limits on the number of sex establishments really going to create a place where women feel safe

and empowered, and families say "I want to come there for my holiday - or do we just want to attract the stag night groups: come on BCP, we can do so much better"

A number of comments picked up on details in the policy document such as opening hours or questioned elements of the consultation e.g., who is on the stakeholder list? There were about 15 comments that did not fit into a category.

Finally, respondents were asked if they could identify any equalities impacts of the proposed policy, along with evidence / examples and suggestions for mitigation. There were 95 comments, some of which did not relate to equalities and are not reported here. (All comments are included in the Appendix to this report).

The large majority of responses talked about discrimination against women and several mentioned trafficking and slavery.

Discrimination was identified both in relation to the exploitation of women working in SEVs and the porn industry, and the wider impact on wider society resulting from the objectification of women.

"Women are not commodities. This puts women involved in the industries in direct danger and encounters violence and human trafficking. The women not involved in the industries will be directly affected by misogynistic behaviours from men believing that this is somehow fun/fine/what women expect"

"Sexist businesses that rely on sexual objectification of women do nothing but increase violence against women, sexist behaviour, street harassment & more. As a woman I've been subjected to street harassment outside a strip club close to where I worked. And I'm sick of women having to police themselves because of men's sense of entitlement to women's bodies thanks, thanks to venues like this. Please do better for the women and girls in your community. It is just not fair, it his sexist, it ignores women as a sex class and a protected characteristic in equalities legislation."

"To tolerate such exploitative set ups will be to further promote discrimination against women. Women who work in SEVs and in the porn industry are seriously harmed by the sex trade- just as women who are in abusive relationships are. Similarly, the women often do not acknowledge or realise the harm until they have exited the abusive situation- research interviewing exited strippers illustrates this. The huge harm is the psychological trauma due to dissociation, which is necessary to enable the women to cope with the objectification inherent in the sex trade. Porn in film and stripping in real time are just forms of the same thing, just like porn in print- all sexually objectifying women. It teaches girls that this is ok and boys that this is how to view and treat girls. It all fuels the huge amount of violence to women and girls in our society- we really should not be

surprised that so many of us women are raped and murdered when places like Bournemouth have councillors that think it is ok to permit such harmful places to exist.”

“The council could license zero sex shops, sex cinemas and sexual entertainment venues. This would be mindful of the exploitation of women in all these establishments. Lap dancers should be helped with realistic exit strategies. Women and girls are doubly discriminated against in areas with “sex” venues; firstly by the exploitation of the workers who are overwhelmingly female, and secondly by making the areas containing these venues and shops into essentially no go areas for women and girls.”

Appendix – Comments

Are there any other character or locality considerations that should be included for SEVs?
no further venues should be considered
Temptations Spa
local residents views
In all cases we should think about getting the right balance between community and economy. BPC attracts hen and stag parties. Their requirements can differ from those of long term residents. Tourism adds value to the community, but too many businesses of a certain type could impact a community negativity. How do we get that balance right?
Not near schools
they should not be on a main bus or cycle route
Beaches
Main thoroughfares
Safety of workers needs to be considered; a well lit route out of premises is necessary.
Residential areas
No
walking route for families must be considered in addition to premises or shop usage
Not near anyone
Residential areas
Public transport hubs, festival areas
near to beach chimes or green walking spaces
I believe SEVs should continue to be discrete, and therefore can remain in the locations where they are currently. I do not agree with moving SEVs to out of towns or on to industrial estates etc.
Pharmacy
train/bus/taxi stations, transport hubs
Moral decency
General high streets
On any street they are offensive
Risk of encouraging the wrong type of tourism
Anywhere that has high concentrations of women considering the gendered nature of these venues and the danger they present to women's safety especially those is town centres after dark. Consideration must be given to women's safety in the public realm to protect them from oversexed men leaving these premises
No
they should not exist anywhere
childcare and Childminding locations, creches and pre schools
Refuges or Charities supporting vulnerable people
These should not be licensed / approved full-stop.
women using the area
I don't think there should be any in a seaside town. It is exploitative of women in a time where we should be focussing on eliminating VAWG. These promises only encourage exploitation. No woman should be exploited as 'entertainment'

Anywhere women who don't want to be objectified live, work or visit
Nowhere
Places where women, girls and boys are or may see
Nowhere
Why should these even exist? This is not suitable for society as it is harmful to those forced directly or through circumstance to work in this "venues". NO TO THESE
any public space eg shopping areas, road and footpaths
There should NOT be any sexual entertainment venues ANYWHERE
no location is appropriate
There is no way to avoid unintended impacts, hence there should not be any such venues.
There should be no sexual entertainment venues.
Zero tolerance for the sexual exploitation of women and girls
Everywhere
There are no areas which are suitable for these premises.
No location where strip clubs are appropriate. Adopt a Policy for ZERO clubs. Existing clubs MUST be challengeable on the grounds of location. Stop licensing all existing clubs and support all lap dancers to get out.
No place is really suitable for these venues
There is no location where these are appropriate. Women are human beings, not objects!
They shouldn't be there at all
proximity to women walking around the city
No place
The impact on women subject to sexism, violence & abuse due to these sexist establishments that objectify women
These should not be allowed anywhere
Slavery & trafficking
Everywhere
University accommodation and campuses
Should not be allowed in any setting
If the location leads to direct access to women once leaving the the premises
They should not be allowed anywhere
Anywhere that women frequent and who could be harassed as a result of venue's presence
I dont think such venues should be allowed anywhere.
Nowhere is suitable they are sexist and harmful for women
should not be in places where people drink alcohol as it encourages more people to go or in places where women go out as their risk of sexual harassment is higher
No suitable place
NONE
Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch
None
Student housing, Bus stops, Taxi ranks, Cafes and Restaurants, any shops (ie. not just families and children oriented - I don't want to shop near these)
Anywhere
Streets used by female pedestrians

Bournemouth dose t offer much for families to attract them here I believe this policy will make the town less appealing to families and visitors
there are NO locations where these are acceptable
Student residences, hotels etc where women may live
THERE IS NO APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR SEV'S IN IN ANY AREA
we are a respected holiday town - we dont need this
Should not be allowed at all. Venues create sexual incitement v women.Sarah Everard.
Women's refuges, alcohol premises

Are there any other character or locality considerations that should be included for sex shops?
no further venues should be considered
Easy Tiger
local residents views
Not near schools
they should not be on a main bus or cycle route
Beaches
Main thoroughfares
Consideration must be given to the safety of women and children encountering customers of such premises whilst going about their day-to-day business. Anti harassment strategies need to be implemented, including enhanced presence of police on the beat, for example.
Residential areas
No
walking route for families must be considered in addition to premises or shop usage
Not near anyone
Residential areas
Public transport hubs, festival areas
near to beach chines or green walking spaces
Pharmacy
train/bus/taxi stations, transport hubs
as above
General high street
Always offensive
Risk of encouraging the wrong type of tourism
No
they should not exist anywhere
childcare and Childminding locations, creches and pre schools
Refuges or Charities supporting vulnerable people
No
See above
Anywhere women who don't want to be objectified live, work or visit
Nowhere
Places where women, girls and boys are or may see
Nowhere

Minimal number - 1 only in an area.
any public spaces eg shopping areas, roads and footpaths
There should NOT be any sex shops ANYWHERE
There is no way to avoid unintended impacts, hence there should not be any such shops.
There should be no sex shops.
Everywhere
There are no areas which are suitable for these premises.
No location where sex shops are appropriate. Adopt a Policy for ZERO sex shops.
They shouldn't be there at all
proximity to women walking around the city
No place
The impact on women subject to sexism, violence & abuse due to these sexist establishments that objectify women
These should not be allowed anywhere
Everywhere
As above
They should not be allowed anywhere within a local populated area
Anywhere that women frequent and who could be harassed as a result of venue's presence
I don't think such places should be allowed anywhere.
Nowhere is suitable they are sexist and harmful to women
nowhere that families might pass
No appropriate locations
NONE
Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch
None
Student housing, Bus stops, Taxi ranks, Cafes and Restaurants, any shops (ie. not just families and children oriented - I don't want to shop near these)
Anywhere
Streets used by female pedestrians
I believe this will make the town less attractive to f as milked go visit Bournemouth
As above
we are a respected holiday town - we don't need this
Should not be allowed at all.

Are there any other character or locality considerations that should be included for sex cinemas?
no further venues should be considered
local residents views
Not near schools
they should not be on a main bus or cycle route
Beaches
Main thoroughfares
Consideration must be given to the safety of women and children encountering customers of such premises whilst going about their day-to-day business. Anti harassment strategies need to be implemented, including enhanced presence of police on the beat, for example.

Residential areas
No
walking route for families must be considered in addition to premises or shop usage
Not near anyone
Residential areas
Public transport hubs, festival areas
near to beach chins or green walking spaces
Pharmacy
train/bus/taxi stations, transport hubs
as above
General high street
Revolting
Risk of encouraging the wrong type of tourism
No
they should not exist anywhere
childcare and Childminding locations, creches and pre schools
Refuges or Charities supporting vulnerable people
These should not be licensed / approved full-stop.
See above
Anywhere women who don't want to be objectified live, work or visit
Nowhere
Places where women, girls and boys are or may see
Nowhere
This is allowing public porn. Why? Again, the actors involved are harmed esp women through being forced to take part directly or through circumstances. NO TO PUBLIC PORN.
any public space eg shopping areas, roads and footpaths
There should NOT be any sex cinemas ANYWHERE
There is no way to avoid unintended impacts, hence there should not be any such cinemas.
There should be no sex cinemas.
Everywhere
There are no areas which are suitable for these premises.
No location where sex cinemas are appropriate. Adopt a Policy for ZERO sex cinemas.
There is no location where these are appropriate.
They shouldn't be there at all
proximity to women walking around the city
No place
The impact on women subject to sexism, violence & abuse due to these sexist establishments that objectify women
These should not be allowed anywhere
Everywhere
As above
If the location leads to direct access to women once leaving the the premises
They should not be allowed anywhere as they promote sexual violence toward young girls and women

Anywhere that women frequent and who could be harassed as a result of venue's presence
I don't think such places should be allowed anywhere.
Nowhere is suitable they are sexist and harmful to women
these shouldn't exist anywhere they promote porn which is full of trafficked women
No appropriate locations
NONE
Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch
None
Student housing, Bus stops, Taxi ranks, Cafes and Restaurants, any shops (ie. not just families and children oriented - I don't want to shop near these)
Anywhere
Streets used by female pedestrians
This would not be helpful for families visiting Bournemouth and would lower the attractiveness of Bournemouth as a family resort or place to live
As above
we are a respected holiday town we don't need this
Should not be allowed at all.

Do you have any further comments about this draft policy?
no further venues should be considered and existing venues should not have licenses renewed
You might as well have them as there is nothing to do in Bournemouth apart from the beach
What consideration has been given to the effect of sex venues on sexually motivated crimes?
There is a lack of transparency about consultation. Who has been invited to contribute to the report? Names please. The policy cannot be considered as having been thoroughly researched without considering the impact of the unlicensed sex trade on BPC (e.g sex workers, escorts etc). Any attempt to consider a policy without accounting for the 100-150 sex workers will be unsighted. Some of those sex workers will also work in licensed establishments. Best to be open and transparent about this reality if we are to find a coherent way forward that protects all those working in licensed and unlicensed establishments. Finally for the policy to be effectively implemented there needs to be copies of the Dancers Code made available in the language of the Dancer . To ensure that the Dancer knows what she is signing. Dancers should be independently regulated much as taxi drivers are.
It is morally wrong to have a policy to encourage this sort of thing to destroy the make up of society and just to please some abhorrent people in our mist
BCP should be regulating more not less with no limit they can legally open anywhere by using the grey areas of legislation.
the proposed conditions should be more demanding
How seedy to you want BCP Council area to become? They should be no more types of these establishments in the area.

I would rather these premises be well outside of town centres/public areas. I do not like being close to a sex shop (and its clientele) while having a cup of coffee/going shopping near the Triangle, for example. I think sex work is degrading and encourages slavery, abuse and violence against women and I do not think venues focussing on sex as a business have a place in modern society. That said, I do worry about the safety of "dancers" and "entertainers" and feel they should have proper and safe transportation home (at the expense of venues). I think it is wrong to place responsibility on performers to ensure customers do not touch them -- this is close to victim blaming and is unacceptable -- so that part of the "dancers' code" should be altered.

there should not be any establishments offering sexual entertainments. They are demeaning and tawdry.

There should not be an open-ended amount of venues

I have great concerns about sexually stimulating customers knowing they may then be unable to control these feelings. I believe this could make girls and women more vulnerable to sexual harassment and/or attack. I don't know how Bcp can 'police' these establishments unless Bcp frequently undertake spot checks. I would not have a problem with 'Council' run brothels where the women/men involved were protected and numbers of clients controlled. I say this so you will understand I only have a concern at people going into the community who are sexually stimulated (for that is the purpose of these establishments) with a limited number of ways to find release. I hope I've been able to be clear about my feelings.

The presumption that the current premises automatically can reapply suggests that the new approach will be more lenient. Taking regard to the area is very wise-a good list of priorities are shown-but having these establishments in an area quite possibly could determine the future 'atmosphere' and use of that area.

I feel that Bournemouth Council are taking a responsible attitude on this matter but Bournemouth is a holiday area primarily for families with young children and for older people. I feel that these kind of establishment will attract the wrong sort of visitors to the town and may put off our mainstream visitors, as did all day opening and bars for hen and stag nights, not to mention the effect that had on residents of the town.

produce a list of these venues to see their locations

A bit too detailed and strict regulation, especially Appendix A, Section B. Are brothels not counted as Sex Establishments? A liberal policy without hypocrisy should be the aimed for. Forbidding prostitution would drive it underground.

I believe all establishments should be capped at the current level or lowered.

Strongly disagree to any of these establishments being in locality. They are offensive and promote sex trafficking, sexual assaults and abuse of women

Appendix A, section C Para 2 - why are sex shops not allowed to be open on Sundays, bank holidays or public holidays? Is this on religious grounds? Same for section D - is this morals or is there some other reason?

It seems fait-acomplis that there will be more venues of this type. Sadly these venues, rather than 'fulfil a community need', add to the degradation of our otherwise beautiful town, encourage inappropriate and loutish behaviour, appear to normalise such behaviour in the eyes children and challenge the dignity of the human person

<p>Being a bit nit-picking here: Opening hours for sex shops should be better clarified as you should either write 9 AM - 6 PM or 09:00 - 18:00. Surprised by the generous opening hours for sex cinema's (from 09:00) - it would be less confusing if these opening hours mirrored ordinary cinema opening hours.</p>
<p>I don't understand why grandfather rights have been given to existing premises, or why there is a potential for the preponderance of more venues in a particular area now with this draft policy, I think this is a move in the wrong direction. I don't believe that we need these kinds of venues in the town at all. Whilst they may be legal I don't believe that they are beneficial for the town, I would argue that they achieve the opposite. They objectify women, promote a seedy image for the town and are a bad example to our young people, especially at a time when sexual harassment in schools is increasing.</p>
<p>I like no advertisements, A boards etc.</p>
<p>BCP would be better without any of these establishments. We should be aiming for a higher level of cultural/tourist attractions.</p>
<p>We don't need more of these shops in our community, there are enough shops available and these type of establishments are repelling for many in the community, I believe this will not enhance our community but make it worse off.</p>
<p>You haven't really covered online advertising - this would be difficult to monitor, but some inclusion in the policy now, may head off trouble later. Equally, the use of QR codes or enhanced virtual reality displays as used in displays in a venue's window needs to be addressed. This could quickly (via a smartphone) take a child/vulnerable adult to unsuitable material, even though nothing is physically visible on site - think of how the Pokemon online game works using GPS. Apps can be downloaded in error or infiltrated into a device via 3rd party content. Again this may not be happening now, but it would be best to try & future proof policy.</p>
<p>Does it mention decent family values?</p>
<p>I think there should be more sex establishments all over BCP to help normalise "sex" and reduce sex crimes in the UK. Sex crimes in the Netherlands is massively lower than the UK because they have many legal and regulated sex establishments.</p>
<p>Being in older cage group I am probably not qualified to be objective in my answers as my religion and culture and location of housing would not expose me to Populations requiring these services . But I understand there is a sector of the population that do is increasing</p>
<p>All of these venues bring down the tone of any area - and are offensive in every way.. This area is already struggling with rough sleepers / addicts etc It was publicly stated recently in The Times newspaper that B and C town centres are not pleasant places to be - they are not. And please do not pollute the suburbs with any of this sordid stuff.</p>
<p>Commonsense approach - just enough to ensure a well rounded town/city - too many and it might change the character of the city and attract the wrong kind of audiences</p>

Your policy has been written from the perspective that we've got them so let's build our policy around assuming we'll keep them. Where is the pre work of equalities impact that should be presented to your committee to show the adverse impacts of sexual entertainment venues? Why have you assumed they will not only remain but you'll throw open the doors to more. Where is the consideration of the damage sex ent venues do to the views, roles and position of women in society? Where are the questions about women's safety, sexual exploitation, sexual violence and rising violence towards women and girls. The sex trade plays a significant part in this and these venues are part of that. Where is your concern for the safety of performers, women who generally have bo on encumbered choice about this exploitative kind of work? Where is your concern for the lack of equality in this? Where is your concern for the high levels of drug use amongst performers, the links to prostitution, the trafficking links, the pressure on girls to do extras? Disgraceful lack of interest in women's safety inside and outside of these establishments. Does the leadership really think this kind of degradation and exploitation says world class resort

I would prefer no such establishments in the BCP area, or at least no additional establishments.

i think this is so clearly insane that it is extremely disturbing that you are evn considering it

No mention of facilities in Poole or Christchurch, very biased approached by BCP.

There should be specific mention that drugs cannot be used, bought or sold on the premises by the customers as well as the business and its staff.

All policies should include them being barred from having any sleeping accommodation or overnight staying allowed on the premises. this should reduce the risk of the premises being used for people trafficking. Anyone found sleeping on the premises should have their licence revoked

I don't agree that SEVs should be licensed / approved full-stop and that to (continue to) do so breaches gender-equality law. I have no problems with sex shops who are providing a vital service selling goods contributory to health and well-being.

I would like BCP to take a stand and decline to renew the licenses of the sexual entertainment venues in Bournemouth.

As the document referenced states, this is ultimately "public indecency" only it is hidden behind closed doors. So if the proposal agrees that this is public indecency, then why tolerate it anywhere? The girls and boys performing in these establishments are usually doing it because they are forced to not because they enjoy it. They do it because they do not have money, or they are threatened. I propose that each performer MUST have an independent counselling person, with whom the performer is able to speak in complete confidence about anything at all. And those counselling sessions must happen regularly (weekly) to ensure emotional and psychological wellbeing for the performers. And the sex establishments must pay for the counselling sessions. That way hopefully, people trapped in this industry without a choice (especially from abroad) can somehow escape by way of hiding their identities, and moving them somewhere in another part of the country, or something.

I accept that it is really challenging for Councillors to regulate this industry given the national legislative framework, but I seriously question whether any such establishments add to the well-being of our area or enable us to establish a clear ethos/code of social values which draws a clear line in the sand for all our citizens to express. It is a joy that we have steadily become a more multi-cultural, inclusive and tolerant society. In so doing we do need to beware of an "anything goes" attitude - it doesn't! As an educator I am acutely aware of how young and not so young people are affected in their attitudes to each other and particularly to sexual relations, and the leadership of legislators plays a part in defining the boundaries which they are largely left to set for themselves. So councillors need to ask "what am I signalling to our people by the policies I am setting?"

I think any venue that exploits women should be banned on the basis that it is contrary to the Equalities Act. The related issue is a crime related issue and has to police led in asking does it attract prostitution and organised crime to the area? What contacts of employment if any are offered to the women?

Don't licence any more than there are already

This is disgusting. VAWG has strong, provable links to the sex industry. And that you should be actively condoning it is an insult to women.

This is a regressive policy which does not comply with equality impact assessment. It sends a clear message that it's ok to sexually objectify women and makes me ashamed of my hometown and not want to live here.

The fact that a clause is required regarding CCTV recordings being retained for 31 days is indicative of the issue. These businesses inherently breed misogyny and violence against women. This literally creates an environment where crimes are increasingly likely, victims reporting are less likely (and therefore may need longer than a month to do so) and the the police take complaints against these victims less seriously. You are encouraging a culture where women are subjects of objectification and directly contributing to porn culture. BCP council granting more venues like this will only serve to tell women that they do not matter and their safety and respect is placed beneath male gratification.

It would be a hugely derogatory move for the area if the numbers of these venues was to increase, or that they would be concentrated in a particular place - leading to unsafe spaces for women and girls and an increase in sexual and violent crimes. BCP area is a family destination, especially with more families holidaying in the UK, we should be capitalising on that trade rather than turning it into a seedy stag do destination. Please ensure a strict limit on numbers of all three of these establishment types, please protect the character and family-friendly nature of our beautiful area.

This will place women and children in danger of the type of people these premises will attract. I don't want them in my town.

I am shocked that at a time when places like Blackpool are introducing a zero cap because of the negative impact of SEV's on a family resort Bournemouth is looking to do the opposite

You cannot regulate the sex industry, it will always be one step ahead of you. Increasing supply will increase demand. It will create more no-go areas of Bournemouth for residents and contribute to a culture in which is is OK to treat women as sex objects. Council-licensed sex work. Very slippery slope.

The council should not be complicit in an industry that exploits women and girls, increases human trafficking, paedophilia, rape and assault, for profit.

It's madness. The message given, wherever they are situated, is plain - this is the worth of a woman! How dare you put a price on women and girls, especially in light of the male violence against us already!

There should be none

Why are you encouraging Porn to be available publicly? How does this help society? There is nothing "repressive" about this as a boundary. NO to public porn whether its hiding behind entertainment or not. The clientele seeking to view/partake are small but will inevitably increase due to the "acceptance" of this being available. This means young people (particularly boys) learn about sex from Porn. This is not going to help women and girls who are at threat of unwanted sexual interest. Women and Girls are particularly harmed through direct and indirect (via circumstance) when forced into taking part in these places (as actors in the cinema productions, as part of the entertainment). Boys/Men see that this is HOW women and girls should be treated. This IS HARMFUL. NO to sex work of this kind.

any sexual entertainment facilities increases danger and oppression for women, and creates an inappropriate environment for children. Theses venues do not help men to view women respectfully

There is NO location where strip clubs are appropriate ALL Council should adopt a Policy for ZERO clubs Existing clubs MUST be challengeable on the grounds of location ALL Councils should STOP licensing ALL existing clubs and support all lap dancers out

Many warm words but not remotely clear how the conditions would be enforced and many of the conditions run directly contrary to the purpose of the establishment. More realistic aspirations and a clear enforcement policy would be more effective.

There should be no sexual entertainment venues. They degrade women and are a promotion of prostitution. Prostitution is a form of paid rape. The debts dancers in sex establishments can incur and the proximity of willing pimps and punters lead women into that abuse. It is certainly feasible to close existing sevs. Leeds City Council ha done it.

I am sorry that you think these venues, shops and cinemas are appropriate in any way. They are almost exclusively aimed at men, encourage poor attitudes to women, it is impossible to ensure no impact on local people including children.

No location where strip clubs are appropriate Adopt a Policy for ZERO clubs Existing clubs MUST be challengeable on the grounds of location Stop licensing all existing clubs and support all lap dancers out

There should be no strip clubs, sex shops, sex cinemas or other venues offering sexual or sex-related services in Bournemouth.

How can the sexual exploitation, degradation and dehumanisation of women and girls EVER be classified as 'entertainment offer'?

Strip clubs, sex shops and sex cinemas are exploitative of women who may be trafficked or desperate for money. A 'policy' does not make these places acceptable.

The basic failure in your policy is that you have not recognised that no areas are suitable for any of these establishments. The council should therefore adopt a policy of licensing no establishments whatsoever of this type. This will allow you to refuse the renewal of any of the existing licenses. This is the only appropriate policy for the council to adopt to maintain your policy aims with respect to the health and well-being of the area, safeguarding, crime and disorder reduction and the promotion of equality and diversity. The culture should also support Lapdancers in escaping from the exploitation and abuse which these clubs promote.

No location where strip clubs, sex shops or sex cinemas are appropriate. Adopt a Policy for ZERO such establishments. Existing strip clubs MUST be challengeable on the grounds of location. Stop licensing all existing clubs, shops and cinemas and support all lap dancers to get out.

Bournemouth should adopt a policy for zero clubs. All existing clubs should be challenged on grounds of their location. Stop licensing these venue and provide support for lapdancers to exit.

Adopt a policy for ZERO clubs. Stop licensing existing clubs and support the workers in getting out of the business safely. Do not license any new clubs. Take a moral stand on this issue which, in fact, would merely be to recognise that women are human beings, not sex objects.

No location where strip clubs are appropriate Adopt a Policy for ZERO clubs Existing clubs MUST be challengeable on the grounds of location Stop licensing all existing clubs and support all lap dancers out

Do away with all sex venues. These attract heinous acts against women and perpetrate sexist ideas that women are objects for men's pleasure. It is 2021 isn't it time we stopped objectifying women for men's titillation and sense of entitlement to women's bodies. These areas are pre cursors to male violence against women. Society will never overcome sexism and inequality if women are allowed to be exploited in this way. MEN: it's time to grow up and have some respect, Women have had enough exploitation.

Open no new places, close the rest and offer exiting services to strippers.

There is no place for sex based (based on sexist) entertainment in the 21st century. Violence against women is a national pandemic, I am regularly subjected to street harassment and these places perpetuate misogyny and the objectification of women and girls. And the entitlement of men to women's bodies. I have regularly holidayed in the area since I was a child in the 70s and have been increasingly appalled at the 'sexist lad' culture I have experienced in recent years. Bournemouth doesn't feel safe for women & girls any more. Please if you can't put women first at least stop putting us after pimps, John's & 'adult entertainment ' profiteers.

There should be no sexual entertainment venues/ sex shops or cinemas

Allowing venues to operate where we know there is a high chance of occurrence of modern slavery and/or trafficking is incompatible with the council's anti-slavery policy. Existing establishments are not being policed sufficiently and a blind eye being turned to suspected incidents of slavery, trafficking and coercion.

These types of establishments have no place in our society. Sex should not be sold. Women should not have to put up with seeing these establishments. This is discriminatory and leads to misogyny.

The presence of sexual entertainment venues (strip clubs) in city and town centres is incompatible with the equality act (under which 'sex' is a protected characteristic) as they create a misogynistic environment where women are less likely to feel safe and welcome. They promote and normalise sexism and the sexual objectification of women, which is linked to violence against women. By licencing such venues the council is not fulfilling it's equality obligations and is not promoting parity and harmony between men and women.

Sex "entertainment" is demeaning to women & girls & those involved should be offered exit strategies. It has a negative impact on the whole community & endorses the concept that women & girls can be commodified.

The draft policies' only aim in reality, is to serve and promote the belief that the sex industry is a 'harmless form of entertainment'. These male owned businesses only exist to profit from the selling and buying of young girls and women's bodies. Where any sex club exists there is always violence, abuse, rape, prostitution, drug addiction and the violation of young girls and women's human rights. In promoting and supporting the sex industry, you are enabling and perpetuating the belief that women are sexual objects to be used and abused by men for their sexual gratification, regardless of the consequences. Please take the time and undertake serious research; the sex trade industry is not a form of harmless entertainment! Research shows that over 67% of young girls and women in the sex trade industry suffer from Complex PTSD, and most are from backgrounds where they have suffered childhood sexual abuse and rape at the hands of men. Research the violent abuse of young girls and women in the sex film industry. Research the effects of pornography on young boys and their behaviour towards young girls. Look at the recent news reports of what is happening to young girls in schools and universities country-wide, who are the victims of sexual harassment and abuse, because of the influence of the sex trade industry. Research the domino effect of allowing sex clubs and sex cinemas to operate within local communities, where young girls and women are harassed and intimidated by Male punters who exit those venues at closing time. Closing your eyes to these realities allows men to set up sex trade businesses within the community, that ultimately aid and abet the sexual violation of young girls and women. Stand up and be counted for once and say no to an industry that from its very inception has traded in the buying and selling and violating of young girls and women purely for profit. If you continue to believe it is 'harmless entertainment', you are part of the problem!

I and my seven year old niece were harassed as a direct result of the presence of a strip club (they mentioned the club in their harassment of us and were due to visit it later). It was a frightening experience and showed the level of sexual entitlement these men felt towards women that they would harass me regardless of the presence of an impressionable child. I should mention, too, that this was in broad daylight during the afternoon. Many women have suffered far worse as, fuelled by alcohol, the late hour and time spent watching women being humiliated in sex shows, men have emerged from such venues. Does the council's Equality Policy not extend to the rights of women and child citizens to be free of harassment and abuse within and without sexual entertainment venues? If it doesn't then it's not much of an Equality Policy and should be amended. Your duty to women under equality law is clear and should not be shirked as this draft policy intends.

I think it highlights the oddness of trying to regulate odd behaviour.

Licensing these venues says its ok to treat women as sex objects, it is not for the council to do This. There are better ways for the economy to recover. Shame on you.

SEVs should demonstrate a safeguarding policy to protect staff and have a wellbeing offer to ensure staff are supported appropriately

other towns like blackpool have reduced the numbers to zero, why are you looking to increase it? it will turn bournemouth into more of a sleazy stag do filled toxic place at night than it already is. not the kind of place i want to live as a woman and a mum of young boys.

Bournemouth should have a zero tolerance policy to sex establishment and concentrate on providing care and jobs to existing lap dancers

Sexual exploitation almost always has a woman or girl as its victim. You people should be jailed for trying to give sexual exploitation legitimacy. EVERY council member who vote FOR this...should be made to sell their body every night for a year. Then have a re-vote. This socialist knows that you people are abhorrent parasites living off the misery of others.

This consultancy was not publicised in enough time for response. It is disappointing that the council feel that tourism equates to entertainment in this way.

You cannot police this. Conditions are pointless unless you're closely monitoring. You can buy sex in strip clubs, they still have their license. Opening more will lead to more prostitution. Which is illegal.

The sex industry has a hugely negative effect on the local area and residents. Drunk men spilling our propositioning any female, young or old. It attracts drug dealers and prostitution and makes the surrounding area unsafe

Three comments 1. We are better than this: I love the scale of the "Big Plan" - in its opening line it says "make BCP a place where people and businesses want to be"; is taking off the limits on the number of sex establishments really going to create a place where women feel safe and empowered, and families say "I want to come there for my holiday - or do we just want to attract the stag night groups: come on BCP, we can do so much better 2. Councillors might say that they will be strict in their licensing response - what about the future; others who follow may decide to push the boundaries and follow the money: don't give them that chance 3. And I would like to know that crime figures will be monitored - around such places, illegal immigration, trafficking, assault and sexual violence normally increases (look at Amsterdam and their work to reduce the size of the Red Light zone - why are we opening the doors to go the other direction) - will these figures be tracked and published?

If there is not a limit on these I am concerned that the opportunities for human trafficking/modern slavery victims be increased Regardless of not allowing venues in certain places, if there are more such venues it is likely to attract more groups such as stag/hens who will go to other places too/ this could be off putting for families and could affect the number of families who might be drawn to BCP. I believe the number of these venues continue to be restricted for these reasons

What on earth is there to be gained for the welfare and wellbeing of people by allowing more establishments that are known to cause addictive, destructive, harmful, exploitative behaviours? With a proven link to crime, sex trafficking, debt and social and relational breakdown?

Licensing Sex establishments legitimises the sexual objectification of women and girls. Such objectification is linked with violence against women and girls. Extensive research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. Objectification dehumanises those who are objectified, making it easier, by removing or weakening cultural taboos that prohibit violence, for men to be violent. That is the link. To license these exploitative set ups does not comply with all council's obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty to foster good relations between the sexes and would leave the Council open to litigation.

I feel taking the limit away would mean that Bournemouth would lose its attractiveness as a family resort and cause more young adults to visit the town making it uncomfortable for family groups

We need ZERO clubs. Women are harmed by these and attitudes of men towards women in the whole town are affected. This is unacceptable.

How will female students or visitors feel safe returning to halls or hotels at night? How will you really ensure all the regulations are upheld? No masturbation??? How will families feel as they shop round town? How is this policy suitable for a family & student friendly town? How does this policy work towards the Istanbul Convention's call to stop degrading media (article 17)?

Opening hours should be longer

I am sure the new BCP Council would want the best for the town - surely they can do better than this!!

Strip clubs are dangerous and Bournemouth clubs have become notorious for their rule breaking. They encourage inequality between the sexes. An equality impact assessment must be done otherwise the council allows the possibility of harm and discrimination and opens themselves up to legal challenge. They detract from Bournemouth's appeal and discourage visitors and residents from visiting the areas they are in. Women feel unsafe walking past at night and in the the day the areas feel unwelcoming. Allowing existing clubs to continue to operate without regular review is foolish, especially with the changing character of the area they reside in. I cannot see any area in BCP where a strip club would be appropriate and recommend the council adopt a policy of zero clubs, providing exit services for the women working in them. I truly believe this would be to the benefit of all, reducing harm, encouraging equality and improving Bournemouth's reputation.

This survey wording is t too restrictive. It makes the assumption that your policy proposal is the right way forward, ie tolerance / acceptance of these establishments 'if in the right places'. But they are never appropriate, nor is any location appropriate for them. Their impact negatively affects all women / men / everyone. You would not tolerate / be allowed openly racist venues, or paedophilia promoting venues, or bull-baiting. Get ahead of the game, BCP and disallow all these venues.

There should be no strip clubs allowed to operate as they help to create norms and a culture where women are objectified and sexualized. This effects women and girls of all ages. The presence of strip clubs has also been shown to increase sexual harassment, domestic violence and sexual violence against women.

Are there any positive or negative impacts of this proposal that you believe that BCP Council should take into account in relation to equalities or human rights? If so, are you able to provide any supporting information and suggest any ways in which the organisations could reduce or remove any potential negative impacts and increase any positive impacts?

I think BCP should be looking to follow the lead of other areas such as Bristol

Modern slavery, grooming, taking advantage of vulnerable women, to name a few of the issues surrounding this type of 'entertainment'

no

Temptations Spa is placed in a location where not many clientele know exists, which effects the place's business. And they do not employ any escorts to entertain male clients. And a couple of the adult stores should have private rooms that have "gloryholes" which makes the visit more entertaining. These ideas will not only increase these place's clientele visits but it would help local massage place's as some male clients visit there only for sexual services, which they do not do.

I cannot see what 'human rights' infringed or otherwise are by the presence or absence of sex establishments.

I have suggested that all Dancers be regulated in the same way as taxi drivers are.

There is no positive impacts by trying to introduce this policy it only will increase the harm that it will bring to the most vulnerable in our society and make some people richer it will only increase the use of drugs and unsociable disturbances to these little towns

Turns a blind eye to modern slavery it will make it easier more venues more people forced into this work

None that I can think of.

sexual establishments favour those with power and money (usually men) and use those who work in them as objects for their own pleasure. Although in theory everyone has a choice whether they work in such establishments or not, in practice many people who do feel their options are limited either for financial, educational reasons or through a history of abuse in their own families. These establishments also undermine marriage and warp people's idea of what healthy approaches to bodies and healthy sexual relationships are. The best way to remove potential negative impacts is to limit these establishments to the absolute minimum, place them as far away from the general public as possible and ensure that the people who work in them have access to counselling and support to find other employment and additional education which would improve their life chances.

More gay cinemas and area to meet in dark rooms please

Have BCP commissioned a study correlating to sexual harassment / intimidation / abuse and rape in the BCP area with those who buy porn, watch porn or who have attended a sex show or porn cinema? To stimulate and titillate someone can lead to abuse. What about the performers who may have been sex-trafficked or coerced into these shows or establishments?

see earlier comments

Venues offering sexual entertainment transgress the law of God. Sex should only take place between a man and woman who are married to each other - God's gift to mankind.

Neon advertising signage on, or near, the sex premises should be banned.
I believe Bcp should carry out spot checks to ensure there is no breach of the Slavery Act and that the women and men who are employed are properly cared for.
No
I feel the council are doing their best to where to human rights and equality issues
no
Prohibit them if not restrict significantly make sure they are located out of town, outside of residential areas, out of sight, inaccessible to general public
I'm surprised this question is even being posed; there will undoubtedly be situations where individuals conduct acts for money that they would otherwise not. The rights and dignity of all individuals must be paramount, therefore not adding to the possibility of this scenario should be top of BCPs agenda.
No
Define an area of the city so that everyone knows what goes on there - like Amsterdam has the red light district - and so that people know that by choice they can stay clear of it. ...or not...
I believe it is about choice. If women wish to be involved in this way, then it is upto them. If women do not want to be involved or become dancers, then again it is up to them. But I do not believe that women should not tell other women what they can and cannot do. I have read the documents produced by lobby groups incl the Fawcett Society. I have yet to see a proven correlation between sexual assaults and SEVs. In fact I believe there is a higher risk of sexual assaults resulting in a night time economy of nightclubs etc. Does this we then ban all these establishments too? Centre to all of this, should be the voice of those who work in this industry particularly the dancers. I would like to understand if they feel empowered by the choice to do what they like with THEIR own bodies. And do we really empower women by banning them from carrying out the roles that they wish to? I don't frequent these clubs, but actually I quite admire the women who feel comfortable enough with themselves to stand up there & dance.
The proposal does not set out adequate equality and diversity policies for licensing these establishments.
Women should have the right to be safe. Is the council going to (or does it already) research the impact of these businesses on the levels of sexual assault in the areas around them and how they differ from comparable areas without them?
Physical and mental health of employees is paramount.
Size of venues and opening times could be an issue Also who pays extra costs of policing extra venues?
Not good for the young to be exposed to this shop
The negative equalities impacts are well documented - see previous comment. The very existence of these organisations breaches the equality act in several ways. Gendered nature of the clubs Lack of employment rights The council is also failing its public sector equality duty by endangering women in the public realm who are propositioned by over sexes men leaving these clubs. The sex industry, of which these clubs are part of, contributes to rising violence and sexual violence against women. Women who work in these clubs will tell you what men say they would like to do to them. Why is the council supporting this exploitation and entry point to sexual objectification and abuse against women. You have the power within the law to end them, use it. Set your limit at zero

No
obviously vulnerable women, sex trafficked women and drug addicted women, runaways etc are ruthlessly exploited by this degenerate industry. if you ask them they will lie and say they are happy to do it - they say these things under duress.
Cost of ensuring policing of the sexual establishments.
In view of the murder of Sarah Everard earlier this year and the increasing issues around Violence against Women and Girls we should be doing far more to protect the vulnerable and should be limiting (and preferably reducing) the number of such establishments in our area. this is not an area of business we should be either encouraging or areas of tourism we should be touting for. We should accept that we have a strong LGBTQ+ community but it should not be assumed that there is any reason for this sort of establishment to be expanded.
it sends the wrong message to residents and visitors, we should not encourage this type of shop or entertainment in the area
"A local authority ... must look long and hard at the adverse impact on gender equality of letting such an enterprise exist at all ... Otherwise it will be acting unlawfully and will be subject to legal challenge." [Human Rights expert Louise Whitfield of Deighton Pierce, Glynn on the licensing of strip clubs]
I believe that sexual entertainment venues encourage men, and some women, to regard women as secondary citizens who are not equal to men. Women are exploited as sexual objects and are shown as commodities who will strip and dance for men for money. This can enforce the degrading notion that women's function is to serve men and can have an impact on how all women are perceived. Research has shown that the presence of lap dancing clubs increases demand for nearby prostitution services. The areas where the lap dancing clubs are can become no-go areas for women and girls. These clubs undermine efforts to enshrine genuine equality between men and women.
I was born in Moldova, and Moldova has probably the highest number of abandoned children. Especially young girls get groomed by sex traffickers straight out of orphanages. Sometimes even the orphanage staff or local authorities are involved in the who thing, where payments are made. Then those girls end up in the EU (UK is out now) where there are no borders, no checks, nothing. One night they are in Italy being prostituted, the next in France, and then in Germany, and so on. The whole EU is an open play-field for these people because of open borders. These girls end up in UK as well, sometimes with wrong passports from EU countries. They are forced top say they enjoy it and they want to carry on, but they don't. This is my biggest issue with this industry. There is a lot of suffering in there. That is why, all performers must have regular confidential meetings where they are assessed to see if by any chance they are forced to do something they don't want by another person or by their life circumstances. Also, by lifting the number of establishments that can be licensed, it open Bournemouth up for becoming (or being known for) something the local residents would not be proud. Going from three establishments to infinite number of establishments is a mistake.
. the reducing of women to preforming sexual acts essentially reduces them to objects that can be purchased by men . it fails to protect women with fair employment practices such as sick pay/maternity leave/ holiday pay etc . I also understand that Bristol has used the same legislation to ban such premises from operating and they should be contacted to see if there is case law or precedence by the l.a.

It is good that these venues are regulated in order to make them safe for those who work in them however I think it will not add to BCP as an attractive place to visit by allowing more. It may in fact be detrimental to tourism and could potentially increase criminal activity.

As a woman I suffer sexual harassment, misogyny and discrimination because men and boys are being shown its ok to objectify women. Women's bodies are something that can be bought. Women's only worth comes from their subordinate role in satisfying men's desire. Not only that, but licensed sex establishments pull moderate men and boys who would not seek out these unhealthy relationships with women to get pressured into going and buying into the toxic masculinity it promotes. SEVs and the like create no go areas in town for me as a woman due to the threat of sexual violence and harassment. I've been harassed outside spearmint rhino and avoid that part of town after dark completely.

Women are not commodities. This puts women involved in the industries in direct danger and encounters violence and human trafficking The women not involved in the industries will be directly affected by misogynistic behaviours from men believing that this is somehow fun/fine/what women expect

Any increase or concentration of these venues would have an obvious impact on women and girls, making us feel at best intimidated and unwelcome, at worst unsafe and threatened. An increase in violent or sexual crimes would be expected. An increase or concentration of these venues would be potentially distressing to elderly residents, and the "no go" areas which could be created would be harmful to family life. I would also be concerned about how such venues might make trans people feel. The ONLY people who will not feel threatened, saddened, uncomfortable or intimidated by these venues are likely to be straight men. This is the clearest example of an equality issue.

No positive impacts. It will attract people who are likely to offend outside of these clubs. Women will find it even less safe in Bournemouth. It will increase the number of women being exploited.

As mentioned above take notice of the work of local authorities working to improve respect for women in their night time economies - The commodification of women involved in the SEV's has implications for the attitudes of men using these establishments and consequentially for the women with whom they live and work and those men's enhanced attitudes to believe they can buy women and sex.

There is no group with a protected name - gender. Can I suggest you change your lawyers?

It discriminates against me as a woman. I want to be free from being treated as a body there to please men. By licensing sex establishments, you're feeding that idea. I've been sexually assaulted by men who frequent these strip clubs in Bournemouth and I know exactly where they get their sense of entitlement to women's bodies from. You should be trying to address this, not promote it. The strip clubs in Bournemouth mock people with dwarfism. In licensing them, you're supporting this disability discrimination too. When my son told his friends he didn't want to go into a strip club in Bournemouth, they mocked him for being gay - using sexuality as an insult to encourage him to go in. This is commonplace. Strip clubs facilitate this kind of homophobia too.

The council should not support an industry that exploits women and girls, and increases human trafficking, paedophilia, rape and assault, for profit.

You are taking no interest in the well being of women or children. So whose interests would this serve? Certainly no-one from a protected group! The way forward is clear, a zero toleration policy.

There should be none.

Gender is NOT part of OR defined in the EA2010 act. Why do you have that here? It is ONLY sex (male/man; female/woman) which is solely binary and immutable. Gender is *only* mentioned in reassignment which affects a teeny tiny proportion of the population and those are majority males most of which have a *sexual fetish* about being seen as women. Which is offensive to women. Women are NOT an "identity". How dare you MISREPRESENT the law. Again, how can *any* sexual entertainment venue/film help anyone with any of the protected characteristics stated in the EA2010 act? It DOES NOT. It plays into the hands of those who: 1) View Women (in particular) as less than human and as little more than a *sex toy*. This is demeaning and is against the protection of Women/Girls/Females as per the EA2010 act. 2) It allows those who use Women/Girls through direct or indirect methods in performing for the sexual gratification of others, particularly men. This again is demeaning to Women/Girls/Females. As a council you are advocating, aiding and abetting Violence against Women and Girls. You are advocating, aiding and abetting the effective training of boys/men to view women/girls are something less than human. You as a council are therefore complicit in Violence against Women/Girls and demeaning them which would contravene the EA 2010 act as you are NOT protecting them as per the Act expects. Do better.

see previous response

Women's bodies should never be for sale. Objectification of women dehumanises them. Pornography is violent and exploitative. It normalises acts which would otherwise be classed as criminal. One cannot consent to one's own exploitation. The majority of pornography is violent and abusive. All of these contribute to sex trafficking of women and children and of abuse of women and children.

Given that all those being employed are female, there would be a good case that this policy, by enabling male employers to exploit female employees is contrary to the Sex Discrimination Act. Such establishments have also been shown to increase aggression towards women outside the premises, which is contrary to the Licensing objectives. The most effective measure to address this inequality would be to reduce the number of such licences, not to enable more of them. For those who seek such services, the internet provides ample entertainment. I do not live in the area but do have a child who has applied to the university so am concerned to learn that there might be an increase in this type of establishment.

You have not undertaken and equalities impact

An Equality Impact Assessment considering the impact on women should definitely be done.

No location where strip clubs are appropriate Adopt a Policy for ZERO clubs Existing clubs MUST be challengeable on the grounds of location Stop licensing all existing clubs and support all lap dancers out

The proposal to allow sexual services or sexual entertainment to be sold in Bournemouth is not compatible with human rights. Such services and entertainments exploit and degrade women and debase men who watch them. Allowing them is also corrupting to children who learn that women can be bought and sold for men's pleasure. They are also dangerous to women and children who are not involved in them. The evidence from Leeds shows that when men know that there are women for sale in an area they treat all women and girls in the area as though they are for sale.

No appropriate location for strip joints exists, there is not one place where it would ever be acceptable. Every council should have a policy for ZERO clubs in their locality. Existing clubs must be challengeable and all lap dancers and strippers should be supported out of the industry. It's not work, it's pure exploitation.

Firstly, the Equality Act 2010 establishes the protected characteristic of 'sex' not 'sex/gender' as you detail here. <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/4> verifies this immediately. When establishing this kind of policy it is important to realise that in terms of sex shops and other such 'entertainment' venues the main group affected in terms of their human rights will be women. Here women refers to female people granted protection under the Equality Act as members of a sex class. Legality of acts or actions doesn't guarantee an avoidance of harm, particularly to women in the 'sex entertainment industry'. The council must ensure that data are recorded, investigations carried out, and harm assessments conducted with the specific aim of protecting women, who are almost always the victims or sufferers of harm in this particular 'industry'. Anything less than this would be a dereliction of the duty of care towards women. Whilst there may exist a path through this needle it is incumbent on the council to make the prevention of harm its first and overriding priority. Thank you.

As mentioned before, these establishments are inappropriate because they damage the councils ability to promote equality and diversity. They provide loci for the abuse of human rights. Setting a policy of zero establishments and not renewing existing licenses will allow the council to fulfil its responsibility in these areas.

Women are fully human - not a collection of body parts for male "entertainment". Adopt a Policy for ZERO strip clubs, sex shops and sex cinemas. Existing clubs MUST be challengeable on the grounds of location. Stop licensing all existing clubs and support all lap dancers to get out.

Lapdancing venues are just a front for other illegal activities such as prostitution and drugs. There are no places in which they should be licensed. These venues should be shut down and not relicensed. Many women are forced into lapdancing by pimps. These venues are a front for sexual slavery and have a negative impact on the local area. They add to the inequalities between men and women and encourage sexual violence against women.

Given that equal rights covers sex/gender, women have a right to be considered as equal human beings, not sex objects. If you look at the matter from that perspective, you will see that sex clubs have no place in 2021.

Adopt a Policy for ZERO clubs Stop licensing all existing clubs and support all lap dancers out

<p>Women as a sex class are exploited in numerous ways because of their female anatomy. Sex establishments capitalise of this power imbalance in society and this power imbalance causes great harm to women and girls. It embeds sexist ideas into young men (and women) that the exploitation of a woman's body is a man's right and a woman's duty. It's time we grew a healthy society where girls and women are not objectified, where men as individuals and companies as drivers of this culture are held to a higher standard of respect and decency. If we ever stand a chance of achieving a better world for all, we must address sex inequality. We must also expect better of men. men will not die if they cannot masturbate in a sex club, they will not die if they do not have access to women in all aspects. Men do not have a right to demand sexual attention, to be titillated not catered for when the end result is objectification and commodification of female human beings. We can do better and we demand an end to this for the sakes of a better society.</p>
<p>Shut down these places because they are sexist, racist and classist. Violates women's rights to equality with men.</p>
<p>Sexist businesses that rely on sexual objectification of women do nothing but increase violence against women, sexist behaviour, street harassment & more. As a woman I've been subjected to street harassment outside a strip club close to where I worked. And I'm sick of women having to police themselves because of men's sense of entitlement to women's bodies thanks, thanks to venues like this. Please do better for the women and girls in your community. It is just not fair, it is sexist, it ignores women as a sex class and a protected characteristic in equalities legislation.</p>
<p>Allowing any of these sex establishments violates women's and girl's rights. These establishments promote misogyny and put women and girls at risk. Don't allow any more such venue; close existing venues and help get women out</p>
<p>Allowing venues to operate where we know there is a high chance of occurrence of modern slavery and/or trafficking is incompatible with the council's anti-slavery policy. Existing establishments are not being policed sufficiently and a blind eye being turned to suspected incidents of slavery, trafficking and coercion.</p>
<p>Someone is making money from these establishments otherwise they wouldn't be opening them. Women/girls are being trafficked from all around the world. If this was a kennel for dogs it wouldn't be allowed. This is purely a way of leeching off a woman's body.</p>
<p>The presence of sexual entertainment venues (strip clubs) in city and town centres is incompatible with the equality act (under which 'sex' is a protected characteristic) as they create a misogynistic environment where women are less likely to feel safe and welcome. They promote and normalise sexism and the sexual objectification of women, which is linked to violence against women. By licencing such venues the council is not fulfilling it's equality obligations and is not promoting parity and harmony between men and women.</p>
<p>Stop the objectification of females.</p>
<p>I would recommend that an impact study should be completed before agreeing to continue to license any sex entertainment premises.</p>

Please undertake legitimate research on how the sex industry harms young girls, women and local communities. <https://theconversation.com/no-harm-done-sexual-entertainment-districts-make-the-city-a-more-threatening-place-for-women-81091>
<https://metro.co.uk/2021/03/15/strip-clubs-could-be-banned-in-bristol-to-protect-women-14244847/> <https://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/UnsafeUnfit>
<https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1202&context=mcnair>
<http://www.womenssupportproject.co.uk/userfiles/WSP%20-%20Adult%20entertainment%20or%20exploitation%20-%20final.pdf>
<https://www.grand-island.com/Home/ShowDocument?id=10354>
<https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22376>

While I applaud the range of limits with regard to location of sexual entertainment venues, it doesn't go far enough. There have been serious incidents at the three current strip clubs and they should all have been closed already. Even if all were run to the highest standards, The Equality Act 2010 states that behaviour which is meant to, or has the effect of, violating one's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment is unlawful. All sexual entertainment venues have this effect, both within and without the premises. On this basis the Council should set a policy for zero such venues within the borough and take steps to revoke all current licences.

Support for workers to find alternative means of employment.

It will leave me scared to go out in town. It's bad enough with a few strip clubs but more would be awful. It's not safe for women as is. It also will encourage young girls to enter sex work which leads to a life of disadvantage. Most sex workers are victims of domestic or sexual abuse. They need support not a policy which will lead to work which retraumatizes them. This policy discriminates against women.

I see significant negative impacts for women in general, for younger women, for single mothers and for women living in deprivation. The policy seems to ignore that women working for SEVs are potentially in a vulnerable positions and may have chosen this work under duress. A 2019 Government report explored the relationship between living on low levels of benefits and resorting to 'survival sex' <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmworpen/83/8304.htm>
A BBC article explains the situation: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-50170297#:~:text=The%20government%20said%20it%20was,food%2C%20shelter%20and%20clean%20clothes>. This is especially relevant as we come out of the pandemic - there's a range of information to show that the poorest in the country have been significantly hit financially and in terms of employment. The furlough scheme is finishing soon - should the council effectively be endorsing sex establishment work at a time when many will be desperate for whatever work they can get? I am concerned about the potential here for becoming a 'hub' of SEVs and the attitudes of the people (men) that will be drawn here, and then what my teenage daughter's experience will be as a resident of Bournemouth. Our women (and this impacts especially young women) need to be protected from the potential negative behaviour - we know that those visiting an area show less respect for the place and it's residents, and less so when drunk. I grew up in Bournemouth and have my own significant negative experiences of harassment by men on nights out in Bournemouth - including in front of SEVs. What protections have been put in place? The correlation between negative attitudes towards women and use of SEV is explored here: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0886260515600874>. What

message are we sending young women about how we value their contribution and how they can be expected to be treated?

as a women sex establishments like these place me as a second class citizen. they feed a culture where i'm judged by what i look like and how i please men. my value does not lie in that but by licensing these places you're telling the world it does. it's sexist, outdated and will lead to more harm coming to women in bristol and beyond. my friend works in a strip club and only does it to pay the rent. she's regularly assaulted and abused and sees the worst kind of men who then pile onto the streets and harass women who aren't paid to be sexually objectified. women are discriminated against by this policy and in allowing it you are facilitating what will follow.

It's incredible that in the day and age of sex equaitiky vulnerable women should be exploited for the sexual gratification of men, we should be able to challenge existing clubs on the grounds of location, and stop licensing all existing clubs

Yes, jailing or removing from power all Cllrs who support this filthy idea to sexually exploit the poor and the vulnerable would be a positive act.

The protection of young people in relation to sex tourism. With over 18, 000 students living near to these venues, what measures are being taken to protect them?

I'm a woman and I face daily discrimination which is exacerbated by and based on the idea of women's values lying only in their looks and how they please men having more of these establishments will lead to more of that. I'm terrified that it's about to get even harder to be seen as equal as a woman in Bournemouth.

Before the pandemic older people often told me that they no longer go into town because of fear - do sex clubs help to reduce that fear, and if not then is this impacting their human rights (under "age")

I refer you to the similar proposal made in Angus, and the responses made by 'Violence against women partnership,' and 'Womens Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre' therein: https://www.angus.gov.uk/sites/angus-cms/files/2020-01/11_0.pdf

To tolerate such exploitative set ups will be to further promote discrimination against women. Women who work in sevs and in the porn industry are seriously harmed by the sex trade- just as women who are in abusive relationships are. Similarly, the women often do not acknowledge or realise the harm until they have exited the abusive situation- research interview8ng exited strippers illustrates this. The huge harm is the psychological trauma due to dissociation, which is necessary to enable the women to cope with the objectification inherent in the sex trade. Porn in film and stripping in real time are just forms of the same 5h8ng, just like porn in print- all sexually objectifying women. It teaches girls that this is ok and boys that this is how to view and treat girls. It all fuels the huge amount of violence to women and girls in our society- we really should not be surprised that so many of us women are raped and murdered when places like Bournemouth have councillors that think it is ok to permit such harmful places to exist.

The council could license zero sex shops, sex cinemas and sexual entertainment venues. This would be mindful of the exploitation of women in all these establishments. Lap dancers should be helped with realistic exit strategies. Women and girls are doubly discriminated against in areas with "sex" venues; firstly by the exploitation of the workers who are overwhelmingly female, and secondly by making the areas containing these venues and shops into essentially no go areas for women and girls.

The human rights of those who want to live in an area where family life is supported and valued rather than investing and supporting sex entertainment

Sex is a protected characteristic in the Equality Act 2010. Women have a right to live free of exploitation. Women who work in these clubs should be supported to move into less harmful work and all clubs should be closed.

The duty to protect women will be negatively impacted by this policy. For women in the establishments or portrayed on film. Look at the Istanbul Convention. Also for the partners of customers who may find themselves pressurised into secure behaviour they do not want. Also for women walking around or on public transport who are more likely to receive unwanted sexual glances or worse.

QUITE SIMPLY SEVS ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH A COUNCIL DUTY TO FOSTER GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SEXES AND REDUCE HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN . THE LEGAL JUDGEMENT IN RELATION TO A SPECIFIC SEV IN SHEFFIELD WAS CLEAR THAT THE LICENSING BREACHED THE COUNCILS EQUALITY OBLIGATION TO ALL WOMEN . EQUAL ACCESS TO SEVS EITHER FOR WORK OR LEISURE IS NOT AN ANSWER TO THE CHALLENGE OF REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND SEVS PERPETUATE ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS WHICH CONTINUE TO COMPROMISE THE SAFETY OF WOMEN AND OTHERWISE MAINTAIN DISCRIMINATORY ATTITUDES . THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT SEVS ARE NOT SAFE, CANNOT BE MADE SAFE AND FOSTER CRIMINALITY . (see NOT BUYING IT AND SHEFFIELD STOP IT NOW)

The proposed policy would harm relations between the sexes and disproportionately harm women. An equality impact assessment must be undertaken.

see earlier comments.

Strip clubs are sex discrimination against women Violate women's human rights to be free from violence and to have dignity