

LICENSING COMMITTEE



Report subject	Proposal to review current standard conditions attached to sex establishment licences
Meeting date	17 September 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The standard conditions attached to Sex Establishment Licences were adopted following the formation of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council in 2019 and have remained largely unchanged since that time. Officers recommend that a review of the current conditions is supported by members to ensure they remain relevant, effective and reflective of current operational practices, licensing standards and regulatory expectations. Officers have identified a number of conditions where the wording is outdated, lacks sufficient clarity, duplicates legislative requirements or does not adequately reflect current safeguarding and operational practices.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Members approve a review of the Sex Establishment Licence conditions and appoint members to support the review by creating a member officer working party. Once conditions are reviewed the draft amended conditions will be referred back to committee for consideration and approval
Reason for recommendations	A key principle of the review is to ensure that all standard licence conditions are clear, explicit and self-explanatory. Conditions must be capable of being readily understood by licence holders, premises managers, enforcement officers, responsible authorities and members of the public without requiring further interpretation. Clearly drafted conditions support consistency and transparency in the licensing regime by setting out the standards expected of licensed premises in unambiguous terms. This assists licence holders in understanding their responsibilities and enables members of the public to have confidence that compliance can be assessed against clearly defined requirements.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Kieron Wilson, Portfolio Holder Housing and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Laura Ambler, Corporate Director of Wellbeing
Report Authors	Sarah Rogers, Principal Licensing Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The licensing of sex establishments is principally governed by Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended. The legislation enables local authorities that have adopted the provisions to licence and regulate sex establishments within their area.
2. The Act provides for the licensing of:
Sex shops;
Sex cinemas; and
Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs).
3. The category of Sexual Entertainment Venue was introduced through the Policing and Crime Act 2009, which amended Schedule 3 to provide local authorities with enhanced powers to regulate premises offering relevant sexual entertainment before a live audience.
4. Schedule 3 provides local authorities with broad discretionary powers to determine applications and to attach such conditions to licences as they consider appropriate.
5. Paragraph 13 of schedule 3 enables local authorities to impose standard conditions applicable to all sex establishment licences of a particular type, and in addition paragraph 8 permits the authority to impose further conditions and restrictions on individual licences where considered appropriate on grant or renewal.
6. These powers assist local authorities to effectively regulate matters relating to the management, conduct and supervision of licensed premises and in promoting the safe and responsible operation of sex establishments.

Need for Standard Conditions

7. Standard conditions provide a consistent and transparent framework for the operation of licensed sex establishments across the Council area.
8. The conditions establish the minimum standards expected of licence holders and provide clarity regarding the management and operation of licensed premises.
9. Well-drafted conditions assist licence holders in understanding their legal obligations and support the public in understanding the standards applicable to licensed premises

10. In addition, officers rely on these conditions to support proportionate compliance checks and any necessary enforcement activity
11. Conditions must be sufficiently clear and precise so that all parties understand what is required. Ambiguous or outdated wording can create uncertainty, increase the potential for inconsistent interpretation and make compliance assessment more difficult.

Review of Existing Conditions

12. Officers suggest that the current standard conditions at Appendix 1 should be reviewed to improve clarity and remove ambiguity and to align conditions with current safeguarding and public protection expectations.
13. By undertaking such a review, we ensure conditions remain proportionate and capable of effective enforcement; and provide transparency for operators, regulators and the public.
14. The review has not sought to fundamentally alter the regulatory approach adopted by the Council. Most amendments will relate to drafting improvements, clarification of expectations and the updating of operational requirements.
15. The intention is to ensure that revised conditions will be structured to ensure that licence holders can more readily understand their obligations while enabling officers to assess compliance against clearly defined standards.

Options Appraisal

16. Members are asked to consider the recommendation and either
 - a. Support the recommendation and form a member/officer working party to review the current standard conditions or
 - b. Decide to maintain the current standard conditions

Summary of financial implications

17. There are no financial implications work will be undertaken within current resources

Summary of legal implications

18. The Council has discretion under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to impose standard conditions on sex establishment licences. The Council's standard conditions must be reasonable, proportionate and capable of effective enforcement. The purpose of this review is to ensure that the Council's standard conditions remain lawful, appropriate and fit for purpose.
19. The standard conditions will apply to sex establishment licences granted or renewed by the Council. Applicants who are dissatisfied with conditions imposed on a licence may have a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court. Should any appeal be brought, the Council may incur legal costs in defending its decision

Summary of human resources implications

20. There are no human resources implications.

Summary of sustainability impact

21. There are no sustainability impacts.

Summary of public health implications

22. There are no public health implications

Summary of equality implications

23. An Equality Impact will be taking place during the review process and a document will be provided once the review is completed.

Summary of risk assessment

24. Conditions should reflect the needs of such businesses, and the licensing regime aims to protect customers, performers and address potential wider public impacts of the licensable activities. Poorly worded or outdated conditions are not enforceable and undermine the ability of the licensing regime to regulate the licensable activities.

Background papers

[Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1982](#)

[Policing and Crime Act 2009](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – current standard conditions