

Committee:	Date:	Title of Report:
General Purposes Urgency Sub- Committee	25 October 2004	Approval of Licensing Policy Statement – Special Council Meeting
Classification General Release		Report of Director of Legal and Administrative Services
Wards Involved:	None	
Policy Context:	Management of the Council	
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications arising from this report	
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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report advises of the need to arrange an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council to approve the Licensing Policy Statement.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Council be recommended to hold an Extraordinary Meeting on Monday 13 December 2004 at 7.30pm or on the rising of the Cabinet Meeting whichever is the later.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Cabinet is due to consider the Licensing Policy Statement and the results of the consultation, due to conclude on 1 November 2004, at its meeting on 13 December 2004.

- 3.2 According to the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State all decisions in relation to a Statement of Licensing Policy, including decisions to approve a draft for consultation, must be taken by full Council. The Director of Legal and Administrative Services has advised that the Guidance is incorrect and that the decisions on the policy are ones for the executive. However, because the Council is obliged to have regard to the Guidance, and for the avoidance of doubt, it is proposed that the final draft of the policy after consultation be put to full Council for approval on the recommendation of the Cabinet.
- 3.3 The Policy Statement has to be approved within one month of the First Appointed Day, which is on 7 February 2005. Accordingly the Extraordinary Council Meeting will need to be held no later than 6 January 2005.
- 3.4 In view of the Christmas holiday period and following consultation with the respective Party Whips it is suggested that the Extraordinary Council Meeting be held on Monday 13 December 2004 at 7.30pm. This is the same evening as the Cabinet Meeting and the Leader has consented to the Cabinet Meeting being held in the Council House and to commence at 6.00pm so as to facilitate the holding of the Council Meeting.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 These are set out in paragraph 3.2.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The costs of holding an additional Council meeting will be met from within existing estimates.

If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect one of the background papers please contact Mick Steward on 020 7641 3134; Email Address msteward@westminster.gov.uk. Fax Number 020 7641 2042.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Constitution.