Draft Statement of Licensing Policy - Proposed Changes:

All references to Policy 2022, amended to 2027

Contents – Update and include new sections (covered in more detail below)

Section 1 – Statement of Licensing Policy (Executive Summary)

Executive Summary – Updated introductory narrative to reflect current evidence on alcohol-related harm, including greater emphasis on alcohol consumption within the home, pre-loading among younger people, harmful drinking in older adults and the Council's partnership approach to reducing alcohol-related harm.

Executive Summary – Updated references to partnership working to reflect the current role of the Licensing Enforcement Group (LEG) and wider multi-agency working.

Paragraph 2 – Updated demographic information, including the latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) population estimates, revised description of the district and updated geographical references.

Paragraph 5 – Updated the Council's vision to reflect support for vibrant daytime and evening economies whilst reinforcing the need for responsible operation of licensed premises and proportionate enforcement.

Paragraphs 6–8 – Updated descriptions of the Responsible Authorities Steering Groups and Licensing Enforcement Group (LEG), reflecting current partnership arrangements, intelligence-led enforcement and best practice initiatives.

Paragraphs 9-12 – Updated alcohol-specific mortality statistics using the latest Office for National Statistics data and removed outdated statistics. Replaced historic Public Health England information with updated evidence on alcohol-related harm, alcohol consumption, health inequalities and wider social impacts in South Gloucestershire.

Paragraph 13 – Updated the section on health inequalities with current evidence and references to the Chief Medical Officer's reports and alcohol harm research.

Section 1.6 – Clarified the Council's approach to licence conditions to reinforce that conditions will only be imposed where appropriate, proportionate and necessary to promote the licensing objectives.

Paragraph 26 – New policy guidance added regarding off-sales, home delivery services and remote alcohol sales, including consideration of risks associated with underage sales, proxy purchasing, public nuisance and alcohol-related harm.

Section 2 – Legislation, Policies and Strategies

Paragraphs 30–34 – Expanded guidance on the relationship between planning and licensing, including clarification of planning considerations, delivery services, public nuisance and the Agent of Change principle.

Section 2.5 – Updated sections relating to:

- Cultural strategies.
- Transport.

- Equality duties.
- Recovery strategy.
- High Street regeneration.
- Support for the daytime and evening economy.

Section 4 – Administration of Licensing Functions

Section 4.1.7 – Substantially revised drugs policy to reflect current Home Office guidance, risk-based approaches and partnership working.

Section 4.5 – Updated Temporary Event Notice guidance to reflect current statutory guidance and legislative changes.

Section 5 – Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Section 5 – Updated guidance regarding crime prevention measures, age verification, drug prevention, partnership initiatives and crime prevention expectations for applicants.

Section 8 – Protection of Children from Harm

Section 8.5 – Included to reflect nighttime safety and Violence against women and girls

Section 8.6- Included to reflect Martyn's Law

Appendices

Appendices 1–5 – Updated Responsible Authority details and list of consultees information where necessary.

Overall Summary

The majority of amendments comprise:

- Updating legislation, statutory guidance and demographic information.
- Refreshing public health evidence and alcohol-related statistics.
- Strengthening references to partnership working and enforcement.
- Introducing guidance on off-sales and alcohol delivery services.
- Updating planning and licensing guidance.
- Modernising equality, transport and cultural strategy references.
- General drafting, formatting and administrative amendments throughout the document.