

#### 4. DRAFT ALCOHOL POLICY

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The purpose of this report is to update Regulatory and Consents Committee members on the seminar held on 31 March 2003 to consider the Council's draft Alcohol Policy, and to recommend the next steps in the process.

##### BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting of 21 November 2002, the Council **resolved** the following:

*"That the officers be requested to report back to the Committee (Regulatory and Consents) with a holistic draft Sale of Liquor Policy agreement, as outlined in the report, that would form a document for consultation with stakeholders."*

A Regulatory and Consents Committee seminar was held on Monday 31 March 2003 to consider the first draft of the Alcohol Policy. All Councillors were invited to that seminar to participate in discussions on the document.

As a result of issues identified at that seminar, it is proposed that an Alcohol Policy Discussion Document be prepared. It will:

- (a) Consider the appropriate structure of the Alcohol Policy.
- (b) Include linkages to be expressed (eg responsible gambling policy; city plan issues such as noise, location, hours of operation; suitability of licence holders; street furniture policy; liquor ban report; and aims of a "business friendly society").
- (c) Discuss topics raised during the seminar (regulatory controls, special licences, protected days etc).
- (d) Include non regulatory measures (liquor forum etc).

Once the Alcohol Policy Discussion Document has been prepared it is intended that a further Council Seminar will be held on 5 May 2003. Following that seminar, the Alcohol Policy Discussion Document will then go formally to the Regulatory and Consents Committee in May 2003 where any necessary changes will be able to be discussed, and the preliminary consultation work can be identified.

The Alcohol Policy Discussion Document will then go to the May 2003 Council meeting before going out for discussion. It is intended that the results of the discussions with stakeholders will feed into the development of the 'policy proper'. In July/August 2003 a Proposed Alcohol Policy will be brought to the Regulatory and Consents Committee and assessed to see what type of consultation is necessary in light of issues that may have arisen during the discussion phase.

**Recommendation:** That the Committee approve the two step process now proposed in the report whereby an Alcohol Policy Discussion Document is prepared for discussions with stakeholders, prior to drafting of a definitive Alcohol Policy.