

7. POLICY RELATING TO SEX SHOPS - PAPER 'C'

Matter for Consideration

To consider a recommendation from the Public Protection Sub Committee to review the policy relating to the licensing of sex shops in view of a decision taken by that Sub Committee.

Information

On 20<sup>th</sup> October 1993, the Council agreed that Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – Control of Sex Establishments would apply throughout Blackpool with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 1994. The Council also approved standard conditions for sex establishments licences. Following statutory advertisement and approval of licence fees six applications were received and the Licensing Sub Committee considered the six applications against a pre-determined policy of limiting licences to particular areas and allowing only two to be granted. Two applications were subsequently granted.

This policy has been revisited a number of times since then but each time it has been agreed to restrict the number of sex shops in the inner locality to two.

However, at the meeting of the Public Protection Sub Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2005, it was agreed to grant a third sex shop licence based on the merits of the individual application. The Sub Committee consequently at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005 agreed to recommend this Committee to change the policy accordingly. Attached at Paper 'C', is the report considered by that Sub Committee which gives more detailed information.

Financial Considerations

Nil

Legal Considerations

The Council's Constitution currently states that one of the functions of the Public Protection Sub Committee is as follows "Power to license sex shops and sex cinemas."

This Committee will also be asked to confirm whether the decision on reviewing and amending the policy in relation to sex shop licences in the future should also be delegated to the Public Protection Sub Committee, or undertaken by the this Committee.

Personnel Considerations

Nil

Community Safety Considerations

Nil

Relevant Officer

Nil

Background Papers

Nil

## Recommendations

1. To consider the recommendation of the Public Protection Sub Committee so that the policy now allows three sex shops in “relevant localities”, within the Borough of Blackpool”, to be licensed.
2. To consider whether to formally delegate the power to review and amend the policy to licence sex shops and determine their localities to the Public Protection Sub Committee.