

## THE LICENSING POLICY OBJECTIVES

### 3. PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

- 3.1 The Council places considerable importance on the prevention of crime and disorder and will fulfil its duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the District.
- 3.2 Licensed premises, especially those offering late night/early morning entertainment, alcohol and refreshment for large numbers of people, if not properly managed, can sometimes be a source of crime and disorder problems.
- 3.3 The Licensing Authority recommends that licensees of premises develop Operating Schedules that address these issues from the design of the premises through to the daily operating of the business.
- 3.4 In developing an Operating Schedule, applicants may wish to seek advice from the Licensing Authority or Gloucestershire Police. When planning and preparing Operating Schedules applicants may take into account local planning and transport policies, tourism, cultural and crime and disorder reduction strategies as appropriate.
- 3.5 The Licensing Authority along with the Police and Trading Standards fully supports the aims and objectives of the Gloucester LVA/Pubwatch Online Scheme and encourages the use of the Publink Radio System. The Authority will also continue to work with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Safer Community Teams, Neighbourhood Projects, Ward Councillors and others to help reduce crime and disorder associated with licensed premises.
- 3.6 The prevention of crime and disorder may, for example, be promoted by employing registered door supervisors, ensuring all staff have appropriate training, incorporating a search policy into the entry conditions of the premises, the location and standard of any CCTV on the premises, and the inclusion of written dispersal policies.

#### **\*Door Supervisors**

*From 23 August 2004, all staff undertaking Door Supervisor duties on licensed premises are required to be licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). The Licensing Authority recommends that premises currently using door staff will continue to do so, and that premises who operate in the City Centre or premises seeking to change their style of operation, in particular to a music and dancing venue, will employ the use of door staff.*

- 3.7 Applicants for late night entertainment and liquor premises are referred to the Home Office Guidance 'Safer Clubbing' in relation to the control of illegal drugs on their premises. -It is a good idea to agree a protocol with Gloucestershire Police on the handling of illegal drugs found on their premises.

### **Cumulative Impact – Special Policies**

- 3.8 Where there is evidence that a particular area of the District is already suffering adverse effects on the licensing objectives from the concentration of late night premises, when determining any further application for premises within the area identified when relevant representations have been received and upheld the Licensing Authority will take into account:

- the character of the surrounding area;
  - the impact of the licence on the surrounding area, both individually and cumulatively with existing licences; and
  - the nature and character of the proposed operation.
- 3.9 The Licensing Committee's starting point is in terms of seeking a reduction in crime and disorder throughout the City, consistent with its statutory duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and an improvement in local amenity through reduction of anti social behaviour.
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- 3.10 The Licensing Authority recognises that the cumulative impact of a number of late night entertainment premises (including takeaway establishments) in some areas may result in an increase of people either walking through, or congregating in, streets during the night. This may in turn have a number of undesirable consequences, for example:
- an increase in crime against property and/or person;
  - an increase in noise causing disturbance to residents;
  - traffic congestion and/or parking problems;
  - littering and fouling.
- 3.11 This may result in the amenity of local residents in some areas being placed under pressure, as it will not always be possible to attribute a particular problem to customers of particular premises. This means that, whilst enforcement action may be taken to ensure conditions are complied with, this may not resolve all the problems.
- 3.12 Where, following the receipt of relevant representations, there is evidence that a particular area of the City is already suffering adverse effects from the concentration of late night premises, the Licensing Authority will take into account:
- the character of the surrounding area;
  - the impact of the licence on the surrounding area, both individually and cumulatively with existing licences; and
  - the nature and character of the proposed operation.
- 3.13 As part of this policy the Licensing Authority will not consider whether or not there is a need for any particular type of premises (as this is largely a matter for the local planning authority) but will consider the cumulative impact any new licensed premises would have.

#### **Special Policy in respect of Eastgate Street and area**

- 3.14 The Licensing Authority is aware of the cumulative impact that can occur from a concentration of licensed premises in a particular area, as a result of the increased number of people dispersing from licensed venues or congregating in streets late at night. Such impact can include an increase in crime, an increase in noise and other disturbance to residents, parking difficulties and general traffic congestion and an increase in littering or fouling. In such cases the amenity of local residents can be placed under severe pressure but these effects may not be readily attributable to any individual premises. The Licensing Authority wishes to ensure that these adverse effects are avoided and to this end has adopted a 'Special Policy' for an area around Eastgate Street where there is a concentration of licensed premises. Where applicants are applying for a new licence in this area, it is recommended that they clearly state in their operating schedule how they will ensure that their premises does not add to the cumulative impact in respect of two of the licensing objectives, prevention of crime and disorder and prevention of nuisance.



- 3.15 This Special Policy was adopted by the Council in 2004 as a direct response to concerns and information put forward by Gloucestershire Police in relation to incidents of both crime and disorder associated with the area particularly on a Friday and Saturday night. A large number of these incidents are alcohol related. Eastgate Street has, for a number of years, borne the unfortunate distinction of having the highest crime rate for any one street in the County.
- 3.16 The current issue with Eastgate Street that led to the creation of the 'Special Policy' is that the night-time economy in Eastgate Street relies on a monoculture. This centres around "nightclub" type premises, with the music and alcohol being the only entertainment on offer, followed by a takeaway meal.
- 3.17 The Special Policy will be kept under constant review and it is anticipated that a time may come when it could be removed. However, the important considerations for removal of the special restriction should still be a matter of ensuring that crime and disorder do not increase as a result. Prior to removing the 'Special Policy' the crime and disorder considerations should include, amongst other things, the following matters:
- Improving street lighting.
  - Restricted vehicular access to the entire length of Eastgate Street at the most relevant times. (Emergency and public service, public transport vehicles only)
  - An integrated public transport and dispersal plan, which allows the users of Eastgate Street to leave quickly without creating new bottlenecks or hotspots.
  - To continue to provide a supervised taxi rank in the lower Eastgate area.
  - More comprehensive talking CCTV coverage of Eastgate Street to take into account potential new venues.
  - The possible creation of an Alcohol Dispersal Zone for Eastgate Street.
  - The provision of extra Street Warden patrols, or additional funding for Police Officers to meet the additional demands that would be created.
- 3.18 The effect of adopting this policy is to create a rebuttable presumption that applications for new premises licences, or club premises certificates or material variations will normally be refused, if relevant representations to this effect are received, unless it can be demonstrated that the operation of the premises involved will not add to the cumulative impact already being experienced.
- 3.19 This presumption does not relieve responsible authorities or interested parties of the need to make a relevant representation before the Licensing Authority may consider giving effect to its special policy. If no representation is received, as with all other cases any application must be granted in terms that are consistent with the operating schedule submitted.
- 3.20 Accordingly applicants are advised to demonstrate why the operation of the premises would not add to the cumulative impact being experienced. This should be addressed in the applicants operating schedule.
- 3.21 The Special Policy is not absolute and the circumstances of each application will be considered carefully. Moreover, where licences are unlikely to add significantly to the cumulative impact on the licensing objectives, the licence will be granted. The diversification of venues and entertainment, to include more family orientated restaurants, a wider range of public entertainment such as theatre, cabaret type shows, live music, comedy and culturally themed premises, would clearly support the aims of the City. Applications for these types of licence would be likely to be supported by the Police, as they promote activities other than vertical drinking.

- 3.22 The area of the Licensing Authority to which this 'Special Policy' will apply is identified in the map attached at Appendix C. The area identified includes the following streets:

Eastgate Street  
Clarence Street (south east side)  
Brunswick Road (south east side)  
Park Road (north side)  
Bruton Way (west side from Park Road to Market Parade)  
Station Road

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Russell Street  
Hampden Way  
Wellington Street  
Cromwell Street  
Arthur Street  
Belgrave Road  
Kingsbarton Street  
St Michael's Square  
Market Parade (south east side)

- 3.23 As part of this policy, the Licensing Authority will not consider whether or not there is a need for any particular type of premises (as this is largely a matter for the local planning authority) but will consider the cumulative impact any new licensed premises would have on the City Centre.
- 3.24 This 'Special Policy' does not impose any quotas of premises or licences and does not include any provisions for a terminal hour in any area. As stated above types of premises and commercial need is a matter for the Planning Committee and market forces. Terminal hours will only be considered where relevant representations have been received that highlight an issue.

#### 4. PUBLIC SAFETY

- 4.1 The Licensing Act 2003 covers a wide range of premises that require licensing including cinemas, nightclubs, public houses, village and community halls, schools, cafes, restaurants and fast food outlets/takeaways. Each of these types of premises present a mixture of risks, some of which may be common to most premises whilst others will be unique to specific operations.
- 4.2 Applicants are encouraged to seek advice from the Licensing Authority and the Fire Safety Section of Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service with regard to these issues and to carry out their own risk assessments.
- 4.3 In order to ensure the safety of persons at premises and to ensure a safe means of escape from fire, or other emergency, occupancy limits may be included in Operating Schedules in appropriate cases and if so should be set in consultation with Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue Service and the Council's Building Control Officers (or others if appropriate). The Licensing Authority will not normally seek to impose an occupancy limit different to that already identified by the Fire Authority in previous correspondence if this differs from the figure set in applicants Operating Schedules unless there have been relevant representations and the Fire Authority recommends a change or there are crime and disorder prevention reasons for doing so.
- 4.4 Every applicant granted a licence, certificate or permission would also be under a duty to comply with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and regulations made under it. In many cases, the Council will also be the enforcing authority responsible for ensuring compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act in licensed premises.

## 5. PREVENTION OF NUISANCE

- 5.1 Licensed premises, especially those operating late at night and in the early hours of the morning, can sometimes cause a range of nuisances impacting on people living, working or sleeping in the vicinity of the premises.
- 5.2 The Licensing Authority is keen to protect the amenity of residents and businesses in the vicinity of licensed premises. In order to assist applicants and residents the Authority believes it would be helpful for it to provide guidance as to how it will approach the meaning of the term "vicinity". For these purposes the Council proposes that 'vicinity' means:

***'being sufficiently close enough to be directly affected by the behaviour and activities on those premises.'***

NB: The Licensing Authority will need to decide in each specific case whether an individual claiming to be an interested party may be considered to be within 'the vicinity' of a premise.

This ultimately will be a matter of fact.

The Licensing Authority will consider whether an individual residing or running a business is likely to be directly affected by the activities occurring or potentially occurring on that premise.

- 5.3 It should be noted that other legislation is available to address nuisance issues. Furthermore it is acknowledged that licensed premises are limited with regard to controlling customer behaviour away from the immediate vicinity of their premises.
- 5.4 In addition, the Licensing Authority is aware of the importance of the licensed trade to the local economy and its culture and leisure aspirations. The Licensing Authority will, therefore, try to work together with all interested parties, statutory agencies and licensed businesses to ensure a mutual co-existence.
- 5.5 When considering licence applications where relevant representations have been received the Licensing Authority will take into account measures proposed by the applicant to promote the prevention of nuisance and/or anti-social behaviour. In particular the Licensing Authority may consider the following matters, where relevant:
- i) measures proposed for the prevention of noise and vibration escaping from the premises, including music, noise from ventilation equipment, and human voices. Such measures may include the installation of soundproofing, air conditioning, acoustic lobbies and sound limitation devices;
  - ii) measures proposed for preventing disturbance by customers and staff arriving at or leaving the premises, particularly between 2300 hours and 0700 hours;
  - iii) measures proposed for the prevention of nuisance from cooking odours through installation of appropriate odour control equipment in a suitable location;
  - iv) measures proposed for the prevention of nuisance from litter by ensuring adequate provision is made for disposal of waste inside and outside late night takeaway/refreshment houses and a general positive attitude to encouraging good practice from customers;



- v) measures proposed for preventing queuing by pedestrians or vehicular traffic, or if some queuing is inevitable then ensuring the queues are diverted away from neighbouring premises, or are otherwise managed, to prevent disturbance or obstruction;
- vi) ensuring staff leave the premises quietly;
- vii) arrangements for parking by patrons and staff, and the effect of the parking on local residents;
- viii) provision for public transport (including taxis and private hire vehicles) for patrons;
- ix) ~~whether licensed taxis or private hire vehicles are likely to disturb local residents;~~
- x) whether routes to and from the premises on foot, by car or other services pass residential premises;
- xi) the installation of any special measures where licensed premises are, or are proposed to be, located near sensitive premises such as nursing homes, hospitals, hospices or places of worship;
- xii) the use of gardens and other open-air areas;
- xiii) the location of external lighting, including security lighting that is installed inappropriately;
- xiv) other appropriate measures to prevent nuisance, such as the employment of registered door supervisors or the use of CCTV;
- xv) preventing the consumption or supply of illegal drugs, including search procedures;
- xvi) the history of previous nuisance complaints proved against the premises, particularly where statutory notices have been served on the present licensees;
- xvii) proposals for using effective means of reducing disorder by communicating with other licensees and the Police information regarding the potential for anti-social behaviour or criminal behaviour (e.g. Publink radio, pagers, ring rounds, membership of Pubwatch).

5.6 The Licensing Authority is keen to stress, however, that as well as the licensing function there are other mechanisms for addressing issues of unruly behaviour that occur away from licensed premises. These include:

- planning controls;
- powers to designate parts of the District as places where alcohol may not be consumed publicly and the confiscation of alcohol in these areas (a large part of Central Gloucester has been designated an Alcohol free zone);
- police powers to close some premises for up to 24 hours in extreme cases of disorder or excessive noise;
- police enforcement of the law with regard to disorder and anti-social behaviour;
- the power of the police, local business or resident to request a review of the licence;
- enforcement action against those selling alcohol to people who are already drunk.

## **6. PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM**

6.1 The Licensing Authority recognises that there are a range of activities for which licences may be sought meaning that children can be expected to visit many of these premises, often on their own, for food and/or other entertainment. The Licensing Act 2003 does not prevent children having free access to any licensed premises. The Licensing Authority recognises that limitations may have to be considered where it is deemed necessary to protect children from harm. The following are examples of premises that may raise concerns:

- where there have been convictions for serving alcohol to minors, or with a reputation for under-age drinking;
- with a known association with drug taking or dealing;
- where there is a strong element of gambling (this relates to substantial gambling operations and does not include premises with a small number of AWP machines) on the premises;
- where entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is provided;
- where there is a presumption that children under 18 should not be allowed (e.g. to nightclubs, except when under 18 discos are being held).

6.2 The Licensing Authority expects personal licence holders to ensure that they do not serve alcohol to children under the age of 18, except in limited conditions allowed for by law. The Licensing Authority recommends that the following are preferred ways to verify a person's proof of age:

- (i) passport
- (ii) a photocard driving licence issued in a European Union country;
- (iii) a National Proof of Age Standards Scheme card (e.g. Validate);
- (iv) a Citizen Card, supported by the Home Office (details from [www.citizencard.net](http://www.citizencard.net));
- (v) an official identity card issued by HM Forces or by a European Union country bearing the photograph and date of birth of the bearer.

6.3 Where relevant representations have been received and upheld, when deciding whether to limit the access of children to premises the Licensing Authority will judge each application on its own merits. To assist with this the Licensing Authority will consider any representations received from Gloucestershire Police, Gloucestershire Social Services and other agencies as appropriate. Where concerns have been identified in respect of individual premises and it is felt that access to the premises by children should be restricted the options available would include:

- limitations on the hours when children may be present;
- age limitations for persons under 18;
- limitations or exclusion when certain activities are taking place;
- full exclusion of person under 18 when certain licensable activities are taking place;
- limitation of access to certain parts of the premises for person under 18;
- a requirement for an accompanying adult to be present.

This list is not meant to be seen as an exhaustive list covering everything, but gives applicants examples of the conditions the Licensing Authority may seek to impose in meeting its obligation towards the protection of children



- 6.4 The Licensing Authority will not impose any conditions that specifically require the access of children to the premises.
- 6.5 Where no conditions or restrictions are imposed, the issue of access for children remains a matter of discretion for individual licensees or clubs.

#### **Children and Films etc.**

- 6.6 Films cover a vast range of subjects, some of which deal with adult themes and/or contain, for example, scenes of horror or violence that may be considered unsuitable for children within certain age ranges. Where premises are used for film exhibitions, a mandatory condition will apply restricting access to performances only to persons who meet the required age limit in line with any certificate granted by the British Board of Film Classification or the Council itself.
- 6.7 The Licensing Authority will expect licensees to ensure that age restrictions for film exhibitions are properly complied with.
- 6.8 In considering applications where relevant representations have been received and upheld, the Licensing Authority will take into account any evidence that age restrictions for film exhibitions are not being properly observed.

#### **Children and Theatrical Entertainment**

- 6.9 This Authority recognises that it may be necessary to impose a condition to restrict the admission of children to theatres which are incorporating adult entertainment into their productions. In the case of theatrical entertainment aimed specifically at children it may be considered necessary to attach a condition requiring the presence of a sufficient number of adult staff to ensure the wellbeing of children during an emergency.

**NB Gloucestershire County Council Children & Young People's Directorate is the responsible authority with regard to the protection of children from harm.**

## **7. LICENSING HOURS**

7.1 The Licensing Act 2003 introduced flexible opening hours for premises, with the potential for 24 hour opening, seven days a week. The Licensing Authority recognises the variety of premises for which licences will be sought and that fixed and artificially early closing times in certain areas can lead to peaks of disorder and disturbance on the streets when people tend to leave licensed premises at the same time. When dealing with licensing hours, each application will be dealt with on its individual merits.

7.2 The Licensing Authority will have a flexible approach to opening hours and will generally deal with the issue of licensing hours having due regard to the individual merits of each application in the light of relevant representations received. The Licensing Authority will take into account requests for terminal hours in the light of the:

- environmental quality;
- residential amenity;
- character or function of a particular area; and
- nature of the proposed activities to be provided at the premises.

Where relevant representations have been received and upheld consideration may, however, be given to imposing stricter controls on noise and disturbance from particular licensed premises, such as those in mainly residential areas.

7.3 Unless there are good reason to the contrary on the grounds of public disorder or crime prevention, shops and supermarkets that sell alcohol will be licensed to do so during the same times that they would ordinarily sell other goods. It would be for interested persons or the responsible authorities to prove why this should not be so in any particular case. There may, however, be instances where it is considered that there are good reasons for restricting those hours, for, example, where police representations are made in respect of isolated shops known to be the focus of disorder and public nuisance.

7.4 Generally the Licensing Authority sees staggered trading hours as being helpful to the dispersal of patrons from licensed premises, particularly late at night. This removes some of the friction caused by sudden excessive peaks of demand at fast food outlets, taxi ranks and so on.