

Special Policy in respect of Eastgate Street and area

- 4.14 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.
- 4.15 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.
- 4.16 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.
- 4.17 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.
- 4.18 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.
- 4.19 This presumption does not relieve responsible authorities or other persons 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.
- 4.20 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.
- 4.21 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.

- 4.22 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
Russell Street
Hampden Way
Wellington Street
Cromwell Street
Arthur Street
Belgrave Road
Kingsbarton Street
St Michael's Square
Market Parade (south east side)

- 4.23 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.
- 4.24 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.
- 4.25 There are also other mechanisms that the Licensing Authority can use to help control cumulative impact.

