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Cumulative Impact Policy

I submit this letter on behalf of Superintendent Jane Probert, the officer responsible for policing Gloucester and the Forest of Dean.

History

The Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) was adopted in 2004 in Gloucester City centre in direct response to concerns and information put forward by the Gloucestershire Constabulary. It was recognised that the area around Eastgate Street had a disproportional number of incidents of alcohol related disorder and was the highest in the county.

The newly created Licensing Act of 2003 enabled councils to establish a CIA to regulate the number and the opening hours of premises within the zone to control and reduce the crime and disorder. In essence there was a presumption that any application within the designated area that increased the number of licensed premises, extended hours or expanded licensable activity would be refused by the council if objected to by the police.

Does it work in Gloucester?

The police have taken three premises to a hearing in respect of the CIA. The first was Bar Fever in April 2016 and secondly Butler's in June 2016. Both premises had asked to extend their operating hours both applications were granted despite police objections.

In December 2017 a new licence was requested for a premises to be converted from a children's nursery to a bar called Nightology (now the Vine Bar). Again the police objected and although the licence was granted the police succeeded in reducing the proposed opening hours.

However victory or failure and refusal or implementation at a hearing is not a measure of the success of the CIA. There have been many occasions when the activities and issues of premises, off-licences included, have been resolved by discussion and compromise without the need for a hearing and the existence of the policy strengthened the position of the police in these negotiations.

Statistics and data in the zone.

Appendix 1 - shows the alcohol related incidents in Eastgate Street over the last 10 years The Police have only produced such information in that period.

Appendix 2 - displayed are the actual crimes committed over the last 20 years in Eastgate Street. It should be noted that there is an increase in recorded crime from the year 2000 because recording methods have changed.

Conclusion

There are currently 205 such areas in England and Wales and locally both Chepstow and Kingswood have these zones. Interestingly the only Licensing Authority (according to Poppleston Allen the National Authority on Licensing) which had a CIA but has got rid of it completely is Guildford following a significant reduction in crime and disorder within the town centre

Eastgate Street still has the highest number of alcohol related incidents in the county.

There is compelling evidence that where a CIA is in place and supported and embraced by both the police and local authority that not only does crime and disorder reduce, strangely alcohol sales increase but more importantly hospital admissions decline.

An evaluation in Islington found that the implementation of the zone coincided with a reduction in alcohol related ambulance call outs. This evaluation appears to show Islington's Licencing Strategy and the CIA have reduced alcohol related harms without negatively impacting on the overall night-time economy.

The position of the Gloucestershire Constabulary is simply that there is a continuing need for the Cumulative Impact Area to remain in place. Alcohol related incidents in Eastgate Street are still the highest in the county and although the issue has reduced over the years there is still a significant problem and therefore there is no justification for abandoning the policy.

David McFarlane
Head of Alcohol Licensing

*Appendix 1
Alcohol Related Incidents Eastgate Street*

2019	171
2018	165
2017	196
2016	215
2015	241
2014	308
2013	282
2012	307
2011	420
2010	358

*Appendix 2
Crimes in Eastgate Street*

2019	271
2018	204
2017	196
2016	195
2015	184
2014	141
2013	186
2012	171
2011	258
2010	218
2009	287
2008	243
2007	285
2006	312
2005	232
2004	185
2003	179
2002	144
2001	89
2000	84

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