



STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Licensing Act 2003

7 January 2016 - 6 January 2021

- Gateshead Transport Strategy & Tyne & Wear Local Transport Plan
 - The Local Government Declaration on Alcohol signed by Gateshead Council in June 2015
- 5.4 The Licensing Authority will seek to achieve integration with relevant strategies and their aims in its decision making.

Human Rights

- 5.5 The Licensing Authority will have particular regard to the following relevant provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights:
- Article 6 that in determination of civil rights and obligations everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law
 - Article 8 that everyone has the right to respect for their home and private life; and
 - Article 1 of the First Protocol that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of their possessions.

Equality and Diversity

- 5.6 Applicants and licensees should be aware of their obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the characteristics protected by the legislation which are:
- Age
 - Disability
 - Gender reassignment
 - Marriage and civil partnership
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race
 - Religion and belief
 - Sex; and
 - Sexual orientation

5.7 It is expected that responsible licensees will be sensitive to the needs of their varied customer base and prepared to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate those needs.

5.8 The Equality Act 2010 also requires the Licensing Authority to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people with different protected characteristics. Each application will be considered with this in mind.

Crime and disorder

5.9 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced a wide range of measures for preventing crime and disorder and imposed a duty on the Council, Northumbria Police and others to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties. The reduction of crime and disorder is integral to this Council's approach to the Licensing Act.

individuals who cause disturbance, disorder, use drugs or use or threaten violence in and around licensed premises. By acting collectively in excluding such people from a number of premises in the area, this means that the problem is not simply moved from one pub to the next. Pubwatch schemes have been found to be effective tools in tackling anti-social behaviour in many areas where the schemes are well run and there is a significant level of participation by licence holders in the borough. The Gateshead Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2013-2015 recognises the importance of the Pubwatch scheme and envisages it being used to share and develop best practice and as a forum for training.

Regional and national working

- 5.18 The Licensing Authority participates in regional working through the North East Strategic Licensing Group, which is comprised of representatives of each of the twelve North East Licensing Authorities, and forms part of the North East Public Protection Partnership.
- 5.19 The Licensing Authority also works closely with Balance – the North East Alcohol Office, to achieve an integrated approach across the region and with key partners such as the Police.
- 5.20 From the national perspective, representatives of the Licensing Authority participate in the Local Government Association’s Licensing Policy Forum, and the Licensing Special Area of Activity for Lawyers in Local Government.

6. General Principles of the Policy

- 6.1 Each application will be determined on its merits having regard to this Policy, Guidance under Section 182 of the Act, the Act itself and supporting Regulations.
- 6.2 The Licensing Authority considers:
 - the effective and responsible management of premises
 - instruction, training and supervision of staff; and
 - the adoption of best practice

to be amongst the most important control measures for the achievement of all the licensing objectives. For this reason, the Licensing Authority will expect these elements to be specifically considered and addressed within an applicant’s operating schedule.

- 6.3 Applicants who do not clearly demonstrate how they intend to address these issues in their operating schedules should expect their applications to be objected to, including by the Licensing Authority.
- 6.4 Also, licensees whose practice does not meet this expectation may have their licence reviewed, and as above this may be triggered by the Licensing Authority itself.

7. Licensing Objectives

- 7.1 Applicants will need to provide evidence to the Licensing Authority that, in respect of each of the four licensing objectives, suitable and sufficient measures, as detailed in their Operating Schedule, will be implemented and maintained, and will be relevant to the individual style and characteristics of their premises and events.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- 7.2 The Licensing Authority will expect to see evidence that the following specific matters that impact on crime and disorder have been addressed in the Operating Schedule of the premises:

- The capability of the person who is in charge to run the premises during trading hours or when Regulated Entertainment is provided to effectively and responsibly manage and supervise the premises, including associated open areas
- The steps to be taken in the absence of the Designated Premises Supervisor to effectively manage the business.
- The steps taken or to be taken to ensure that appropriate instruction, training and supervision is given to those employed or engaged in the premises to prevent incidents of crime and disorder
- The measures taken or to be taken to raise staff awareness and discourage and prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs on the premises
- The features currently in place or planned for physical security at the premises, such as lighting outside the premises
- The policies that have been determined in respect of adoption of appropriate existing and future best practice guidance (eg Safer Clubbing, the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Toolkit, etc)
- Any arrangements which the licence holder proposes to work in partnership with the Council, police and other traders in establishing a method of co-ordinating closing times to prevent crowds emerging from premises at the same time and to prevent migration between premises with different closing times
- Any appropriate additional measures taken or to be taken for the prevention of violence or public disorder

- 7.3 The extent to which the above matters need to be addressed will be dependent on the individual style, characteristics and location of the premises, and proposed events and activities. In general however, the Licensing Authority will expect more comprehensive measures to be in place at late night entertainment venues or in premises with a history of crime and disorder issues.

- 7.4 In such premises appropriate additional measures taken or to be taken for the prevention of violence or public disorder may include:

- Provision of effective CCTV both within and around premises
- Employment of SIA licensed door staff
- Provision of toughened or plastic glasses
- Procedures for risk assessing drinks promotions and events such as 'happy hours' for the potential to cause crime and disorder and plans for minimising such risks

7.5 The Licensing Authority will have particular regard to representations from the Police in deciding whether the above issues have been adequately addressed. It will not normally grant an application where representations indicate a potential negative impact on crime and disorder, unless the applicant can demonstrate compelling reasons why the application should be approved in the light of these concerns.

Public Safety

7.6 The Licensing Authority will expect to see that applicants have considered the impact that the following factors may have on public safety:

- The occupancy capacity of the premises
- The age, design and layout of the premises, including means of escape in the event of fire
- The nature of the licensable activities to be provided, in particular the sale or supply of alcohol, and/or the provision of music and dancing and including whether those activities are of a temporary or permanent nature
- The hours of operation (differentiating the hours of opening from the hours when licensable activities are provided, if different)
- Customer profile (eg age, disability)
- The use of special effects such as lasers, pyrotechnics, smoke machines, etc

7.7 The following examples of control measures are given to assist applicants who may need to take account of them in their operating schedule, having regard to their particular type of premises and/or activities:

- Suitable and sufficient risk assessments
- Effective and responsible management of the premises
- Provision of a sufficient number of people employed or engaged to secure the safety of the premises and patrons