



## **STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

**Licensing Act 2003**

**7 January 2016 - 6 January 2021**

## **1. Foreword by Councillor John McElroy**

- 1.1 The Licensing Act has been in force now for ten years, and has contributed to a significant change in how licensable activities are carried on in the Borough.

In Gateshead, both the licensed trade and its patrons are, on the whole, responsible and sensitive to the needs of the communities in which licensed activities take place.

However, the trend away from drinking in pubs and clubs to consumption of alcohol at home presents a different set of challenges in terms of minimizing the harms that can arise.

There has been an increase in the availability and accessibility of alcohol, and a broadening of the type of premises where it is made available. Consequently, there is now an increased role for the licensing regime to play in safeguarding the most vulnerable members of our society.

The licensing regime is not only about the sale and supply of alcohol – the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment equally present challenges to ensure that crime, disorder and public nuisance are prevented, public safety is promoted and children are protected from harm.

There is no single answer to the challenges we will face in the coming months and years; but the licensing regime is key to giving residents and responsible authorities an opportunity to have their say on important matters that can impact their community, and I would encourage everyone to utilise it to its fullest potential.

## **2. Strategic Context**

- 2.1 The Council's overall vision for Gateshead, as described in Gateshead Strategic Partnership's Community Strategy – Vision 2030 and the Council's Corporate Plan is:

*“Local people realising their full potential, enjoying the best quality of life in a healthy, equal, safe, prosperous and sustainable Gateshead”*

- 2.2 The licensing of premises plays an important role in realising this vision, contributing significantly to the Economy, Environment, and Health areas contained within Priority 1 of the Corporate Plan, in providing safe and accessible venues that promote healthy lifestyles and contribute to economy of the Borough.
- 2.3 This Policy sets out what this Licensing Authority expects of the people that it authorises to carry out licensable activities in the Borough of Gateshead.
- 2.4 Applicants and licensees are of course expected to be familiar with the relevant legislation and the National Guidance issued by the Home Office, but they are also expected to be familiar with the exigencies of the locality that they operate in. This applies to everyone seeking to carry on licensable activities in the Borough, whether they are a large national chain or a small community premises.

- 2.5 The promotion of the licensing objectives underpins every decision that the Licensing Authority makes. How the objectives are best promoted can vary from place to place, and depending on the nature and scale of the activities that are to be carried out. This Policy sets out the issues that are of particular relevance or concern within Gateshead, and the approaches that this Licensing Authority would expect responsible licensees to take into account in their operation.
- 2.6 The Policy links closely with a number of key plans and strategies produced by the Council and its partners, as set out below in the section headed 'Integration with other legislation, policies and guidance'.

### **3. Local context**

- 3.1 Gateshead is located on the southern bank of the river Tyne, opposite Newcastle upon Tyne to the north, and bordering County Durham to the south, Northumberland to the west and South Tyneside/Sunderland to the east. It is a constantly changing borough combining modern facilities with a fascinating heritage. The borough stretches almost 13 miles along the south bank of the river Tyne and covers 55 square miles, making it the largest of the five Tyne and Wear authorities.
- 3.2 Gateshead is a borough of contrasts. It has a large urban hub centred around the main town centre area in Bridges ward and has a number of smaller urban centres and busy employment areas such as Blaydon, Whickham, Felling and Birtley. However, around two thirds of the borough is rural with numerous small settlements such as Kibblesworth, Sunnyside, Chopwell and High Spen.
- 3.3 Built on traditional industries of mining and heavy engineering, the 1930's saw diversification through the development of the Team Valley Trading Estate (TVTE), the first trading estate of its type in the UK. Centrally located for the region the TVTE has become prominent for transport and distribution activities and is the borough's most prestigious employment centre, attracting the highest number of inward commuters to the borough on a daily basis.
- 3.4 The 1970s saw the decline of many of the region's traditional industries. A high proportion of those who lived in Gateshead worked in these industries, resulting in unemployment and high levels of deprivation and financial/social exclusion, the impact of which is still being felt today. In the 1980's Gateshead saw the development of the MetroCentre, now boasting over two million sq ft of retail and leisure floor space, one of the UK's and Europe's largest shopping centres.
- 3.5 The urban core, shared with Newcastle, is the focus of regeneration, promoting growth through the digital economy, knowledge-based businesses and cultural-led regeneration. Major initiatives such as the Sage Gateshead, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead College and the Gateshead Millennium Bridge have all been developed over recent years.
- 3.6 Gateshead has a population of around 200,000 living in 90,600 households. The population has reduced by around 13,000 since the 1980's but has grown over the last decade by around 8,000. This growth has been most significant for older age groups with an 11% increase in 45-64 year olds and an 11% increase in those aged 65 and over. In contrast, the number of 0-24 year olds fell slightly by 0.7%

over the decade. Population projections from the Office for National Statistics predict that this ageing population trend will continue into the future, becoming more pronounced as life expectancy continues to increase.

#### Crime and anti-social behaviour in Gateshead

- 3.7 The number of recorded crimes across the Borough that were linked to alcohol has increased year on year, with 1,386 alcohol-related crimes recorded in 2014/15 which was an 11% increase from 2013/14, compared to a 7% increase in all crime.
- 3.8 More than half the alcohol-related crimes in the Borough in 2014/15 were violence against the person, with significant increases particularly in the number of assaults. It is notable that whilst incidents of the most serious violence are still relatively infrequent, they have more than doubled in the last year. There have also been significant increases in the numbers of alcohol-related sexual offences and burglaries in the Borough in that time.
- 3.9 Temporal profiles show that almost half of all alcohol-related crimes in the Borough are reported on Friday late evenings / Saturday early mornings, Saturday late evenings / Sunday early mornings and (to a lesser extent) Sunday late evenings / Monday early mornings.
- 3.10 Data provided by Northumbria Police enables the Council to identify the most vulnerable locations throughout the Borough in terms of alcohol-related crimes, and to track trends over time. Information about these areas is contained in 'Local Licensing Guidance' documents which are described in further detail below, and will be available from the Council's website and upon request.

#### Public health in Gateshead

- 3.11 In 2012 the Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced public health as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003.
- 3.12 Public health is "the science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society." The Public Health Outcomes Framework acknowledges that health is influenced not only by lifestyle choices but also by a range of wider determinants, including the physical environment, domestic abuse, violent crime and noise nuisance.
- 3.13 Gateshead Council recognises the impact upon population-level health that alcohol consumption can cause. While the protection of public health is not a discrete licensing objective, it can where appropriate permeate each of the licensing objectives.
- 3.14 Each year Gateshead's Director of Public Health publishes an Annual Report, the most recent at the time of writing being published in October 2014. The report recognises that alcohol is a complex social issue which forms part of our everyday social fabric, is a source of pleasure and enjoyment to many; but is also a potentially addictive substance which is promoted by powerful commercial forces, especially to young people. It highlights the growing evidence of rising alcohol

harm on the health of people in Gateshead, and focusses on approaches to tackling alcohol harm.

3.15 The report identifies, for instance, that:

- Around one in 5 secondary school / higher education students in Gateshead admit to drinking alcohol; and
- The number of alcohol specific hospital admissions for secondary school / higher education students in Gateshead is increasing.

3.16 Public health data enables the Council to identify the most vulnerable locations in the Borough in terms of alcohol-related harm, and to track trends over time. This data can be particularly relevant to the protection of children from harm, and may also assist in the prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance and to public safety.

#### Local Licensing Guidance

3.17 Different localities within the Borough have different characters, and challenges, both of which can change over time depending on a range of factors. To assist applicants and licensees in their understanding of local issues that they should be cognisant of, from time to time the Council publishes and updates 'Local Licensing Guidance' documents on its website.

3.18 The Local Licensing Guidance provides information about the causes of serious and chronic concern in these localities. The areas covered by the guidance can vary depending on the nature of the problems that are identified, so may relate to the whole of a particular Ward or for instance to street level. The guidance can include a wide range of information that is considered to be relevant to those who seek to carry on licensable activities within the area, for instance:

- The physical environment (including transport, school walking routes, blocks of flats, commercial / residential proximity, etc)
- Existing licensed premises
- Health data (such as hospital admissions for under-18s, ambulance calls for alcohol related reasons)
- Crime and disorder hotspots
- Known areas of congregation
- Local initiatives (such as Pubwatch, Offwatch, Community Alcohol Partnerships etc)
- Local concerns about the promotion of the licensing objectives (including from Ward Members, community leaders, GPs, schools, etc)

3.19 The Local Licensing Guidance will be produced by the Council's Public Health team with the input of Responsible Authorities and other stakeholders as appropriate; and presented to and approved by the Council's full Licensing Committee.

3.20 It is recommended that applicants and licensees have regard to these documents when considering their operating schedule. In particular, where the Local Licensing Guidance identifies measures that it is believed will help to promote the licensing objectives in respect of certain licensable activities due to the issues that have been

identified, if an applicant or licensee chooses not to adopt those measures this may result in representations being made.

#### **4. Legal Context**

4.1 This Statement of Licensing Policy has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Guidance issued by the Home Office under Section 182 of the Act.

4.2 The Licensing Authority is responsible for:

- the licensing of licensable activities under the Licensing Act 2003 (The Act)
- ensuring that those who are authorised under the Act comply with the requirements; and
- ensuring that only those who are duly authorised to carry out licensable activities do so.

4.3 This document sets out the Licensing Authority's policy as to how it will fulfil its obligations and achieve its strategic aims in this respect.

4.4 This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Act itself, the Home Office Guidance, and the other policies and guidance that are referred to in this document.

4.5 This Licensing Authority regards each of the Licensing Objective to be of equal importance.

4.6 This document sets out the policies the Licensing Authority will generally apply to promote the Licensing Objectives when making decisions under the Act, and when addressing non-compliance with the Act itself or any authorisations issued under the Act. The Licensing Authority will consider deviating from the policy on a case by case basis, where it believes it to be appropriate and proportionate in all the relevant circumstances.

#### **5. Integration with other legislation, policies and guidance**

5.1 Anyone who is or who seeks to be authorised under the Act to carry out licensable activities in the Borough of Gateshead should be aware of the other legislation, policies and guidance that may apply to their business. Failure to comply with other legislation and/or regulatory regimes can indicate that a licensee is irresponsible, which may call into question their ability to adequately promote the Licensing Objectives.

5.2 Although from the perspective of the business proprietor, there may be an element of crossover between licensing and other regimes, they are separate and are treated as such by the Council.

5.3 Applicants and licensees need to be aware of and have regard to:

- Gateshead Strategic Partnership's Community Strategy – Vision 2030
- the Gateshead Local Plan
- Substance Misuse Strategy
- Culture Strategy

- 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.

## Data protection

- 5.10 The Licensing Authority will process personal information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. The personal details provided by applicants will be held on a database and where the law allows, may be shared with other departments within the Council to update details they hold. The Licensing Authority may also be required to disclose personal information to third parties (such as Police, Department for Work and Pensions or Audit Commission for the National Fraud Initiative) for the purposes of preventing or detecting crime or apprehending or prosecuting offenders.

## Local Government Declaration on Alcohol

- 5.11 Gateshead Council has signed the Local Government Declaration on Alcohol, and has committed to:

- Promoting the introduction of greater regulations around the price, promotion and availability of alcohol
- Calling for changes to the Licensing Act in favour of local authorities and communities, to enable greater control on the number, density and availability of alcohol according to local requirements
- Putting public health and community safety at the forefront of public policy-making about alcohol
- Making best use of existing licensing powers to ensure effective management of the night-time economy; and
- Raising awareness of the harm caused by alcohol to individuals and our communities.

- 5.12 It is recognised that the regime under the Licensing Act is only one part of the framework needed to achieve these aims; that in terms of alcohol the Act only regulates its sale and supply – not its consumption; and that the regime cannot be utilised where the Council's aims do not pertain to the objectives set out in the Act.

- 5.13 However the licensing regime has proven to be an effective tool in Gateshead for the control of price, promotion and availability of alcohol:

### **Price**

The sale / supply of cheap alcohol can lead to its over-consumption which in turn can undermine the licensing objectives particularly in respect of the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm. This Licensing Authority has imposed and will continue to impose minimum unit price requirements where appropriate to promote the licensing objectives, and as part of a range of measures to tackle identified concerns. For instance, alcohol can be 'cheap' not only due to its price but also due to its strength. Where appropriate this Licensing Authority will also impose conditions to control the sale of certain types of product, such as 'super strength' ciders, spirits, etc.

### **Promotion**

The Government has imposed certain mandatory conditions to prohibit irresponsible drinks promotions where the consumption is intended to take place on the premises. This Licensing Authority will impose further conditions on licences



where it is appropriate and proportionate to do so, which will depend on the individual circumstances. For instance, conditions can be imposed to prevent promotions which are aimed at young people particularly in the vicinity of schools and other locations attended by children, and promotion of potentially dangerous alcoholic products such as cocktails containing liquid nitrogen. Gateshead Licensing Authority's expectations with respect to the promotion of alcohol in off licensed premises are set out in 8.18 below.

### **Place**

There are a range of measures that can assist in controlling the availability of alcohol in defined localities where there is appropriate evidence to support the restriction. These include:

- Cumulative impact policies
- Night time levy
- Early morning restriction orders

The evidential basis to consider implementing any of these measures in Gateshead has not yet been put forward, however if evidence supports their implementation in the future this will be duly considered.

### Public Space Protection Orders

5.14 The following locations have been designated as alcohol exclusion areas:

- Gateshead
- at all of the Metro stations in the borough
- Birtley
- Whickham
- Ryton
- Winlaton

5.15 This means that within the exclusion zones it is an offence to refuse to comply with the reasonable request of a Police Constable or authorised officer to stop consuming alcohol or to hand over alcohol for confiscation. Licensed premises (and their curtilages) are excluded from the scope of the Orders while licensable activities are authorised to take place.

### Social Responsibility

5.16 The Portman Group has produced a code of practice on the naming, packaging and promotion of alcoholic drinks. Licensees that sell or supply alcohol are expected to have regard to the code of practice as amended from time to time. [http://www.portmangroup.org.uk/docs/default-source/code-of-practice/7609\\_por02\\_code\\_of\\_practice\\_final.pdf](http://www.portmangroup.org.uk/docs/default-source/code-of-practice/7609_por02_code_of_practice_final.pdf)

### Pubwatch

5.17 A Pubwatch scheme has been in existence in the Borough for some time. It is led by Northumbria Police, and provides a forum for licensees to gain support from the Police, the Council and other licensees to tackle the problems associated with

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

- Appropriate instruction, training and supervision of those employed or engaged to secure the safety of premises and patrons
- Adoption of best practice guidance (eg Guide to Fire Precautions in Existing Places of Entertainment and like premises, The Event Safety Guide, Safety in Pubs published by the BBPA, and the Safety Guidance for Street Arts, Carnival, Processions and Large Scale Performances published by Independent Street Arts Network)
- Provision of effective CCTV in and around premises
- Provision of toughened or plastic drinking vessels
- Implementation of crowd management measures
- Proof of regular testing (and certification where appropriate) of procedures, appliances, systems etc pertinent to safety)

### Prevention of Public Nuisance

- 7.8 The Licensing Authority interprets 'public nuisance' in its widest sense, and takes it to include such issues as noise, light, odour, litter and anti-social behaviour, where these matters impact on those living, working or otherwise engaged in normal activity in an area.
- 7.9 The Licensing Authority will normally apply stricter conditions, including controls on licensing hours, where licensed premises are in residential areas.
- 7.10 The Licensing Authority will expect to see that applicants have considered the impact that the following factors may have on the potential for public nuisance:
- The location of premises and proximity to residential and other noise sensitive premises
  - The hours of opening, particularly between 23:00 and 07:00 hours
  - The nature of activities to be provided, including whether those activities are of a temporary or permanent nature and whether they are to be held inside or outside premises
  - The design and layout of premises and in particular the presence of noise limiting features
  - The occupancy capacity of the premises
  - The availability of public transport
  - 'wind down period' between the end of the licensable activities and closure of the premises, i.e. allowing patrons to remain in the premises for a period after licensable activities have ceased, so that people do not disperse en masse

- last admission time

7.11 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:

- effective and responsible management of the premises
- appropriate instruction, training and supervision of those employed or engaged to prevent incidents of public nuisance eg to ensure customers leave quietly
- operating hours for all or parts (eg garden areas) of premises, including such matters as deliveries
- adoption of best practice guidance (eg Good Practice Guide on the Control of Noise from Pubs and Clubs, produced by the Institute of Acoustics, Licensed Property: Noise, published by BBPA)
- installation of soundproofing, air conditioning, acoustic lobbies and sound limitation devices
- management of people, including staff, and traffic (and resulting queues)
- liaison with public transport providers
- siting of external lighting including security lighting
- management arrangements for collection and disposal of litter
- effective ventilation systems to prevent nuisance from odour

#### Protection of Children from Harm

7.12 The protection of children is an important issue and the licensing regime has a fundamental role in achieving this. The protection of children from harm includes moral, psychological and physical harm and applicants are expected to demonstrate that such factors have been considered in their operating schedules.

7.13 Applicants should expect to receive objections in respect of the protection of children from harm, and licensees should expect their licence to be reviewed, where:

- there have been convictions for serving alcohol to minors or the premises have a reputation for facilitating underage drinking
- there is a known association with drug taking or dealing
- there is a strong element of gambling on the premises
- entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is commonly provided

- 8.12 Applicants and existing licensees / certificate holders should be aware that the presence of gaming machines in licensed premises is considered to be “adult entertainment” and requires notification to the licensing authority in box “N” of the application form otherwise they will not be permitted, as it is the policy of this licensing authority to add a condition, consistent with the operating schedule of each premises where box “N” is not completed, prohibiting adult entertainment at the premises as set out in guidance note 8 of the respective application forms.

#### Film classification

- 8.13 Where the Licensing Authority is requested to classify a film for exhibition within the Licensing Authority’s area, it will do so if the film has not been classified by the British Board of Film Classification, or such classification is not pending.
- 8.14 When an applicant submits a film for classification, they should provide a copy of the film to the Licensing Officer, and should indicate the rating that they consider appropriate. The Licensing Officer shall consult with Northumbria Police and the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The applicant should provide the copy of the film at least 28 days in advance of the proposed screening. If the applicant is unable to provide a copy of the film in DVD format or via a website then they should liaise with the Licensing Officer to arrange for a screening of the film for the relevant bodies as above.
- 8.15 The Licensing Authority shall have regard to any representations received from the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Northumbria Police. The Licensing Authority shall have regard to the classification standards applied by the British Board of Film Classification. The Licensing Authority shall also have regard to (but shall not be bound by) any classification given to the film by another Licensing Authority.
- 8.16 Where a relevant representation is received, the classification of the film shall be determined by a hearing of the Licensing Sub Committee.

#### Alcohol sales

- 8.17 It is expected that applicants will set out in their operating schedule the measures they will take to ensure that a written record is kept of all the names and addresses of persons who are authorised to sell or supply alcohol at all times, and that the written record is made available to Police and/or Council officers immediately upon request.
- 8.18 It is expected that premises licensed for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises will adopt responsible marketing practices and concern may be heightened where alcohol is promoted in such a way as to encourage people to drink more than they would ordinarily do and in a manner that doesn’t promote the licensing objectives, for example quantity based discount promotions and display and promotion of alcohol products in multiple positions in a premises.
- 8.19 It is expected that applicants who intend to sell or supply alcohol by delivery or collection of prepaid orders will include provision in their operating schedules to set out how they will ensure that they do not:

- serve alcohol to a person who appears to be drunk
- serve alcohol to a person who it is believed will pass it on to persons under 18 years old
- take payment for the alcohol at the place where it is served – sales should be pre-paid only

8.20 It is also expected that applicants will:

- operate an age verification policy of at least a Challenge 25 standard
- only deliver to residential addresses
- only stock delivery vehicles with alcohol that has been pre-ordered
- verify that the person that the alcohol is served to is the person who has ordered it
- only make sales where the purchase price is at least £25 and/or the minimum unit price of the alcohol is not less than £1 per unit

#### Petrol stations / garages

8.21 The Licensing Act prohibits the sale or supply of alcohol from premises used primarily as garages. The Section 182 guidance states that premises are used primarily as a garage if they are used for one or more of the following:

- the retailing of petrol
- the retailing of derv
- the sale of motor vehicles; and
- the maintenance of motor vehicles

8.22 It is expected that applicants for premises licences for premises where any of these activities take place will set out in their operating schedule that they will submit sales data on at least a six monthly basis showing:

- the number of purchases of fuel alone
- the number of purchases of fuel and other goods
- the number of purchases of other goods alone, and
- turnover for each of these type of purchases.

#### Takeaways

8.23 The Licensing Authority will generally not permit the sale of alcohol from 'takeaway' premises that are licensed for late night refreshment, due to the inherent potential for late night alcohol fuelled crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and the difficulties of addressing such behaviour where the consumption of the alcohol and associated behaviour takes place away from the premises themselves, often in residential areas. Applicants seeking approval to sell alcohol from 'takeaway'



premises will need to clearly demonstrate how they will ensure that their activities will not lead to such problems.

### Outside areas

8.24 Where premises include an outside area it is expected that the operating schedule will set out how the applicant will address:

- The provision of appropriate bins and other receptacles for litter generated by patrons
- Measures to reduce the amount of noise generated by patrons, particularly late at night. This may include door supervision, closure of outside areas after a particular time, restricting re-admission to the premises after a particular time, etc
- Provision and placement of appropriate street furniture to prevent persons 'spilling out' onto public highway in the vicinity of the premises
- Provision of CCTV covering entrances and exits, external areas, and surrounding public highways

## **9. Licensing Hours**

9.1 It is expected that premises whose primary activity is off licence sales will not normally be open between 23:00 and 07:00 hours. Applicants wishing to operate beyond 23:00 hours will need to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority, in their operating schedule, that there will be no significant disturbance to members of the public living, working or otherwise engaged in normal activity around the premises concerned. Opening hours beyond 23:00 hours will generally be considered to be more acceptable for premises in commercial or tourist areas with high levels of public transport availability, rather than premises in predominately residential areas.

9.2 When considering applications, in respect of hours of operation, the Licensing Authority will take the following into consideration:

- Whether the premises is located in a predominantly retail or entertainment area
- The nature of the proposed activities to be provided in the premises
- Whether there are any arrangements to ensure adequate availability of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles and appropriate places for picking up and setting down passengers
- Whether there is an appropriate amount of car parking, readily accessible to the premises, and in places where the parking and use of vehicles will not cause demonstrable adverse impact to local residents

- Whether the operating schedule agreed with Council Officers indicates that the applicant is taking appropriate steps to comply with the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance
- Whether the licensed activity, particularly if located in areas of the highest levels of recorded crime, may result in a reduction or increase in crime or anti-social behaviour
- Whether the licensed activities are likely to cause adverse impact especially on local residents, and that, if there is a potential to cause adverse impact, appropriate measures will be put in place to prevent it.
- Whether there will be any increase in the cumulative adverse impact from these or similar activities, on an adjacent residential area

9.3 In the case of shops, stores and supermarkets selling alcohol, the Licensing Authority will normally expect the hours during which alcohol is sold to match the normal trading hours during which other sales take place, in order to reduce the potential for disturbance or disorder.

## **10. Operating Schedules**

10.1 Operating schedules should set out the licensable activities that are intended to be carried out and how it is intended that this happens. Operating schedules should be sufficiently detailed and clear for interested parties and responsible authorities to understand how the applicant or licensee will promote the licensing objectives.

10.2 When considering the promotion of the licensing objectives, applicants and licensees should have due regard to the context of the locality that they seek to operate in, and be mindful of any particular concerns that relate to that locality.

10.3 For instance, applicants and licensees are expected to have regard to any Local Licensing Guidance in respect of the locality they propose to serve.

10.4 Applicants are expected to ensure that their operating schedule enables the Licensing Authority, responsible authorities and interested parties to understand:

- What licensable activities are intended to be carried out
- When licensable activities will be carried out – i.e. between what hours, on what days and at what times of year
- When the premises will be open to the public for non-licensed activities
- Whether alcohol is intended to be sold for consumption off the premises (including where it will be delivered to customers)
- (Where the sale or supply of alcohol is intended at premises with a Premises Licence) who the Designated Premises Supervisor will be and what his / her address is

- What steps will be taken to promote the Licensing Objectives.

10.5 It is recommended that applicants contact responsible authorities when preparing operating schedules to discuss any relevant concerns.

## **11. Designated Premises Supervisor**

11.1 Designated Premises Supervisors have an important role to play in ensuring that the measures to promote the licensing objectives that are set out in an operating schedule are put into practice on a day to day basis.

11.2 Where there is a requirement for premises to have a Designated Premises Supervisor, it is expected that the person will be a key person related to the premises, so that matters arising can be dealt with as quickly as possible.

11.3 It is expected that a Designated Premises Supervisor will have day to day responsibility for running the premises and will be present at the premises at least 50% of the time in a seven day week that the premises are open for the carrying on of licensable activities.

11.4 Where the Designated Premises Supervisor is not available at the premises for whatever reason, the Licensing Authority will expect an individual to be nominated as a point of contact who will have details of where the Designated Premises Supervisor can be contacted.

11.5 Where there are problems associated with the running of a premises that stem from the DPS's performance of that role, they may be removed from the role by the Licensing Sub-Committee.

## **12. Conditions**

12.1 Whilst the Licensing Act sets out the regulatory framework that applies to all licensees, conditions can be added to individual licences to prescribe how the licensable activities are to be carried out having regard to all the relevant individual circumstances.

12.2 There are three types of condition:

- mandatory conditions imposed by the Secretary of State – applicants and licensees are expected to comply with the relevant mandatory conditions that apply to the activities they carry out, and to be aware that these mandatory conditions change from time to time. The Home Office issued guidance in respect of these mandatory conditions in October 2014:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/350507/2014-08-29 MC Guidance v1 0.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350507/2014-08-29_MC_Guidance_v1_0.pdf)

- conditions imposed voluntarily by the applicant / licensee – these conditions will be consistent with the applicant / licensee's operating schedule, although the wording may be amended to ensure clarity and enforceability. Applicants and licensees should note that in line with this Policy, in certain cases the Licensing Authority will assume unless

informed otherwise that applicants are volunteering conditions. For instance, as above where an applicant does not indicate an intention to provide adult entertainment by ticking box 'N' on their application form, it will be assumed that they are volunteering a condition not to provide adult entertainment at the premises; and

- conditions imposed at a hearing – the Licensing Sub-Committee may impose conditions on a licence where it considers it appropriate to do so. Any such conditions will be appropriate to the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to the problems that the Sub-Committee find in relation to the premises.

12.3 The Licensing Authority does not impose 'standard' conditions on licences, but there are certain factors that most premises that carry out certain licensable activities should take into account. A pool of model conditions is set out in Appendix 1, which applicants should consider when preparing their operating schedule.

### **13. When things go wrong**

#### Complaints about licensed premises

13.1 The Licensing Authority will investigate complaints about both licensed premises where licensable activities are taking place but not in accordance with the relevant authorisation; and unlicensed premises where licensable activities are taking place without authorisation.

13.2 Complainants will usually, in the first instance, be encouraged to raise the complaint directly with the licensee or business concerned, as this can often be the quickest and most effective way for the person carrying on the licensable activity to understand the negative impact of the activity.

13.3 Where appropriate, the Licensing Authority will initially endeavour to seek a resolution through informal means.

13.4 Where appropriate, the Licensing Authority may pass any complaint on for investigation by any other statutory agency under whose enforcement responsibility the complaint falls.

#### Failing to comply with the Licensing Act

13.5 The Council delivers a wide range of enforcement services, aimed at safeguarding the environment and the community and at providing a 'level playing field' on which businesses can fairly trade. The administration and enforcement of the licensing regime is one of these services. The BRDO has published a Regulators' Code, which the Council complies with:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulators-code>

The Council will base its enforcement activities around the principles of consistency, transparency and proportionality.

- 13.6 The enforcement policy proposes that a graduated response is taken where offences against licensing legislation are found or where licence conditions have been contravened. An isolated administrative offence may be dealt with for example by way of a written warning whilst more serious offences which have either been committed over a period of time or which jeopardise public safety may result in a referral for prosecution.
- 13.7 The Council will seek to work actively with the Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Trading Standards and any other relevant authority to enforce the licensing legislation. This may include carrying out test purchases, inspections of licensed premises, investigating complaints about licensed premises and investigating allegations of unlicensed premises. Such a partnership approach is intended to prevent duplication of effort, maximise the potential for controlling crime and disorder at premises and to ensure compliance when relevant conditions are appropriate. Gateshead Council has approved the Northumbria Police Joint Enforcement Protocol, which will encourage a consistent approach to enforcement throughout the Licensing Authorities within the Northumbria Police area.
- 13.8 Inspections will take place at the discretion of the Council and its partner agencies and will be concentrated on areas of need. A light touch inspection regime will be employed for well managed and maintained premises with a targeted and graduated inspection and enforcement regime for problem and high-risk premises.
- 13.9 Where possible and appropriate, the Licensing Authority and its partner agencies will give early warning to licence holders of any concerns about problems occurring at premises associated with the licensing objectives
- 13.10 The Licensing Authority will carry out its responsibilities for enforcement so as to promote the licensing objectives.

#### Reviews

- 13.11 Interested parties and responsible authorities may seek a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate if they believe that the current operation under the licence or certificate is harmful to one or more of the Licensing Objectives.
- 13.12 Where an application to review a licence or certificate is received by the Licensing Authority, it should be accompanied by any relevant supporting information, documentation, etc. If the application is relevant, and (if made by an interested party) is not frivolous, vexatious or repetitive, a hearing before the Licensing Authority's Sub Committee will be held. Where appropriate the parties may be able to hold discussions with a view to reaching an agreement on steps that can be taken to improve the position.
- 13.13 When a hearing before the Sub Committee takes place, the Sub Committee will consider all relevant information presented to it, and decide what course of action is appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives. There are a range of responses that are open to the Sub Committee on a review application. The Sub Committee may –
- Take no further action
  - Add or modify conditions on the licence or certificate

- Exclude a licensable activity from the licence or certificate
- Remove the designated premises supervisor
- Suspend the licence or certificate for a period not exceeding three months
- Revoke the licence or certificate.

13.14 The review process is intended to enable the Licensing Authority to take appropriate timely measures to promote the Licensing Objectives in respect of individual premises. A review can take place even if it would be disproportionate to revoke a licence or certificate, as some lesser measure can be taken, as above.

13.15 Also, because the review process is intended to address the future conduct of the licence holder, a review can take place regardless of any other measures that may be open to the interested party or responsible body. For instance, if a licence holder is found to have sold age restricted products to a minor, it is not necessary for a prosecution (or indeed a successful prosecution) to take place in respect of that sale before a review is brought, as the review would consider the steps appropriate to prevent future underage sales.

#### Summary reviews

13.16 The Police may request a summary review in serious cases of crime and disorder, and in which case within 48 hours of the application the Licensing Authority will consider whether any interim steps are required pending completion of the review process. This may include immediate suspension of the relevant licence.

### **14. Delegation and Decision Making**

14.1 The Council has established a Licensing Committee to administer its functions under the Licensing Act 2003. Powers and functions have also been delegated to Licensing Sub-Committees and officers in order to provide a speedy, efficient and cost effective service to all parties involved in the licensing process.

14.2 Many of the decisions and functions are largely administrative in nature such as the grant of non-contentious applications, including for example those licences and certificates where no representations have been made. These will be delegated to Council officers. All such matters dealt with by officers will be reported for information to the next Licensing Committee meeting.

14.3 Applications where there are relevant representations will be dealt with by the Licensing Committee/Sub-Committee – unless such representations are considered irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious or unless the Licensing Authority, the applicant and everyone who has made representations agrees that a hearing is not necessary (usually after successful mediation).

14.4 The table given below sets out the delegation of decisions and functions of the Licensing Committee, Sub-Committees and officers. The various delegations include delegation to impose appropriate conditions.

14.5 This scheme of delegations is without prejudice to the right of relevant parties to refer an application to a Licensing Sub-Committee or the full Licensing Committee if considered appropriate in the circumstances of any particular case.

- 14.6 Unless there are compelling reasons to the contrary, the Licensing Authority will require the Licensing Committee or any of its sub-committees to meet in public – although Members can retire into private session to consider their decision. A public announcement of the decision will be made at the end of the hearing together with clear, cogent reasons for the decision having due regard to the Human Rights Act 1998, the four licensing objectives and all other legislation.
- 14.7 The Licensing Committee will be made up of 15 members and Sub-Committees of three who will hear any relevant representations from authorised persons, responsible authorities and interested parties in the form of a hearing.
- 14.8 Where a function is delegated to an officer, that officer will be responsible for liaising between the applicant, interested parties and the responsible authorities to ensure that any licence granted is subject to the appropriate conditions. Where objections are made then the officer will once again liaise with the applicant, interested parties and the responsible authorities to see if a ‘settlement’ is possible to overcome the objections without the need for the matter to go before the Sub-Committee.
- 14.9 The Sub-Committee will determine each case before it on its individual merits. However, in determining the application the Sub-Committee will consider:
- The case and evidence presented by all parties
  - The promotion of the four licensing objectives
  - Guidance issued by Central Government
  - The Licensing Authority’s own statement of Licensing Policy

14.10 Delegation of functions:

<b>Matter to be dealt with</b>	<b>Full Committee</b>	<b>Sub-Committee</b>	<b>Officers</b>
Consideration of reports to the committee	Six monthly		
Approval of new / updated Local Licensing Guidance	Six monthly		
Application for personal licence		If representation is made	If no representation made
Application for Personal Licence with unspent convictions		All cases	
Application for Premises Licence / Club Premises Certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation is made
Application for a Provisional		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation is