

Statement of Licensing Policy

2023 - 2025



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TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING ACT 2003

STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2023 – 2025

1 INTRODUCTION

The Licensing Act 2003 came into force on 24 November 2005. From that date the Licensing Authority became responsible for issuing authorisations for premises in the Borough in respect of the sale and supply of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment.

The Borough of Tamworth is located in the south-eastern corner of Staffordshire, 15 miles north-east of Birmingham and covers an area of 3,095 hectares. It is situated at the confluence of two rivers, the river Tame and Anker. Tamworth is essentially urban in character, which includes a vibrant town centre and smaller centres within local districts.

Tamworth's resident population of around 76,800 (Source – Census 2021, ONS) makes it one of the main urban centres in Southern Staffordshire. As of 2021, Tamworth is the ninth most densely populated of the West Midlands' 30 local authority areas, with around 18 people living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

The Borough has a wide range of recreational facilities including the Snowdome, an indoor real ski slope (the first in Europe), an athletics stadium, a football stadium, leisure centres, indoor bowls and a 26 lane ten-pin bowling alley. It also has a ten-screen cinema, nightclubs, pubs and restaurants.

2 LICENSING ACT 2003 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This licensing policy statement sets out the manner in which Tamworth Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) will consider applications for licences as required by the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act).

The Licensing Authority's policy relates to all licensing activities falling within the provisions of the Act, namely:

- The sale of alcohol by retail ; (including for consumption on or off premises, with or without food;
- the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club to, or to the order of, a member of the club;
- the provision of regulated entertainment to the public, club members or with a view to profit;
- the provision of late night refreshment.

In carrying out its functions the Authority will not only have regard to this policy but also any guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Act (referred to as "the guidance").

The guidance makes it clear, and the Authority recognises that licensing should not be seen as the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from licensed premises and therefore beyond the direct control of those with responsibility for managing and controlling licensed premises.

However, licensees should take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of crime and disorder and public nuisance immediately outside their premises, for example on the pavement, in a beer garden or in a smoking shelter to the extent that these matters are within their control.

Licensing will, however, be one of the key factors in managing the evening and night time economy particularly in town centres and any other places as identified 'high risk' areas in partnership with the police and other responsible authorities.

The Local Authority recognises its duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with regard to the prevention of crime and disorder in its area and will continue to work in partnership with the police, responsible authorities as defined by the Act, local businesses, local people and others towards the promotion of all the licensing objectives.

Regulated Entertainment

The descriptions of entertainment activities licensable under the 2003 Act are:

- a performance of a play;
- an exhibition of a film;
- an indoor sporting event;
- a boxing or wrestling entertainment;
- a performance of live music;
- any playing of recorded music;
- a performance of dance; and
- entertainment of a similar description to a performance of live music, any playing of recorded music or a performance of dance

Late Night Refreshment

Late night refreshment (subject to certain exemptions) is regarded as the supply on or off any premises between the hours of 11:00pm and 5:00am of hot food or drink for consumption on or off the premises.

The policy will apply in respect of new applications, grants and notifications to the following:

- Premises Licences;
- Club Premises Certificates;
- Personal Licences;
- Temporary Event Notices.

The licensing authority must have regard to the guidance issued by the

Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in discharging its functions under the Act and this statement of licensing policy has been prepared taking into account guidance issued under section 182 of the Act.

Consultation

Section 5 of the Act requires that the licensing authority prepares and publishes a statement of its licensing policy every 5 years. However, this policy (2023 – 2025) will be reviewed in 3 years. This is because the licensing policy now includes a Cumulative Impact Assessment. The legislation requires that the Cumulative Impact Assessment is reviewed every 3 years and therefore the Statement of Licensing Policy will be reviewed at the same time. During the three year period the Authority will keep the policy under review and may make any amendments to it as it considers necessary. The Act makes provision for this policy to be the subject of consultation and in developing this policy the Licensing Authority has consulted a wide range of organisations including statutory consultees as follows:

- Chief Officer for Police for Staffordshire;
- Chief Fire Officer for Staffordshire;
- Representatives of local holders of existing licences, within the meaning of Part 1 of Schedule 8 to the Act;
- Representatives of local holders of club premises certificates within the meaning of the Licensing Act 1964.

The Licensing Authority has also consulted a range of non statutory consultees including:

- Staffordshire County Council – Department of Social Care and Health;
- Tamworth Community Safety Partnership;
- Bodies representing consumers;
- Officers within the Borough Council responsible for Regeneration Growth and Development, Health and Safety, Environmental Protection.

The views of all consultees have been given proper weight in the preparation of this policy document.

When approved, the statement of licensing policy will be used by the Licensing Authority in the administration and enforcement of its duties under the Act.

3 LICENSING OBJECTIVES AND FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

In exercising its duties and responsibilities under terms of the Licensing Act 2003, the Licensing Authority will operate within the statements and procedures mentioned in this policy statement. Notwithstanding this statement, all applications will be treated on their merits and judged accordingly. In exercising its powers under the Act, the Licensing Authority will have regard to any relevant guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Act.

The Licensing Authority will exercise its duties so that the licensing objectives

of the Act are met. The licensing objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- public safety;
- the prevention of public nuisance; and
- the protection of children from harm.

The Licensing Authority confirms that each of these objectives is considered to be of equal importance.

Applications, Notices and Representations

The Licensing Authority requires that all applications for the grant, variation or transfer of any licence, permit or certificate detailed in the Act, are made in accordance with the Act and statutory guidance. In particular all such applications must be accompanied by the appropriate fee, where applicable, to be deemed duly made. Where applications are incomplete or inadequate and therefore not duly made, the whole application will be returned to the applicant. The Licensing Authority will do all that it can in such circumstances to provide guidance to an applicant on the reasons for the applications return. Where such applications are statutorily required to be advertised, or notified to other specified persons, the application must confirm that such advertising or notification has been properly made.

Upon receipt of a valid application, the Licensing Authority will consider the matter and determine it in accordance with this licensing policy, statutory requirements and current guidance issued by the Secretary of State. In order to maximise administrative speed, efficiency and cost effectiveness, the application will be determined in accordance with the delegation criteria detailed in section 13 of this policy.

The Licensing Authority will encourage all applicants intending to submit an application under the Act to carefully consider within the operating schedule accompanying the application, the steps that they propose to promote each of the licensing objectives.

Applicants should make themselves aware of the Licensing Authority's statement of licensing policy, in particular the issues that will need to be addressed in producing the operating schedule. Applicants are expected to have taken the wider local concerns and issues into account when establishing appropriate conditions to meet the licensing objectives. Issues such as drink spiking, irresponsible promotions, drink related violence and binge drinking.

Prospective holders of new premises licence and those seeking variations to existing licences are advised to consult with the Licensing Authority's licensing officers and other responsible authorities early in the planning stage in order to reduce the risk of confusion and dispute arising.

The Licensing Authority will expect representations on applications relating to licensable activities and applications for the review of existing authorisations under the Act to relate directly to the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives and to be supported and justified by a proper evidence base.

It will also expect that where such representations are made by other persons and, in particular, by responsible authorities, they will have informed the applicant of their concerns with a view to agreeing amendments to the details of the application that are acceptable to all parties. Whenever feasible, the Licensing Authority will facilitate discussions between the applicants and objectors to assess whether a compromise can be agreed between both parties. Where such agreements are reached, the Licensing Authority after consulting other appropriate responsible authorities may then agree with the original parties that a hearing is no longer necessary.

When one part of the Licensing Authority seeks a premises licence from the licensing authority, the licensing committee and its officers will consider the matter from an entirely neutral standpoint. If relevant representations are made, for example, by local residents or the Police, they will be considered fairly by the committee. Those making representations genuinely aggrieved by a positive decision in favour of a local authority application considered by the licensing authority may be entitled to appeal to the Magistrates' Court and thereby receive an independent review of any decision made.

Hearings and Determinations

Where an objection is received concerning the grant or variation of a licence for any purpose regulated by the Act, the matter will be determined in accordance with the terms of this licensing policy. The objection will be considered in accordance with the delegation criteria listed in the table in Section 13 of this policy.

Where the complaint or objection has been judged to be irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious, the matter will not proceed any further and the complainant will be advised in writing this fact.

Where "relevant representations" (as defined in section 18(6), 31(5), 35(5), 52(7), 72(7), 85(5) and 88(7) of the Act) are received, the Licensing Authority will normally hold a hearing to consider them. Applicants will be advised of all representations and all parties involved will be informed of the time and place of the hearing.

Where no representations are received, representations are withdrawn, or agreements are made that a hearing on an application is unnecessary; the Licensing Authority will approve the application and only impose conditions that are consistent with operating schedules accompanying it and/or are statutorily required of it under sections 19, 20, 21, 73 and/or 74 of the Act.

Where, however, an application for review of an existing premises licence or club premises certificate is received in accordance with sections 52(1) or section 88(1) of the Act, respectively, the Licensing Authority will hold a hearing to consider it, whether or not representations are received. The application for review will be considered in accordance with the delegated criteria listed in the table at section 13.

The Licensing Authority will take steps to reject applications, to impose or modify conditions, to exclude specific licensable activities, or, to cancel or revoke existing authorisations under the Act, only where it considers such steps necessary for promoting one or more of the licensing objectives.

In relation to a refusal to grant a licence or club premises certificate, the notification will detail the grounds for the refusal and specify the process for the applicant to appeal against the Licensing Authority's decision.

In relation to a modification or the cancellation of a licence or club premises certificate, the notification will detail the grounds for the modification or cancellation and specify the process for the applicant to appeal against the Licensing Authority's decision.

Reviews

The availability of a review of licences or club certificates provides a key protection for the community where the Licensing Objectives are being undermined. The review system should allow the Licensing Authority to apply a light touch bureaucracy to the grant or variation of a licence or certificate. The Licensing Authority may then take a more robust approach when problems relating to the Licensing Objectives arise later in respect of any premises.

At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence or a club premises certificate, a Responsible Authority or any other person, may ask the Licensing Authority to review the licence or certificate because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.

The Licensing Authority will accept initial email applications for reviews from Responsible Authorities. This does not however, negate the requirement to serve paper copies on all parties, including the Licensing Authority.

The Licensing Sub-Committee must, under section 52(4) of the Licensing Act 2003 having full regard to the representations, take such steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives namely;

- (a) to modify the conditions of the licence
- (b) to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the premises
- (c) to remove the Designated Premises Supervisor
- (d) to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months
- (e) to revoke the licence.

Summary reviews

Summary reviews can be undertaken when the police consider that the premises concerned are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both). The summary review process, set out under sections 53A-53D of the 2003 Act, allows interim conditions to be quickly attached to a licence and a fast track licence review. The provisions were inserted by section 21 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 and amended by sections 136-137 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017, including the addition of section 53D.

The powers apply only where a premises licence authorises the sale of alcohol. They do not apply in respect of other premises licences, or to premises operating under a club premises certificate. The powers are aimed at tackling serious crime and serious disorder, in particular (but not exclusively) the use of guns and knives. The powers complement the general procedures in the 2003 Act for tackling crime and disorder associated with licensed premises and should be reserved for the most serious matters which cannot be adequately or otherwise redressed unless urgent action is taken. Separate powers in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provide for the instant closure of premises by the police in some circumstances (in essence,

disorder or nuisance). The consequent review of premises licences by the licensing authority is provided for by section 167 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Conditions

The Authority will only be able to attach conditions (other than mandatory conditions) to a premises licence or club premises certificate if they are part of an applicant's operating schedule (including any conditions which may be subsequently volunteered by an applicant as a result of mediation following a representation), or by a decision of a Licensing Committee at a formal Hearing.

Any conditions which are attached to licences, certificates and other authorisations will be tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the premises and events concerned and will reflect, as far as possible, local crime prevention strategies. The Authority will not attempt to impose any 'blanket' conditions which apply to all premises but the applicant's operating schedule, which forms part of the application process should include sufficient information to enable a responsible authority or other person to assess whether the steps being taken to promote the licensing objectives are satisfactory or not.

When submitting operating schedules applicants are required by the Act to outline the measures which are being taken in order to meet the licensing objectives. These measures are likely to form the basis of conditions which will be attached to the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate. However, only those conditions which are considered appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives will be imposed and any breaches of conditions will, in most cases, be dealt with primarily through the review process.

The responsible authorities identified in this statement may also propose conditions of their own by making representations to a grant or variation application. However, these cannot be over burdensome or disproportionate and will only be imposed by the Authority in cases where it is considered appropriate to meet the licensing objectives. Any conditions proposed by a responsible authority and agreed by an applicant in such cases can be attached to the premises licence without the need for a formal Hearing either by the applicant agreeing to amend their operating schedule to include any condition(s) agreed between the parties or if all parties agree that a hearing is not necessary.

Duplication with other statutory or regulatory regimes will be avoided as far as possible. In circumstances where existing legislation already effectively promotes the licensing objectives it is likely that no additional conditions will be necessary. For this purpose each case will need to be assessed on its own individual merits.

Other regulatory controls are referenced in more detail in Section 4 of this policy document.

Petrol Stations s176

Section 176 of the 2003 Act prohibits the sale or supply of alcohol at motorway

service areas (MSA's) and form premises which are used primarily as a garage or are part of premises used primarily as a garage. 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 (diesel);
- The sale of motor vehicles; and
- The maintenance of motor vehicles.

It is for the licensing authority to decide, based on the licensing objectives, whether it is appropriate for that premises to be granted a licence, taking into account the documents and information listed in section 17(3) and (4) which must accompany the application.

If a licence is granted in respect of a premises and the primary use of that premises subsequently changes (for example, the primary use becomes that of a garage rather than a shop) it would no longer be legal to sell alcohol on that premises.

If a relevant representation is made, the licensing authority must decide whether or not the premises are used primarily as a garage. The licensing authority may ask the licence holder to provide further information to help establish what the primary use of the premises is.

Wholesale of alcohol

From 1 April 2017, businesses which sell alcohol (for example, retailers of alcohol and trade buyers) will need to ensure that the UK wholesalers that they buy alcohol from have been approved by HMRC under the Alcohol Wholesaler Registration Scheme (AWRS). They will need to check their wholesalers Unique Registration Number (URN) against the HMRC online database which will be available from April 2017. This is an ongoing obligation and if a business is found to have bought alcohol from an unapproved wholesaler, they may be liable to a penalty or could even face criminal prosecution and their alcohol stock may be seized. Any trader who buys alcohol from a wholesaler for onward sale to the general public (known as a 'trade buyer') does not need to register unless they sell alcohol to other businesses. Examples of trade buyers would be pubs, clubs, restaurants, cafes, retailers and hotels. However, they will need to check that the wholesaler they purchase alcohol from is registered with HMRC. Further information may be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-alcohol-wholesaler-registration-scheme-awrs>

Mobile, remote, internet and other delivery sales

The place where the order for alcohol, or payment for it, takes place may not be the same as the place where the alcohol is appropriated to the contract (i.e. the place where it is identified and specifically set apart for delivery to the purchaser). This position can arise when sales are made online, by telephone, or mail order. Section 190 of the 2003 Act provides that the sale of alcohol is to be treated as taking place where the alcohol is appropriated to the contract. It will be the premises at this location which need to be licensed; for example, a call centre receiving orders for alcohol would not need a licence but the warehouse where the alcohol is stored and specifically selected for, and dispatched to, the purchaser would need to be licensed. These licensed premises will, as such, be subject to conditions including the times of day during

which alcohol may be sold. The premises licence will also be subject to the mandatory licence conditions.

Persons who run premises providing 'alcohol delivery services' should notify the relevant licensing authority that they are operating such a service in their operating schedule. This ensures that the licensing authority can properly consider what conditions are appropriate. Premises with an existing premises licence, which choose to operate such a service in addition to their existing licensable activities, should contact their licensing authority for its view on whether this form of alcohol sale is already permitted or whether an application to vary the licence will be required

Suspension for Non Payment of Annual Fees

The Act requires the Authority to suspend a premises licence or club premises certificate if the annual fee is not paid when it is due. The Act provides for a grace period of 21 days in cases of an administrative error or where there is a dispute over liability for the fee, after which the licence/certificate will be suspended. The Authority has to give a minimum two days notice of the licence/certificate being suspended if payment is not made. The Authority, in this case, considers that seven days notice is more appropriate.

Temporary Event Notices (TEN)

There are two types of temporary event notice (TEN) which can be given to the Council; standard and late. Anyone wishing to give a standard TEN to the Authority must do so at least ten (10) clear working days prior to the event in question.

If it is not possible to give ten (10) working days notice then a late TEN may be given as long as five (5) working days notice is given. If an objection to a standard TEN is made by the Police or Environmental Health to impose existing conditions and all parties agree that a hearing is not necessary, the Authority will not normally hold a hearing. If, however, the Police or Environmental Health object to a late TEN then it will not be possible for the event to go ahead. The Licensing Authority would recommend that applicants refer to the documents detailed at Appendix 2 of this policy for further guidance.

Personal Licences - New Applications

A personal licence is a licence issued to an individual authorising them to make or authorise the sale of alcohol in accordance with a premises licence. Every premises licence that authorises the sale of alcohol must specify an individual who acts as the designated premises supervisor (DPS). The DPS must hold a personal licence.

Applications for personal licences should be made to the licensing authority for the area where the applicant is ordinarily resident at the time they make their application. The requirements are that:

- (a) The applicant is aged 18 or over
- (b) The applicant is entitled to work in the United Kingdom

- (c) The applicant possesses a licensing qualification or is a person of a prescribed description
- (d) The applicant has not forfeited a personal licence in the five year period prior to their application being made
- (e) The applicant has not been convicted of any relevant offence or any foreign offence or required to pay an immigration penalty

The licensing authority must reject an application if the applicant fails to meet one or more of the requirements set out in (a) to (d) above.

Where the applicant meets the requirements in (a) to (d) but does not meet the requirements of (e), the licensing authority must give the chief officer of police for its area a notice to this effect. Having received such a notice, if the chief officer of police is satisfied that the granting of the application would undermine the crime prevention objective, he must within 14 days, give the licensing authority a notice to that effect.

Where the applicant fails to meet the requirements of (e) as a result of a conviction for an immigration offence or because they have been required to pay an immigration penalty, the licensing authority must give a notice to the Secretary of State for the Home Department to that effect. The Home Office may object to an application on grounds that granting the personal licence would be prejudicial to the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises.

Where an objection to the grant of a personal licence is received from either the chief officer of police or the Home Office, the applicant is entitled to a hearing before the licensing authority. If no objections are received, the licensing authority must grant the application.

At a hearing to determine a personal licence application to which the chief officer of police or Home Office have objected, the licensing authority will have regard to all of the circumstances including the following:

- The need to assess each case on its merits
- The duty to promote the crime prevention objective
- The objection notice given by the Police or Home Office
- The guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
- The seriousness of the relevant offence
- The sentence or penalty imposed on the applicant for the relevant offence
- Any representations made by the applicant
- Any other evidence as to the previous character of the applicant

If, having considered all of the circumstances, the licensing authority considers that it is appropriate for either the promotion of the crime prevention objective or for the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises to reject the application, it must do so. In all other cases the application must be granted.

If an application is refused, the applicant will be entitled to appeal against the decision they make. Similarly, if the application is granted despite a police objection notice or an objection from the Home Office, the chief officer of

police or Home Office are entitled to appeal against the licensing authority's determination. The licensing authority will therefore record in full the reasons for any decision that it makes.

Personal Licences - Suspension and Revocation

Section 138 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 amended the Licensing Act 2003 and gave the power to a licensing authority to suspend or revoke personal licences that it has issued with effect from 6 April 2017.

When a licensing authority has granted a personal licence and becomes aware that the licence holder has been convicted of a relevant offence or foreign offence or been required to pay an immigration penalty, a licensing authority may revoke the licence or suspend it for a period of up to six months. This applies to convictions received and civil immigration penalties which a person has been required to pay at any time before or after the licence was granted, as long as the conviction was received after 6 April 2017, or the requirement to pay the civil penalty arose after 6 April 2017. Only magistrates' courts can order the forfeiture or suspension of a personal licence for convictions received prior to 6 April 2017.

The process which must be undertaken by the licensing authority to suspend or revoke a personal licence is set out at section 132A of the 2003 Act. The decision to revoke or suspend a personal licence must be made by the licensing committee or sub-committee, but the actions required before making a final decision may be made by a licensing officer.

The licensing authority may not take action if the licence holder has appealed against the conviction or the sentence imposed in relation to the offence, until the appeal is disposed of. Where an appeal is not lodged, the licensing authority may not take action until the time limit for making an appeal has expired.

If a licensing authority is considering revoking or suspending a personal licence, the authority must give notice to the licence holder. This notice must invite the holder to make representations about the conviction, any decision of a court in relation to the licence, or any decision by an appellate court if the licence holder has appealed such a decision. The licence holder may also decide to include any other information, for example, about their personal circumstances.

The licence holder must be given 28 days to make their representation, beginning on the day the notice was issued. The licensing authority does not need to hold a hearing to consider the representations. Before deciding whether to revoke or suspend the licence the licensing authority must consider any representations made by the licence holder, any decisions made by the court or appellate court in respect of the personal licence of which the licensing authority is aware, and any other information which the licensing authority considers relevant.

The licensing authority may not be aware of whether the court considered whether to revoke or suspend the licence, and there is no obligation on the licensing authority to find this out before making a decision themselves. Where the court has considered the personal licence and decided not to take action, this does not prevent the licensing authority from deciding to take

action itself. Licensing authorities have different aims to courts in that they must fulfil their statutory duty to promote the licensing objectives, and therefore it is appropriate for the licensing authority to come to its own decision about the licence.

If the licensing authority, having considered a suspension and revocation and subsequently considered all the information made available to it, proposes not to revoke the licence it must give notice to the chief officer of police in the licensing authority's area, and invite the chief officer to make representations about whether the licence should be suspended or revoked, having regard to the prevention of crime. The chief officer may make representations within the period of 14 days from the day they receive the notice from the licensing authority.

Any representations made by the chief officer of police must be taken into account by the licensing authority in deciding whether to suspend or revoke the licence.

Convictions may come to light via police in another area, for example if the personal licence holder no longer lives in the area of the licensing authority which issued the licence, or if the offence took place in another police force area. In this instance it would be good practice for the police providing the information to notify the police force in the licensing authority area, because it is the local chief officer who must provide representations if the licensing authority proposes not to revoke the licence.

Where the licence holder is convicted of immigration offences or has been required to pay a civil penalty for immigration matters, the licensing authority should notify Home Office Immigration Enforcement and allow representations to be made in the same way.

In deciding whether to suspend or revoke a personal licence, the licensing authority will have regard to all of the circumstances including the following:

- The need to assess each case on its merits
- The duty to promote the licensing objectives
- The guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
- The seriousness of the relevant offence
- The sentence or penalty imposed on the licence holder for the relevant offence
- Any representations made by the Police or Home Office Immigration Enforcement
- Any representations made by the holder of the licence
- Any evidence as to the previous character of the holder of the licence

The licensing authority must notify the licence holder and the chief officer of police of the decision made (even if the police did not make representations). The licence holder may appeal the licensing authority's decision to revoke or suspend their personal licence. A decision to revoke or suspend the licence does not take effect until the end of the period allowed for appealing the decision (21 days); or if the decision is appealed against, until the appeal is disposed of.

If the personal licence holder is a DPS, the licensing authority may notify the premises licence holder once the decision to revoke or suspend the licence

has been made if it becomes necessary to do so in order for the licensing authority to be able to carry out their functions.

The licensing authority may also notify any person who has declared an interest in the premises under section 178 of the 2003 Act if it becomes necessary to do so in order for the licensing authority to be able to carry out their functions.

Immigration Act 2016 - Entitlement to Work

Section 36 of and Schedule 4 to the Immigration Act 2016 made a number of amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 to introduce immigration safeguards in respect of licensing applications made in England and Wales on or after 6 April 2017. The intention of these changes is to prevent illegal working in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol or late night refreshment.

The statutory prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective in the Licensing Act 2003 includes the prevention of immigration crime and the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. The Council will work with the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) as well as the police, in respect of these matters.

Section 36 of and Schedule 4 to the Immigration Act 2016 (the 2016 Act) amended the 2003 Act to provide that in England and Wales:

Premises licences to sell alcohol or provide late night refreshment and Personal licences cannot be issued to an individual who does not have permission to be in the UK, or is not entitled to undertake work relating to the carrying on of a licensable activity;

Licences issued to those with limited permission to be in the UK will lapse when their permission to be in the UK and work in a licensable activity comes to an end;

Immigration offences, including civil penalties, are 'relevant offences' as defined by the 2003 Act;

The Home Secretary (in practice Home Office (Immigration Enforcement)) was added to the list of responsible authorities in the licensing regime, which requires Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) to receive premises licence applications (except regulated entertainment only licences) and applications to transfer premises licences, and in some limited circumstances personal licence applications, and permits Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) to make appropriate representations and objections to the grant of a licence; and

Immigration officers are permitted to enter premises which they have reason to believe are being used to sell alcohol or provide late night refreshment, to investigate whether immigration offences are being committed in connection with the licensable activity.

The licensing authority will have regard to any guidance issued by the Home Office in relation to the immigration related provisions now contained in the Licensing Act 2003.

The licensing authority will also work in partnership with the Home Office

(Immigration Enforcement) and the Police with a view to preventing illegal working in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol or late night refreshment.

Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS)

On premises where there is the supply or sale of alcohol, the Licensing Authority will require one of the personal licence holders to be a designated premises supervisor. The main purpose being to ensure that there is always one specified individual among the personal licence holders, who can be readily identified as having key responsibilities at the premises. Therefore it will be clear who is in charge of the day to day running of the business. Guidance issued under section 182 of the Act does not state that a designated premises supervisor must be physically on the premises at all times when there is a supply or sale of alcohol.

The premises licence will specify the name of the designated premises supervisor. It is the responsibility of the premises licence holder to notify the Licensing Authority immediately of any change of designated premises supervisor.

Removal of DPS requirement at Community Premises

Instead of being required by way of a mandatory condition, to appoint an individual as a designated premises supervisor, (DPS), volunteer committees managing community premises are now allowed to take joint responsibility for the sale of alcohol in community premises. Management Committees wishing to apply for the removal of the mandatory condition requiring a DPS at community premises will need to demonstrate clearly to the Authority how they operate and that there will be appropriate supervision of all alcohol sales at different types of events.

'Community premises' will include church halls, chapels, community and village halls and similar buildings. If there is any doubt as to whether a building is a community premises or not, the Authority will deal with such matters on a case by case basis with the main consideration being how the premises are being predominantly used, for example :

- a. are they genuinely made available for community benefit most of the time?
- b. are they accessible by a broad range of persons and sectors of the local community?
- c. are they being used for purposes which are beneficial to the community as a whole?

Applicants will be required to set out exactly how the premises are managed, its committee structure and how alcohol sales are to be properly supervised within the committee/management structure.

Adult Entertainment

An applicant wishing to provide adult entertainment should specify in the operating schedule what sort of adult entertainment they intend to provide and how frequently it will be provided. If sexual entertainment is to be provided, for example lap dancing, striptease etc. then a separate Sexual Entertainment

Licence maybe be required.

EMRO and Late Night Levy

There are no current proposals to implement a late night levy or introduce an early morning restriction order, but these will be kept under review in consultation with the Police and other responsible authorities.

Late Night Refreshment - Local Powers to Deregulate

Section 71 of the Deregulation Act 2015 inserted paragraph 2A into Schedule 2 of the Licensing Act 2003 in relation to the provision of late night refreshment.

This amendment created a discretionary power to licensing authorities to exempt premises in certain circumstances, from the requirement to have a licence to provide late night refreshment.

The powers allow a relevant licensing authority to exempt the supply of late night refreshment if it takes place:

- on or from premises which are wholly situated in a designated area;
- on or from premises which are of a designated description; or
- during a designated period (beginning no earlier than 23.00 and ending no later than 05.00).

The licensing authority does not currently consider it appropriate to exercise the discretionary powers within paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 to the Licensing Act 2003.

If the licensing authority was going to consider exercising the powers in the future, it would only do so having carefully considered the risks to the promotion of the licensing objectives and having carried out a comprehensive consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders.

Working with Partners

The Licensing Authority recognises that licensing functions under the Licensing Act 2003 are only one means of promoting the delivery of the licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority is committed to working in partnership with a wide range of organisations, including Staffordshire Police, Fire, and Social Services Authorities, Planning Authorities, Environmental Health e.g. Tamworth Responsible Body Group, CIEH Shropshire and Staffordshire Licensing Group; Staffordshire and Stoke Responsible Body Group, Neighbourhood Authority Working Group; the Tamworth Local Strategic Partnership and Community Safety Partnership, local businesses e.g. Tamworth Licensees Forum or similar and Destination Tamworth, local communities, performers and other organisations, to deliver these objectives.

Rights of Individuals

This policy sets out the general approach this Licensing Authority will take in making licensing decisions under the Act. It does not seek to undermine the right of any individual to apply, under the terms of the Act, for a variety of

permissions and to have any such application considered on its individual merits.

Similarly, this policy does not seek to override the right of any person to make representations on an application or seek a review of a licence or certificate, where provision has been made for them to do so under the Act.

4 INTEGRATING OTHER REGULATORY CONTROLS

There are a number of other regulatory controls that may affect the Licensing Authority's licensing function. The Authority recognises that the licensing process should not duplicate powers; provisions or restrictions provided for in other legislation, and will in so far as possible avoid duplication of this kind. The Licensing Authority will be mindful of the following legislation and related strategies when executing its licensing functions under the 2003 Act:

1. The Licensing Act 2003, as amended;
2. Regulations and orders made under the Act;
3. Guidance issued by the Home Office; and
4. The principles of better regulation, particularly as set out in the Regulators' Code (BRDO 14/705 April 2014)

The following key areas have been considered during the formulation of this policy and will continue to be taken into consideration during administration and enforcement of the licensing process. However, the Licensing Authority recognises that it cannot use its powers under the Licensing Act 2003 as a mechanism for enforcing other legislation where it is more appropriate to enforce those requirements through more specific statutory provisions.

Planning and Building Control

The Licensing Authority recognises that licensing applications should not be seen as a re-run of the planning application process and that there should be a clear separation of the planning and licensing regimes to avoid duplication and inefficiency. Licensing decisions will take into account any relevant planning decisions made by the Council's planning committee or made as a result of appeal and will not cut across such decisions.

Where applications relating to premises licences and club premises certificates involve material alterations to a building, the granting of any such licence/certificate will not relieve the applicant of the need to apply for planning permission or building regulation approval and refusal of either of these may be taken into consideration by the Licensing Authority when considering representations on such applications.

Where requested, the Licensing Authority will arrange for reports to be provided to the Council's planning committee on situations regarding licensed premises in the Borough, including the general impact of alcohol related crime and disorder, in order for that committee to have regard to such matters when considering planning decisions.

There are circumstances when as a condition of planning permission; a

terminal hour has been set for the use of premises for commercial purposes. Where these hours are different to the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier closing time. Premises operating in breach of their planning permission would be liable to prosecution under planning law.

Public Spaces Protection Order

The Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) was replaced by the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. DPPO's continue to be valid for a period of three years following commencement of the PSPO. Once the three-year period expires, they are treated as a PSPO and enforceable as such. At the time of reviewing this policy the following orders are in place:-

https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/community_docs/Tamworth-PSPO-Alcohol-Control.docx

https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/community_docs/Amington-Alcohol-Restricted-Zone.pdf

https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/community_docs/Town-Centre-Alcohol-Restricted-Zone.pdf

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety at Work Act, etc. 1974 (and other relevant statutory provisions) impose duties on employers, employees and persons in control of premises to prevent where possible or minimise the risk of injury or ill health to people affected by work activities or the condition of the premises. Local authorities are the enforcing authority for the majority of premises on which licensable activities are carried on; in other cases the Health and Safety Executive is responsible.

Licensing objectives overlap with health and safety requirements in so far as foreseeable risks to public safety would be covered by the duties imposed by relevant legislation. In the majority of cases health and safety requirements will not form part of the conditions relating to premises licences and club premises certificates, as it is more appropriate to enforce those requirements through more specific statutory provisions. However when the Licensing Authority's decision making powers under the Act have been engaged following the receipt of relevant representations and where it is considered that such statutory provisions do not provide for adequate protection with regard to public safety, consideration may be given to addressing those matters through the imposition of licence/certificate conditions.

Fire Safety

The licensing objective for public safety overlaps with fire safety requirements, which are enforced by the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service (FARS) under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, in premises where licensable activities take place in the Borough of Tamworth. In the majority of cases, therefore, fire safety requirements will not form part of the conditions relating to premises licences and club premises certificates, as it is more appropriate to enforce

those requirements through more specific statutory provisions. However when the Licensing Authority's decision making powers under the Act have been engaged following the receipt of relevant representations and where it is considered that such statutory provisions do not provide for adequate protection with regard to public safety, consideration may be given to addressing those matters through the imposition of licence/certificate conditions. The Licensing Authority will not seek to impose any fire safety conditions where the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 applies.

Noise and Other Public Nuisance

The licensing objective for the prevention of public nuisance overlaps with statutory environmental health requirements for controlling statutory nuisances, including noise, which are enforced, in Tamworth Borough, by the Council under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Powers under the Act are also available to the Police and, under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003, to Environmental Health Staff and authorised officers to secure the closure of licensed premises causing a public nuisance because of noise. In the majority of cases, therefore, controls to prevent statutory nuisance will not form part of the conditions relating to premises licences and club premises certificates, as it is more appropriate to enforce those requirements through more specific statutory provisions. However, when the Licensing Authority's decision making powers under the Act have been engaged following the receipt of relevant representations and where it is considered that there is the potential for noise (or other public nuisance such as that caused by light pollution, noxious smells and/or litter) and where it is considered that such statutory provisions do not provide for adequate protection with regard to public nuisance, consideration may be given to addressing those matters through the imposition of licence/certificate conditions.

Human Rights Act

The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights and makes it unlawful for a local authority to act in a way that is incompatible with a Convention Right. When considering applications relating to licensable activities or representations on applications, 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, including for example the possession of a licence.

Disability Discrimination Act

This Act provides that any person providing a service to the public must make reasonable adjustments to enable disabled people to access the service. From October 2004 service providers are under a duty to make reasonable adjustments to any physical features which make it impossible or unreasonably difficult for disabled persons to access a service, or they have to provide the service by a reasonable alternative means. The Licensing Authority will not attach conditions to licences or certificates which conflicts with or duplicates this requirement. Applicants may wish to obtain guidance from the Building Control Section of Tamworth Borough Council as regards access to buildings and their facilities, particularly as any alterations affecting access may require an application for building control approval. Further advice can also be obtained from the Disability Rights Commission at www.drc-gb.org.uk

Equality Act 2010

Tamworth Borough Council has adopted an Equal Opportunities Policy and a Race Equality Scheme in which it sets out how it aims to address race equality issues in the Borough, and to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and good relations between different racial groups. The Licensing Authority's undertaking of its licensing functions will therefore be monitored in accordance with Tamworth Borough Council's Equal Opportunities Policy and Race Equality Scheme.

5 INTEGRATING OTHER STRATEGIES

There are a number of strategic influences that may affect Tamworth Borough Council's licensing function. The following key areas have been considered during the formulation of this policy and will continue to be taken into consideration during administration and enforcement of the licensing process.

Corporate Vision

Tamworth's Vision;

is to put Tamworth, its people and the local economy at the heart of everything we do.

Community Strategy

Tamworth Community Safety Partnership contribute to Tamworth Responsible Body Group and this is reflected in the **Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan 2020-2023** www.safertamworth.org. We will consider any reports submitted to ensure that these needs are reflected in our licensing considerations.

Live Music, Dancing and Theatre

The Licensing Authority is aware of the need to encourage and promote a broad range of entertainment, particularly live music and dancing and traditional theatre performances. The Licensing Authority will need to balance the natural concern to prevent disturbance in neighbourhoods with the wider cultural benefits, particularly the cultural benefits for children. Where there is any indication that such events are being deterred by licensing requirements,

this policy statement will be reviewed to see how that situation may be reversed.

In addition the Licensing Authority will consult the National Association of Local Government Arts Officers (NALGAO) for practical help and advice in this area when required.

To promote this policy, Tamworth Borough Council now holds its own premises licences for some public spaces within the Borough including St Editha's Square, some streets in the town centre, the Castle Pleasure Grounds and Wigginton Park. This is intended to encourage the above mentioned activities in that at these premises and venues performers and entertainers would not need to acquire a licence to perform but would only need the permission of the Council as the premises licence holder.

Live Music

As a result of recent changes made to the Live Music Act 2012 & Deregulation Act 2015 no licence is required for the following activities –

- a performance of unamplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day on any premises.
- a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day on premises authorised to sell alcohol for consumption on those premises, provided that the audience does not exceed 500.
- a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, in a workplace that is not licensed to sell alcohol on those premises, provided that the audience does not exceed 500.
- a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, in a church hall, village hall, community hall, or other similar community premises, that is not licensed by a premises licence to sell alcohol, provided that:- (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and
(b) the organiser gets consent for the performance from a person who is responsible for the premises.
- a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, at the non-residential premises of:-
 - (i) a local authority, or
 - (ii) a school, or
 - (iii) a hospital, provided that:-
 - (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and
 - (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance on the relevant premises from: (i) the local authority concerned, or
(ii) the school or
(iii) the health care provider for the hospital.

Transport

Licensing protocols agreed between the Licensing Authority and Staffordshire Police will be established and will incorporate any procedures necessary to ensure that adequate arrangements are made in local transport plans and, where appropriate, in conditions relating to premises licences and club premises certificates for the swift and safe dispersal of people from premises and events authorised under the Act.

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

The Government published in (2012) its Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England in this it outlined how the Licensing Act can be used to address some of the social health and crime and disorder issues raised by the misuse of alcohol, when considering applications for premises or personal licences. On occasions when the Licensing Authority's decision making powers under the Act have been engaged, i.e. - upon receipt of relevant representations, this strategy will be taken into account specifically with regard to the sale of alcohol to under 18's and the impact of lack of effective steps to tackle antisocial behaviour.

The Portman Group Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks, which seeks to ensure that drinks are packaged and printed in a socially responsible manner and only to those who are 18 years old or older, is commended for consideration by applicants whose proposed licensable activities involve the supply of alcohol.

Drug Abuse

The Licensing Authority would commend for consideration by applicants the strategy outlined in the Home Office Drug Strategy booklet - Safer Clubbing - Guidance for Licensing Authorities, Club Managers and Promoters.

On occasions when the Licensing Authority's decision making powers have been engaged, the Licensing Authority may impose special conditions for certain types of premises to prevent the sale and use of drugs and to create a safer environment for those who may have taken them. Conditions will take into account the Home Office "Safer Clubbing" guidelines and Annex D of the guidance issued under section 182 of the Act.

Director of Public Health

Health Bodies have been responsible authorities under the Act since April 2012 and health functions are now exercised by local authorities via the Director of Public Health. Although 'health' is not a licensing objective under the Act, health bodies hold certain information which other responsible authorities do not, but which would assist the Council in carrying out its licensing functions, especially in relation to the public safety or crime and disorder objectives.

Rebalancing Licensing

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act brought about amendments to the Licensing Act 2003. The legislative changes have been instigated by Her Majesty's Government giving a clear commitment to overhaul alcohol licensing and to tackle the crime and disorder, and associated health and social harms, associated with alcohol consumption. The changes also aimed to rebalance the 2003 Act in favour of local communities.

The majority of the new measures are in force, in particular these relate to:

- Late night levy
- Early morning restriction orders (EMROs)

6 OPENING HOURS

The Licensing Authority will deal with licensing hours on the merits of each individual application. The Licensing Authority will have regard to the overall impact of the licensed premises on the local amenity and any proposals the applicant might submit to mitigate such impact.

The Licensing Authority recognises that longer licensing hours, with regard to the sale of alcohol, may be an important factor in ensuring that the concentrations of customers leaving premises simultaneously are avoided. This will help reduce the potential for disorder at fast food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport. It will not, therefore, seek to impose fixed trading hours within any designated area, (i.e. zoning) but will take into consideration the individual merits of each application and any representations received from responsible authorities and/or other person regarding those applications.

When relevant representations have been received thus engaging the Licensing Authority's decision making functions under the Act, the Licensing Authority may, if appropriate, consider applying stricter conditions with regard to licensing hours for licensed premises situated in or immediately adjacent to residential areas to ensure that disturbance to local residents is avoided. This may particularly apply in circumstances where, having regard to the location, size and nature of the licensed premises, it is likely that disturbance will be caused to residents in the vicinity of the premises by concentrations of people leaving during normal night time sleeping periods (11:00pm – 07:00am). However, when considering applications, the Licensing Authority will consider each application on its merits and will have regard to the overall impact of the licensed premises on the local amenity and any proposals the applicant might submit to mitigate such impact.

In the absence of any relevant representations being received, the Licensing Authority will approve the application subject only to any applicable mandatory conditions and such conditions which are consistent with the applicants operating schedule.

With regard to shops, stores and supermarkets, the Licensing Authority will not seek to restrict the sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises during times when the retail outlet is open for shopping, unless representations received from any responsible authority or other person, regarding any of the licensing objectives being compromised, are substantiated. However, limitations on operating hours may be imposed as appropriate, for example in the case of specific premises known to be a focus of disorder and disturbance late at night.

7 THE LICENSING OBJECTIVES

Section 3 of this policy outlines the four licensing objectives which are paramount considerations at all times.

The following four sections of this policy (8, 9, 10, 11) provide further detail in respect of the four licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority recognises that applicants will know their businesses best and it is therefore for them to demonstrate how they will promote the four licensing objectives.

The Licensing Authority wishes to make it clear that where no relevant representations are received in respect of applications, the Licensing Authority will grant the application subject to any applicable mandatory conditions and such conditions which are consistent with the applicant's operating schedule. This is in line with Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Act.

8 PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

Tamworth Borough Council is committed to reducing crime and disorder and improving community safety in the Borough of Tamworth.

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 Tamworth Borough Council, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire County Council and others to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties. The Licensing Act 2003 reinforces this duty for local authorities. The Licensing Authority will therefore have regard to the likely impact of licensing on related crime and disorder in the Borough, particularly when considering the location, impact, operation and management of licensable activities.

Conditions relating to premises licences and club premises certificates will, so far as is possible, reflect local crime prevention strategies and, where the Licensing Authority is satisfied, having received reports from the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership through the LSP or from Staffordshire Police, that there are serious crime prevention issues that need to be addressed in a particular area or areas of the Borough, it will consider adopting a "saturation policy". Adoption of saturation policies is referenced in more detail in the Cumulative Impact Assessment pages of this policy document.

The Licensing Authority considers the effective and responsible management of the premises, instruction, training and supervision of staff and the adoption of best practice to be amongst the most essential control measures for the achievement of all the licensing objectives and in particular the prevention of crime and disorder

The Licensing Authority recommends that all licensees of licensed premises be encouraged to attend training programmes which will raise their awareness of the issues relating to drugs and violence in licensed premises.

The promotion of the licensing objective, to prevent crime and disorder, places a responsibility on licence holders to become key partners in achieving this objective. When addressing crime and disorder, the applicant should initially identify any particular issues (having regard to their particular type of premises and/or activities) which are likely to adversely affect the promotion of the crime and disorder objective. Such steps as are required to deal with these

identified issues should be included within the applicant's operating schedule.

Within the operating schedule for premises from which alcohol will be sold, a premises supervisor must be designated ('Designated Premises Supervisor' DPS). The Licensing Authority will normally expect the DPS to have been given the day to day responsibility for running the premises by the premises licence holder, and, as such, would normally be present on the licensed premises on a regular basis.

Certain temporary events are not required to be licensed but can be notified to the Licensing Authority using the temporary event notice procedure. Depending on the nature and location of such events, these can have serious crime and disorder implications. Organisers of these events are encouraged to submit their notification as soon as reasonably practicable to enable the Police and the Licensing Authority to work with them to identify and reduce the risk of crime and disorder.

Security Operatives

Whenever security operatives are employed at licensed premises to carry out any security function they must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA).

Competent and professional door supervisors are key to public safety at licensed premises and the provision of door supervisors is an action point for the leisure industry to consider in the Home Office Harm Reduction Strategy.

All security operatives employed at licensed premises will be expected to display their identification as issued by the Security Industry Authority (SIA).

If a licensee directly employs security operatives he/she will need to be licensed by the SIA as a supervisor/manager.

When the Licensing Authority's decision making powers under the Act have been engaged following the receipt of relevant representations and where it is considered that such certain premises may require strict supervision for the purpose of the promotion of the licensing objectives, the Licensing Authority may impose a condition that licensed security operatives must be employed at the premises either at all times, or, at such times that certain licensable activities are taking place. However, the Authority will consider each application on its merits.

9 PUBLIC SAFETY

The Act covers a wide range and variety of premises that require licences, including cinemas, concert halls theatres, nightclubs, public houses, cafes, restaurants, fast food outlets and takeaways. Each of these premises will present a mixture of risks, with many common to most premises and others unique to specific operations. It is essential that premises are constructed or adapted and maintained so as to acknowledge and safeguard occupants against these risks as far as is practicable.

There are a wide range of statutory requirements as detailed in Section 4 in this policy which are separate regulatory requirements with which applicants and employers have a duty to comply.

The licensing authority is committed to ensuring that the safety of any person visiting or working in licensed premises is not compromised. Where an applicant identifies an issue with regard to public safety (including fire safety) which is not covered by existing legislation, the applicant should indicate in their operating schedule the steps which will be taken to ensure public safety.

The capacity of a premises is a legitimate public safety issue. The Licensing Authority is aware that from 1 October 2006 the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 replaced previous fire safety legislation. Under article 43 of the Fire Safety Order any conditions imposed by the Licensing Authority that relate to any requirements or prohibitions that are or could be imposed by the Order, automatically ceased to have effect. This means that the Licensing Authority will not seek to impose fire safety conditions or capacity limits where the Order applies.

The Licensing Authority may set an occupancy capacity following representations from the Chief Fire Officer for Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority, after having regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State if considered necessary to meet the public safety licensing objective. Each application will be considered on its merits.

The Licensing Authority would recommend that applicants refer to the documents detailed at Appendix 2 of this policy for further guidance.

10 PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE

Licensed premises have a significant potential to adversely impact on communities through public nuisances that arise from their operation. These issues mainly relate to noise nuisance, light pollution and noxious odours. However this will depend on the individual circumstances of any premises including the nature and style of the venue, the activities being conducted there, the location of the premises and the anticipated clientele of the business involved.

The Licensing Authority wishes to maintain and protect the amenity of residents and other businesses from the potential consequence of the operation of licensed premises whilst recognising the valuable cultural, social and business importance that such premises provide.

There are a number of statutory controls available to deal with nuisance issues as outlined in Section 4.

When addressing public nuisance the applicant should initially identify any particular issues (having regard to their particular type of premises and/or activities) which are likely to adversely affect the promotion of the objective to prevent public nuisance. Such steps as are required to deal with these

identified issues should be included within the applicant's operating schedule.

Applicants need to be clear that where relevant representations have been received, the Licensing Authority may apply stricter conditions, including controls on noise and operating hours, where licensed premises are in residential areas.

11 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

The protection of children from harm is an extremely important issue and is one of the statutory licensing objectives. It is the Licensing Authority's wish that family friendly premises will thrive, but the risk of harm to children remains a paramount consideration when determining applications.

The Act makes it an offence to permit children under the age of 16 who are not accompanied by an adult to be present on premises being used exclusively or primarily for supply of alcohol for consumption on those premises under the authorisation of a premises licence, club premises certificate or where that activity is carried on under the authority of a temporary event notice.

It is also an offence to permit the presence of children under 16 who are not accompanied by an adult between midnight and 5:00am at other premises supplying alcohol for consumption on the premises under the authority of any premises licence, club premises certificate or temporary event notice.

Otherwise, the Act does not prevent the admission of unaccompanied children under 16 to the wide variety of premises where the consumption of alcohol is not the exclusive or primary activity at those venues. However this does not mean that children should automatically be allowed access to such premises.

The Licensing Authority will enforce the requirements of the Act restricting access by children to premises and events licensed or authorised under the Act. It will not, however, seek to limit such access through the imposition of conditions (other than those statutorily required of it), unless representations are received from any responsible authority or other person and it is considered necessary to impose limitations for the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm to children.

The Licensing Authority recognises Staffordshire County Council through its Safe Guarding Children's Board or any successor Board or Directorate charged with the responsibility for or interest in matters relating to the protection of children from harm and the Staffordshire Police as the responsible authorities for advising the Licensing Authority in matters relating to the protection of children from harm and competent to advise it on such matters.

When addressing the protection of children, the applicant should initially identify any particular issues (having regard to their particular type of premises and/or activities) which are likely to cause concern in relation to children. Such steps as are required to deal with these identified concerns should be

included within the applicant's operating schedule.

When considering applications and deciding whether to limit access of children to premises, the Licensing Authority will judge each application on its own merits.

However the Licensing Authority will have particular regard to premises where there is substantial evidence that:

- Entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature are commonly provided such as topless bar staff, striptease, lap-, table- or pole dancing, performances involving feigned violence or horrific incidents, feigned or actual sexual acts or fetishism, or entertainment involving strong and offensive language
- there have been convictions of members of the current staff at the premises for serving alcohol to minors, or, the premises has a reputation for underage drinking;
- there is a known association with drug taking or dealing;
- there is a known association with prostitution;
- there is a strong element of gambling on the premises (but not, for example, the simple presence of a small number of cash prize gaming machines); and
- the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided.

Where concerns have been identified in respect of individual premises, and it is felt that the access of children should be restricted the Licensing Authority may consider the following options:

- Limiting the hours when children may be present;
- age limitations (below 18);
- limiting or prohibiting access when certain activities are taking place;
- fully excluding persons under the age of 18 from the premises when certain licensable activities are taking place;
- limitations on access to certain parts of the premises for persons under 18;
- permitting access only when accompanied by an adult.

The above list is not exhaustive and the alternatives may be adopted in combination.

Applicants applying for premises licences and club premises certificates may also volunteer such prohibitions and restrictions in their operating schedules where their risk assessments have determined the presence of children is undesirable or inappropriate.

Where no relevant representations are made to the Licensing Authority, these volunteered prohibitions and restrictions will become conditions attached to the licence or certificate and will be enforceable as such. No other conditions concerning the presence of children on premises may be imposed by the

Licensing Authority in these circumstances.

The Portman Group operates on behalf of the alcohol industry a Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of alcoholic drinks. The Code seeks to ensure that alcoholic drinks are only marketed to those 18 years and older. The Licensing Authority commends the adoption of this Code by all relevant parties.

The Licensing Authority will, as required by the Act, impose a condition on all licences and certificates authorising the exhibition of films, requiring the admission of children to be restricted in accordance with the recommendations given to films by a body designated under Section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 (at the date of publishing this policy the British Board of Film Classification was the only body so designated), or in specific cases the Licensing Authority itself. The Licensing Authority will expect that operating schedules accompanying applications relating to activities involving film exhibitions will include details of the arrangements proposed for preventing children from viewing age restricted films.

When considering any application, the Licensing Authority will take into account any evidence that age restrictions for cinema exhibitions are not being properly observed.

Where representations are received from a responsible authority regarding regulated entertainment attended by children, the Licensing Authority will consider imposing conditions requiring the presence of adult staff for the purposes of controlling access and egress from the premises and for the protection of children from harm. The numbers of adults required will be determined through consultation with the appropriate responsible authorities defined in Section 13(4) and Section 69(4) of the Act; i.e., Staffordshire County Council through its Safe Guarding Children's Board or any successor Board or Directorate and the Chief Fire officer for Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire Authority.

The Licensing Authority will not impose any condition specifically requiring access to be provided for children at any premises. Where no restriction or limitation is imposed, the issue of access will remain a matter for the discretion of the individual licence/certificate holder.

Illegal Sales of Age Restricted Goods.

The Licensing Authority recognises the important work carried out by Staffordshire County Council Trading Standards and Staffordshire Police in this field. The Licensing Authority, Staffordshire County Council Trading Standards and the Police take a very serious view of the illegal sale of alcohol and other age restricted goods and the Licensing Authority will work closely with Trading Standards and the Police to seek to ensure that illegal sales of alcohol and other age restricted goods are reduced and ultimately eradicated.

The sale of alcohol to minors (under 18 years of age) is a criminal offence and Trading Standards has, over time, worked to advise the off-licence trade on how to set up systems to avoid sales taking place. Trading Standards will

continue to regularly conduct covert test purchasing exercises with volunteers in response to complaints and local intelligence. Trading Standards have been successful in bringing a number of prosecutions recently; having particular regard to the link between alcohol and crime and disorder issues, and this continues to be a concern of Staffordshire County Council under the Licensing Act 2003.

Staffordshire Trading Standards have issued guidance that applicants may wish to consider in respect of underage sale of alcohol and other age restricted goods. Copies of this guidance can be obtained from Staffordshire Trading Standards or from the Licensing Authority.

Guidelines to be followed by the Licensing Committee when dealing with a review application following underage sales of alcohol

The Act provides the Council with a wide range of powers to be used when determining a review application. There are a number of steps which the Committee can take in order to promote the licensing objectives, as follows:

- a. modify the conditions of licence
- b. exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
- c. remove the designated premises supervisor
- d. suspend the licence for a period of up to 3 months
- e. revoke the licence

When deciding which steps are appropriate, each case will be judged on its own merits but, the Committee will consider taking tougher steps in cases where, for example: an underage sale of alcohol has been made and there are related issues involving the use of counterfeit or illicit alcohol from the same premises, or the premises have already been before the Committee previously for an underage sale and conditions were imposed at that time.

Where a premises licence has been revoked by the Committee or one of its panels, the Authority will not normally grant an application for a new premises licence within 12 months of the date of the revocation, where there has been an objection to the application, when they are not satisfied that the management structure of the premises is not related to the management involved in the revoked licence and when one or more of the licensing objectives is undermined by such a circumstance. However, each application is to be considered on its own merits and this part of the policy does not fetter the discretion of the Committee and Panels. The Authority must carry out its functions with a view to promoting the licensing objectives.

Any action taken by the Committee or Panel should be an appropriate and proportionate response.

Nothing within this policy removes the discretion or judgement from the Committee or Panel when considering a review of a licence and each application and representation will be considered on its own merits. If the Committee or Panel depart from this policy or the guidance, reasons will be given.

12 ENFORCEMENT

The Licensing Authority has established good working relationships with the Police and other enforcing authorities. These arrangements provide for the targeting of agreed problem high risk premises, but with a lighter touch being applied to those premises which are shown to be well managed and maintained. The Licensing Authority will incorporate the Hampton principles of inspection and enforcement into these activities. Consideration will also be given to any relevant codes of practice issued by the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BDRO).

It is intended that in general, action will only be taken in accordance with agreed enforcement principles and in line with the Licensing Authority's own enforcement policy. To this end the key principles of consistency, transparency and proportionality will be maintained. In addition, any enforcement action undertaken will be with a view to upholding the promotion of the licensing objectives

13 THE LICENSING PROCESS AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

The Licensing Authority's licensing functions will be discharged by the licensing committee. To facilitate the processing of applications made under the Act and in the interests of speed, efficiency and cost effectiveness, the Licensing Authority's licensing committee will delegate those functions to sub committees, each of which will comprise three members of the licensing committee.

Many of the licensing committee's decisions will be purely administrative and, where under the provisions of the Act, there are no relevant representations on an application for the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate or police objections to an application for a personal licence or to an activity taking place under the authority of a temporary event notice, these matters will be delegated to officers of the Licensing Authority who are responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Act.

The Licensing Authority's licensing committee will receive regular reports on decisions made by officers and its sub committee so that it maintains an overview of the general licensing situation in the Borough.

Applications will be determined in accordance with the following delegation criteria:

Function	Full Committee	Sub Committee	Officers
Application for personal licence		Where an objection has been received from the Police or Home Office	Where no objection received
Decision whether to suspend or revoke a personal licence		All cases	
Application for personal licence with unspent convictions		All cases	
Application for premises licence/club premises certificate	Where objection relates to cumulative impact	Where "relevant representation" has been made	Where no "relevant representation" made or all representations made are withdrawn
Application for provisional statement	Where objection relates to cumulative impact	Where "relevant representation" has been made	Where no "relevant representation" made or all representations made are withdrawn
Application to vary a premise licence/club premises certificate	Where objection relates to cumulative impact	Where "relevant representation" has been made	Where no "relevant representation" made or all representations made are withdrawn
Application to vary designated premise Supervisor		Where an objection has been received from the Police	Where no objection has been received
Application for the mandatory alcohol condition under the Licensing Act		If a police representation is made	All other cases

2003 requiring a Designated Premises Supervisor in respect of a premises licence to be disappplied			
Decision whether to consult other responsible authorities on minor variation application			All cases
Determination of minor variation application			All cases
Application for transfer of premise licence		Where an objection has been received from the Police or Home Office	All other cases
Applications for interim authority notices		Where an objection has been received from the Police or Home Office	All other cases
Application to review premise licence/club premises certificate		All cases	
Decision on whether a complaint or objection is irrelevant frivolous vexatious etc			All cases
Decision to object when local authority is a consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application		All cases	

Acknowledgement of receipt of a temporary event notice			All cases
Determination of a Police or environmental health representation to a temporary event notice		All cases	
Decision to suspend a licence or certificate for non-payment of the annual fee			All cases

Where a councillor who is a member of the licensing committee or a licensing sub committee has had a direct or indirect involvement in the affairs of an application before them, in the interests of good governance they will disqualify themselves from any involvement in the decision making process affecting the premises licence in question.

The Licensing Authority's nominated officers will deal with all licence applications where either no representations have been received, or where representations have been received and it is agreed by the parties that a hearing is not necessary.

Entitlements to appeal for parties aggrieved by decisions of the Licensing Authority are set out in Schedule 5 of the 2003 Act. Other than in the case of personal licences, an appeal has to be made to the magistrates' court. In which the premises concerned is situated. In the case of personal licences, the appeal must be made to the magistrates' court for the area in which the licensing authority (or any part of it) which made the decision is situated.

14 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Equality Act 2010 places a legal obligation on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relation, between persons with different protected characteristics, for example age, disability, race and religion.

Tamworth Borough Council has a Statement of Intent for Equality and Diversity which requires that services are provided that embrace diversity, promote equality of opportunity and access. The statement can be found at <http://www.tamworth.gov.uk/equality-and-diversity>

15 FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the Licensing Act 2003 and the Licensing Authority's licensing policy can be obtained from:

Growth and Regeneration
Tamworth Borough Council
Marmion House
Lichfield Street
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 7BZ

Telephone (01827) 709445

E-mail publicprotection@tamworth.gov.uk

This policy is available on the Council's web-site www.tamworth.gov.uk

Definitions

The following definitions are included to provide an explanation of certain terms included in the Act and therefore in this policy. In some cases they are an abbreviation of what is stated in the Licensing Act 2003 or an interpretation of those terms. For a full definition of the terms used, the reader must refer to the Licensing Act 2003.

Appeals

Appeals against decisions of the licensing authority are to the magistrates' court for the area in which the premises are situated. The appeal must be lodged within 21 days of being notified of the Council's decision. On appeal a magistrates' court may, dismiss the appeal; substitute its own decision; remit the case to the licensing authority with directions; and make an order for costs.

Authorised Persons

"Authorised Persons" are specified people who have statutory duties in relation to the inspection of premises, e.g. licensing officers, police, fire, health & safety, environmental health officers.

Other persons

This includes any individual, body or business entitled to make representations to licensing authorities in relation to applications for the grant, variation, minor variation or review of premises licences and club premises certificates, regardless of their geographic proximity to the premises. In addition, these persons may themselves seek a review of a premises licence.

Responsible Authorities

"Responsible Authorities" include the police, fire, enforcing authority for health and safety, planning authority, environmental health, bodies responsible for child protection and other specified authorities. Only these groups can make representations about an application for a premises licence.

Closure Order

New powers for the police and courts to close premises. The 2003 Act significantly extends the existing powers of the police to seek court orders in a geographical area that is experiencing or likely to experience disorder or to close down instantly individual licensed premises that are disorderly, likely to become disorderly or are causing noise nuisance.

Club Premises Certificate

A certificate which licences a qualifying club for the sale/supply of alcohol. It can be granted to members clubs which comply with specific conditions e.g. membership rules, run by club committees, profits go to members not an owner etc club premises certificates replace registration under the Licensing Act 1964. The law for members clubs has changed relatively little under the 2003 Act. There is no time limit on the duration of the certificate but it may be withdrawn, surrendered or suspended.

Conditions

A premises licence may be granted subject to different conditions, and these may be in respect of different parts of the premises and different licensable activities. There is no power to impose conditions on a personal licence. Secretary of State's guidance provides "The only conditions which should be imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate are those which are necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Accordingly, if the existing law already places certain statutory responsibilities on an employer or operator of premises, it cannot be necessary to impose the same or similar duties on the premises licence holder". Conditions must be proportional and tailored to size, style, characteristics and activities taking place at the premises concerned.

Designated Premises Supervisor

The person in the case of premises selling alcohol, who will normally have been given the day to day responsibility for running the premises by the holder of the premises licence or will be the premises licence holder themselves (who must also be a personal licence holder).

Interim Authority Notices

Where a premises licence lapses due to death, incapacity or insolvency etc of the holder, specified persons can within 7 days serve an interim authority notice on the Licensing Authority. This revives the licence, subject to Police objection, for a period of up to 2 months so the premises can continue trading. This is the equivalent to "interim authorities" and "protection orders" under the Licensing Act 1964.

Late Night Refreshment

The supply of hot food and/or drink to members of the public (whether for consumption on or off the premises) between the hours of 11.00pm and 5.00am.

Licensable Activities

- the sale by retail of alcohol;
- the supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club, or to the order of a member of the club;
- the provision of regulated entertainment;
- the provision of late night refreshment.

Licensing Authority

Tamworth Borough Council

Licensing Objectives

The objectives of licensing set out in the Act:

- the prevention of crime and disorder;
- public safety;
- the prevention of public nuisance;
- and the protection of children from harm.

The Licensing Authority must carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives.

Licensed Premises

Includes club premises and events unless the context otherwise requires.

Mandatory Conditions

Conditions that the Act requires are imposed on a premises licence, club premises certificate or personal licence.

Objection Notice

A procedure whereby the police can object to the grant of a personal licence on the grounds where having regard to convictions of the applicant for relevant offences, the grant would undermine the crime prevention objective.

Operating Schedule

A document containing a statement of the following matters (and any others that may be prescribed):

- Steps taken by the licence holder to tackle the four licensing objectives;
- the licensable activities to be conducted on the premises;
- the times during which the licensable activities are to take place and any other times when premises are open to the public;
- where the licence is required only for a limited period, that period;
- where the licensable activities include the supply of alcohol, the name and address of the individual to be specified as the designated premises supervisor.

Personal Licence

A licence granted to an individual and authorises that person to supply alcohol or authorise the supply of alcohol in accordance with a premises licence. The licence lasts indefinitely. It ceases to have effect when revoked, forfeited, surrendered or suspended. A personal licence holder is not required where the premises concerned does not supply alcohol as one of its licensable activities. A personal licence holder is also not required for the supply of alcohol in a club which holds a club premises certificate. Only the Police can object to the grant of a personal licence (there is no equivalent to relevant representations as for premises licences).

Premises Licence

A licence granted in respect of any premises, which authorises the premises to be used for one or more licensable activities, has effect until revoked, surrendered or on the death, insolvency etc of the holder. Applications are dealt with by the local authority licensing committee in the area where the premises are situated.

Provisional Statement

A procedure by which the Licensing Authority can give a statement approving for licensing purposes proposals for a premises being built or in the course of being constructed. Equivalent to a "provisional grant" under the Licensing Act 1964. Where a provisional statement is made, subject to limited exceptions, the full licence must normally be granted once the premises are completed.

Qualifying Club

Club premises certificates will be issued to qualifying clubs formerly registered members clubs. To be eligible for a club premises certificate the club/organisation members must have joined together for a particular social, sporting or political purpose and then have combined to purchase alcohol in bulk as members of the organisation for supply to members and their guests. Qualifying conditions are specified in section 61 of the Act and the Council must be satisfied that these conditions have been met, including evidence to

support that the club is non profit making and that there is a minimum of 48 hours delay between application and acceptance of new members. The club must be established and conducted in 'good faith' (this involves consideration of details such as club finances).

Regulated Entertainment

The descriptions of entertainment activities licensable under the 2003 Act are:

- a performance of a play;
- an exhibition of a film;
- an indoor sporting event;
- a boxing or wrestling entertainment;
- a performance of live music;
- any playing of recorded music;
- a performance of dance; and
- entertainment of a similar description to a performance of live music, any playing of recorded music or a performance of dance

Relevant Offences

Relevant offences are set out in Schedule 4 to the 2003 Act.

Relevant Representations

The 2003 Act does not use the term "objections". Instead authorised persons, other persons and responsible authorities may be able to make relevant representations about an application for a licence. Representations must relate to the licensing objectives and where made by an other person must not be frivolous or vexatious. When considering an application from an other person or responsible authority the local authority need only consider relevant representations. The making of relevant representations engages the licensing authorities discretion to take "steps" consistent with the licensing objectives when considering the application.

Review of Licence

Where a premises licence is in force an other person or responsible authority may apply to the Council for it to be reviewed. The Council must hold a hearing to review the licence and as a result must take any necessary

steps to promote the licensing objectives, such as modification of conditions; exclusion of licensable activities; removal of the premises supervisor; suspension of the licence for up to 3 months; or the revocation of the licence.

Responsible Authority

- the Chief Officer of Police in the area where the premises are situated;
- the Fire Authority in the area where the premises area situated;
- the enforcing authority for Health and Safety at Work.
- the Local Planning Authority;
- the local authority responsible for minimising or preventing the risk of pollution of the environment or of harm to human health;
- the body representing matters relating to the protection of children from harm;
- in relation to a vessel, a navigation authority, the Environment Agency, or the British Waterways Board.

Statement of Licensing Policy

The licensing authority must prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy every 5 years. However, this policy (2023 – 2025) will be reviewed in 3 years. This is because the licensing policy now includes a Cumulative Impact Assessment. The legislation requires that the Cumulative Impact Assessment is reviewed every 3 years and therefore the Statement of Licensing Policy will be reviewed at the same time.

Temporary Event Notice

There are two types of TENs, standard TENs and late TENs. These are subject to different processes; a standard TENs is given no later than ten working days before the event to which it relates and a late TENs is given not before nine and not later than five days before the event.

If a Premises is not authorised by a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate to carry on licensable activities but wishes to do so then a TENs is required. A TENs is also required if a Premises currently holds a Licence but wishes to carry on other licensable activities that are not included in the Licence. At least 10 working days' notice is required for a TENs (not including the day the Application is submitted or the day of the event). Staffordshire Police and the Local Authority Environmental Health have a period of three working days from when they are given the notice to object to it on the basis of any of the four licensing objectives.

Late Temporary Event Notices

Late temporary event notices can be given up to five working days but no earlier than nine working days before the event is scheduled and, unless given electronically to the Council, must also be sent by the Premises user to the Police and Environmental health. If there is an objection to a late TENs the event cannot go ahead. A late TENs given less than five days before the event to which it relates will be returned void and the activities to which it relates will not be authorised.

[Note: All temporary event notices are subject to limitations].

Transfer

A procedure where an application can be made to transfer the premises licence into a new name e.g. if a premises licence holder sells his premises an application may be made to transfer the premises licence to the new owner.

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List of Publications That Provide Guidance When Considering Public Safety

It is recommended that those preparing operating schedules or club operating schedules, licensing authorities and responsible authorities should consider the following:

- Model National and Standard Conditions for Places of Public Entertainment and Associated Guidance (2002) ISBN 1 904031 11 0 (Entertainment Technology Press – ABTT Publications);
- The Event Safety Guide – The Purple Guide to health, safety and welfare at music and other events -The Events Industry Forum
- Managing Crowds Safely: guide for organisers at events and venues (HSE 2000) (HSG 154) ISBN 0 7176 1834 X;
- 5 Steps to Risk Assessment: Case Studies (HSE 1998, reprinted 2002) (HSG 183) ISBN 07176 15804;
- The Guide to Safety at Sports Grounds 5th revised edition The Football Licensing Authority written for - The Department for Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) ISBN 10 0117020745; ISBN 13 9780117020740
- Safety Guidance for Street Arts, Carnival, Processions and Large Scale Performances published by the Independent Street Arts Network, copies of which may be obtained through:
www.streetartsnetwork.org.uk/publications./index.php
- The London District Surveyors Association's "Technical Standards for Places of Public Entertainment" (2001) ISBN 0 9531229 2 1.

The following British Standards should also be considered:

- BS 5588-6:1991 Fire precautions in the design, construction and use of buildings. Code of practice for places of assembly
- BS 5588-9:1999 Fire precautions in the design, construction and use of buildings. Code of practice for ventilation and air conditioning ductwork
- BS 5588-8:1999 Fire precautions in the design, construction and use of buildings. Code of practice for means of escape for disabled people
- BS 5839 (fire detection, fire alarm systems and buildings)
- BIP 2081:2006 A Guide to Emergency Lighting ISBN 0580 47755

However, in consulting these texts, those creating operating schedules or club operating schedules, the licensing authority and responsible authorities should note that under no circumstances should any conditions be regarded as standard for all premises.

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TAMWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL - CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Licensing Authority, when publishing its licensing policy, is required to have regard to the Cumulative Impact Assessment contained in the following pages.

The statements within the policy are aimed at encouraging best practice; a safe environment and to actively promote the four licensing objectives.

The Licensing Authority is also required to publish, within the licensing policy, a summary of the Cumulative Impact Assessment. However, by including the justification for the Cumulative Impact Assessment and supporting evidence within the licensing policy document, it is considered that this would make a summary unnecessary and would duplicate the information provided in the pages that follow.

Cumulative Impact Assessments – Background

The concept of Cumulative Impact has been described within the Secretary of State's Guidance (section 182) since the Licensing Act 2003 came into force. It has been part of the Council's licensing policy since May 2005.

Cumulative impact is defined as the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area. In some areas where the number and type or density of licensed premises, such as those selling alcohol or providing late night refreshment is high, serious problems of nuisance and disorder may arise outside or some distance from those premises

Such problems generally occur when large numbers of drinkers are concentrated in one area at peak times when queuing for transport or food. These can attract criminal activity such as drug dealing or street robbery. The effect of this type of concentration of people can also place increased pressure on local transport and public services resulting in littering and public nuisance.

The cumulative impact of licensed premises on the promotion of the licensing objectives is a proper matter for a licensing authority to consider in developing its licensing policy statement and when determining applications under the Act.

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 amended the Licensing Act 2003 to place 'Cumulative Impact Assessments' on a statutory footing by introducing paragraph 5A of the Licensing Act.

Reasons for the Cumulative Impact assessment

One of the Council's key objectives is to seek a reduction in crime and disorder throughout the Borough, consistent with its statutory duty under section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, and an improvement in local

amenity through the reduction of antisocial behaviour.

The Licensing Authority is aware of the potential link between an increase in licensed premises within the town centre and the rise in the number of violent crimes, and antisocial behaviour.

The cumulative impact of people dispersing from an area can also disturb nearby residents

The Licensing Authority is mindful of the need to safeguard users of the late night economy, in relation to crime and disorder but also from alcohol harm. It recognises its responsibilities to protect children from harm and to promote public safety. The concentration of licensed premises, whose primary function is the consumption of alcohol can increase the vulnerability of people and result in alcohol harm.

The authority recognises that the impact of longer hours can be a factor as well as the density of the premises, and this issue will be given due consideration in any decision.

Town Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment Area – General Principles

A cumulative impact assessment may be published by a Licensing Authority to help it limit the number of applications granted in areas where there is evidence to show that the number or density of licensed premises in the area is having a cumulative impact and leading to problems which are undermining the licensing objectives. Cumulative impact relates to applications for new premises and club premises licences and variations of existing licences.

A cumulative impact assessment must include a statement stating that the licensing authority considers that the number of premises in the identified area is causing a cumulative impact. The statement must encompass that if a special policy relating to cumulative impact is not put in place then it will impact on the ability of the authority to uphold the licensing objectives. The cumulative impact once identified must relate to licensable activities.

The publication of a cumulative impact assessment does not remove the Licensing Authority's discretion to grant applications for new licences or applications to vary, where the authority considers this to be appropriate to the individual circumstances of the case.

This Cumulative Impact Assessment will therefore be published under these new provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. The assessment will be reviewed every three years from the date it comes into force, consulting the persons outlined in Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.



Tamworth Town Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment

Inspector 5316 Stuart Coleman
20th September 2022

Introduction

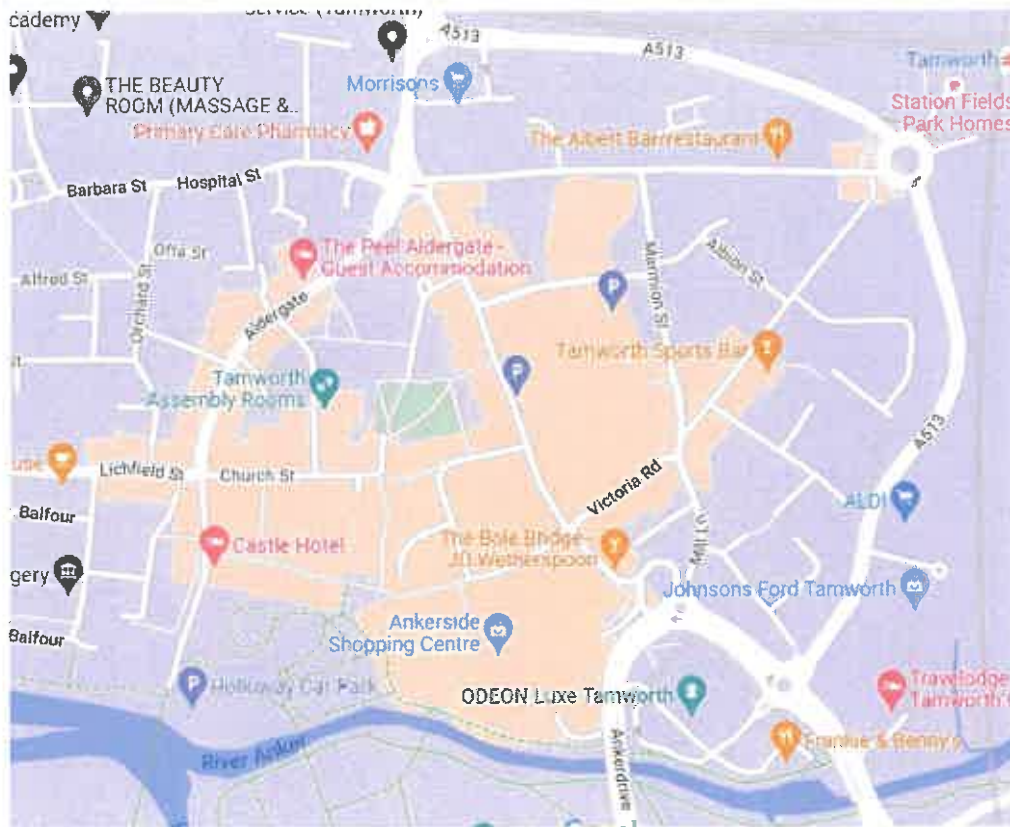
Tamworth town Centre is the focal hub for come daytime (retail) and most night-time economy within the wider borough. Tamworth is made up of several different ward areas within the borough which encircle the town centre, these being Mercian and Spital, Coton Green, Kettlebrook, Belgrave, Glascote and Glascote Heath, Stonydelph, Amington, Bolehall, Wilnecote, and Dosthill. The night time economy in the Town Centre attracts visitors, not only from within the borough, but also from outside of Tamworth. There are several good transport links to other towns and cities nearby, including Birmingham, Lichfield, Nuneaton, Atherstone, Burton on Trent, and Sutton Coldfield, all of which contribute to the night time economy.

Whilst there are licenced premises elsewhere in the Tamworth Borough, it is the Town Centre which is by far the busiest area and contributes significantly more to the associated crime and disorder than anywhere else.

The coronavirus pandemic had a significant impact on the trading of licenced premises where government lock-downs were imposed and members of the public remained apprehensive due to the potential risks around infection. The report will therefore consider post-pandemic data as being representative of normal business relating to the night-time economy in Tamworth Town Centre.

For the most part crime and disorder attributed to the night time economy takes place as bordered by the River Anker to the South and the East, Aldergate and Tamedrive to

the West, and Offadrive/railway line to the North. The below map shows the Tamworth Town Centre area:



Licensed Premises

There are currently 27 licensed premises in Tamworth Town Centre giving a varied mix of businesses involved within both the daytime and night time economy. The vast majority of venues close between 2300 – 0200hrs with 4 regular premises making use of an extended 0300hrs license on a Friday and Saturday evening.

It is observed through discussion with premise managers that licensed premises will employ discretion and close earlier than their normal licensing hours where it is financially advantageous for them to do so.

Friday and Saturday nights traditionally see the most patrons attending the town with average numbers beginning to increase steadily from 6pm and peaking around 2230 - 2300hrs.

Venues that close between 0200 – 0300hrs will see exiting patrons often gathered in number on Gungate, Spinning School Lane, Colehill, Bolebridge Street, Corporation Street, and Church Street.

Popular bars which attract greater number of patrons during evening hours are commonly:

ATIK, SPINNING SCHOOL LANE/GUNGATE
JYNX, BOLEBRIDGE STREET
THE PENNY BLACK, COLEHILL
BONDS, CHURCH STREET

Representations have been made via the support of Staffordshire Police Licensing in recent years to a number of premise owners, and Designated Premise Supervisors (DPS) relating to poor license observations, drunkenness of patrons, drug possession / supply, violence and related criminality.

It is anticipated, in the wake of a POST-COVID19 environment that an increase for later trading hours for alcohol licensing will be applied for by both existing and new businesses. Such applications would be subject to very close scrutiny and liaison with Staffordshire Police Licensing and Local Authority Licensing teams.

Public / Private Transport

With the support of the local authority, both private hire and hackney carriage services are pooled at agreed locations on Church Street, Corporation Street, and Upper Gungate. Daytime provisions operate within agreed bus routes, taxi ranks and railway station.

Policing

Night time economy is policed by a small team of officers, complemented by a number of Special Constables based at Tamworth Fire and Police Station, Belgrave, Tamworth. This offers solely high visibility foot and mobile patrol of the town centre area from 2000 – 0300hrs. Officers operate a meet and greet theme to ensure patrons and premises staff are reassured by an early policing presence when visiting, with this presence continuing into the night. Police make frequent use of relevant legislation to prevent, detect and deter crime with the focus of promoting a safer environment for businesses and visitors of the town centre. The resilience of the local policing team is significantly reduced after 03.00 hours and relies on a night shift which assumes responsibility for the policing of the Town Centre alongside the rest of Tamworth Borough.

CCTV

The majority of local businesses offer their own private and independent CCTV systems in addition to a system of newly upgraded CCTV cameras owned by Tamworth Borough Council. The provision of a monitoring terminal for Tamworth Local Policing team within the Fire and Police Station is used daily for both live and evidential reviewing for investigative purposes.

Crime and antisocial behaviour

The data in the following tables have been sourced from the official reported incidents and do not indicate whether there has been sufficient evidence to confirm an offence has occurred. That being said, the data contained within is a useful indicator of the frequency and volume of incidents and the impact that the night time economy has on the local community.

The data used has been selected to compare the period of 'normal business' in the two years prior to the coronavirus pandemic, with the latest figures, most closely matching the current situation. This has been done to ensure that we are able to compare based on constant variables, and so the figures are not distorted by Government Lockdowns and consumer apprehensiveness. The incident types have been selected as those associated most with the night time economy.

CRIME	12 months to Sept 2019	12 months to Sept 2020	12 months to Sept 2022	+ / -	+ / - %
VIOLENCE	130	117	174	+ 57	+ 49%
ROBBERY	13	7	20	+ 13	+ 186%
SEXUAL OFFENCES	19	20	30	+ 10	+ 50%
PUBLIC ORDER	40	31	65	+ 34	+ 109%
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	28	32	60	+ 28	+ 88%
DRUGS POSSESSION	22	14	17	+ 3	+ 21%

ASB type	12 months	12 months	12 months	+ / -	+ / - %
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	to Sept 2019	to Sept 2020	to Sept 2022		
PERSONAL	No Data	24	46	+ 22	+ 92%
COMMUNITY	No Data	52	117	+ 65	+ 125%
ENVIRONMENTAL	No Data	3	1	- 2	- 66%

Across the broad spectrum of crime and antisocial behaviour incident types, there has been a general reduction in reported incidents leading to the coronavirus pandemic. In the most recent 12 months period the Town Centre has experienced a sharp increase of all crime types and antisocial behaviour, which exceeds the levels in both years before the pandemic.

The following table provides data relating to total incident level increases in the past 2 years. It demonstrates that the percentage increase in Tamworth is greater than all parts of Staffordshire, only with the exception of Hanley, Stoke on Trent.

Town Centres	Last 12 months - Last Year	Last 12 months - This Year	% change
Hanley Town Centre SCB1 & SCB6	930	1,435	54%
Tamworth Town Centre EW00	392	561	43%
Stafford Town Centre WM05	844	1,185	40%
Leek Town Centre NA02	198	276	39%
Newcastle Town Centre NB61	688	841	22%
Hednesford Town Centre WV02	141	172	22%
Cannock Town Centre WV41 & WV43	534	648	21%
Lichfield Town Centre ER00 & ER03	521	627	20%
Burslem Town Centre SC73	448	514	15%
Burton Town Centre EP15 & EP30	1,453	1,666	15%
Longton Town Centre SG61	379	423	12%
Utttoxeter Town Centre EP51	274	286	4%
Stone Town Centre WM73	202	207	2%

CONCERNS

There is a consistent theme of crime and antisocial behavior impacting on both daytime and night time economy.

Figures show an increase in all crime types associated with the night time economy, including violence, public order and sexual offences.

In the post-pandemic town centre, Tamworth has experienced an increase in crime and disorder to above pre-pandemic levels. The factors causing this increase are not known.

The local policing team is engaged in weekly collaborative Safer Nights policing operations which involves, as well as public and business engagement, high visibility patrolling and positive action approach to arresting perpetrators. This is a labor-intensive approach to reducing crime and disorder and could not feasibly be scaled-up in a meaningful or impactful way, due to the pressure on police resources.

After 03.00 hours on the weekends, the police resources are reduced dramatically, particularly in the town centre, and any later opening of licenced premises represents an additional threat to order in the locality.

As part of a wider approach to tackling the causes of the crime and disorder, it is recommended that the cumulative impact policy is maintained in Tamworth

New businesses are warmly welcomed by the local policing team and will be afforded equal levels of support and intervention where needed to tackle crime and disorder.



Consultation Response for Cumulative Impact Assessment

The provision of the Cumulative Impact Policy for the relevant area (subsequently changing to Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA) if retained) has been relied upon to prevent a further rise in alcohol related crime and disorder in relation to licensed premises.

This has only been used when relevant and has not been utilised to prevent economic growth within the town. When the Police use, or reference to the policy has been challenged by the legal profession representing the licensing trade, the Police have been able to demonstrate that it has been proportionate in the circumstances to cite it.

The Police continue to assess all applications on their own merits and recognise that the CIA policy should not be applied to all applications. Due to this approach and through engagement with the representatives of the licensing trade, numerous applications have been granted without the need for a hearing before the licensing subcommittee.

Businesses with an earlier terminal hour can flourish, largely with no calls for service to the Police, which shows not only the economic prosperity they can bring but also an operational demonstration that the licensing objectives are not being undermined. It is premises in the Night Time Economy which focus on vertical drinking activities that require the majority of focus from both the Local Policing Teams and the Police Licensing Unit.

There are a variety of licensed premises situated within the town centre, that due to a number of factors around them bring the need for a policing response, whether that be from those operationally policing the locality or the Police Licensing Unit. It is premises of this nature where this policy is recognised as being relevant whether it be a new application or a variation to an existing one.

The Police are also aware that some local authorities removed their respective CIA zones during the Covid pandemic, however at the same time other authorities renewed and retained theirs. In addition, some policies that were removed during the pandemic have been reinstated. It is contended that Tamworth CIA should remain. With correct usage which is detailed above, and also with the scrutiny of the licensing subcommittee should a matter be brought before them, each application can still continue to be viewed on its own merits with the authorities retaining the ability, where appropriate, to utilise the CIA to keep communities safe from an increase in violence and disorder.

Due to the balanced approach shown by the Police it allows for businesses to come to the town centre and prosper without impacting on the already existing issue of violence and disorder. Those which can be shown to have a detrimental impact are prevented from negatively contributing further.

There are other mechanisms under the Licensing Act 2003 to deal with premises that are contributing to crime and disorder such as the Review process, however that is a reactive element whereas the provision of a Cumulative Impact Assessment as part of the Local Authority Statement of Licensing Policy truly allows for the prevention of further premises contributing to existing problems and puts the onus more firmly on the applicant to evidence that they will not do this.

With reference to the Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, specifically Chapter 9, paragraph 12 provided the following reference as shown in italics, particularly the highlighted element: -

Each responsible authority will be an expert in their respective field, and in some cases it is likely that a particular responsible authority will be the licensing authority's main source of advice in relation to a particular licensing objective. For example, the police have a key role in managing the night-time economy and should have good working relationships with those operating in their local area. The police should usually therefore be the licensing authority's main source of advice on matters relating to the promotion of the crime and disorder licensing objective. However, any responsible authority under the 2003 Act may make representations with regard to any of the licensing objectives if they have evidence to support such representations. Licensing authorities must therefore consider all relevant representations from responsible authorities carefully, even where the reason for a particular responsible authority's interest or expertise in the promotion of a particular objective may not be immediately apparent. However, it remains incumbent on all responsible authorities to ensure that their representations can withstand the scrutiny to which they would be subject at a hearing.

Therefore, should the CIA not be renewed the position of Staffordshire Police is that there is likely to be a rise in alcohol fuelled crime and disorder. Premises who operate in the Night Time Economy have previously made enquiries in relation to extending their terminal hours with one venue wishing to operate until 0530hrs.

Previous experience within other town centres has shown that this often does not extend the operating times of premises but actually moves their start time later into the night. In effect they operate for the same length of time but are actually closed early evening. This can give rise to preloading by those members of the public visiting town centres who have been drinking elsewhere and then arriving in the town centre already heavily under the influence of alcohol.

Due to the circumstances outlined it is requested that the Cumulative Impact Assessment be adopted for the relevant area of Tamworth as it is an appropriate element to be contained within the wider Statement of Licensing Policy.

PS 4613 Jim Finn

Licensing Manager.

Police Licensing Unit

Staffordshire Police Headquarters

Stafford

ST18 0YY

Nudity Striptease and Other Entertainment of an Adult or Sexual Nature

- 1) This part of the policy statement details the approach of the Licensing Authority to entertainment involving nudity, striptease or other entertainment of an adult nature and applies to applications relating to:
 - new premises licence;
 - new club premises certificate;
 - variation of a converted premises licence;
 - variation of an existing premises licence;
 - variation of a converted club registration certificate;
 - variation of an existing club premises certificate; and
 - a provisional statement.

In which entertainment involving nudity, striptease or other entertainment of an adult nature is proposed.

- 2) This part of the policy also applies to reviews.

The Policy

- 3) On the 2nd of June 2010 the Council's Cabinet adopted the new powers under section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 regarding the regulation of Sexual Entertainment Venues including lap dancing.
- 4) The Council is aware of the Indecent Displays Act 1981 and other legislation covering indecency and obscenity, and notes the Secretary of State's Guidance (para. 2.17) in not seeking to use the Licensing Act 2003 or the police and crime act to go beyond these other legislative controls.

Licensing Act 2003 - Names and Addresses of Responsible Authorities

Chief Officer of Police
Staffordshire Police Licensing
Early Intervention and Prevention Unit
Block 9 Ground Floor
Weston Road
Staffordshire
ST18 0YY
Tel - 01785 235699
Email - licensinghq@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Fire and Rescue Authority
Eastern Service Delivery Group
Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service
Lichfield Fire Station
Birmingham Road
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 6HU
Tel - 01785 898 958
Email - esdg.protect@staffordshirefire.gov.uk

Child Protection
Deputy Corporate Director
(Partnerships & Service Development)
Children & Lifelong Learning
Walton Building
Martin Street
Stafford
ST16 2LH
Tel - 01785 223121
Email - sscb.admin@staffordshire.gov.uk

Trading Standards
Staffordshire County Council
Trading Standards
Floor 1, Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle under Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1BL
Tel: 01782 297000
Email: licensing@staffordshire.gov.uk

Pollution

Pollution Team
Tamworth Borough Council
Marmion House
Lichfield Street
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 7BZ
Tel - 01827 709 445
Email -
environmentalprotection@tamworth.gov.uk

Health and Safety
When the Enforcing Authority for health and safety purposes is the Tamworth
Borough
Council:
Health & Safety Team
Tamworth Borough Council
Marmion House
Lichfield Street
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 7BZ
OR
Tel - 01827 709 445
Email - publicprotection@tamworth.gov.uk

When the Enforcing Authority for health and safety purposes is the Health &
Safety
Executive (HSE):
Health & Safety Divisional Director
Health & Safety Executive
Hornbeam House
Electra Way
Crewe
CW1 6GJ
Tel - 0300 003 1747
Email - Formsadmin.Newcastleunderlyme@hse.gov.uk

Local Planning Authority
Planning Team
Tamworth Borough Council
Marmion House
Lichfield Street
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 7BZ
Tel - 01827 709 312
Email - cp&padmin@tamworth.gov.uk

Public Health

Director of Public Health
Staffordshire County Council and
Staffordshire NHS
Wedgwood Building
Tipping Street
Stafford
ST16 2DH
Tel: 0300 111 8000
Email - publichealth@staffordshire.gov.uk

Home Office (Immigration Enforcement)
Home Office (Immigration
Enforcement)
Alcohol Licensing Team
Lunar House
40 Wellesley Road
Croydon
CR9 2BY
Tel - 0300 123 7000
Email - Alcohol@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

In relation to vessels the following also need to be consulted:

British Waterways Board
British Waterways Board
West Midlands Office
Peel's Wharf
Lichfield Street
Fazeley
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B78 3QZ
Tel: 01827 252000
Email:
enquiries.westmidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk

Environment Agency
Central Area Office
Environment Agency Sentinel House
Wellington Crescent
Fradley Park
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 8RR
Tel: 0370 850 6506
Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

