

Report of Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 6th December 2016

Subject: Review of the City Centre CIP Areas

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): City and Hunslet		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. The Council adopted the first Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy in 2005 and this policy has been reviewed on a three yearly basis in line with the requirements of the legislation.
2. In April 2012, HM Government amended the Licensing Act so that the requirement to review the Policy changed from three years to five years. In December 2013 Licensing Committee approved a change to the city centre cumulative impact policy, which forms part of the Statement of Licensing Policy, to enable the areas that relate to this particular policy to be reviewed annually.
3. This report provides details of this year's review of the city centre cumulative impact policy areas.

Recommendations

4. That Licensing Committee review and approve the cumulative impact assessment for the city centre.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To present to Licensing Committee the annual review of the city centre CIP areas.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires licensing authorities to prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy every three years. The council's first Statement of Licensing Policy was adopted by Council on 12th January 2005 and has been reviewed every three years since then.
- 2.2 In April 2012 the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act changed the length of the lifetime of a policy from three to five years. This necessitated a different approach to the City Centre CIP, which due to the dynamic nature of the night time economy would need to be reviewed more frequently than every 5 years.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The current CIP was adopted as part of the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy 2014 to 2018 in December 2013. The new policy specified that the city centre CIP evidence and map would be revised each year based on the most recent crime and disorder statistics supplied by West Yorkshire Police, although the scope and wording of the cumulative impact policy would remain the same. The review is scheduled for the latter part of the year so that it can take effect in January.
- 3.2 Officers from Entertainment Licensing issued a call for evidence from the Responsible Authorities and other partners through the Licensing Enforcement Group.
- 3.3 Officers met with West Yorkshire Police who provided crime statistics for the preceding 12 months which is attached at **appendix 1**.
- 3.4 From this information draft amendments were made to the CIP guidance. The new guidance document is attached at **appendix 2** and in line with pending changes is now entitled the Cumulative Impact Assessment for the City Centre.
- 3.5 Briefly, the police report shows that there has been the following increase in crime:

City Centre	13%
Day time economy	11%
Night time economy	15%

Call Lane/Briggate red area	17%
Albion Street/Woodhouse Lane red area	19%
Cross Belgrave Street/Merrion Street	13%

- 3.6 Also the peak hours for crime and disorder have lengthened to 23:00 to 05:00 and the days have changed from Friday - Sunday to Thursday - Saturday.
- 3.7 It is clear from the Police evidence that both red areas continue to be problematic with Call Lane/Briggate responsible for 35% of the violent crime and theft, and Albion Street/Woodhouse Lane 15%.

- 3.8 The night-time economy area around Merrion Street and Cross Belgrave Street, although vibrant and popular, has also seen an increase in crime but it still remains at a level that is comparable to the rest of the city. However it will be kept under review.
- 3.9 This shows not only how important it is that the number of people using this area during the night time does not increase but that it would be desirable for the number of people to reduce. Therefore any change to the current licences, either new premises or any increase in the operation of the existing premises should not have the effect of increasing visitors to the area.
- 3.10 Furthermore the Council will be investigating ways in which assault and theft can be reduced, in liaison with the operators and agencies. Specifically officers will be meeting with LeedsBID and BACIL in the coming weeks and will make a verbal report on progress at the meeting.
- 3.11 Furthermore a representative from West Yorkshire Police will be available at the meeting to answer any questions.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 This year the decision was made not to consult upon the change to the red area of the CIP as it would not be cost effective to do so. This was because no change is recommended and the risk of challenge low.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Equality and diversity, cohesion and integration have been considered each time the policy is reviewed. At this time there are no implications for equality and diversity/cohesion and integration.

4.3 Council Priorities and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The licensing regime contributes to the following Best Council Plan 2015-20 outcomes:

- Improve the quality of life for our residents, particularly for those who are vulnerable or in poverty;
- Be safe and feel safe
- Make it easier for people to do business with us.

- 4.3.2 The licensing regime is linked to the Best Council Plan objectives:

- Supporting communities and tackling poverty, and
- Becoming a more efficient and enterprising council
- Promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Building a child friendly city

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 Reviewing any policy has a cost associated with it. However, it is considered good value for money as a robust policy supports the decisions of the Licensing subcommittees and therefore reduces the risk of legal challenge.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 It is good practice to ensure that the documents the council relies upon to inform licensing decisions are accurate and up to date as this reduces the risk of a successful legal challenge.
- 4.5.2 As the cumulative impact assessment is guidance and not policy, it is a matter for Licensing Committee to approve. The Statement of Licensing Policy was amended this year, followed the full consultation process as specified in the legislation and approved by Council in September.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 As previously stated the review of the CCCIP areas reduces the risk of legal challenge to the licensing subcommittee decisions.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The revised police evidence showed that a small change was needed to the current City Centre CIP.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Licensing Committee review and approve the cumulative impact assessment for the city centre.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 There are no unpublished background documents that relate to this matter.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.