

Report of Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 15th December 2015

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 the proposed cumulative impact policy areas for the city centre.
5. That Licensing Committee endorse the new cumulative impact evidence for the city centre and the revised map of 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. The new guidance document is attached at **appendix 2**.
- 3.5 Briefly, there has been a lot of work done in the Call Lane/Lower Briggate/Duncan Street area, which has shown a reduction in theft on the premises. These initiatives have been in conjunction with the premises in the area. This work has come to fruition this year with an overall reduction in theft.
- 3.6 However assault and theft incidents remain high and this year the council's Highways Department in conjunction with West Yorkshire Police has put in place a permanent road closure on Call Lane after 11pm at the weekends. This action is supported by Entertainment Licensing's Enforcement and Liaison Team.
- 3.7 The only change recommended by West Yorkshire Police and officers from Entertainment Licensing is to reduce the red area to exclude Assembly Street and the area to the rear of the Corn Exchange. Many premises have now closed in this area and with the exception of one premises which is currently under action planning, there are very few incidents in this part of the city now.

- 3.8 It is clear from the Police evidence that the Albion Street/Woodhouse Lane area continues to be problematic. Consequently, it is recommended that the new red area introduced last year and supported at Licensing Subcommittee hearings be remained.
- 3.9 The new night-time economy area around Merrion Street and Cross Belgrave Street, although vibrant and popular, has not seen the levels of crime and disorder that are predominant in other parts of the city. The new bars have opened and it is hoped that this area, properly managed, will not see an increase in problems, however it will be kept under review.

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 only a small change was 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;
- 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

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 Reviewing any policy does have 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.

4.6 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 need to the current City Centre CIP.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Licensing Committee review the responses to the consultation and the proposed amended cumulative impact policy areas for the city centre.
- 6.2 That Licensing Committee endorse the new cumulative impact evidence for the city centre and the revised map of 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.