

**Report of Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration**

**Report to Licensing Committee**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Subject: Review of the City Centre Cumulative Impact Policy 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 in line with the requirements of the legislation every three years until 2012 when it was moved onto a five year schedule.
2. In December 2013 Licensing Committee approved a change to the city centre areas covered by the cumulative impact policy (CIP), which forms part of the Statement of Licensing Policy, to enable these areas to be reviewed annually.
3. This report provides details of this year's review of the city centre area covered by the cumulative impact policy.

**Recommendations**

4. That Licensing Committee review the information provided in this report, the police statistical report for 2017 and endorse a new cumulative impact assessment for the city centre for 2018.
5. That Licensing Committee considers forming a working group to consider the cumulative impact policy and the areas covered by it and any special area guidance during the formal review and any subsequent revision of the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy in 2018.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

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

## **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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 cumulative impact area which, due to the dynamic nature of the night time economy, would need to be reviewed more frequently than every 5 years.
- 2.3 Last year the Government introduced cumulative impact assessments into the Licensing Act 2003 providing a legal framework under which cumulative impact policies are developed and reviewed. However this revision has not been commenced although this is expected by April 2018.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The current CIP was adopted as part of the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy 2014 to 2018 (SOLP) in December 2013. The CIP (section 7 of the SOLP) includes cumulative impact areas in five parts of the city, with a sixth introduced in 2016. The CIP specified that the city centre cumulative impact area evidence and map would be reviewed each year based on the most recent crime and disorder statistics supplied by West Yorkshire Police, although the scope and wording of the overarching cumulative impact policy would remain the same. The review is scheduled for the latter part of each year so that it can take effect in the following January.
- 3.2 Officers from Entertainment Licensing issued a call for evidence from the Responsible Authorities and other partners through the Licensing Enforcement Group. West Yorkshire Police responded with a crime statistical report and Environmental Health responded with brief details of nuisance calls for the cumulative impact areas.
- 3.3 Officers met with West Yorkshire Police who provided crime statistics for the preceding 12 months which is attached at **appendix 1** and referred to as the Police Report in this report.
- 3.4 From this information no amendment to the city centre red and amber zone boundaries is recommended, however the cumulative impact assessment has been updated to provide the latest statistical evidence. The updated cumulative impact assessment for 2018 is attached at **appendix 2**.

- 3.5 Briefly, the evidence shows that overall offending in the City Centre has increased by 15%. Again this year there has been a reduction in drunk and disorderly offences but an increase in public order offences.
- 3.6 Briggate, Call Lane, Albion Street and Woodhouse Lane are the top streets for offending in the night time economy. These streets are currently covered by the city centre's two red zones and this supports the view that both red zone areas should be maintained.
- 3.7 The Call Lane red area remains the predominant crime hot spot area. The peak time for offending is now 23:00 to 04:00. The tables at Section 6 of the Police Report show that last year Briggate and Call Lane are responsible for 34% of the crime in the city centre, with Albion Street/Woodhouse Lane responsible for 16%.
- 3.8 The Cross Belgrave Street/Merrion Street area was noted as an emerging area of concern, but offences have seen a reduction over the last 12 months. There are no new areas of concern.
- 3.9 Looking at the comparison data in Section 7 of the Police Report the Call Lane Red Area the extrapolated crime statistics over the last three years are:

	<b>NTE Year 2014-15</b>	<b>NTE Year 2015-16</b>	<b>NTE Year 2016-17</b>
Assault	347	420 (+17%)	495 (+15%)
Robbery	13	27 (+50%)	37 (+27%)
Sexual Offences	20	26 (+23%)	31 (+16%)
Theft from Person	410	487 (+16%)	472 (-3%)
Theft Non Specific	355	382 (+7%)	422 (+9%)

- 3.10 The Albion Street/Woodhouse Lane crime statistics over the last three years are:

Assault	164	228 (+28%)	251 (+9%)
Robbery	1	3 (+66%)	8 (+62%)
Sexual Offences	9	7 (-28%)	14 (+50%)
Theft from Person	128	126 (-1.5%)	151 (+16.5%)
Theft Non Specific	131	150 (+13%)	147 (-2%)

- 3.11 In January 2017, due to the increase in assault in the red areas, officers from West Yorkshire Police and Entertainment Licensing invited operators from the two red areas to a meeting at Elland Road where potential solutions were discussed. The overall view was that the street marshal scheme, initially introduced a number of years ago, had worked to reduce crime but had fallen away due to a lack of overall organisation and competing police priorities. The view was that instigating this scheme or something similar would be beneficial and should drive the crime figures down.
- 3.12 In September 2017 LeedsBID and Leeds City Council introduced Purple Ambassadors to support the door teams and to deal with the low level antisocial behaviour before it turned into the more serious crime of assault. Time will tell if this is successful.

- 3.13 Despite the worrying increase in the number of assaults in the red areas, it is recommended that the city centre red zone boundaries remain the same with the guidance updated to include the latest statistics but no other changes made.
- 3.14 However the Statement of Licensing Policy is due to be reviewed in its entirety in 2018, with a new policy in place by the end of that year. There are new requirements being introduced in April 2018 which formalises the evidence requirements for cumulative impact policies and place them on a legal footing with inclusion into the Licensing Act 2003. Licensing Committee may consider forming a working group to look at the cumulative impact policy and any special area guidance that may be deemed necessary.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 This year the decision was made not to consult upon any change to the red areas of the City Centre area of the CIP as it would not be cost effective to do so as no change is recommended for either area.

### **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 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.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 As previously stated the annual review of the city centre cumulative impact area ensures that the boundaries between the red and amber zones remain the most appropriate and that the impact on good operators is kept to a minimum whilst trying to address the crime and disorder hot spots.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The revised police evidence showed that although there was a 15% increase in violent crime in the night time economy in the Call Lane red zone area, the boundaries remain current. The revised cumulative impact assessment for the city centre area includes the latest crime statistics.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 That Licensing Committee review the information provided in this report, the police statistical report for 2017 and endorse a new cumulative impact assessment for the city centre for 2018.
- 6.2 That Licensing Committee considers forming a working group to consider the cumulative impact policy and the areas covered by it and any special area guidance during the formal review and any subsequent revision of the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy in 2018.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.