

Public Health Team

Entertainment Licencing

Merrion House

Leeds City Council

Leeds City Council

LS1 8DD

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Application for Convenience Store, 344A Dewsbury Road, Hunslet, Leeds LS11 7DJ, a new application to sell alcohol everyday 07:00-23:00

With regard to the above application, I would like to bring to your attention the negative impact granting the alcohol off-licence application would have on the local community. This would be with particular regard to the potential harm to children, crime and disorder and public safety.

Leeds City Council has produced a matrix to estimate alcohol harm for each Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) in Leeds. Each MSOA is given an overall score which places the MSOA into a comparative city-wide risk rating. There are 107 MSOA's in Leeds. LS11 7DJ was awarded an overall harm from alcohol related risk as **7 out of 107 LSOAs**, putting it within the very high risk of alcohol-related harm category.

Analysis of the individual scores on the matrix contribute to creating a fuller picture of the local community and will be highlighted forthwith with reference to the criteria.

Another off-licence on Dewsbury Road, selling low cost alcohol, will jeopardise the protection of children and young people from harm. The area close to the proposed Convenience Store has the highest number of young people not in education or employment; it is ranked **1 out of 107 MSOA's**. Viewed alongside the number of looked after children and young people, which is ranked as the **second highest** in Leeds, we have intelligence highlighting a high number of children and young people who are more vulnerable to harm. These children and young people will have experienced trauma within the family home severe enough to warrant their removal from that family home. Their life experience will undoubtedly be skewed from the norm which often results in the young person engaging in harmful behaviours, one of which is alcohol drinking. Furthermore, this road is a busy walking route of primary aged school children and their parents.

A further consideration is the number of premises selling alcohol in the area. This area ranks as **9 out of 107 MSOA** for having a high number of off-licenses and **14 out of 107 MSOA's** for having a high number of on-licences. This gives an indication of the level of saturation of an area for selling alcohol. This information is relevant when considering the likelihood of harm to children and young people and public safety, essentially, how accessible is alcohol within an area.

Alcohol specific related admissions to hospital are high in the area – risk ranked as **second highest** in Leeds out of 107 MSOA's and ambulance callouts related to alcohol are also the **second highest** in Leeds. These are avoidable pressures to the NHS and illustrate the harm caused by easy access to cheap alcohol within an area.

Granting of this license will further exacerbate crime and disorder in the area. This is backed up by statistics from Safer Leeds, which record the number of incidents of domestic violence and ranks the

area as having the 5th highest in Leeds, with 9% of these incidents involving alcohol. This is coupled with the fact that 24% of children were present.

Anti-social behaviour where alcohol was flagged (excluding violent crime) was risk ranked as **9 out of 107 MSOA's**, and violent crime was ranked as being the **6th highest in Leeds**. Statistics relating to drunk and disorderly s ranked as being **10 out of 107 MSOA's**. These indicators both suggest a risk to public safety as well as high levels of crime and disorder in existence in the community. This will be exacerbated by the increased accessibility of (cheap) alcohol.

The intelligence provided above relates to the potential harm caused by alcohol within an area and viewed together creates an understanding of why this area was ranked as being an areas of Leeds at very high risk of alcohol related harm.

In summary extending the accessibility of alcohol in the area is highly likely to add to the burden of ensuring public safety in the local area, moreover, there is a high population of vulnerable children and young people living within the area who will bear the brunt of increased accessibility to low cost alcohol. This is in addition to facilitating the need for ambulance call-out and hospital admissions because of alcohol consumption.

I would therefore urge the licensing subcommittee to refuse this application to extend this licence, to avoid the potential harm to children, additional crime and disorder offences and maintain public safety.

Yours Faithfully

Nicola Kelly-Johnson

Advanced Health Improvement Specialist

Public Health