

SATURATION POLICY

Submitted by: Head of Central Services

Portfolio: Safer & Stronger Communities

Awards affected: Town Ward

Purpose of the Report

For Members to consider whether the Special Saturation Policy that was agreed at their meeting held on 7th March 2012 is still required.

RECOMMENDATION:-

To decide whether the current saturation policy is still required, whether it is still adequate or whether it needs to be reviewed.

1. Background

- 1.1 There are currently a number of licensed premises concentrated together in one area that together have a detrimental impact on levels of crime and disorder and public nuisance and in particular violent crime in the Town Centre. This being the case, the Council has previously satisfied itself that it is appropriate and necessary to include in its Licensing Policy a special saturation policy.

The Policy allows the Council to refuse new licences whenever it receives relevant representations about the cumulative impact on the licensing objectives which can be substantiated by evidence. Where such representations are received, applications for new premises licences or club premises certificates or variations that are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the operation of the premises involved will not add to the cumulative impact already being experienced.

Where representations are supported by evidence, applicants will need to clearly demonstrate in their operating schedule measures to address the identified problem of drink-related violence in the Town Centre and in particular will need to demonstrate measures to prevent binge drinking on the premises. Where no relevant representations are received in this connection, the application will be granted.

- 1.2 The Guidance at 13.31 states that “once adopted special policies should be reviewed regularly to assess whether they are needed any longer or if those which are contained in the special policy should be amended.”

- 1.3 In this respect, the Guidance at 13.28 provides that the steps to be followed in considering whether to adopt a special policy within the statement of licensing policy are:
- (1) To identify concern about crime and disorder; public safety; public nuisance; or the protection of children from harm.
 - (2) To consider whether there is good evidence that crime and disorder or public nuisance are occurring, or whether there are activities which pose a threat to public safety or the protection of children from harm.
 - (3) If such problems are occurring, identify whether these problems are being caused by the customers of the licensed premises, or that the risk of cumulative impact is imminent.
 - (4) To identify the boundaries of the area where problems are occurring (this can involve mapping where the problems occur and identifying specific streets or localities where such problems arise).
 - (5) To consult with those specified in section 5(3) of the 2003 Act and, subject to the outcome of the consultation, include and publish details of the special policy in the licensing policy document..

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Representatives from Staffordshire Police will be in attendance at the meeting to present evidence regarding the Special Saturation Policy. Additional information from Staffordshire Police will be forwarded to Members of the Committee prior to the meeting

3. **Options**

- 3.1 The Committee can:-
- (1) Retain the area as it currently stands.
 - (2) Retain the area as it currently stands and review on a twelve monthly basis.
 - (3) Opt to consider expansion or reduction of the area covered by the current policy subject to the necessary consultation.