



Consultation for Publishing a Cumulative Impact Assessment

Introduction

The Council are undertaking a four (4) week consultation exercise to determine whether a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) should be published to help it limit the number or types of licence applications granted in areas where there is evidence to show that the number or density of licensed premises in the area is having a cumulative impact and leading to problems which are undermining the licensing objectives.

Staffordshire Police have indicated their support and submitted statistical data in relation to reported crimes and incidents that have taken place in Newcastle's 'Town Centre' and also the Borough of Newcastle as a whole.

Through this consultation the Council are seeking to identify whether there is a sufficient evidential basis to publish a CIA and if so the area and types of applications that should be included. In particular we are seeking information, and supporting evidence, in respect of:

- Crime and Anti-social behaviour (ASB) statistics;
- Health related statistics, such as alcohol related hospital attendances and admissions;
- Complaints that relation to nuisance, such as litter and noise;
- Complaints raised by local residents or residents' associations;
- Resident feedback;
- Elected Member (local or parish) feedback;
- Other evidence that could be attributed to the Cumulative Impact of Licensed premises.

Background

Cumulative Impact Assessments were introduced to the Licensing Act 2003 by the Policing and Crime Act 2017. In general terms and effect they replace Cumulative Impact Policies (CIP) however there is no statutory transition or conversion process. Before adopting a CIA the authority must establish the evidential basis that one is required, and consult upon its scope and extent with the same persons that must be consulted over the Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP).

The Council's Licensing Committee last reviewed the evidence to support the continuation of its CIP in April 2019. Since that time the current Public Health emergency has impacted significantly on both footfall and economic activity within the current CIP area.

At the October 2020 meeting of the Licensing Committee it was determined to extend the existing CIP to 5th April 2021 to allow for this CIA consultation to take place.

Since July 2013 the Council have had a CIP detailed within our SLP. The CIP was originally requested by Staffordshire Police and has been renewed annually since then. The CIP covers an area known as the 'Town Centre' and overlaps two distinct Police reporting areas referred to as IB60 and IB61, but does not incorporate all of the two areas. A map of the current area is attached as Appendix A.



Staffordshire Police have indicated that the current CIP area is suitable as an area to be included in a CIA.

The data submitted by Staffordshire Police reveals that over the two previous financial years the number of incidents in relation to certain violent offences, ASB and public order have increased within the 'town centre' and there is a prevalence of incidents starting at midnight and going into the early hours, primarily at weekends. It also reveals that between April and November 2020 there has been a general decrease, which it is suggested is associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and the 'lockdown' and 'tier' restrictions placed upon the businesses and persons within the Borough.

Under the CIP only applications to grant and vary authorisations that permit the sale or supply of alcohol can be considered. The provisions of publishing a CIA state that a CIA may relate to all premises licences (PL) and club premises certificates (CPC), or only those described within the assessment. For example a CIA could apply only to all PLs and not to CPCs. Or it could apply to both PLs and CPCs but not to specific types of business e.g. a CIA could be published that does not include a PL that is for a cinema, or late night takeaway business but does relate to pubs, restaurants and nightclubs.

Proposal

1. The Council believe there is an evidential basis to publish a CIA. Whilst certain types of crime and incidents have decreased during the pandemic period it is believed that the nature and number of incidents pre-pandemic will likely return once businesses are permitted to open once again, and a CIA would assist in limiting the number and type of premises that may add to the cumulative impact. We are requesting views from any person, body or party that may have an interest in the matter.
2. As a starting point we are suggesting that the current CIP area is a suitable area for the purpose of a CIA. We are seeking views on whether the current area is suitable, or whether we need to widen or narrow the scope of a prospective CIA.
3. As the CIP was only based upon those premises that proposed, or permitted the sale and supply of alcohol, the Council's proposal is that only applications that relate to alcohol (all grants and variations) are included in the CIA.

Summary

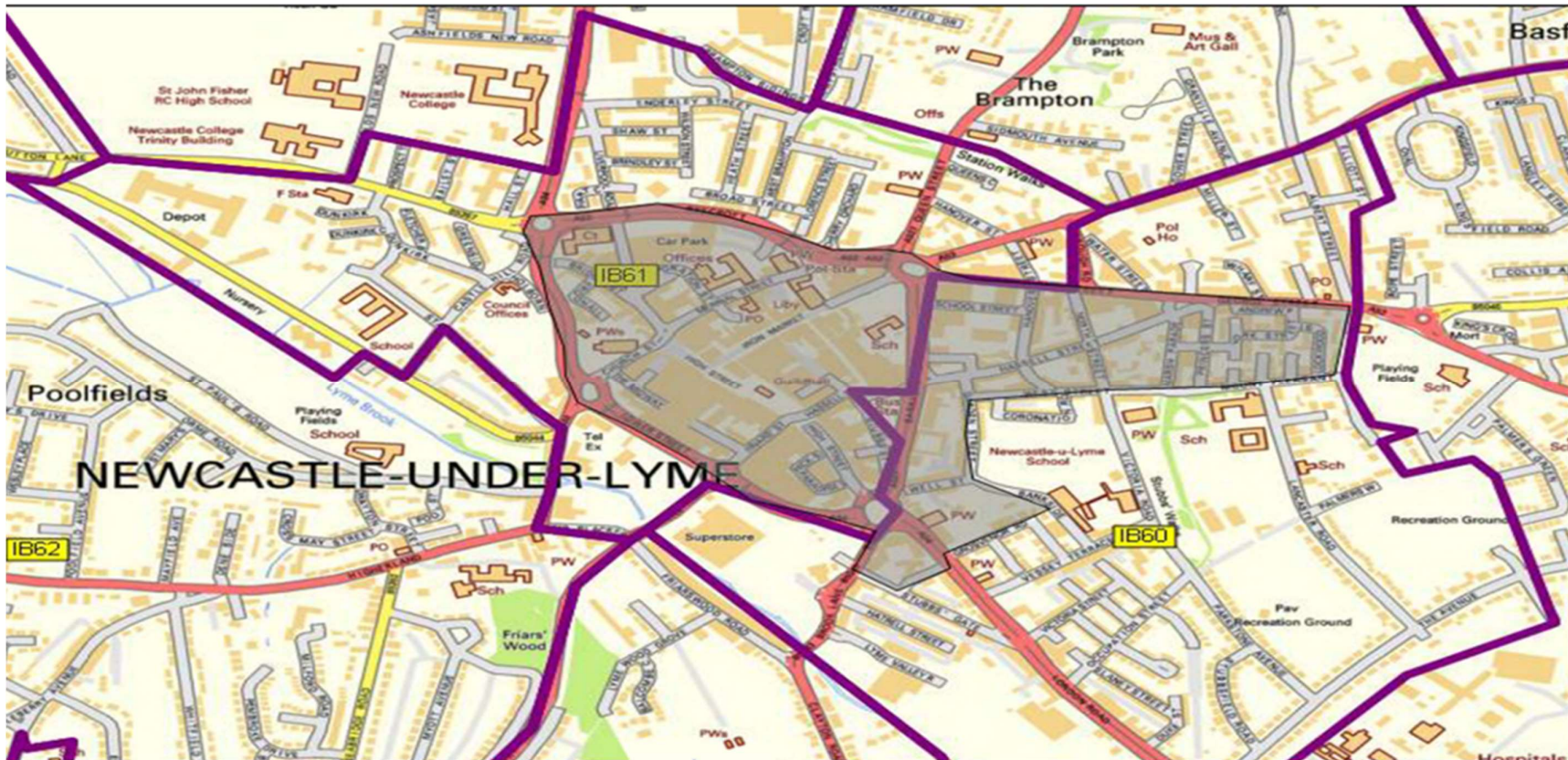
The Council are seeking views, representations in support or objections against, and supporting evidence in relation to the proposal to publish a CIA for the area shaded in grey in Appendix A that relates to all application for premises licences and club premises certificates in relation to sale and supply of alcohol.

To submit a written response please email licensing@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk or by letter to:

Licensing Department
Newcastle-under-Lyme BC
Castle House
Barracks Road
Newcastle-under-Lyme
ST5 1BL

The consultation period runs from **Friday 29th January 2021 to Thursday 25th February 2021.**

Appendix A



The Cumulative Impact Policy area (shaded in grey) falls within two Readily Identified Areas - IB60 & IB61 (identified by the purple lines)