

Cumulative Impact Assessment support statement from the Partnerships Team

February 2021

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.

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The Partnerships Team at Newcastle Borough Council believe that there is historical and ongoing evidence to support the use and function of a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) and also the publication of a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) in relation to Newcastle Town Centre.

The reasons for this are as follows;

1. Newcastle Town Centre has a significant number of licensed premises in close proximity to one another. These are predominantly situated on the High Street, Ironmarket and Hassell Street locations. This has caused a cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. Historically, pre-pandemic the number and types of crime and incidents were significant enough to justify a CIP for the town centre and furthermore that CIP was broadly effective. The Partnerships Team agree that on the balance of probability once the pandemic period is over and licensed premises reopen for business problems of noise, nuisance, crime & disorder outside of, or a distance away from licensed premises will likely return.
2. There is a belief that once the night time economy restarts admissions to hospital (in particular the A&E department) through alcohol and substance misuse will likely rise once again. We understand and appreciate the significant costs to the NHS from alcohol and drug misuse, costs which would only increase should a CIP not be effectively implemented.
3. A CIP and assessment is deemed necessary to limit the growth of licensed premises especially where the four licensing objectives are being compromised.
4. It is felt that the CIP and assessment allows for a greater degree of scrutiny of new and variation applications (in relation to alcohol) within the proposed boundary. Applicants will have to demonstrate that they will not contribute towards issues such as crime & disorder,

anti-social behaviour etc. This we feel is important going forward because it is of our opinion that an increase in the number of licensed premises serving alcohol within the town centre area could infringe upon the authorities duty to promote the licensing objectives.

5. Given that the proliferation of licensed premises is concentrated predominantly in the heart of the town centre it is felt that the proposed CIP area is suitable. Clearly though if further applications were granted on the outskirts of the town centre we would support a review of the CIP where appropriate.