



Consultation Response for Cumulative Impact Assessment

The provision of the Cumulative Impact Policy for the relevant area (subsequently changing to Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA) if retained) has been relied upon when appropriate to prevent a further rise in alcohol related crime and disorder in relation to licensed premises.

This has only been used when relevant and has not been utilised to prevent economic growth within the town and when the Police use or reference to the policy has been challenged by the legal profession representing the licensing trade the Police have been able to demonstrate that it has been proportionate in the circumstances to cite it.

The Police continue to assess all applications on their own merits and there have been a number of licensed premises, for example, the popular Craft Ale type venues, that through engagement with the applicant have been granted a Premises Licence without the need for a hearing before the licensing subcommittee.

In normal times these businesses continued to flourish largely with no calls for service to the Police, which shows not only the economic prosperity they bring but also an operational demonstration that the licensing objectives are not being undermined.

There are a variant of licensed premises situated within the town centre that due to a number of factors around them that do bring the need for a policing response whether that be from those operationally policing the locality or the Police Licensing Team, and it is premises of this nature where this policy is recognised as being relevant whether it be a new application or a variation to an existing one.

The Police are also aware that some local authorities nationally are removing their respective CIA zones due to the current times we collectively find ourselves in, however, it is contended that Newcastle CIA should remain as with correct usage which is detailed above, and also with the scrutiny of the licensing subcommittee should a matter be brought before them, each application can still continue to be viewed on its own merits with the authorities still having the ability where appropriate to utilise the CIA to keep communities safe from an increase in violence and disorder.

This balanced approach is shown by the Police allowing for both businesses to come to the town centre and prosper without impacting on the already existing issue of violence and disorder, and those which can be shown to have a detrimental impact are prevented when appropriate from further negatively contributing.

It is requested that the Cumulative Impact Assessment be adopted for the relevant area of Newcastle-under-Lyme, as it is an appropriate element contained within the wider Licensing Policy.

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