



Consultation Response for Cumulative Impact Assessment

The provision of the Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy for the specified area 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. In addition, 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, 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 an operational demonstration that the licensing objectives are not being undermined.

There is 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.

It is appropriate to highlight that it is not just premises that are licensed to sell alcohol that can contribute to incidents of crime and disorder, but also those that are authorised to carry out the provision of late-night refreshment. These premises by the nature of their operation, usually being busiest at the end of a trading night at weekends are focal points for persons already intoxicated to gather which can then and often does lead to incidents of violence and/or disorder. This is referenced in the Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, specifically Ch 14, para. 21:-

In some areas where the number, type or density of licensed premises, such as those selling alcohol or providing late night refreshment, is high or exceptional, serious problems of nuisance and disorder may arise outside or some distance from those premises. Such problems generally occur as a result of large numbers of drinkers being concentrated in an area, for example when leaving premises at peak times or when queuing at fast food outlets or for public transport.

The Police are also aware that some local authorities nationally previously removed their respective CIA zones due to the Covid pandemic, however there were also a high proportion who retained them as did this authority and it is contended that Newcastle CIA policy should remain. It is also worthy of note that

some authorities that removed their respective CIA policies have since reintroduced them as with the correct usage, 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 recognised that with the revision of the policing model there is now better coverage of the borough by Staffordshire Police and it is with these many factors that generally crime is down as per the local policing document produced by Sgt Henshall. However, all these factors play an integral part in maintaining and even further improving crime reduction therefore it is considered that the removal of one of these strands, in this case the CIA policy will have a damaging effect on the others and wider detrimental consequences.

It is requested that the Cumulative Impact Assessment be retained as published, with the addition of late-night refreshment being added to the sale of alcohol for the relevant area of Newcastle-under-Lyme, as it is an appropriate element contained within the wider Licensing Policy.

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