

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL



**CORPORATE LEADERSHIP TEAM'S
REPORT TO LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

18 March 2025

Report Title: Relaxation of licensing hours for the 2025 Women's UEFA European Championships

Submitted by: Service Director - Regulatory Services & Licensing Administration Team Manager

Portfolios: Finance, Town Centres & Growth

Ward(s) affected: All

<u>Purpose of the Report</u>	<u>Key Decision</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
To inform the Committee of a Home Office consultation to allow certain licensed premises to open later than their normal hours. It is in relation to the semi-final and final matches of the 2025 Women's European Championships, should a 'Home Nations' team progress to that stage.			
<u>Recommendation</u>			
That Committee:			
1. Note the contents of the report			
2. Agree that the proposed response be submitted prior to the consultation closing.			
<u>Reasons</u>			
The Home Office are holding a consultation on whether to allow a relaxation of licensing hours during the semi-final and final stages of the 2025 Women's European Championships, should a 'Home Nations' team progress to that stage.			

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 172 of the Licensing Act 2003 allows the Secretary of State for the Home Department to make a Licensing Hours Order ('Order') relaxing opening hours for licensed premises (any premises with a premises licence or a club premises certificate) in England and Wales to mark an occasion of 'exceptional international, national or local significance'.
- 1.2 Past national occasions where the government has extended licensing hours have included the late Queen's platinum jubilee in 2022, the Royal Weddings in 2018 and 2011, the late Queen's ninetieth birthday celebrations in 2016 and diamond jubilee in 2012, and the Kings Coronation in 2023. The power was also used during the World Cup in 2014, and the 2020 and 2024 UEFA European championships.

2. Issues

- 2.1 The Home Office opened a consultation on 23rd February 2025. They are consulting on whether it is appropriate to make an Order to extend the times for licensed premises to be open during the semi-final and final stages of the UEFA 2025 Women's European Championships, should a 'Home Nations' team progress to that stage.
- 2.2 If granted as proposed the Order would authorise all licensed premises that are already permitted to sell/supply alcohol for consumption on the premises until 11pm to operate until 1am the day after. It should be noted that this Order will only have effect should either the England team, Wales team or both teams progress to the semi-final and/or final stages and will only take effect on the date that they are playing. The semi-final matches are scheduled for 22nd and 23rd July 2025, and the final is scheduled for 27th July 2025. For example, if one of the teams played in the semi-final on 22nd July, it would only be 22nd July that would benefit from the relaxation. The licensable hours for 23rd July would be the normal hours.
- 2.3 The relaxation does not apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, regulated entertainment, late night refreshment premises or unlicensed premises.
- 2.4 The alternative would be to reply upon the existing system to requiring Temporary Event Notices to extend licensable hours.
- 2.5 The consultation is made up of the below six questions. Officers' view is that Orders of this nature have been successful in the and not created additional problems for regulatory bodies, and as such are supportive of the proposals. Officers' answered in are bold text:

Q1: Do you support the proposal for extending licencing hours in England and Wales in the event that the England and/or Wales teams reach the semi-finals of Euro 2025?

Yes

No

Q2: Do you support the proposal for extending licencing hours in England and Wales in the event that the England and/or Wales teams reach the final of Euro 2025?

Yes

No

Q3: Do you agree that the contingent order should only apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises (i.e. it should not apply to the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises)?

Yes

No

Q4: Do you agree that the contingent order should extend licensing hours for the semi-finals - 22 and/or 23 July - until 01:00 the following morning?

Yes

No

Q5: Do you agree that the contingent order should extend licensing hours for the final - 27 July - until 01:00 the following morning?

Yes

No

Q6. If you disagree with this proposal, please give reasons.

Not applicable

2.6 The consultation closes on 23rd March 2025.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Committee:

1. Note the contents of the report
2. Agree that the proposed response be submitted prior to the consultation closing.

4. Reasons

- 4.1** To inform Members of amendments to the Licensing Act 2003 and matters of local and national significance.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1** The Council could choose not to respond to this consultation.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1** Not applicable.

7. Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1** Not applicable.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1** It is unlikely to cause any resource implications however if there was to be complaints and incidents as a result of the extended hours then it would require investigation by the appropriate officers. It is not anticipated to be the case but the resource would be covered by existing staff members.

9. Major Risks & Mitigation

- 9.1** Not applicable.

10. **UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)**



11. **One Council**

Please confirm that consideration has been given to the following programmes of work:

One Commercial Council

One Digital Council

One Green Council

It is not thought that the nature of the proposals impacts on any of the One Council streams.

12. **Key Decision Information**

12.1 Not applicable.

13. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

13.1 Not applicable.

14. **List of Appendices**

14.1 Not applicable.

15. **Background Papers**

15.1 [Consultation document published on 23rd February 2025](#)