

APPENDIX C

Local Policy considerations

1.0 Introduction

1.4 The 2003 Act requires the council to carry out its various licensing functions so as to promote the four licensing objectives. These are:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

1.5 The 2003 Act also requires that the Council publishes a 'Statement of Licensing Policy' that sets out the policies the Council will generally apply to promote the Licensing Objectives when making decisions on applications made under the Act.

2.0 Consultation and Links to other Policies and Strategies

2.7 So far as possible, the council will avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes, and will not to use its powers under the Licensing Act 2003 to achieve outcomes that can be achieved by other legislation and other enforcement agencies. As an example, the council will not seek to impose fire safety conditions that may duplicate any requirements or prohibitions that could be imposed under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

3.0 Applications for Licences

3.2 Applicants must address the four licensing objectives in their operational plan. The operating plan must have regard to the nature of the area where the premises are situated, the type of premises, the licensable activities to be provided, operational procedures and the needs of the local community. The operating schedule must demonstrate how the premises will be "good neighbours" both to residents and to other venues and businesses.

3.3 Applicants must provide evidence that suitable and sufficient measures, as detailed in their operating schedule, will be implemented and maintained, relevant to the individual style, location and characteristics of their premises and activities. They must also indicate if additional measures will be taken on an occasional or specific basis, such as when a special event or promotion is planned, which is, for example, likely to attract larger audiences.

4.0 Representations

4.1 "Responsible Authorities" (see Appendix 7) will be asked to consider all applications and to make representations to the council, if they relate to the promotion of the four licensing objectives and particularly in respect of applications which, might be regarded as contentious. Representations must be

evidentially based and the organisation should attend any hearing when the application is being considered. Representations can be made in opposition to, or in support of, an application.

- 4.2 The council will consider all representations from any “Interested Party” (see Appendix 7), or their representative, which should preferably be evidentially based and supported by attendance at any hearing at which the application is being considered.
- 4.3 A representation, will only be accepted by the council if it is ‘relevant’, ie it must relate to the likely effect of granting the licence on the promotion of at least one of the four licensing objectives. Representations, that are regarded as being frivolous or vexatious, will not be considered, and in the case of a review of a licence, any representation which is regarded as repetitious, will also not be considered. A decision as to whether a representation is frivolous, vexatious or repetitive will be made by an officer of the council.

5.0 Conditions attaching to Licences

- 5.1 Where relevant representations are made, the council will make objective judgments as to whether conditions may need to be attached to the premises licence to secure achievement of the licensing objectives. Any conditions arising as a result of representations will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at licensed premises, on those attending the premises, and members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned, and will cover matters that are within the control of individual licensees.
- 5.2 All applications will be considered on an individual basis and any condition attached to such a licence, will be tailored to each individual premises, in order to avoid the imposition of disproportionate or burdensome conditions on those premises. Therefore, mandatory conditions, will only be imposed where they are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

8.0 The Impact of Licensed Premises

- 8.1 When considering whether any licensed activity should be permitted, and a relevant representation has been received, the likelihood of it causing unacceptable adverse impact will be assessed by taking into account relevant matters including:
- the type of use, the number of customers likely to attend the premises and the type of customers at the time of the application;
 - the proposed hours of operation;
 - the level of public transport accessibility for customers either arriving or leaving the premises and the likely means of public or private transport that will be used by the customers;
 - the means of access to the premises including the location of customer entrances and exits;
 - the provision of toilet facilities;
 - the frequency of the licensable activity.

With any adverse impact it may be possible to take steps to mitigate or prevent the impact and if such measures are reliable an activity may be licensed.

13.0 Management of Licensed Premises

- 13.1 Within the operating schedule for premises from which alcohol will be sold, with the exception of qualifying community premises, a premises supervisor must be designated (designated premises supervisor) and such person must be in possession of a current personal licence. The licensing authority will normally expect the designated premises supervisor [DPS] to have been given the day to day responsibility for running the premises by the premises licence holder and, as such, would normally be present on the licensed premises on a regular basis. In addition to the DPS holding a personal licence, the licensing authority would strongly encourage the DPS to undergo additional training and to have experience commensurate with the nature and style of entertainment provided and the capacity of the premises.
- 13.2 The act does not require a DPS or any other personal licence holder to be present on the premises at all times when alcohol is sold. However, the DPS and the premises licence holder remain responsible for the premises at all times and have a duty to comply with the terms of the licensing act and any conditions, including the matters set out in the premises' operating schedule, in order to promote the licensing objectives. To that end, the licensing authority will be mindful of the guidance issued by the secretary of state, which recommends that a personal licence holder/DPS gives specific written authorisations to those individuals they are authorising to retail alcohol. Although written authorisation is not a requirement of the act and the designated premises supervisor/personal licence holder remain ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance with the act and licensing conditions, this action could assist in demonstrating due diligence should any issues arise with regard to enforcement.

The licensing authority will therefore expect that where the personal licence holder/DPS does not have the premises under their immediate day to day control, written authorisations will be issued to staff acting on their behalf, such authorisations being made available for inspection by a responsible Officer of the licensing authority or the police upon request.

LICENSING OBJECTIVES

20.0 Objective - Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- 20.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 introduced a wide range of measures for preventing crime and disorder and imposed a duty on the City Council, and others, to consider crime and disorder reduction in the exercise of all their duties. The Licensing Act 2003 reinforces this duty for local authorities.
- 20.2 The promotion of the licensing objective, to prevent crime and disorder, places a responsibility on licence holders to become key partners in achieving this objective. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate in their operating schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to reduce or prevent crime and disorder on and in the vicinity of

their premises, relevant to the individual style and characteristics of their premises and the licensable activities at those premises.

- 20.3 When addressing the issue of crime and disorder, the applicant should demonstrate that all those factors that impact on crime and disorder have been considered. These include:

Underage drinking

Drunkenness on premises

Public drunkenness

Keeping Illegal activity like drug taking and dealing, offensive weapons and sales of contraband or stolen goods away from the premises.

Preventing disorderly and potentially violent behaviour on and outside the premises.

Reducing Anti-social behaviour and Disorder inside and outside the premises

Litter

Unauthorised advertising

Protecting people and property from theft, vandalism and assault

Guard against glasses and bottles being used as weapons or causing accidents.

- 20.4 The following examples of control measures are given to assist applicants who may need to take account of them in their operating schedule, having regard to their particular type of premises and/or licensable activities:

Effective and responsible management of premises;

Training and supervision of staff;

Employ sufficient numbers of staff to keep numbers down of people awaiting service;

Provide sufficient seating for customers;

Patrols of staff around the premises;

Ensure sufficient lighting and visibility, removing obstructions if necessary, to discourage illegal activity;

Introduce an entry policy – making people aware of it – and apply it consistently and fairly;

Implement a search policy to prevent drugs, offensive weapons etc being brought onto the premises;

Implement effective management of entrance queues – incorporating barriers if necessary;

Adoption of best practice guidance e.g. Safer Clubbing, the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Toolkit, Minor Sales Major Consequences, Clubbing against Racism and other voluntary codes of practice, including those relating to drinks promotions e.g. The Point of Sale Promotions published by the British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA), Security in Design published by BBPA and Drugs and Pubs, published by BBPA;

Acceptance of accredited 'proof of age' cards e.g. Portman proof of age cards, Citizencard, Connexions Card and/or 'new type' driving licences with photographs, or passports;

Provision of effective CCTV in and around premises;

Employment of Security Industry Authority licensed door staff to manage the door and minimize disorder;

Ensure glasses are collected on an on going basis, make regular inspections for broken glass and clear up;

Provision of toughened or plastic drinking vessels and bottles;

Provision of 'bottle bins' inside the premises and near exits;

Provision of secure, deposit boxes for confiscated items i.e. Operation Enterprise Drug and Weapon Amnesty Safe's;

Information displayed for staff and customers on Drug Awareness including the 'spiking' of drinks with drugs;

Provision of litterbins and other security measures, such as lighting, outside premises;

Membership of local 'Pubwatch' schemes or similar accreditation schemes or organizations ie Operation Enterprise;

Responsible advertising;

Distribution of promotional leaflets, posters etc;

Drug Seizure Kits (available from Norfolk Police Operation Enterprise);

Member of the 'NiteLink' radio scheme;

Working in partnership with the SOS Bus scheme;

Ban known offenders and share information with other licensed premises in the area;

Implement a dispersal policy;

Introduce a 'closed door' policy, with attendance prohibited for new customers 2-3 hours before licensable activities finish;

26. Objective – protection of children from harm

- 26.1 The council will consult with the appropriate area child protection committee for consideration of all applications for licences.
- 26.2 With a view to the promotion of the licensing objective relating to the protection of children from harm the council will work closely with the police and trading standards authority to ensure the appropriate enforcement of the law, especially relating to the sale and supply of alcohol products to children (for Minor Sales Major Consequences information please contact trading standards on 0844 800 8013 trading.standards@norfolk.gov.uk).
- 26.3 Applicants should be aware that the protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm and this includes the protection of children from exposure to strong language, sexual expletives and gambling. In certain circumstances children are more vulnerable

and their needs will require special consideration. This vulnerability includes their susceptibility to suggestion, peer group influences, inappropriate example, the unpredictability of their age and their lack of understanding of danger.

- 26.4 There should be no presumption of giving children access nor any presumption of preventing their access to licensed premises. Where no licensing restriction is necessary, the admission of children will remain entirely a matter for the discretion of the individual licensee or club, or person who has given a temporary event notice.
- 26.5 Applicants must ensure that children will not be allowed access into premises when licensable activities involving eg topless female bar staff, striptease, lap, table or pole dancing, performances involving feigned violence or horrific incidents, feigned or actual sexual acts or fetishism, or entertainment involving strong and offensive language. The council has given particular consideration to the types of entertainment referred to above, and has included within this policy their expectations of applicants in section A, paragraph 17.
- 26.6 Applicants will be expected to demonstrate in their operating schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to protect children from harm, relevant to the individual style and characteristics of their premises and the licensable activities for which a licence is being sought.**
- 26.7 While children may be adequately protected from harm by the action taken to protect adults, they may also need special consideration and no policy can anticipate every situation. **When addressing the issue of protecting children from harm, the applicant must demonstrate that those factors that may particularly impact on harm to children have been considered.** These include:
- where entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature are commonly or regularly provided
 - where there have been convictions of members of the current staff at the premises for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for underage drinking
 - where there has been a known association with drug taking or dealing
 - where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises
 - where the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided at the premises.
- 26.8 The council commends the Portman Group code of practice on the naming, packaging and promotion of alcoholic drinks. The code seeks to ensure that drinks are packaged and promoted in a socially responsible manner and only to those who are 18 years or older. **The council will expect all licensees to agree not to replenish their stocks following notification of a retailer alert bulletin by the Portman Group in relation to any product that is in breach of that code. Commitment to that code should be included in operating schedules.**
- 26.9 The following examples of control measures are given to assist applicants and are considered to be amongst the most essential that applicants should take account

of in their operating schedule, having regard to their particular type of premises and/or activities:

- Effective and responsible management of premises.
- Provision of a sufficient number of people employed or engaged to secure the protection of children from harm.
- Appropriate instruction, training and supervision of those employed or engaged to secure the protection of children from harm.
- Adoption of best practice guidance (eg Minor Sales Major Consequences).
- Ensure that all drinks containers carry a price tag or other sticker that identifies your premises. This will be a useful tool for working with authorities to tackle underage drinking if problems arise.
- Limitations on the hours when children may be present, in all or parts of the premises.
- Limitations or exclusions by age when certain activities are taking place.
- Imposition of requirements for children to be accompanied by an adult.
- Train staff to deal with – and be vigilant about – potentially harmful situations, eg children in the presence of adults who are excessively drunk.
- Acceptance of accredited proof of age cards and/or new type driving licences with photographs, or passports.
- Measures to ensure children do not purchase, acquire or consume alcohol.
- Measures to ensure children are not exposed to incidences of violence or disorder.

These examples can be adopted in any combination.

26.10 In the case of film exhibitions, licence and certificate holders and those who have given notice of a temporary event within the terms of the 2003 Act should implement measures that restrict children from viewing restricted films classified according to the recommendations of the British Board of Film Classification or the council.

26.11 In premises where there may be children unaccompanied by adults any supervisors must have undergone appropriate checks through the Criminal Records Bureau.

SECTION E - Hours of Trading

30.2 In determining its policy on the hours of trading, the council has given full consideration to those parts of the secretary of state's guidance to the act which relate to hours of trading.

“Where there are objections to an application to extend the hours during which licensable activities are to be carried on and the licensing authority determines that this would undermine the licensing objectives, it may reject the application or grant it with appropriate conditions and/or different hours from those requested.”

30.7 Consideration will always be given to an applicant's individual case and if the matter of trading hours has been raised in a representation, the council will take into account any proposals the applicant has to minimise the risk of nuisance or disorder being caused or exacerbated by customers departing from the premises.

It is however, unlikely that statements such as the premises being well-managed, or that the applicant is of good character or that the style of the premises is intended and likely to attract a discerning clientele, will alone be sufficient to demonstrate that restrictions on hours of trading should not be applied.