

EXTRACTS FROM SPELTHORNE BOROUGH COUNCIL'S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2019-2024

9.0 ADMINISTRATION AND DECISION MAKING

This Policy shall be decided upon by the full Council. The Licensing Committee will consist of a maximum of 15 Members of the Council. If there are relevant representations against an application, the Licensing Authority will try to resolve issues between applicants and those making representations to try to reach agreement so that a hearing is not necessary.

Members of the public who wish to submit a representation will be made aware that their personal details will be made available to the applicant, unless they clearly state that they wish for them to be redacted. Anonymous representations however, will not be accepted by the Licensing Authority.

Where relevant representations have been made and not subsequently withdrawn, applications will be heard by a sub-committee of three members drawn from the Licensing Committee.

The 2003 Act enables licensing authorities to act as responsible authorities as a means of early intervention; the Council's licensing department may do so where considered appropriate without having to wait for representations from other responsible authorities. In cases where Spelthorne's licensing department is also acting as a responsible authority and has submitted a representation against or in support of an application being determined by a sub-committee, it is important to achieve a separation of responsibilities within the authority - to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest.

A separation will be achieved by allocating distinct functions (i.e. those of licensing authority and responsible authority) to different officials within the authority. The officer advising the sub-committee (i.e. the authority acting in its capacity as the licensing authority) will be a different person from the officer who is acting for the responsible authority.

Guidance issued by the Home Office conveys that it should be considered reasonable for licensing authorities to expect other responsible authorities will intervene where the basis for the intervention falls within the remit of that other responsible authority. For example, the police should make representations where the representations are based on concerns about crime and disorder. Likewise, it is reasonable to expect the local authority exercising environmental health functions to make representations where there are concerns about noise nuisance. Each responsible authority has equal standing under the 2003 Act and may act independently without waiting for representations from any other responsible authority.

The circumstances in which licensing decisions may be delegated to an officer are set out in **Annex 3**.

25.0 CRIME AND DISORDER

Staines Town Centre is no longer considered a hotspot for alcohol-related crime and disorder. However it has the strongest night-time economy in the Borough with a mixture of restaurants, bars, pubs, late night takeaways and a cinema.

What applicants include on their operating schedules will depend on the type of premises, the location, and the proposed activities.

Premises that are mainly concerned with the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises (**pubs, bars, proprietary clubs**) will need to address the risks to crime and disorder with measures in their operating schedules to:

- Prevent disorder on the premises
- Prevent drunkenness
- Prevent under age sales of alcohol
- Ensure customers enter and leave in an orderly manner
- Exclude illegal drugs
- Exclude offensive weapons

Examples include:-

- Active membership of pubwatch schemes
- Use of licensed door supervisors
- Physical security features e.g. use of shatterproof drinking glasses
- Information on amount of seating to be provided
- Training given to staff in crime prevention measures
- Use of town centre radios (Staines Town Centre) to enable licensed premises to communicate to each other and police
- Search procedures
- Measures to prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs
- Details of CCTV video cameras

This list is not exhaustive and will not suit all applications. Applicants should seek advice from Surrey Police before preparing their operating schedules in relation to the prevention of crime and disorder.

It is recognised that late night takeaways can be the focus of anti-social behaviour, and in Staines Town Centre the use of CCTV, licensed door supervisors at peak times, and signing up to the town centre radio may be considered necessary to address this.

Shops and off licences applying to sell alcohol will need to address the risks to crime and disorder with measures in their operating schedules. Examples include:-

- That there will be regular staff training (whether or not staff are paid) in relation to sale of alcohol to under age people and that training records shall be kept.

- All refusals to be recorded. in a refusals book. Refusals books shall consist of a bound book with consecutively numbered pages, and shall be held at the premises and available for inspection on demand at all times by the responsible authorities. Records shall include the reason for the refused sale, whether because the customer looked under 25 and could not provide ID, or the customer appeared to be intoxicated, or whether the sales assistant suspected that the sales may be made on behalf of someone who may be underage or intoxicated (known as proxy sales).
- Use of Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS) system to remind staff via a suitable visual prompt or audible warning. Alternatively stickers can be used over certain products to remind cashiers to check the customer's age.
- That there is CCTV coverage of the licensed premises and the immediate vicinity outside in accordance with Surrey Police's Operational Guidelines in the use of CCTV in licensed shops.
- That a personal licence holder may be required to be on duty at high risk times such as outside school hours and during the evenings, for example where a business has been prosecuted for underage sales and/or is a source of youth disorder.
- That staff shall not sell alcohol to any person they have reason to suspect may be buying the alcohol for a child and that there shall be signage to warn adults that it is an offence to buy alcohol on behalf of a child. This is known as "proxy sales". Where there is evidence of such sales taking place, consideration should be given to ensuring CCTV coverage outside the shop.
- In areas with problems with alcohol related youth crime and disorder, that licence holders shall participate in "Bottlewatch" schemes, if requested to do so by responsible authorities.
- In areas where there is an Offwatch scheme, that licence holders sign up to such a scheme.

This list is not exhaustive and applicants should seek advice from Surrey Trading Standards or Surrey Police before preparing their operating schedules.

25.5 PUBLIC SAFETY

The public safety objective is about ensuring the physical safety of performers and people attending licensed premises. The risk to public safety will vary according to the type of premises and the activities that take place there. Most risks will be adequately covered by other legislation such as the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 or fire safety legislation. However other laws may not cover risks that are associated with particular types of activities or entertainment and will therefore need to be addressed in preparing licence applications.

Examples will include

- The provision of a suitable Residual Current Device (RCD) protection of electricity supplies to entertainers' equipment, including microphones, when regulated entertainment is organised on site
- Setting maximum numbers of people allowed (and use of clickers or counting machines when capacity levels are expected to be high)

Applicants are advised to seek advice from the Environmental Health Service (or other enforcement authority for Health and Safety at Work) and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service before preparing their operating schedules.

25.7 PUBLIC NUISANCE

Licensed premises can have a significant impact on communities from noise, litter, light, odour and anti-social behaviour.

25.7.1 Noise

It is recommended that operating schedules contain sufficient information for officers to form a view as to whether noise from licensable activities is likely to cause a problem to people living nearby. Applicants should provide details of proposed noise control measures, particularly if premises are in residential areas where regulated entertainment is being applied for late at night, or where there is a history of noise complaints. The licensing authority will normally apply stricter conditions in these circumstances where relevant representations have been received. Whilst each application will be considered on its individual merits it should be noted that restricting the hours of regulated entertainment may be necessary to prevent public nuisance.

Measures could include:

- A simple requirement to keep doors and windows at the premises closed when music is being played
- Limiting amplified music to a particular area of the building
- Moving speakers away from external walls or walls that abut private premises, or adjusting the direction of the speakers
- Installation of acoustic curtains, seals to doorways, rubber speaker mounts
- Fitting self-closing devices on doors so that they do not stay open.
- Monitoring noise levels at the perimeter of premises and taking action to reduce the volume if it is likely to disturb nearby neighbours, e.g. it could be too loud if the words of the song are clearly audible
- Noise limiters on amplification equipment (if proportionate to the premises – noise limiters are expensive and are likely to be a burden for smaller premises)
- Prominent clear and legible notices displayed at all exits requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quietly
- The placing of bottles and cans into bins outside the premises to take place at times that will minimise disturbance to nearby premises

25.7.2 Smokefree

Since 1 July 2007 it became illegal to smoke in enclosed public buildings and workplaces in England. Customers who want to smoke will therefore have to do so outside licensed premises. Applicants will need to address the potential for public nuisance from this activity, e.g. noise and litter such as cigarette ends. Advice should be sought from the appropriate authorities to ensure that crime and disorder and public safety issues are adequately addressed. For example, it may be necessary to prevent customers from taking alcohol outside when they go out to smoke, or to designate smoking areas that are away from neighbouring residential properties, where necessary. Operating schedules should detail how noise nuisance and disorder in light of this will be dealt with.

25.7.3 Odours

Conditions may be necessary to ensure that licensed premises are properly vented to prevent odours causing a nuisance to people who live or work nearby.

25.7.4 Litter

Late night takeaways are encouraged to include on their operating schedules reasonable assurances that the area in and around their business will be kept clear of litter associated with that business.

25.7.5 Reviews in connection with Public Nuisance

An application for review by responsible authorities or any other person may be applied for where:

- Complaints have been received that have been substantiated by investigating officers; and/or
- Breaches of licence conditions in respect of public nuisance have been identified; and/or
- Action is being considered under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Noise Act 1996 or section 40 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003; and/or
- Evidence of noise, litter, odours etc from the premises has caused a public nuisance over a period of time, and other approaches have failed.