

Spelthorne Licensing Policy

3.0 LICENSING OBJECTIVES AND LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

Section 4 of the Licensing Act requires the Licensing Authority to carry out its licensing functions with a view to promoting the Licensing Objectives, which are:

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

Decision making will be based on promoting these licensing objectives.

Decision makers will also have regard to this policy document and any guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State.

The policy relates to all “licensable activities” as defined by the act, namely:-

- Retail sale of alcohol (for the avoidance of confusion, the definition of alcohol was amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2017 to include alcohol “in any state”. This is to make it clear that products such as powdered and vaporised alcohol fall within the definition provided by the 2003 Act.)
- Supply of alcohol to club members
- Provision of ‘regulated entertainment’ (listed below) – to the public, to club members or with a view to profit
 - o A performance of a play
 - o An exhibition of a film
 - o An indoor sporting event
 - o Boxing or wrestling entertainment 7
- o A performance of live music (except within limits defined by The Live Music Act 2012)
 - o Any playing of recorded music
 - o A performance of dance
- o Entertainment of a similar description to that falling within the performance of live music, the playing of recorded music and the performance of dance
- The supply of hot food and/or drink from any premises between 11pm and 5am (known as Late Night Refreshment). Note: The requirement to license “entertainment facilities” was removed in October 2012.

8.0 CONDITIONS - The authority wishes to encourage high quality, well managed premises. The operating schedule should describe how these high management standards will be achieved. In particular applicants will be expected to demonstrate:

- knowledge of best practice;
- that they understand the legal requirements of operating a licensed business; and
- a knowledge and understanding of the licensing objectives, relevant parts of the licensing policy, and their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003.

Measures offered by applicants on their operating schedule will normally become licence conditions. They therefore must be enforceable and the meaning must be clear and unambiguous. The authority may alter the wording of a condition to achieve this. The context or meaning of the condition will not be changed.

The Licensing Authority may only attach conditions to a premises licence where “relevant representations” have been received. Relevant 12 representations are those that relate to the licensing objectives, are about the particular application and relate to the particular premises.

Conditions will only be attached to a licence where they are appropriate for the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives. They will focus on matters that are within the control of individual licensees and that are relevant to the type of premises and licensable activities that take place. When considering conditions, the Licensing Authority will take into account the direct impact of the activities taking place at licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned. Conditions that duplicate provisions in other legislation would not normally be added to licences.

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.

13 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.

19.0 THE REVIEW PROCESS

Residents have the power to apply for a licence to be called in for review if the premises are causing problems. There is no requirement to live or work in the vicinity. Any responsible authority under the 2003 Act may apply for a review of a

premises licence or club premises certificate. Therefore, the Council's licensing department may apply for a review if it is concerned about licensed activities at premises and wants to intervene early without waiting for representations from other persons. However, it is not expected that the 18 Council will act as a responsible authority in applying for reviews on behalf of other persons or where the basis for intervention falls within the remit of another responsible authority.

A review can be requested at any time, however government guidance recommends that not more than one review in 12 months should be allowed on similar grounds unless there are compelling circumstances. Review applications cannot be made anonymously.

The Immigration Act 2016 made the Secretary of State a responsible authority in respect of premises licensed to sell alcohol or late night refreshment with effect from 6 April 2017. In effect this conveys the role of responsible authority to Home Office Immigration Enforcement who exercises the powers on the Secretary of State's behalf. When Immigration Enforcement exercises its powers as a responsible authority it will do so in respect of the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective because it is concerned with the prevention of illegal working or immigration offences more broadly. The Council's licensing department will work closely with officers from Immigration Enforcement to enable them to carry out their functions as effectively as possible.

Licensing authorities are subject to certain timescales, set out in the legislation, for the review of a premises licence following a closure order under section 80 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 or an illegal working compliance order under section 38 of and Schedule 6 to the Immigration Act 2016. The relevant time periods run concurrently and are as follows:

- upon receipt of a notice that a magistrates' court has made a closure order, it has 28 days to determine the licence review – the determination must be made before the expiry of the 28th day after the day on which the notice is received;
- the hearing must be held within ten working days, the first of which is the day after the day the notice from the magistrates' court is received;
- notice of the hearing must be given no later than five working days before the first hearing day (there must be five clear working days between the giving of the notice and the start of the hearing).

A review application needs to be in writing on the statutory form. There will need to be clear and factual evidence to support the application and this should show that incidents are not isolated and that there is a direct link with the premises. Grounds for review must also be based on one or more of the licensing objectives.

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

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- 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.

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- 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

25.1 REVIEWS A review of the licence may be sought by Responsible Authorities or any other person, where:

- A serious crime has occurred at, or can be linked to a particular premises
- There have been prosecutions or penalty notices served for underage sales
- There have been incidents which raise concerns that the premises are not being properly managed
- There have been breaches of the terms or conditions of the licence
- There have been repeated complaints from the public.

25.8 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

The Council is committed to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons. The Licensing Act 2003 places legal responsibilities on holders of Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates, and those who work in licensed premises to ensure that children are protected from harm at all times when on licensed premises.

In exercising the Council’s powers under Section 182 of the Act to designate a body which is competent to advise the Council about the protection of children from harm, the following principles have been applied:

- the need for the body to be responsible for an area covering the whole of the licensing authority’s area; and
- the need for the body to be answerable to democratically elected persons, rather than any particular vested interest group etc.

Having regard to the above principles and the guidance issued by the Home Office, the Council designates the Surrey County Council Children’s Service for this purpose.

There are a great variety of premises for which licences may be sought. These will include theatres, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, cafes, take-aways, community halls and schools, all of which will have different risks to children. The general relaxation that gives children greater access to licensed premises is a positive step, which aims to promote more family friendly premises. However the risk of harm to children is equal in importance to the other licensing objectives and applicants must include in their operating schedules the steps they propose to take to prevent moral, physical, or psychological harm to children.

When considering applications for new licences and variations to existing licences, the Council will seek to be assured that applicants have considered safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons within the Operating Schedule of the application.

Where alcohol is to be sold, applicants should include details of the measures they propose to prevent its supply to children. It is expected that:-

- staff will receive regular and adequate training on the law and practice relating to age restricted sales (including challenging purchasers, checking identification), such training to be properly documented and records made available for inspection.
- registers of refused sales will be maintained and made available for inspection

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- Applicants should indicate whether they are signatories to the Portman Group Code of Practice.

Further additional examples of recommended management practice for the protection of children could include:

- exclusion from the premises in certain circumstances;
- the display of prominent warning notices about the supply of alcohol to minors.;
- consideration of and / or refusal to stock high strength beers, lagers, ciders, etc.

It is now mandatory for premises which sell or supply alcohol to have an age verification policy in place. The Council favours the Challenge 25 scheme and such a scheme volunteered as part of an operating schedule will be given the appropriate weight when the Council determines the licence application.

Applicants needing advice on how to avoid age-restricted sales should contact Surrey Trading Standards Service (contact details at Annex 2) before preparing their operating schedules.

There are certain restrictions in the Act relating to the presence of children on licensed premises. In the case of premises, which are used “exclusively or primarily” for the supply of alcohol for consumption on those premises, it is an offence to allow anyone under the age of 16 to be on such premises unless they are accompanied by an adult.

Where the consumption of alcohol takes place but is not the exclusive or primary activity at a particular venue, those under 16 are not allowed on the premises between midnight and 05.00 unless an adult accompanies them.

The licensing authority will not seek to further limit the access of children to any premises unless it receives representations to that effect based on concerns about physical, moral, or psychological harm to children. The following are examples of premises that will raise particular concern:-

- 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 is a known association with drug taking or dealing
- Where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises
- Where “adult” entertainment is being proposed.

Applicants seeking a licence that would enable them to provide alcohol as part of an alcohol delivery service should include in their operating schedule the procedures they intend to operate to ensure that:

- the person they are selling alcohol to is over 18;
- that alcohol is only delivered to a person over 18;
- that a clear document trail of the order process from order to delivery is maintained (with times and signatures) and available for inspection by an authorised officer;
- the time that alcohol is sold on the website / over the phone and the time; and
- that the alcohol is delivered is within the hours stated on the licence for the sale of alcohol.

25.8.3 REVIEWS IN CONNECTION WITH PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

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

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- There have been underage sales or underage drinking taking place
- Breaches of licence conditions in respect of protection of children have taken place
- Complaints have been received that have been substantiated by investigating officer

National Guidance

11.27 There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously.

These are the use of the licensed premises:

- for the sale and distribution of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crime;
- for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms;
- for the evasion of copyright in respect of pirated or unlicensed films and music, which does considerable damage to the industries affected;
- for the illegal purchase and consumption of alcohol by minors which impacts on the health, educational attainment, employment prospects and propensity for crime of young people;
- for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography;
- by organised groups of paedophiles to groom children;
- as the base for the organisation of criminal activity, particularly by gangs; 94 | Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
- for the organisation of racist activity or the promotion of racist attacks;
- for employing a person who is disqualified from that work by reason of their immigration status in the UK;
- for unlawful gambling; and
- for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol.