Teignbridge
DISTRICT COUNCIL
South Devon

Licensing Policy Considerations

It is considered that the following have a bearing upon the application:

3.1 The Council, as the Authority, has a duty under Section 4 of the Act to carry out its licensing functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives. Each objective is of equal importance and there are no other licensing objectives. The licensing objectives are:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance and
- the protection of children from harm

3.2 These objectives are the only matters to be taken into account in determining applications and any conditions attached must be necessary to achieve the licensing objectives. If there are no relevant representations then an application must be granted and will be subject only to the mandatory conditions and the applicant's operating schedule.

4.1.2 The licensing function is only one means of delivering the licensing objectives and should not be seen as a panacea for solving all alcohol and entertainment-related problems within the community. The Authority recognises that as well as the licensing function there are a number of other mechanisms for addressing alcohol-related crime and disorder such as:

- planning controls
- Community Alcohol Partnerships
- installation and/or expansion of CCTV systems in problem areas
- powers to designate parts of the District as places where alcohol may not be consumed
- publicly (Designated Public Places Orders)
- S.27 and s.30 Dispersal Orders (Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003)
- police powers to close some premises for up to 24 hours in extreme cases of disorder
- or excessive noise (Licensing Act, ss.160 & 161)
- the power of Responsible Authorities and other persons to apply for a review of the
- licence (see 9.2)

The Authority will therefore continue to work in partnership with other licensing authorities, the Responsible Authorities, other agencies such as South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership and with local businesses and residents in a co-ordinated approach to tackling alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour.

4.1.3 In discharging its licensing function, the Authority will comply with relevant legislation Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, The European Convention on Human Rights, which is applied by the Human Rights Act 1998 and The Race Relations Act 1976, as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

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The licensing authority will also have regard to other legislation, strategies, policies and guidance in its decision making.

4.1.4 The central purpose of the licensing function is to promote the licensing objectives through the effective regulation of licensed premises, qualifying clubs and temporary events. The Authority is keen to foster a safe and vibrant leisure economy and will work with applicants and licence holders to encourage and sustain well managed premises which make a positive contribution to the community. The Authority will expect applicants and licence holders to demonstrate that they have given thought to and have in place adequate measures to ensure that the operation of their premises will not have an adverse effect on the quality of life of persons living and/or working in the vicinity of the premises.

Home Office guidance 13.57 and 13.58 (S182 March 2015) makes it clear that licensing committees are not bound by decisions made by planning committees and vice-versa. The Guidance also states that, where, as a condition of a planning permission, a terminal hour has been set for use of the premises for commercial purposes and this is different to the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier closing times.

4.3.3 The Authority recognises that it is a fundamental principle of the Act that the licensing function should not duplicate other statutory regulation. In particular, the Authority recognises that licensing applications should not be seen as a repeat of the planning application process and that there is no legal basis to refuse a licence application because it does not have planning permission. Applicants are recommended, however, to ensure that appropriate planning permissions are obtained before an application for a premises licence or club premises certificate is made. (See Section 7 – Licence Conditions – for further advice).

Home Office guidance 13.57 and 13.58 (S182 March 2015) makes it clear that licensing committees are not bound by decisions made by planning committees and vice-versa. The Guidance also states that, where, as a condition of a planning permission, a terminal hour has been set for use of the premises for commercial purposes and this is different to the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier closing times.

5.3.1 When determining a licence application, the overriding principle adopted by this Authority will be that each application will be determined on its merits. The Authority will have regard to any guidance issued by the Home Office, this Statement of Licensing Policy and any measures it deems necessary to promote the licensing objectives. The Authority may depart from the guidelines in this Policy if it has justifiable and compelling reasons to do so. The Authority will give reasons for any such departure from policy.

5.3.2 The Authority will expect applicants to demonstrate in their applications active steps for the promotion of the licensing objectives. When determining an application, a key consideration for the Authority will be the adequacy of measures proposed in the Operating Schedule to promote the licensing objectives having regard to the type of premises, the licensable activities to be provided, the nature of the location and the needs of the local community.

5.3.3 The Authority will also have regard to wider considerations affecting the residential population, businesses and the amenity of an area. These include alcohol-related violence and disorder, anti-social behaviour, littering, fouling, noise and the capacity of the infrastructure and police resources to cope with the movement of large numbers of people, particularly late at night and in the early morning.

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5.3.4 Since the introduction of the Act, the Authority's experience is that the vast majority of complaints about licensed premises are caused by public nuisance, in particular excessive noise from live and recorded music and disturbance caused by customers congregating outside licensed premises. The Authority will expect applicants to have particular regard to these issues and to include in their Operating Schedules adequate and effective steps to control noise and disturbance from their premises. Existing licence holders will also be expected to demonstrate – through the effective management of their premises – that they are taking appropriate and reasonable steps within their control to minimise disorder, anti-social behaviour and public nuisance.

Public nuisance is not defined in the Licensing Act 2003 and retains its broad common law meaning. It should be noted that public nuisance can include low-level nuisance affecting a few people living locally as well as major disturbance affecting the whole community. It may also include the reduction of the living and working amenity and environment of persons and businesses in the vicinity of licensed premises. (Home Office Guidance 2.15 (S182 March 2015)

5.3.5 When deciding whether to grant a licence, the Authority may take account of any non-compliance with other statutory requirements brought to its attention, if these undermine the licensing objectives. This is because any non-compliance with other statutory requirements may demonstrate that the premises are unsuitable for the activities proposed, or that the management of the premises is not sufficiently competent to protect the public from harm or nuisance.

5.3.6 When determining an application, the Authority will consider all relevant evidence, both oral and written, provided by parties to a hearing. Evidence which is irrelevant may be disregarded. The Authority encourages applicants and persons making representations to attend hearings so that they can give evidence. Where an individual fails to attend the hearing, the Authority will consider their application or representation but may attach less weight to it.

5.3.7 It should be noted that, when determining an application, the Authority is making a judgement about risk. A key purpose of the licensing function is not to respond to crime and disorder, nuisance or public harm once it has happened but to make an informed assessment of the risk of such things occurring if a licence is granted and to take such steps as it considers appropriate to prevent or minimise such risks.

5.3.3 The Authority will also have regard to wider considerations affecting the residential population, businesses and the amenity of an area. These include alcohol-related violence and disorder, anti-social behaviour, littering, fouling, noise and the capacity of the infrastructure and police resources to cope with the movement of large numbers of people, particularly late at night and in the early morning.

3.5.1 Public nuisance can include low level nuisance affecting a few people living locally, as well as a major disturbance affecting the wider community. Nuisance is generally attributable to noise (from loud music or from rowdy customers), vibration, light pollution, noxious smells and litter. Applicants will be required to demonstrate that they have adequate measures in place in their applications to prevent nuisance and disturbance.

3.5.2 Noise from people entering and leaving licensed premises, particularly late at night or in the early hours of the morning, can be a significant problem. Customers under the influence of alcohol are often less inhibited about their behaviour and may be unaware of

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the noise they are creating. As background noise levels are lower at night, any noise is more intrusive for residents trying to sleep.

3.5.3 The Authority will require applicants to take appropriate and proportionate measures for the prevention of public nuisance. Such measures may include those listed in the Authority's guidance for applicants can be viewed at www.teignbridge.gov.uk/licensingact2003.

6.1 In general, the Authority will deal with the issue of licensing hours on the individual merits of each application. However, when issuing a licence with hours beyond midnight higher standards of control and supervision will be expected in order to promote the licensing objectives - especially for premises situated in or near residential areas.

6.2 The Act does not provide for standard closing times. Licensed premises will generally be permitted to sell alcohol during the hours they intend to open provided they can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Authority that the premises will be operated in a manner consistent with the licensing objectives, Home Office guidance (S182) and this Policy. However, there is no presumption that applications for extended hours will take precedence over the human rights of local residents and businesses.

6.3 The licensed hours will normally be approved where the applicant can show that the proposal would not adversely affect the licensing objectives. The Authority may, however, set an earlier terminal hour where it considers this is appropriate to the nature of the activities and the amenity of the area or is necessary to achieve one or more of the licensing objectives.

Home Office Guidance 10.14 (S182 March 2015) states that the licensing objectives should be the Authority's paramount consideration at all times when determining applications. If the Licensing Committee or a sub-committee believes that granting longer hours would undermine the licensing objectives, it may reject the application or grant it with appropriate conditions and/or different hours from those requested.

6.4 The Authority recognises that fixed and artificially early closing times in certain areas can lead to peaks of disorder and disturbance on the streets when large numbers of people tend to leave licensed premises at the same time. Flexible licensing hours in relation to the sale of alcohol may therefore be considered as a potential means of reducing friction at late night food outlets, taxi ranks and other 'flashpoints' in areas where there have already been incidents of disorder and disturbance.

6.5 In considering licence applications, the Authority will consider the adequacy of measures proposed to deal with the potential for crime, disorder and/or nuisance having regard to all the circumstances of the case. The Authority strongly encourages the adoption of best practice. This includes the expectation, as an item of best practice that CCTV will be provided in those premises that wish to trade in the sale of alcohol beyond midnight for the purpose of preventing crime and disorder and public safety. Applicants should carry out a risk assessment with regard to CCTV and are expected to include CCTV in their operating schedule. Where they elect not to do so, they are strongly advised to provide information explaining that omission. For example, that the risk assessment has shown CCTV to be unnecessary.

7.1 Conditions attached to a premises licence or club premises certificate are a key element of the regulatory framework established by the Act. There are three types of condition:

- mandatory conditions set out in the Act,

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- conditions consistent with the operating schedule, and
- conditions imposed by the Authority.

The Licensing Authority may only impose conditions on a premises licence or club premises certificate where it has received a relevant representation about an application. The application will then be determined at a hearing by a Licensing Sub-Committee. If no relevant representation is received, the application must be granted on the terms applied for subject only to the mandatory conditions and conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule.

7.2 Conditions are crucial in setting the parameters within which premises can lawfully operate. Any contravention of a condition on a premises licence or club premises certificate is a criminal offence so it is essential that conditions are worded clearly, precisely and unambiguously. In addition, conditions must:

- be appropriate, reasonable and proportionate
- be enforceable
- not duplicate other statutory requirements
- be relevant to the particular type, location and character of the premises concerned
- not be standardised
- not replicate offences set out in the Act or in other legislation
- be written in a prescriptive format

7.3 The Authority encourages applicants to seek technical advice from the appropriate Responsible Authorities when preparing their Operating Schedules as this will enable any problems to be resolved at an early stage and will reduce the likelihood of representations.

7.4 Experience has shown that many of the conditions volunteered by applicants are poorly worded, unclear or ambiguous and therefore unenforceable. As an aid to applicants, the Authority has prepared a menu of suggested measures to promote the licensing objectives which applicants are encouraged to consider when preparing their operating schedules. These measures are not prescriptive but will help to ensure that licence conditions are expressed clearly and consistently and enable enforcement to be carried out equitably. The measures can be viewed at www.teignbridge.gov.uk/licensingact2003. The Authority, in consultation with the applicant, may amend the wording of proposed conditions where this is unclear, ambiguous or unenforceable.

Home Office guidance 10.5 (S182 March 2015) states that it is not acceptable for licensing authorities to simply replicate the wording from an applicant's operating schedule. A condition should be interpreted in accordance with the applicant's intention.

7.5 The Authority will pay particular attention to the effect – potential or actual - of licensable activities on those living, working or otherwise engaged in the area concerned and, where relevant representations are received, may attach conditions if it considers it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

7.6 Conditions attached by the Authority to Premises Licences and Club premises certificates will relate to matters falling within the control of individual licensees. It is recognised that the licensing function cannot be a mechanism for the control of disorderly behaviour by individuals once they are beyond the direct control of the licence holder. However, the Authority and Responsible Authorities may take action where it can be established that there is a clear linkage between disorderly behaviour and a specific premises.

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7.7 The Authority will not impose inappropriate or over-burdensome conditions on licences. The Authority may, however, impose conditions where existing legislation does not provide adequate controls and additional measures are considered to be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

7.8 Although it is not a legal requirement, the Authority recommends as good practice - in respect of premises licensed to sell or supply alcohol for consumption on the premises – that a Personal Licence holder is on the premises at all times to make or authorise such sales or supplies. The Authority is keen to encourage the presence of properly trained staff on licensed premises. Applicants may wish to consider including this as a condition of licence, where appropriate, as a measure to promote the licensing objectives. Where this is not possible (because the premises is too small or because staffing levels do not permit) or when the Premises Supervisor/Personal Licence holder will be absent for a significant length of time, a responsible person should be authorised to oversee the sale of alcohol in the place of the Premises Supervisor/Personal Licence holder. The Authority will expect the authorisation to be made in writing, kept securely on the premises and made available for inspection by an authorised person if requested. Copies of the authorisation should be sent to the Authority and the police.

NB. 'Authorisation' does not mean direct supervision. The government recommends that Personal Licence holders give specific written authorisations to individuals they are authorising to sell or supply alcohol and that such individuals are clearly identified (Home Office Guidance 10.30 - 10.37 (S182 March 2015)

8.1 The cumulative impact of licensed premises on the promotion of the licensing objectives is a matter which the Authority can take into account. This should not, however, be equated with 'need' which relates to the commercial demand for a particular type of premises. The issue of 'need' is a matter for planning consideration or for the market to decide and does not form part of this licensing policy statement.

8.2 If the Authority receives relevant representations suggesting that the cumulative impact of new licences is leading to an area becoming saturated with premises of a particular type and thereby creating problems of disorder and nuisance over and above the impact from the individual premises themselves, the Authority may consider the issue of cumulative impact when determining an application. The onus is on any person, or organisation, making such representations to prove the assertion that the grant of the licence would cause the cumulative impact claimed.

8.3 The Authority does not propose to operate a quota system of any kind, which would have the effect of pre-determining any application; nor does it seek to impose general limitations on trading hours in particular areas. The Authority recognises that pubs, clubs, restaurants, hotels, theatres, concert halls and cinemas have contrasting characteristics and styles of operation. Proper regard will be given to those differences and the impact they are likely to have on the promotion of the licensing objectives

11.1 The Authority recognises that drug use is not something that is relevant to all licensed premises. However, where relevant representations are received, the Authority may need to impose special conditions for certain types of venues in order to reduce the sale and consumption of drugs and to create a safer environment for customers using the premises. The conditions to be imposed in such cases will be taken from the Government Department pool of conditions which take into account the report "Safer Clubbing" published by the Home Office. The sale or use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) (so called Legal Highs) the Authority will consider any issue with NPS in line with current legislation and government policy. Where the Authority deems such

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conditions to be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, it will seek advice from the local Drugs Action Team and the Police.

12.1 Whenever any persons are employed at licensed premises to carry out any security activity, all such persons must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority. The Authority recognises that certain premises, because of the nature of their operation, their capacity, their licensed hours and the licensable activities provided, may require stricter supervision for the purpose of reducing crime and disorder and public nuisance. In such cases, where relevant representations are received, the Authority may impose a condition that licensed door supervisors must be employed at the premises either at all times or at such times as certain licensable activities are being carried out.

12.2 The Authority recognises that Door Supervisors have an important function in terms of supervising customers not only inside premises but also outside. Door Supervisors will therefore be expected to take a pro-active role in managing the behaviour of customers outside premises in order to minimise any disturbance and nuisance to nearby residents. Licence holders should ensure in particular that, at closing times, they have sufficient Door Supervisors to effectively control 'surges' of customers leaving premises.

12.3 Whenever security operatives are employed at licensed premises to carry out any security function such operatives must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). Competent and professional door supervisors are key to public safety at licensed premises and the provision of door supervisors is an action point for the leisure industry to consider in the Home Office Alcohol Strategy.

It is a mandatory condition of a Premises Licence that where the licence requires personnel to carry out security activity (e.g. screening of customers, dealing with conflict management, crowd control) such personnel are licensed by the Security Industry Authority. (Licensing Act 2003, s.21).

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