

EXTRACTS FROM THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2020

- 2.1 The 2003 Act requires a Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a 'Statement of Licensing Policy' ("the Policy") that sets out the principles the Licensing Authority will apply to promote the four Licensing Objectives set out below. The Licensing Authority must base its decisions, in relation to determining applications and attaching any conditions to licences or certificates, on the promotion of these objectives.
- 2.2 This Policy encompasses experience gained in the implementation and regulation of the 2003 Act. The overriding aim of the Policy is to promote the four licensing objectives, each is of equal importance:
- The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of public nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm
- 2.5 This Policy shall not undermine the right for any individual to apply for a variety of permissions under the terms of the 2003 Act and to have any such application considered on its individual merits. Similarly, the Policy shall not override the right of any person to make representations on an application or to seek a review of a licence or certificate where provision has been made for them to do so in the 2003 Act. Each application shall be treated on its own merit.
- 2.6 This Policy is intended to provide clarification to Responsible Authorities applicants and any person on how this Licensing Authority will determine applications and reviews. As the 'vicinity' test has now been removed, the Licensing Authority will consider relevant representations from any person irrespective of where they live in relation to the subject premises, however, the Licensing Authority shall give greater weight to the representations of persons immediately affected by the premises and its operation.
- 2.7 The Licensing Authority may depart from this Policy if the individual circumstances of any case merit such a decision in the interests of the promotion of the four licensing objectives. Where it does depart from this Policy full reasons will be provided.
- 2.9 This Policy recognises that the Equality Act 2010 places a legal obligation on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations, between persons with different protected characteristics.
- 2.10 The applicant is expected to comply with relevant legislation on disability including access and egress for disabled persons. This policy will not be used to duplicate such duties as already exist in this area. Further advice can be

obtained from the Equality and Human Rights Commission web site
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>.

4 Principles

- 4.1 In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the licensing authority must give appropriate weight to:
- the steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives;
 - the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;
 - this Guidance;
 - its own statement of licensing policy.
- 4.15 In drafting this Policy, the Licensing Authority acknowledges its duty under Section 17 of The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 in that the Council has a duty to exercise its functions with a due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. In addition, the Licensing Authority will seek to support strategies where they are allied to the Licensing Objectives such as National and Local Harm Reduction Strategies and any other relevant strategies and policies.

Conditions

- 5.2 Where conditions are imposed at a licensing hearing, they shall be appropriate and proportionate and shall be tailored to the size, style, characteristics and activities that take place at the premises concerned. However, the Licensing Authority accepts that Responsible Authorities may suggest conditions following negotiation with the applicant when completing their Operating Schedules.
- 5.3 In addition, conditions imposed by a Licensing Authority shall be precise and enforceable, clear in what they intend to achieve, shall not duplicate other statutory requirements or other duties or responsibilities placed on the employer by other legislation, shall not replicate offences set out in the 2003 Act or other legislation, shall be justifiable and capable of being met and shall focus on matters which are within the control of the individual licence holders and not seek to manage the behaviour of customers once they are beyond the direct management of the licence/certificate holder and their staff.
- 5.4 The Licensing Authority recommends that conditions volunteered in the Operating Schedule should be:
- appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives;
 - proportionate and enforceable;
 - consistent and not conflicting;
- relevant, clear and concise; not duplicate other legislation; and
- expressed in plain language capable of being understood by those expected to comply with or enforce them.

- 5.9 Although it is accepted that licence conditions should not duplicate other statutory provisions, the Licensing Authority and licensees should be mindful of the requirements and responsibilities placed on them by other legislation.
- 5.12 All relevant representations will be considered during the decision-making process unless they are considered to be frivolous, vexatious, repetitious, or not in line with the four Licensing Objectives.

9 Representations

- 9.1 Under the 2003 Act both Responsible Authorities and 'other persons' may make representations on licence/certificate applications and review existing premises licences/certificates. A list of Responsible Authorities can be found at Appendix 3.
- 9.2 'Other persons' is defined as any individual, body or business that may be affected by the operation of a licensed premises regardless of their geographical location. Although the other person may be in any geographical location, any representation they make must be relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives. In addition the other person is encouraged to provide evidence supporting their representation or review. This may be for example by way of recording dates where noise nuisance or anti-social behaviour occurs. Any representation however must be specific to the premises in question and not to the area in general.
- 9.3 In addition all representations must be relevant relating to the likely effect of the grant of the licence/certificate on the promotion of at least one of the licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority will determine whether a representation from an individual, body or business is relevant, frivolous, repetitive or vexatious. In borderline cases, the benefit of the doubt will be given to the person or body making that representation.

10 Reviews

- 10.1 Responsible Authorities and other persons may apply to review a licence or certificate where it is believed an operator of a licensed premises is in their opinion managing their business in a manner that does not promote one or more of the four Licensing Objectives.
- 10.2 Examples of triggers for a review may be: continual complaints of noise from or in the vicinity of the premises; continual complaints of noise or intimidation from customers outside the premises; an accumulation of breaches of licensing conditions; poor management where the licensing objectives are undermined; underage sales of alcohol (persistent or otherwise); crime-related activity; anti-social behaviour; sales of alcohol outside of the permitted hours. This list is not exhaustive
- 10.3 Where an application for a review has been submitted the Licensing Authority will determine whether or not it is relevant, frivolous, vexatious or repetitious. In borderline cases the benefit of the doubt will be given to the person making that application. Advice on reviews is available from the Council.

- 10.4 The Licensing Authority will expect applicants for a review to gather sufficient and relevant evidence relating to the specific premises that is subject to the review. This may include a diary of events and any potential witnesses. With regard to reviews on noise complaints, applicants are encouraged to liaise with the Council's Environmental Health team who may be able to assist with and support the review process.
- 10.5 Prior to a requesting a review, however, North Yorkshire Police, other Responsible Authorities or the Licensing Authority may seek to meet with the licence/certificate holder to address issues through a premises improvement plan.

11 Licensing Authority as a Responsible Authority

- 11.1 The PRSR Act amended the 2003 Act to include the Licensing Authority as a Responsible Authority. This Licensing Authority will therefore be empowered to fulfil the same functions as other Responsible Authorities under the 2003 Act including making relevant representations to new licence/certificate applications and variations and reviewing an existing licence/certificate.
- 11.4 In cases where the Licensing Authority is also acting in its capacity as a Responsible Authority it will ensure that there is a separation of responsibilities within the Council to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflict of interests. Officers within the Enforcement Section have been delegated to act as the Responsible Authority for the Licensing Authority. Any Officer requesting a Review shall not be involved in administering the review application process. Indeed, a separate Enforcement Officer will receive and process these applications including preparing any report for the Licensing Committee. Communications between both Officers shall remain formal and separate throughout the process. Thus a separation will be achieved by allocating distinct functions to different Officers. Essentially, the Enforcement Officer advising the Licensing Sub Committee shall be different from the officer who is acting as the Responsible Authority.

PART 8

29 Operating Schedule

- 29.1 The Operating Schedule is a key part of the application form whereby applicants may volunteer appropriate conditions to demonstrate compliance of the licensing objectives by describing the steps they intend to take to promote these objectives. These volunteered conditions will then form conditions on the Premises Licence or Certificate. In completing an Operating Schedule, applicants are expected to have regard to this Policy.
- 29.2 The Licensing Authority encourages applicants and existing operators to plan ahead to meet their legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. In addition, applicants are expected to include positive proposals in their Operating Schedule on how they will manage any potential risks. Where their

operation is within a cumulative impact area, they will be expected to demonstrate how the operation of their premises will not add to the cumulative impact already being experienced in that area.

- 29.4 In completing their Operating Schedule the Licensing Authority suggest an applicant considers the following:

General

- Premises log book
- Management and staff training and awareness of duties under the Licensing Act
- Policies and procedures relating to e.g. age restricted sales, capacity, noise monitoring, dispersal, queuing, etc
- Safe capacities
- Evidence of competent management procedures

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- Drugs policy
- CCTV
- Pub Watch and Radio links with other licensed premises
- Security Industry Authority Door supervisors and Approved Contractor Scheme
- Polycarbonate or shatterproof vessels
- An appropriate ratio of tables and chairs to customers
- Management of outside areas
- Use of 'spikeys' or similar anti-drink spiking device
- Calming atmosphere at close of business/event
- Safe capacities
- Queuing policy
- Stewards for events and event plan
- Provide policies and procedures on modern day slavery, human rights, ethical trading and whistleblowing

Public Safety

- Health and Safety and Fire Safety risk assessments and staff training
- Safeguarding measures
- Use of CCTV in and around the premises
- Safe capacities and monitoring procedures
- Provision of local taxi companies who can provide safe transportation home
- Procedures to control access to and egress from premises
- Patrolling of premises
- Glass clearance policy
- Control of ventilation
- Control of litter immediately outside the premises
- First aid trained staff
- Adequate external lighting

- Consideration of the safety of performers appearing at any premises
- Indoor sporting events: medical practitioner; use flame retardant material, proximity of public to the activity; water sports events – lifeguards
- Stewards for events and event plan; and regard to standards of the National Sporting Body
- Ensuring appropriate access for emergency services

Prevention of Public Nuisance

- Control of general noise, disturbance, light, odour, litter and anti-social behaviour
- Whilst regulated entertainment is taking place, management of noise disturbance
- Control of litter (e.g. cigarette ends, rubbish, etc), vomiting, urinating and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the premises
- Dispersal policy to ensure customers respect their neighbours
- Removal of persons causing disturbance
- Management of outside areas, e.g. pub gardens, smokers, etc.
- Control of deliveries in early hours
- Queuing policy
- Winding down period

PART 10

32 Licensing Committee

- 32.1 Decisions on all licensing matters shall be taken in accordance with an approved scheme of delegation. This is aimed at underlining the principles of timely, efficient and effective decision-making.
- 32.2 The Licensing Committee will consist of 10 Members. The Licensing Sub-Committee will conduct any Hearings required under the 2003 Act.
- 32.3 Applications for Premises Licences, Club Premises Certificates or Temporary Event Notices where relevant representations have been received and not withdrawn will be dealt with by a Licensing Sub Committee unless such representations are considered irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious or unless the Licensing Authority, the applicant and everyone who has made representations agree that a hearing is not necessary.
- 32.4 The decision determined by the Licensing Sub-Committee shall be accompanied by clear and cogent reasons, having had due regard to the Human Rights Act 1998 and all other legislation.

PART 12

35 Appeals against Licensing Authority decisions

- 35.1 Following a hearing of an application by the Licensing Authority, the applicant or any objector has the right to appeal against that decision to York Magistrates' Court within 21 days. In hearing an Appeal against the Licensing Authority's decision, the court will have regard to this Policy and the Guidance issued under

Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. However, the court would be entitled to depart from both of these documents if it considers it justified so to do.

- 35.2 Where an appeal has been lodged against a decision of the Licensing Authority, the Licensing Authority will in all cases be the respondent to the appeal and may call as witnesses any other person or Responsible Authorities who made representations against the application if it so chooses. In addition, and provided the court considers it appropriate, the Licensing Authority may also call as witnesses any individual or body it considers may assist in their response to an Appeal.

These extracts are not exhaustive and the Licensing Sub-Committee may wish to refer to the full copy of the Statement of Licensing Policy when considering its decision.