

Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-25: Additional Information

This revised policy aims to inform and assist applicants and existing licensees in promoting licensing objectives. The policy clearly outlines measures that can be put in place to mitigate the range of potential negative impacts that licensed activity can cause on local communities and visitors to the borough.

In guiding applicants and licensees with clear information on steps they can take to operate responsibly and by providing a strong framework from which the Licensing authority will undertake its licensing functions, the policy aims to deliver a safe, welcoming and attractive evening and night time economy run by responsible and successful businesses.

As part of this policy review, the Authority has reviewed the existing cumulative impact zones in Blackheath Village and New Cross Corridor as required to do so under the Licensing Act 2003. The Authority does not currently possess any evidence that these Cumulative Impact Policies (CIPs) or any other CIP should be maintained or created as part of this policy. However, the policy clearly sets out a framework for which all applications that are received for licensed activity, whether in a high or low risk area, will be thoroughly considered against identified concerns as set out in this policy. The policy outlines expectations of licensees, based on the area they intend to operate and the activities they want to undertake. Any applications that fall short of these expectations will likely receive a representation against their application.

For example, an application for a late night refreshment premises until early hours of the morning will be looked at in the light of its location; whether close to residential properties or other premises with similar closing times; whether the premises intends to undertake deliveries or sell alcohol; all of which may negatively impact on licensing objectives. With that in mind, the licensing authority will be looking to see that the applicant has sufficiently considered the possible impacts by assessing the risks, and has identified measures to manage these risks so that licensing objectives can be upheld. Examples of this may be keeping windows and doors shut after a certain time; displaying notices that customers must leave the area quietly; delivery drivers to not leave engines running outside the premises and to ask for ID when delivering alcohol.

An application for a late night entertainment premises with an outdoor seating area where food and drink are to be consumed would be considered in terms of its proximity to residential premises; how the area will be managed to prevent nuisances occurring in the way of smells, smoke and noise; arrangements for preventing littering and pavement obstructions; the time that the outdoor area is open; how the premise intended to manage its entry and dispersal from the premises; the use of door supervisors and searching; robust age verification policies, and preventing music noise escaping from the premises and causing a nuisance to neighbouring properties.

These examples are not exhaustive, and whilst the policy has set out the wide range of considerations the Licensing Authority will undertake, there will likely be more that will be considered within the framework of the promotion of licensing objectives.

It is this Licensing Authority's approach that every application received will have this level of consideration, working in conjunction with the responsible authorities under the Act,

including the Metropolitan Police, Environmental Enforcement, Planning Authority, Home Office Immigration and London Fire Brigade. Where applications are likely to negatively impact on licensing objectives, representations will be made against that application by responsible authorities under the act.

Lewisham's Licensing Authority and responsible authorities want to work with business to promote responsible and safer premises that are successful in what they do. This policy tries to embed this view at its heart, and encourages all applicants to seek advice and engage in discussion about plans and proposals early on so that collaborative working can take place from the very beginning.