

Our Ref: Licensing Policy/CIA

E-mail: licensing@reading.gov.uk

Date: 29th May 2018

Your contact is: **Richard French, Licensing**

Dear Sir/Madam

LICENSING ACT 2003 - CONSULTATION ON LICENSING POLICY AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE TOWN CENTRE CUMULATIVE IMPACT AREA

Statement of Licensing Policy

The Licensing Authority is required to review its licensing policy every five years. We are writing to you to inform you that our newly drafted licensing policy is available to be viewed at the below web-link. A twelve week consultation will now run for this new draft of the licensing policy and will expire on **19th August 2018**.

If you wish to make comment on the policy then you must do so in writing either to the address above or via email to licensing@reading.gov.uk. Comments received outside of this time are unlikely to be taken into account.

Cumulative Impact Assessment

Paragraph 5A of the Licensing Act 2003 requires the licensing authority to publish a Cumulative Impact Assessment if it is of the belief that granting further licences or material variations (relevant authorisations) in one or more areas of its area would be inconsistent with the duty placed upon the authority to promote the licensing objectives. The authority is of that view and will seek to publish a Cumulative Impact Assessment for the area known as 'The Town Centre Cumulative Impact Area'.

It should be noted that the Town Centre Cumulative Impact Area has been in place since 2010 and this new assessment does not alter the geographical layout of this area.

The reasons why we are considering publishing such assessment can be seen in the crime data attached as part of the assessment. Evidence shows that there is a significant issue with high levels of crime after 2300hrs. Evidence also shows that Reading's Night time economy has significantly more crime and calls for police service than any surrounding night time economy and nearest comparable city. Figures also show that one of the main causes of crime within the town centre is violence, sexual assaults and public order/anti social behaviour. 30% of licensed premises are within the town centre area. There are 181 premises in the area of which 167 sell alcohol. Currently 142 premises open past 2300hrs and 132 out of

those 142 sell alcohol. This is clearly unsustainable, not only to Authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives but also the impact it is having on the police and the safety of the public as a whole. The area that will be subject to the Cumulative Impact Assessment is the area shown within the Assessment at appendix 1. As stated above, there is no change to this area and it remains the same geographical area that it has been ever since 2010.

The assessment will apply to all applications for the grant or variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate and all premises that may benefit from a premises licence or club premises certificate. This includes material variations for increased hours for licensable activity; increased capacity and any other matter that may add to cumulative impact in the Town Centre Cumulative Impact Area. Whilst it does not specifically apply to temporary event notices, the police and environmental health may take cognisance of the evidence within the assessment to reach a conclusion about a TEN within the area.

The Cumulative Impact Assessment will be subject to the same consultation period as the statement of licensing policy. Therefore if you wish to make comment on it then please write to the licensing team at the address above or email licensing@reading.gov.uk on or before 19th August 2018.

Yours faithfully

Richard French
Licensing Enforcement