



IPSWICH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Equality Impact Assessment

Statement of Licensing Policy

Ref: EQIA2018060608

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Title of report: Statement of Licensing Policy

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What is the report trying to achieve?:

The Licensing Act 2003 requires licensing authorities to publish a 'Statement of Licensing Policy' every five years. Ipswich Borough Council will need to publish their fifth edition by January 2019. This policy sets out the general approach to making licensing decisions. Each application will be considered on its own merits and the discretion of the Licensing Authority in relation to applications will only be used if relevant representations are made.

Within the current forth Statement of Licensing Policy is a Cumulative Impact Assessment. This recognises that in some areas of Ipswich the concentration of licensed premises can lead to a cumulative impact on the promotion of the four licensing objectives:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder.
2. Public safety.
3. The prevention of public nuisance.
4. The protection of children from harm.

The adoption of the Cumulative Impact Assessment needs to be evidenced based, and its effect is that it creates a rebuttable presumption that applications for new or variations in licenses will be refused or have restrictions placed on them if they are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact.

Before the Statement of Licensing Policy can be published it will need to be publically consulted

on. The consultation process is prescribed in law and will be followed. Any comments will be considered and reflected in the policy if appropriate.

What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis?:

Customers complaints/comments, Findings from surveys, focus groups & consultations, Police, Trading Standards, and other partners

Supporting documents (if available):

Analytical data has been requested from the police regarding crime and disorder. Trading Standards data, along with other partner data has also been requested to establish an evidence base for adopting a special policy on cumulative impact.

The data provided supports continuing with the Cumulative Impact Assessment in its current form. A draft Statement of Licensing Policing including the Cumulative Impact Assessment will be taken to Licensing and Regulatory Committee for approval and then it will be consulted on with the public and other stakeholder as specified in the Licensing Act 2003 (section 5 (3)) Once consultation has been concluded, the Statement of Licensing Policy will be amended and then taken to Council for sign off in time for publication January 2019

Is there potential for positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristics?

- **Age:** *No Impact*
- **Disability:** *No Impact*
- **Marriage & Civil Partnership:** *No Impact*
- **Race:** *No Impact*
- **Pregnancy & Maternity:** *No Impact*
- **Religion or Belief:** *No Impact*
- **Gender Reassignment:** *No Impact*
- **Sex:** *No Impact*
- **Sexual Orientation:** *No Impact*

If 'No Impact' explain why

The application process to apply for a premises licence or to vary an existing licence is prescribed in legislation. The activity that the applicant is seeking to be licensed need to address the four licensing objectives . The Licensing Authorities discretion and decision making role is only engaged following a relevant representation being lodged in respect of an application. Any decisions made by the Licensing Authority must be to address the promotion of the four statutory licensing objectives. The protected characteristics are not a legitimate consideration when carrying out their functions.

If you have identified any negative impacts (above) how can they be minimised or removed?

The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s):

The Statement of Licensing Policy is transparent, and clearly identifies the need to promote the four licensing objectives. The opportunity to obtain a premises licence or variation in an existing licence is open to all regardless of their protected characteristics.

The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s): The Statement of Licensing Policy is transparent, and clearly identifies the need to promote the four licensing objectives. The opportunity to obtain a premises licence or variation in an existing licence is open to all regardless of their protected characteristics.

The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s): The Statement of Licensing Policy is transparent, and clearly identifies the need to promote the four licensing objectives. The opportunity to obtain a premises licence or variation in an existing licence is open to all regardless of their protected characteristics.