



LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on: **31 March, 2021 AT 4.00 P.M.**

Meeting to be held via: **Microsoft Teams**

Public access to meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiJcFQRNA1Q>

Membership:

Councillor Samra (Chair)
Councillor Clarke (Vice Chair)
Councillor Cooper
Councillor Hicken
Councillor Hussain
Councillor Jukes
Councillor Kaur
Councillor Nawaz
Councillor Sarohi
Councillor Sears
Councillor Ward
Councillor Waters
Councillor Worrall
(Vacancy)

Quorum: Five Members

Democratic Services, The Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1TW

Contact Name: **Matt Powis** Telephone: (01922) **654764**

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A G E N D A

PART I - PUBLIC SESSION

1. Apologies.
2. Declarations of Interest.
3. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that, where applicable, the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
4. Walsall Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2021.

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)

Access to information: Exempt information

Part 1

Descriptions of exempt information: England

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
 - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
 - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
 - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
 - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

Apologies

Declarations of Interest

**Local Government
(Access to
Information) Act 1985**

Walsall Council Statement of Licensing Policy



Walsall Council

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TO THE

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

31 MARCH 2021

LICENSING ACT 2003

WALSALL COUNCIL STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2021

1.0 Summary of report

- 1.1 This report informs the Licensing and Safety Committee of a review that has taken place of Walsall Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and a consultation that is required as a consequence of the review.
- 1.2 The report also informs the Licensing and Safety Committee of a review that has taken place of Walsall Council's Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP), which forms part of the Statement of Licensing Policy and a consultation that is required as a consequence of the review.
- 1.3 In accordance with paragraph 14.24 of the 182 Guidance issued under the Act, a cumulative impact assessment may be published by the licensing authority to help it to limit the number or types of licence applications granted in areas where there is evidence to show that the number or density of licensed premises in the area is having a cumulative impact and leading to problems which are undermining the licensing objectives.
- 1.4 The report sets out evidence from responsible authorities as stipulated under section 5(3) of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 1.5 As part of the consultation in relation to the CIP the authority will be seeking views on extending the criteria of the CIP to include sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises and late night refreshment.
- 1.6 The consultation will also seek views on the extension to of the current area covered by the CIP to include all streets that fall within the WS1 postcode. During the consultation all parties mentioned under section 5 (3) will be consulted. Following the consultation a report containing the evidence and results will be put before members for consideration.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The committee is asked to consider the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy and approve the publication of the draft policy for the prescribed eight-week statutory public consultation. The results of the consultation will be presented to the Committee for consideration before finalisation and approval of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

3.0 Background information

- 3.1 Walsall Council (the Council) is a licensing authority in accordance with section 3(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 and pursuant to section 5(1) of that same act the Council is required to determine and publish a Statement of Licensing Policy at least every five years.
- 3.2 The Council's current Statement of Licensing Policy (**Appendix 1**) took effect on the 7th January 2016. Therefore the updated policy is due to be published in January 2021. Due to Covid-19, many licensing authorities have encountered significant challenges to administering the review of their Statement of Licensing Policy. The date of publication of the agreed new Policy has therefore been delayed beyond January 2021. On the 9th April 2020 the Local Government Association provided some advice that, in light of the current challenges, some delay in engaging with the local trade and residents on the consultation of the policy is to be expected, but that progress would be made when a degree of normality has returned.
- 3.3 The revised policy contains a number of amendments and additional sections, which reflect changes in both legislation and guidance since the implementation of the current Statement of Licensing Policy.
- 3.4 These changes are shown in **Appendix 2**, highlighted in yellow, with the more significant changes summarised below.

Proposed Changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy

- 3.5 Section 16 explains the Live Music Act 2012 (Page 26-27 of the policy) and other entertainment licensing deregulation and has been updated to reflect further deregulation measures that have been introduced by central government since the last Statement of Licensing Policy was published.
- 3.6 Section 24 of the new policy provides information about how the Council will deal with applications for personal licences (Page 34-35 of the policy) and how it will deal with situations where it is considering suspending or revoking personal licences. The power to suspend or revoke personal licences was given to licensing authorities following the enactment of the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

- 3.7 Section 26, an entirely new section, has been added to explain the implications of the Immigration Act 2016 on the exercise of the Council's functions under the Licensing Act 2003 (Page 39).

Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA)

- 3.8 Currently the CIP comes into effect only for applications relating to the on sale of alcohol for the geographical area shown on the map in **Appendix 3**. One of the key proposed changes to the Statement of Licensing Policy (**Appendix 2**) is an extension of the area to which the Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) applies.
- 3.9 On 6th April 2018, the Policing and Crime Act 2017 introduced a new provision within the Licensing Act 2003, Section 5A. This provision provides that a licensing authority may, in appropriate circumstances publish a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA).
- 3.10 Paragraph 14.26 of the 182 Guidance states:
“The CIA must include a statement saying that the licensing authority considers that the number of premises licences and/or club premises certificates in one or more parts of the area described is such that it is likely that granting further licences would be inconsistent with the authority’s duty to promote the licensing objectives. As part of the publication a licensing authority must set out the evidential basis for its opinion”.
- 3.11 Members are to consider whether the evidence put forward to them by way of the report and appendices justifies the need for a CIP. The report includes evidence from responsible authorities to show that a CIA has been conducted.
- 3.12 As with a CIP, a CIA may be published by a licensing authority to limit the number or types of licence applications granted in areas where there is evidence to show that the number or density of licensed premises in the area is having a cumulative impact and leading to problems which are undermining the licensing objectives.
- CIA's relate to applications for new premises licences, new club premises certificates, and the variation of existing premises licences and club premises certificates in the affected CIP area/zone.
- 3.13 Guidance states that as CIPs were not part of the original 2003 Act, there are no transitional provisions that apply to CIPs pre-dating 6 April 2018. However, any existing CIPs should be reviewed at the earliest practical opportunity to ensure they comply with the current legislation.

It is recommended that the review should take place within three years of the commencement of the legislation that introduced CIAs or when the licensing policy statement is next due for review, whichever is sooner. This will ensure that any CIPs in place before the

commencement of the provisions on CIAs now adhere to the principles in the legislation.

- 3.14 The change from a CIP to a CIA has no practical effect in respect of how applications may be dealt with when they are received. The differences are:
- the requirement that the Council must review the CIA every 3 years; and
 - there must be a full consultation before a CIA can be implemented.
- 3.15 Walsall Council's current CIP was introduced by the Council on the 8 September 2008, based on evidence provided by West Midlands Police. This evidence demonstrated that part of Walsall was being adversely affected by levels of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour, specifically linked to the large number of licensed premises concentrated in the area.
- 3.16 As part of the current review of the CIP, it has been recognised that the cumulative impact of a number of late night entertainment premises (including cafes) in some areas may result in an increase of people either walking through, or congregating in, streets during the night.
- This may in turn have a number of undesirable consequences, for example;
- an increase in crime against property and/or person;
 - an increase in noise causing disturbance to residents;
 - traffic congestion and/or parking problems; (impact of the parking and it resulting in to a nuisance); and
 - littering and fouling.
- 3.17 These undesirable consequences may result in the amenity of local residents being placed under pressure, as it will not always be possible to attribute a particular problem to customers of particular premises. This means that, whilst enforcement action may be taken to ensure conditions are complied with at individual premises, this may not resolve all the problems being encountered.
- 3.18 It is proposed that the new CIP also takes into account the impact of the sale of alcohol for consumption 'off the premises' and the provision of 'late night refreshment' in the WS1 area when determining applications etc.
- 3.19 The report takes in to consideration data from responsible authorities from April 2017 – March 2020. The CIP will be relied upon in cases where, for applications relating to premises located within the CIP area under the Licensing Act 2003, the applicant has failed to include sufficient measures for mitigating the potential impact of the grant of the licence undermining the licensing objectives, in line with the policy.

The use of the CIA will also depend upon the recovery of the economy and the level of activity in Walsall. Therefore, in determining the validity of representations the representation must be justified and include clear evidence and reasoning, which will stand up to scrutiny at a hearing, should one be required, and be relied upon in defending any subsequent decisions.

Licensing Service Information

- 3.20 There are 876 licensed premises and club premises certificates issued under the Licensing Act 2003 for the Borough of Walsall. 118 of these premises are located within the current CIP area (**Appendix 3**). Twenty of these premises provide late night refreshment, 51 of the premises provide alcohol (on and off sales), and 47 of the premises provide both alcohol (On and Off sales) and late night refreshment.
- 3.21 Between 2017 and 2019, 31 variation applications were received by the licensing authority for existing premises within the Borough. Sixteen related to premises situated within the current CIP area. The applications were primarily to extend the licensing hours for the sale of alcohol and late night refreshment.

The table below shows the number of new premises licence applications received for the past 3 years (2017 – 2020) for the licensable activities listed.

YEAR	Late Night Refreshment (LNR)	Alcohol	Both LNR & Alcohol
2017	8	12	9
2018	4	10	9
2019	3	11	6

- 3.22 This data shows that between January 2017 and December 2019 the licensing authority received 72 new premises licence applications. The data provides justification for keeping the CIP in place. Nineteen out of the 72 (about 27%) new premises licence applications were received for the WS1 postcode area compared to fourteen for WS2 and thirty-nine for the rest of the borough.

Walsall Council Clean and Green Information

- 3.23 **Appendix 4** is a copy of the data from 'Clean & Green' showing the number of litter complaints the council has received in each financial year starting on the 1 April 2017.
- 3.24 The data shows that from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020 there was an increase in litter complaints for the current CIP area (**Appendix 3**). The

current CIP policy deals with the Sale of Alcohol for consumption on the premises. Due to the volume of applications that

The recommendation of this report is to expand the CIP area to include the sale of alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises and the provision of late night refreshment. This may address the concerns around litter and the nuisance it causes. A CIP will be reviewed every 3 years to ascertain whether there is still a need for the policy.

Trading Standards Information

- 3.25 **Appendix 5** contains evidence from Walsall Council Trading Standards Team, which shows the areas in Walsall where the sale of illicit tobacco is prevalent. The two main areas highlighted on the map are Caldmore and Pleck (WS1) and the evidence shows a correlation between the illicit sale of tobacco and premises licensed for the sale of alcohol.

Whilst the sale of tobacco is not a licensable activity, paragraph 11.27 of the section 182 Guidance issued under the Licensing Act 2003 states:

“There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of the licensed premises for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol”

This would justify including the WS1 post code area in to the CIP for the Prevention of Crime and Disorder.

- 3.26 The evidence provided from Trading Standards suggest that the licensing objective of the Prevention of Crime & Disorder is of significant importance in terms of controlling illegal and harmful criminal activity in the WS1 postcode area.

West Midlands Police Information

- 3.27 West Midlands Police have provided evidence on total recorded crime within the current CIP area and also outside of the CIP.

- 3.28 The evidence for Total Recorded Crime (TRC), Violence, Theft/Robbery offences in the current CIP:

Year	Total Recorded Crime (TRC)			Violence				Theft / Robbery Offences			
	Within Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ)	Within CIZ during Night Time Economy (NTE)	% within CIZ during NTE	Within Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ)	% of TRC	Within CIZ during Night Time Economy (NTE)	% Within CIZ during NTE	Within Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ)	% of TRC	Within CIZ during Night Time Economy (NTE)	% Within CIZ during NTE
1st July 2017 - 30th June 2018	2455	663	27%	752	31%	300	40%	1255	51%	199	16%
1st July 2018 - 30th June 2019	2414	682	28%	937	39%	355	38%	1046	43%	164	16%
1st July 2019 - 30th June 2020	2034	605	30%	849	42%	342	39%	838	41%	165	20%

3.29 The data above from the Police shows that TRC reported within the current CIP area has decreased from 1st July 2017 – 30th June 2020, however, there should be consideration given to the impact of COVID 19 which has led to the reduction of Crime following the first lockdown announced on 23rd March 2020. Night Time Economy (NTE) hours are between 20:00 – 05:00.

3.30 Total Recorded Crime (TRC), Violence, Theft/Robbery offences outside of the current CIP:

Year	Total Recorded Crime (TRC)			Violence			Theft / Robbery Offences		
	Outside CIZ	Outside CIZ During NTE	% outside CIZ during NTE	Outside CIZ	Outside CIZ During NTE	% outside CIZ during NTE	Outside CIZ	Outside CIZ During NTE	% outside CIZ during NTE
1st July 2017 - 30th June 2018	24, 742	8872	36%	5233	1840	35%	6830	2286	33%
1st July 2018 - 30th June 2019	26, 547	9852	37%	7029	2649	38%	6498	2123	33%
1st July 2019 - 30th June 2020	23, 738	9149	38.50%	8303	3355	40%	5083	1784	35%

From the data, the percentage of TRC taking place within the CIP is 9.2% (6903) compared to the total for outside the CIP (75,027) from the 1st July 2017 – 30th June 2020.

3.31 The table below shows the number of offences committed at different types of licensed premises. A total of 420 offences were committed at licensed premises within the CIP area between July 2017 – June 2020:

OFFENCES AT LICENSED PREMISES	TRC
July 2017 to June 2018	126
PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES	72
NIGHTCLUB	35
NIGHTCLUB OUTSIDE ADDRESS	4
OUTSIDE ADDRESS NIGHTCLUB	3
CLUB - SOCIAL	2
SPORTS CLUB	2
NIGHTCLUB OUTSIDE ADDRESS ROAD	2
CAR PARK PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES	1
NIGHTCLUB OUTSIDE ADDRESS BUS	1
PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES REAR OF PREMISES GARDEN	1
OUTSIDE ADDRESS PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES	1
OUTSIDE ADDRESS ROAD NIGHTCLUB	1
OFF LICENCE - LICENSED PREMISES	1
July 2018 to June 2019	176
PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES	90
NIGHTCLUB	58
NIGHTCLUB OUTSIDE ADDRESS	7
PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES OUTSIDE ADDRESS	5
OUTSIDE ADDRESS PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES	3
SPORTS CLUB	2
OUTSIDE ADDRESS NIGHTCLUB	2
OUTSIDE ADDRESS PUBLIC FOOTPATH PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES	2
NIGHTCLUB REAR OF PREMISES	1
PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES OUTSIDE ADDRESS PUBLIC FOOTPATH	1
NIGHTCLUB ENTERTAINMENT INDOOR	1
OUTSIDE ADDRESS PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES ROAD	1
CLUB - SOCIAL OTHER	1
OFF LICENCE - LICENSED PREMISES	1
PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES ENTERTAINMENT OUTDOOR	1
July 2019 to June 2020	118
PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES	52
NIGHTCLUB	46
NIGHTCLUB OUTSIDE ADDRESS	7
CLUB - SOCIAL	6
SPORTS CLUB	4
PUBLIC HOUSE - LICENSED PREMISES OUTSIDE ADDRESS	2
OFF LICENCE - LICENSED PREMISES	1
Grand Total	420

3.32 West Midlands Police also provided data on the number of calls received in relation to Anti Social behaviour & Public Safety Welfare within the current CIP area:

Year	Anti-Social Behaviour			Public Safety Welfare		
	Within Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ)	Within CIZ during Night Time Economy (NTE)	% within CIZ during NTE	Within Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ)	Within CIZ during Night Time Economy (NTE)	% Within CIZ during NTE
1st July 2017 - 30th June 2018	568	181	32%	2493	827	33%
1st July 2018 - 30th June 2019	310	90	29%	2334	806	36%
1st July 2019 - 30th June 2020	284	107	38%	2024	685	31%

The table above shows the figures for ASB and PSW within the CIZ area plus Night Time Economy for the 3 year period (2017 – 2020). It can be seen that there has been a reduction in both categories. The highest incident locations within the CIZ for ASB and PSW have not changed over the 3 year period; they are Bus Station St Pauls Street;

McDonalds Park Street; Asda George Street; Bridge Street and Tesco Extra, mainly all within the WS1 post code area. During NTE hours PSW highest incident locations were Bridge Street, Bus Station, and Religion Utopia Nightclub.

For ASB the highest incident locations were McDonalds Park Street and Asda George Street.

- 3.33 The main hotspot outside of the CIP area reported is Caldmore which falls within the WS1 post code area and has 1,680 offences reported in this area during the 3 year period compared to 967 offences reported (2nd highest reports of crime) in the Brownhills area. The following areas/streets accounted for the majority of the offences, Wednesbury Road (175), Sandwell Street (141), Caldmore Green (119), and the rest (1245) on Caldmore Road. These are offences outside of the current CIP and are streets all within WS1 post code area. Caldmore area is located within close proximity of the current CIP and within walking distance of Walsall's Night Time Economy area.
- 3.34 The top 2 streets for offences reported in the South for all TRC, outside of the CIZ were Wallows Road (473 offences) and Wednesbury Road (425). Cumulatively, 316 offences were reported on Caldmore Road, Caldmore Green, and Little Caldmore of which 123 offences were Violence related. The top 2 streets for offences reported during NTE hours were Wednesbury Road with 170 offences, followed by Birmingham Road with 162. Top 2 streets for violent offences were Wednesbury Road (54) and Sandwell Street (41). Cumulatively, 116 offences were reported on Caldmore Road, Caldmore Green and Little Caldmore, during NTE of which 49 were violent offences. Overall, top 2 repeat locations were Morrisons Petrol Station on Wallows Lane (271 crimes reported), the majority relate to Making off without Payment; followed by Co-Op on Broadway, Delves, at which top offence was Theft from Shop/Stall (TFSS).
- 3.35 These statistics show a decline in reported crime over the three-year period following the last review, which is positive. The number of offences is still at a high level and it is believed that the retention of the CIP along with the proposed changes will reduce that figure further, take strain off Police resources and make the areas identified safer for residents and legitimate business.

Removing the CIP may have the opposite effect and lead to a deterioration in standards. It should be noted 2020 will be an unusual year for statistics due to the various 'lockdowns' and restricted trading that have occurred as a consequence of Covid 19.

- 3.36 Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm (**ABH**) is the highest crime type for all 3 years accounting for 13% (85) of violent crime in 2017/18, 15% (103) in 2018/19 and 13.4% (81) in 2019/20. Including off sales of alcohol and Late Night Refreshment may help prevent the increase in violence within the CIP area.

- 3.37 Should members decide to approve the proposal to extend the CIP to include WS1 (and the specifically mentioned streets), the Council's Licensing Team would require the applicants to demonstrate why/how the grant of a new licence or an extension to existing authorisation, will be unlikely to have a significant cumulative impact which undermines the licensing objectives in the area.
- 3.38 However the CIP would support the Council in requiring applicants to demonstrate, rigorously, why granting the licence would not be expected to contribute negatively to any existing issues or have a significant negative impact which may undermine the licensing objectives in the area. Any proposed measures or reasoning would of course be subject to the scrutiny of the responsible authorities.

Public Health

- 3.39 **Appendix 6** is evidence from Public Health which outlines the number of Alcohol Related A&E Admissions in Walsall from 2014 – 2019. The report shows that there has been an increase in the number of alcohol related admissions to A&E between 2014 – 2019. St Matthews ward (Mainly WS1 post code area) currently has the second highest A&E admissions which are alcohol related.

4.0 Resource considerations

- 4.1 **Financial:** The costs involved in carrying out the consultation will be met from existing budgets held by the licensing service.
- 4.2 **Legal:** Members of the public, the trade or responsible authorities can judicially review the policy.
- 4.3 The Council has a statutory duty to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy. It is important that the Statement of Licensing Policy provides an open and transparent policy regarding the Council's functions under the Licensing Act 2003. The Statement of Licensing Policy forms an essential part of the decision making process for licensing applications.
- 4.4 The Act also requires that the Statement of Licensing Policy should be kept under review and must be re-published at least every five years.
- 4.5 When revising its Statement of Licensing Policy, the Council is required to consult with:
- the chief officer of police for the authority's area;
 - the fire and rescue authority for that area;
 - each local authority in England whose public health functions within the meaning of the National Health Service Act 2006 are exercisable in respect of an area any part of which is in the licensing authority's area;

- such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of premises licences issued by that authority;
- such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of club premises certificates issued by that authority;
- such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of personal licences issued by that authority; and
- such other persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of businesses and residents in its area.

4.6 The consultation will also be made available for comment via the Council's website and publicised via social media and also through the local press. It is proposed that consultation will take place over a period of 10 weeks.

4.7 There must be an evidential basis for the decision to publish a CIA. Local Community Safety Partnerships and responsible authorities, such as the police, may hold relevant information, which would inform licensing authorities when establishing the evidence base for publishing a CIA. Evidence of cumulative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives needs to relate to the relevant problems identified in the specific area to be covered by the CIA. Information which licensing authorities may be able to draw on includes:

- local crime and disorder statistics, including statistics on specific types of crime and crime hotspots;
- statistics on local anti-social behaviour offences;
- health-related statistics such as alcohol-related emergency attendances and hospital admissions;
- environmental health complaints, particularly in relation to litter and noise;
- complaints recorded by the local authority, which may include complaints raised by local residents or residents' associations;
- residents' questionnaires;
- evidence from local and parish councillors; and
- evidence obtained through local consultation.

4.8 When publishing a CIA, a licensing authority is required to provide evidence of problems that are being caused or exacerbated by the cumulative impact of licensed premises in the area described. The evidence must justify the statement in the CIA that it is likely that granting further premises licences and/or club premises certificates in that area (limited to a kind described in the assessment), would be inconsistent with the authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives.

4.9 To remove any confusion about the difference between the "need" for premises and the "cumulative impact" of a premises on the licensing objectives, "need" concerns the commercial demand for another

business or premises and is a matter for the planning authority and the market. Government guidance makes clear that 'need' is not, and never can be, a matter for a licensing authority in discharging its licensing functions or for its statement of licensing policy.

- 4.10 In publishing a CIP, a licensing authority is setting down a strong statement of intent about its approach to considering applications for the grant or variation of premises licences or club premises certificates in the area described.

Having published a CIP a licensing authority must have regard to the assessment when determining or revising its statement of licensing policy. It is therefore expected that, in respect of each relevant application in the area concerned, the licensing authority will be considering whether it is appropriate to make a representation to its committee as a responsible authority in its own right.

However, the CIP will not fundamentally change how licensing decisions are made. The licensing authority may grant an application where it considers it is appropriate and where, based on the information provided by the applicant in the operating schedule, the applicant has sufficient measures in place to minimise the likelihood of the activities at their premises adding to the cumulative impact.

Applications in areas covered by a CIP should therefore give consideration to potential cumulative impact issues when setting out the steps that will be taken to promote the licensing objectives. Where relevant representations are received and a licensing authority decides to grant an application it will need to provide the applicant, the chief officer of police and all parties who made relevant representations with reasons for granting the application and this should include any reasons for departing from their own policy.

- 4.11 A CIP may never be absolute. Statements of licensing policy should always allow for the circumstances of each application to be carefully considered and applications considered to be unlikely to add to the cumulative impact on the licensing objectives, to be granted. After receiving relevant representations in relation to a new application for, or a variation of, a premises licence or certificate, the licensing authority must consider whether it would be justified in departing from its CIP in the light of the individual circumstances of the case.

The impact can be expected to be different for premises with different styles and characteristics. For example, while a large nightclub or high capacity public house might add to problems of cumulative impact, a small restaurant or a theatre may not. If the licensing authority decides that an application should be refused, it must demonstrate why it considers that the grant of the application would be likely to undermine the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives and that the addition of conditions would likely be ineffective in preventing the problems involved.

4.12 Failure to publish a new Statement of Licensing Policy would be a failure of the Council to comply with its duties as a licensing authority under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

5.0 Staffing:

5.1 Nothing arising from this report.

6.0 Citizen Impact

6.1 The consultation of this proposed Statement of Licensing Policy and CIA will afford residents of the Borough the opportunity to affect the way in which Walsall Council administers the licensing regime in the Borough.

6.2 It also allows consultees the opportunity to comment on how Responsible Authorities such as the Police can prevent crime, disorder, public nuisance and harm to young persons taking place and ensure those who are licensed have all the necessary practices and procedures in place to protect their staff, customers and those who live and work in the vicinity.

7.0 Community Safety

7.1 The introduction of the policy is for the benefit of the community and people of Walsall. It is a key policy for the Council and partners in protecting the communities of Walsall from harm that can be caused by licensed premises or as a consequence of having licensed premises in any given area.

8.0 Environmental Impact

8.1 Discussions with other services and partners could lead to Policy decisions being made that have a positive effect on litter control and, waste disposal.

8.2 In areas where Cumulative Impact Policies or Assessments have been introduced there is a possibility that businesses looking to invest may be deterred from doing so, due to perceived additional burdens being placed upon them.

8.3 This is balanced against impact of new and current business undertaking licensable activities in a particular area and the social and economic benefits of those businesses against the potential adverse environmental implications, such as public nuisance, crime and disorder and antisocial behaviour.

9.0 Performance and Risk Management Issues

9.1 As stated the impact of Covid 19 has meant the drafting and consultation of this Statement of Licensing Policy and CIP have been delayed and

will therefore go beyond the five year period that such matters are usually expected to be delivered by.

10.0 Equality Implications

10.1 The Licensing and Safety Committee will ensure it has regard to the desirability of exercising its functions with regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and to increase equality of opportunity. Groups that have knowledge and experience of equality related issues will be included in all consultation that takes place.

11.0 Consultation

11.1 None.

12.0 Appendices

- **Appendix 1** Current Statement of Licensing Policy
- **Appendix 2** Reviewed Policy
- **Appendix 3** Map of CIP Area covered by current Policy
- **Appendix 4** Clean & Green Litter Complaints
- **Appendix 5** Trading Standards Data
- **Appendix 6** Data from Public Health

13.0 Contact Officer:

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Current Licensing Policy



Licensing Act 2003

Statement of Licensing Policy

Effective from: 7 January 2016



Walsall Council

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Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Statement of Licensing Policy

INTRODUCTION

Walsall MBC is situated in the West Midlands, which contains seven Metropolitan Councils in total. The Council area has a population of 269,300 (2011 Census) making it the fourth largest in the County in terms of population. In terms of area Walsall covers 40.02 square miles, meaning it is neither the largest nor smallest district in the West Midlands. The Council area is mainly urban covering an area of 24.83 square miles.

The towns of Willenhall and Darlaston, west of the M6, contrast with the eastern parts of the borough, which are more residential and in parts agricultural in character. Traditional and growth industries are spread throughout the borough. Walsall benefits from its position at the cross-roads of the motorway network and communications have been improved further by the M6 Toll Road; Birmingham airport and the Genting Arena complex are within easy reach, and frequent trains to Birmingham provide links to the national network. Regeneration projects focussing on Walsall town centre, the district and local centres, and key transport corridors have and are transforming the borough's new economic well-being.

Through its statement of licensing policy, the licensing authority will strive to ensure its core values of Honesty and Integrity, Fairness and Equality, Value for Money, Innovation and Collaboration and Listening and Responding are sustained.

1. Licensing Act 2003

This Licensing Policy Statement is intended to meet the Licensing Authority's obligations under Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 (referred to as "the Act").

The Licensing Authority (referred to as "the Authority") will carry out the licensing function with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives contained in the Act. These are –

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

These objectives will be treated as having equal importance.

2. Scope of the Policy

Section 5 of the Act requires a licensing authority to determine and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least once every five years.

The policy was approved by Council on the 16 November 2015.

The policy will be kept under review and the licensing authority may make such revisions to the policy as it considers appropriate. Where revisions to the policy are made, they shall be done so in accordance with statutory requirements, and the licensing authority shall publish a statement of such revisions, or a revised licensing policy statement.

In carrying out its functions the Authority will not only have regard to this policy but also any guidance issued from time to time by the Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Act (referred to as “the guidance”).

The guidance makes it clear, and the Authority recognises that licensing should not be seen as the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from licensed premises and therefore beyond the direct control of those with responsibility for managing and controlling licensed premises. Beyond the immediate area surrounding the premises, these are matters for the personal responsibility of individuals under the law. Individuals who engage in anti-social behaviour are accountable in their own right. However, the Authority may reasonably impose a condition, following relevant representations, that requires the licence holder or club to place signs at the exits from the building encouraging patrons to be quiet when leaving the area, or that, if they wish to smoke, to do so at designated places on the premises instead of outside, and to respect the rights of people living nearby.

However, licence holders should take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of crime and disorder and public nuisance.

Licensing will however, be one of the key factors in managing the evening and night time economy particularly in town centres and any other places as identified ‘high risk’ areas in partnership with the police and other responsible authorities.

The Local Authority recognises its duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 with regard to the prevention of crime and disorder in its area and will continue to work in partnership with the police, responsible authorities as defined by the Act, local businesses, local people and others towards the promotion of all the licensing objectives.

The licensing authority will only make decisions in relation to licensable activities, qualifying club activities, temporary events and personal licences. In determining applications the council will have to apply and have full regard to the Licensing Act 2003, secondary legislation, and regulations issued from time to time by the Secretary of State, Home Office and this policy statement.

In producing its reviewed policy statement, the licensing authority will consult in accordance with the statutory provisions as required by the 2003 Act, and will also seek to achieve full integration with local policies for crime prevention, community safety, planning, transport, tourism and child protection procedures.

The policy will continue to encourage and further enhance partnership working with the police, local businesses, performers and local people.

The aim of the licensing process is to regulate licensable activities so as to promote the licensing objectives. It is the licensing authority's wish to facilitate well run and managed premises with licence holders displaying sensitivity to the impact of premises on local residents. The licensing authority wishes to encourage licensees to provide a wide range of entertainment activities during their opening hours and to promote live music, dance, theatre etc, for wider cultural benefit. These activities are a factor in maintaining a thriving and sustainable community.

The Authority has a duty to protect the amenity of the borough which is a mixed commercial and residential area. The Authority wishes to promote safer and stronger communities and to ensure all persons are safe and secure. These factors will be taken into account where applications will increase the concentration of entertainment uses, and or, lengthen hours of operation in a way that would materially impact on the local area.

This policy statement sets out the general approach the council will take as the licensing authority when it determines applications for licences. It will not undermine the right of any individual to apply for a variety of permissions, and to have any such application considered on its merits. Nor will it override the right of any 'other person' to make representations on an application or seek a review of licence where provision has been made for them to do so under the Act.

The policy relates to all 'licensable activities' as defined by the Act, namely:-

Retail sale of alcohol.

Supply of alcohol to club members.

Provision of 'regulated entertainment' – to the public, to club members or with a view to profit including the following:

A performance of a play.

An exhibition of a film.

An indoor sporting event.

A boxing or wrestling entertainment.

A performance of live music.

Any playing of recorded music.

A performance of dance; and

Entertainment of a similar description to a performance of live music, any playing of recorded music or a performance of dance.

Further information on these provisions can be found at paragraph 15.

The supply of hot food and/or hot drink from any premises between 11pm and 5am.

Each application for the grant, variation or review of a licence will be considered and determined on its individual merits. The Authority when making a decision will consider its licensing policy along with the statutory guidance and if the Authority departs from either of those, reasons will be given as to why.

In addition the Act also covers:

The licensing of individuals for the sale or supply of alcohol ('Personal Licences');

The permitting of certain licensable activities on a temporary basis ('Temporary Event Notices').

3. Duplication

The Authority recognises that the licensing process should not duplicate powers, provisions or restrictions provided for in other legislation, and will in so far as possible avoid duplication of this kind. Legislation that may be relevant is set out below:

- The Gambling Act 2005
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Noise Act 1996
- The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act 2005
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Equality Act 2010
- Anti Social Behaviour Policing & Crime Act 2014

4. Partnership Working and Integrating Strategies

The Authority acknowledges the importance of securing proper integration with local crime prevention strategies as well as public health, planning, transport, tourism, equality schemes and cultural strategies.

Many strategies are not directly related to the promotion of the licensing objectives, but, they may impact upon them and therefore such strategies are important to the Authority.

5. Licensing Process

The Authority's licensing function will be carried out by the Licensing and Safety Committee, supported by licensing sub-committees, and by one or more officers acting under delegated authority.

Where there are no perceived areas of contention it is considered that many of the functions will be largely administrative. In the interests of efficiency and effectiveness these will, for the most part be carried out by officers.

As part of the application process applicants will be expected to address each of the licensing objectives in their operational schedules having regard to the type of premises, the licensable activities to be provided, the operational procedures, the nature of the location and the needs of the local community.

Applicants are also encouraged to make themselves aware of and be able to demonstrate when setting out the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives, that they understand the layout of the local area and physical environment and any relevant planning and transportation policies, tourism and cultural strategies or local crime prevention strategies which may help to mitigate potential risks.

Where there are relevant representations from a responsible authority or other persons in relation to an application, the application will be dealt with by a Licensing and Safety Sub Committee, as will any application for the review of a licence.

According to the guidance, a representation is "relevant" if it relates to the likely effect of the grant or variation of the licence on the promotion of at least one of the licensing objectives.

The outcome of any hearing before a Licensing and Safety Sub Committee will be relayed to all parties verbally at the hearing and in writing as soon as practicable.

The Act requires the Authority to suspend a premises licence or club premises certificate if the annual fee is not paid when it is due (On the anniversary of grant of the original licence). The Act provides for a grace period of 21 days in cases of an administrative error or where there is a dispute over liability for the fee, after which the licence/certificate will be suspended.

The Authority has to give a minimum 2 days notice of the licence/certificate being suspended if payment is not made. The Authority, in this case, considers that 7 days notice is more appropriate.

6. Reviews

An application for review of a licence will follow the receipt of relevant representations. For example, from a responsible authority such as the police or the fire authority or an 'other person'.

Any of these groups may appoint a representative to make representations on their behalf, including a ward councillor. It will be expected that any councillor who is also a member of the licensing committee and who is making such representations on behalf of an other person will disqualify him or herself from any involvement in the decision making process affecting the application in question. Local councillors can also, as elected members, make representations in their own right if they have concerns about any premises, regardless of whether they live or run a business in the vicinity of those premises

Where possible, the licensing authority will attempt to give licence holders early warning of any problems or concerns raised about the operation of licensed premises, and the need for improvement. It may be possible for an agreement to be reached between the licensing authority, the licence holder and the relevant responsible authorities or other persons, in respect of relevant representations. The licensing authority will attempt to encourage a dialogue, and mediate between the relevant parties to achieve this, which may prevent a review application being served.

In the first instance the licensing authority will decide whether or not any complaint or representation made by an other person is relevant, vexatious, frivolous, or repetitious. This will be determined on the facts of each individual case, and should be supported by proper evidence. This decision will be taken by officers under delegated powers.

The licensing authority will not permit more than one review originating from other persons within a period of twelve months on similar grounds save in exceptional and compelling circumstances or where it arises from a closure order.

Where the licensing authority decides to hold a review of a licence, the hearing will follow the process prescribed in regulations. The licensing authority will ensure that all the parties to a review will receive a fair hearing. In particular the licence holder will be made fully aware of the allegations made in respect of their licence, and any evidence supporting the said allegations or representations in order that they or their legal representatives have the opportunity of rebutting such allegations.

On determining a review, the licensing authority may choose to exercise a wide range of powers as permitted by the Act and which it considers proportionate and necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. In deciding which of these powers to invoke, the licensing authority will so far as is possible seek to establish the cause or causes of the problem which has been substantiated on the evidence before them. The remedial action taken

will be directed at those causes. These powers include;

- i) Taking no action;
- ii) Issuing an informal written warning to the licence holder and/or recommending an improvement within a specified period of time;
- iii) Attaching conditions to the licence either temporarily, for a period of up to three months, or permanently;
- iv) Exclusion of a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, either temporarily, for a period of up to three months, or permanently;
- v) Removal of the designated premises supervisor if applicable;
- vi) Revocation of licence

Where representations are received and withdrawn, or agreement is reached prior to hearing (by all parties concerned), the licensing authority may determine the application, and only impose such conditions that will promote the licensing objectives, are consistent with the operating schedule, and/or are required by statute.

The licensing authority will give comprehensive written reasons for any decision taken. On making finding of facts and giving reasons, the licensing authority will ensure that it addresses the standard that it has adopted. The reasons will also address the extent to which the decision has been made in accordance with the licensing authority's statement of policy. The written reasons will be provided to all relevant parties attending a review hearing, in accordance with the timescales provided by statute or regulation, or within a reasonable time taking into account the parties' right to lodge an appeal with the Magistrates Court under Schedule 5 of the 2003 Act.

7. Responsible Authorities and Other Persons

Any responsible authority and/or other person may make representations about an application, variation, minor variation or review of a premises licence or club premises certificate or grant of a provisional statement. The main responsible authorities that are relevant to this Licensing Authority are set out below. The list of all responsible authorities is published on the Council's website.

The relevant Licensing Authority and any other Licensing Authority in whose area part of the premises is situated.

The Authority will determine when it considers it appropriate to act in its capacity as a responsible authority in accordance with its duties under section 4 of the Act, namely with a view to promoting the licensing objectives and with regard to its licensing policy and the statutory guidance.

The Authority will not normally make representations or request a review of a licence when other responsible authorities should intervene, as the basis for the intervention, falls within their remit. Licensing Authorities are not normally expected to act as a responsible authority on behalf of other parties such as local residents, local councillors or community groups.

West Midlands Police

Applicants are advised to include in their operating schedules any steps being taken to:-

- prevent disorder on the premises
- prevent drunkenness in premises selling alcohol
- prevent under age sales of alcohol
- ensure customers enter and leave in an orderly manner
- exclude illegal drugs
- exclude offensive weapons

The police may consider making representations and suggesting that conditions be imposed on a licence, based on past history of individual premises and may also take into account decisions of the Magistrates' Courts. Depending on the location and style of a particular venue and the activities carried on there, the police may look to licence holders to use polycarbonate drinking containers in cases where it may be appropriate and proportionate to do so, in order to promote public safety or prevent crime and disorder.

Any incidents of crime or disorder which occur at, or can be linked to particular premises may lead to an application for review of the licence. Equally, any incidents which give cause for concern that the premises are not being properly managed, failure to comply with the operating schedule or conditions of licence, or where there are repeated complaints from the public, may also lead to a licence or club premises certificate being reviewed.

The police are expected to be the Licensing Authority's main source of advice on matters relating to the promotion of the crime and disorder licensing objective.

Any current arrangements for the exchange of information between the police and other enforcement agencies will continue.

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

From the 1st October 2006 the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ("The Fire Safety Order") replaced previous fire safety legislation. As such any fire certificate issued under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 will have ceased to

have effect. The Authority notes that under Article 43 of the Fire Safety Order any conditions imposed by the Authority that relate to any requirements or prohibitions that are or could be imposed by the Order automatically cease to have effect, without the need to vary the licence or certificate. This means that the Authority will not seek to impose fire safety conditions where the Order applies.

The Fire Safety Order covers “general fire precautions” and other fire safety duties which are needed to protect “relevant persons” in case of fire in and around “most premises”. The Order requires fire precautions to be in place “where necessary” and to the extent that it is reasonable and practicable in the circumstances of the case. Responsibility for complying with the Order rests with the “responsible person”, who may be the employer, or any other person or people who may have control of the premises. Each responsible person must carry out a fire risk assessment which must focus on the safety in case of fire for all relevant persons. The fire risk assessment is intended to identify risks that can be removed or reduced and to decide the nature and extent of the general fire precautions that need to be taken including where necessary, capacity limits.

The Local Fire and Rescue Authority will enforce the Order in most premises and have the power to inspect the premises to check the responsible person is complying with their duties under the Order. They will look for evidence that the responsible person has carried out a suitable fire risk assessment and acted upon the significant findings of that assessment.

In accordance with the guidance “safe capacities” should only be imposed where appropriate for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder on the relevant premises. If a capacity has been imposed through other legislation, it would be inappropriate to reproduce it in a premises licence. However, if no safe capacity has been imposed through other legislation, the responsible authority may consider it appropriate for a new capacity to be attached to the premises which would apply at any material time when the licensable activities are taking place and make representations to that effect. A capacity limit should not be imposed as a condition of the licence on fire safety grounds (unless the Authority and the enforcing authority for fire safety purposes are the same) since, and Article 43 of the Fire Safety Order, it would have no effect and so would be not enforceable.

Director of Public Health

Health Bodies have been responsible authorities under the Act since April 2012 and health functions are now exercised by local authorities via the Director of Public Health. Although ‘health’ is not currently a licensing objective under the Act, health bodies hold certain information which other responsible authorities do not, but which may assist the authority in carrying out its licensing functions, especially in relation to the public safety or crime and disorder objectives.

The Director of Public Health may also have access to relevant evidence to inform such representations. These representations may include, amongst other things, the use of health data about the harms that alcohol can cause to underage drinkers. Where a responsible authority, or other person, presents evidence to the licensing authority linking specific premises with harms to children (such as ambulance data or emergency department attendances by persons under 18 years old with alcohol-related illnesses or injuries) this evidence should be considered, and the licensing authority should also consider what action is appropriate to ensure this licensing objective is effectively enforced. In relation to applications for the grant of a licence in areas where evidence is presented on high levels of alcohol-related harms in persons aged under 18, the licensing authority will consider what conditions may be appropriate to ensure that this objective is promoted effectively.

Evidence relating to under 18s alcohol-related emergency department attendance, hospital admissions and underage sales of alcohol, could potentially have implications for both the protection of children from harm and the crime and disorder objectives. Health bodies can provide evidence to lead or support representations in relation to this objective. In relation to proxy purchases, data collected by health bodies could be used to inform other responsible authorities, including the police and licensing authorities, about a prevalence of proxy purchasing in a particular area. For example, the police could use this data to tackle instances of 'shoulder tapping' (where under 18s approach adults to buy alcohol on their behalf) and to suggest measures which retailers might be able to take to ensure, as far as possible, that they are not knowingly selling alcohol to an adult who is buying on behalf of a person aged under 18. Although less obvious, health bodies may also have a role to play in the prevention of public nuisance where its effect is prejudicial to health and where they hold relevant data.

There will need to be consideration as to how to collect anonymised information about incidents that relate to specific premises or premises in a particular area (for example, a cumulative impact area). The College of Emergency Medicine has issued guidelines for information sharing to reduce community violence which recommends that data about assault victims should be collected upon admission to emergency departments, including the date, time and location of the assault – i.e. the name of the pub, club or street where the incident occurred. Sometimes, it may be possible to link ambulance callouts or attendances at emergency departments to irresponsible practices at specific premises, such as serving alcohol to people who are intoxicated or targeting promotions involving unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol at particular groups.

Trading Standards

The sale of age restricted products, in this case alcohol, remains a priority for Trading Standards. It is imperative as a local service that they recognise the priorities of the Local Authority and partners, such as Police, Licensing, Public Health and the Community Alcohol Partnership, and that they assist them in achieving their aims and objectives. Their goal is to ensure that;

1. Owners of licensed premises, premises licence holders and designated premises supervisors are aware of their obligations in law and those associated with the licensing policy.
2. That non-compliant licensed premises are helped to achieve compliance.
3. That there is restricted access to cheap alcohol by removing from sale counterfeit, illicit and non-duty paid alcohol.

In 2014 the Better Regulation Delivery Office published their Code of Practise for the enforcement of legislation relating to age restricted products, including test purchasing. Whilst not legally binding the document is persuasive and places some new requirements on Trading Standards. It sets out a way of working that is rooted in the statutory principles of good regulation: that regulation should be proportionate, consistent, accountable, transparent and targeted. It applies the requirements of the statutory Regulators' Compliance Code, which promotes 'a positive and proactive approach towards ensuring compliance by: helping and encouraging regulated entities to understand and meet regulatory requirements more easily; and, responding proportionately to regulatory breaches'.

Licence holders may receive advisory visits from Trading Standards giving information and advice regarding the steps to be taken in order to avoid selling alcohol to children.

In relation to licensing reviews, Trading Standards will ensure that any conditions requested on review are appropriate and necessary.

The sale of counterfeit and non-duty paid alcohol and tobacco products are having a very serious impact on the local economy. Legitimate retailers are struggling to compete with the small minority of dishonest traders who operate within the shadow economy. These dishonest traders are making large profits by selling cheap counterfeit products, or evading duty on genuine products and selling these at the full retail price or even discounted rates to unsuspecting consumers.

Consumption of illicitly or informally produced alcohol could have additional negative health consequences due to a higher ethanol content and potential contamination with toxic substances, such as methanol.

Licence holders found to be selling illicit alcohol will be liable to prosecution and could have their licence to sell alcohol reviewed by the Licensing and Safety Committee or one of its sub committees.

Health and Safety

The main objective is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employers, employees and members of the public working at, or attending licensed premises.

Applicants applying for a premises licence or club premises certificate should therefore be able to demonstrate a safe environment.

Although existing health and safety legislation will primarily be used it may be appropriate to apply for the review of a licence in the following circumstances:-

serious or regular contraventions of health and safety legislation.

failure to comply with Improvement or prohibition notices.

service of a prohibition notice where a significant risk to public safety exists.

prosecution for failure to comply with health and safety legislation.

The Council and the Health and Safety Executive are jointly responsible for enforcing health and safety. As a general rule, the Council is responsible for the majority of premises but the Health and Safety Executive are responsible in the case of Council-owned premises.

Environmental Health

Operating schedules should contain sufficient information for officers to form a view as to whether noise from licensable activities is likely to cause a problem. Applicants should also provide details of any proposed noise control measures intended to be put in place, particularly for premises in largely residential areas where regulated entertainment is being applied for outside the hours of 8am to 11pm.

Applicants should note, however, when preparing operating schedules that stricter measures for controlling noise may be sought, either through operating schedules or by imposing conditions in the case of premises situated in largely residential areas, especially where there has already been a history of problems associated with a particular premises.

If licence conditions are imposed, they will be specific to the premises in question and will relate to the type of licensable activity proposed.

8. Hours of trading

The Authority wishes to emphasise that consideration will always be given to the individual merits of any application. At the same time, it is clear that in some circumstances more flexible licensing hours with regard to the sale of alcohol may be an important factor in avoiding a concentration of customers leaving premises simultaneously and generally lead to a slower dispersal of people from licensed premises. This can help to reduce the friction at late night fast food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport which lead to disorder and disturbance.

The Authority recognises that providing consumers with greater choice and flexibility is an important consideration when it comes to developing thriving night time local economies which are equally important for local investment and employment. This should always be balanced carefully against the duty to promote the four licensing objectives and the rights of local residents.

Each application will always be considered on its own individual merits but it should be recognised that restricting the hours of operation in some cases can play an important role in preventing public nuisance, especially in residential areas where there is a history of noise complaints relating to a particular premises from those living within the vicinity.

Shops, stores and supermarkets should normally be free to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any times when the retail outlet is open for shopping unless there are good reasons, based on licensing objectives, for restricting those hours.

9. Temporary Event Notices (T.E.N.)

There are two types of temporary event notice (T.E.N.) which can be given to the Authority; standard and late.

Anyone wishing to give a standard T.E.N. to the Authority must do so at least 10 clear working days prior to the event in question.

If it is not possible to give 10 working days notice then a late T.E.N. may be given as long as at least 5 working days notice is given.

If an objection to a standard T.E.N. is made by the police or Environmental Health and they wish to impose conditions on that notice, if all parties agree that a hearing is not necessary, the Authority will not normally hold a hearing.

If, the police or Environmental Health object to a late T.E.N. then the event cannot go ahead.

Regulations control the number of T.E.N.s that can be held at any premises in a calendar year.

10. Adult Entertainment

An applicant wishing to provide adult entertainment should specify in the operating schedule what sort of adult entertainment they intend to provide and how frequently it will be provided. If sexual entertainment is to be provided, for example lap dancing, striptease etc then a separate sexual entertainment licence may also be required.

Sexual Entertainment Venues (S.E.V)

This Council has adopted a formal policy in relation to these types of

premises under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. Standard conditions are attached to such licences. Where there are similar conditions attached to the 2003 licence for the premises, the more onerous will apply.

There is an exemption under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009 that allows premises to provide sexual entertainment on no more than 11 times per year and no more frequently than monthly. For further information on S.E.V's, please contact the licensing unit.

11. Cumulative Impact

Walsall town centre has been identified as being saturated with licensed premises ('on licences') creating a significant cumulative effect. This has undermined the licensing objectives.

West Midlands Police produced evidence to support the case for Walsall town centre to be designated as a cumulative impact area. The defined area is known as 'Walsall town centre neighbourhood'. A map of the area is given in **Appendix 1**.

The Council, having regard to the statutory guidance issued under the Licensing Act 2003, consulted on the issues and took into account the views of respondents and considered all the evidence presented to it.

The Authority in light of the above therefore, adopted a cumulative impact policy in respect of applications relating to the sale or supply of alcohol 'on the premises' in a defined area of Walsall town centre. In this area new applications/variations will be refused whenever relevant representations are received about the cumulative impact on the licensing objectives and which the Licensing Authority concludes after hearing those representations, should lead to refusal.

The cumulative impact policy was initially introduced on the 8 September 2008 and reaffirmed as part of the consultation process in 2010 and 2015.

The effect of this policy is to create a rebuttable presumption that applications for new premises licences or club premises certificates or variations which relate to the sale or supply of alcohol (on the premises) and are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally be refused, unless it can be shown that the premises concerned, will not add to the cumulative impact.

The licensing authority recognises that any special policy regarding cumulative impact is not absolute and where licence applications will not add to cumulative impact and following no relevant representations having been made, the licence/certificate will be granted as requested.

The presumption contained in respect of this policy, does not relieve responsible authorities or other persons of the need to make relevant

representations. If there are no relevant representations, the licensing authority must grant the application on the terms that are consistent with the application.

In determining an application, the licensing authority will have particular regard to the licensing objectives and the cumulative effect and adverse impact that may arise from the saturation of premises in the defined area.

The cumulative impact policy will not be used to revoke existing licences or certificates. However, such a policy may be a justification to refuse an application to vary a licence or certificate but only where the variation is directly relevant to the policy and the refusal is strictly necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The licensing authority recognises the difference between cumulative impact and the commercial need for premises in an area. Need and market forces are not matters for the licensing authority to consider as part of its licensing function.

The licensing authority will not operate a quota of any description. Each application must always be considered on its merits.

12. Late Night Levy

Council has considered the parameters for the introduction of such a levy but has resolved that it not be implemented at this time. The Council reserves its right to introduce such a levy, but will only do so after ensuring it has gone through the statutory consultation process and a formal decision has been made in respect of all evidence and comments received.

13. Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMRO)

Council has considered the parameters of such orders, but has resolved that none be implemented at this time. The Council reserves its right to introduce such orders, but will only do so after ensuring it has gone through the statutory consultation process and a formal decision has been made in respect of all evidence and comments received.

14. Children

The Authority recognises the great variety of premises for which licences and certificates may be sought. These will include theatres, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, cafes, take-aways, community halls, church halls and schools. However, in the case of premises which are used exclusively or primarily for the supply of alcohol to be consumed on those premises it is an offence to allow anyone under the age of 16, unaccompanied by an adult, to be present on such premises.

Where the consumption of alcohol takes place but is not the exclusive or primary activity at a particular venue, such as a hotel or cinema for example, it is an offence for, those under 16 to be unaccompanied between 12 midnight and 5am.

Other than these two restrictions there is no presumption in favour of giving access to children under 18 generally, or indeed, preventing their access. The Authority, in its own right, will not seek to limit the access of children to any premises unless it receives representations to that effect based on the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm to children. Each application and the circumstances prevailing at each individual premises must be considered on its own merits and admission will always be at the discretion of those managing the premises.

Applicants seeking premises licences and club premises certificates should include in their operating schedule any prohibitions or restrictions in circumstances where it is felt that the presence of children would be undesirable or inappropriate.

Examples of areas which may give rise to concern in respect of children include premises –

where nudity or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is provided

where there is a strong element of gambling taking place

with a known association with drug taking or dealing

where there have been convictions for serving alcohol to those under 18

with a reputation for underage drinking

where the premises have been linked to child sexual exploitation.

In the case of premises which are used for film exhibitions applicants should include in their operating schedule any specific arrangements for restricting access to children to ensure they meet the required age limit in line with any certification granted by the British Board of Film Classification.

Where a large number of children are likely to be present on any licensed premises, for example, at a children's show or pantomime, then applicants may need to demonstrate that measures are in place to ensure an appropriate number of adults are present in order to satisfy the licensing objectives.

In cases where it is considered necessary, options available for limiting access by children could include –

Restrictions on the hours when children may be present

Restrictions or exclusions on the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place

Restrictions on the parts of the premises to which children may have access

Age restrictions (below 18)

Restrictions or exclusions when certain activities are taking place

Requirements for an accompanying adult (including for example, a combination of requirements which provide that children under a particular age must be accompanied by an adult)

Full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place

For premises where the sale or supply of alcohol takes place as a licensable activity the Authority recommends that applicants adopt The Portman Group's Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks. The code seeks to ensure that drinks are packaged and promoted in a socially responsible manner and only to those who are 18 years of age or over. The premises should also comply with the Committee of Advertising Practice in relation to advertisements and promotions, particularly those provisions relating to the sale and promotion of alcohol.

The Authority also recognises the Guide to Responsible Alcohol Retailing jointly produced by The Association of Convenience Stores, The British Retail Consortium and The Wine and Spirits Trade Association which covers key areas of under age sales, proof of age cards, staff training and alcohol promotions.

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board is the body recognised as being competent to advise on matters relating to the protection of children from harm, they are a responsible authority and are therefore, entitled to make representations.

15. Live Music and Regulated Entertainment

The Authority is aware of the need to encourage and promote a broad range of entertainment, particularly live music and dancing as well as a range of traditional theatre performances for the wider cultural benefit of communities generally.

In determining what conditions maybe attached as appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, care will be taken to avoid measures which might deter live music dancing and theatre by imposing indirect costs of a disproportionate nature.

As a result of deregulatory changes that have subsequently amended the 2003 Act, there are a number of exemptions that now apply to the provision of all categories of regulated entertainment. Applicants/licence holders should ensure that they are fully aware of the current S.182 guidance issued by the Home Office.

It is still possible however, for a premises licence or club premises certificate to be reviewed if there are appropriate grounds to do so. In determining a review application the Authority is allowed, if it is considered appropriate, to lift the suspension of such restrictions/conditions that apply to such venues/times and give renewed effect to an existing condition.

16. Licensing and Planning

The Authority recognises that planning permission, building control approval and licensing regimes should be properly separated to avoid duplication and inefficiency.

Licensing applications are not to be seen as a re-run of the planning application process and the licensing committee will not be bound by decisions of the planning committee and vice versa. However, where applications are made simultaneously to both the licensing authority and the planning authority the two will work together with a view to agreeing consistent operating hours.

There are circumstances when as a condition of planning permission a terminal hour has been set for the use of premises for commercial purposes. Where these hours are different to the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier closing time. Premises operating in breach of their planning permission would be liable to prosecution under planning law.

The Planning Authority may make representations in respect of an application (as a responsible authority under the Act) for a premises licence or club premises certificate as long as it relates to the licensing objectives. The granting of a licence, certificate or provisional statement will not override any requirement of the planning regime.

17. Conditions attached to premises licences and club premises certificates

The Authority will only be able to attach conditions (other than mandatory conditions) to a premises licence or club premises certificate (and in certain circumstances Temporary Event Notices) if they are part of an applicant's operating schedule (including any conditions which may be subsequently volunteered by an applicant as a result of mediation following a representation), or by a decision of the licensing sub committee at a formal hearing.

Any conditions which are attached to licences, certificates and other authorisations will be tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the premises and events concerned and will reflect, as far as possible, local crime prevention strategies.

The Authority will not attempt to impose any 'blanket' conditions which apply to all premises but the applicant's operating schedule, which forms part of the

application process should include sufficient information to enable a responsible authority or other person to assess whether the steps being taken to promote the licensing objectives are satisfactory or not.

When submitting operating schedules applicants are required by the Act to outline the measures which are being taken in order to meet the licensing objectives. These measures are likely to form the basis of conditions which will be attached to the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate. However, only those conditions which are considered appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives will be imposed and any breaches of conditions will, in most cases, be dealt with primarily through the review process.

The responsible authorities identified in this statement may also propose conditions of their own by making representations to a grant or variation application. However, these cannot be over burdensome or disproportionate and will only be imposed by the Authority in cases where it is considered appropriate to meet the licensing objectives and where they have been evidence based.

Any conditions proposed by a responsible authority and agreed by an applicant in such cases can be attached to the premises licence without the need for a formal hearing either by the applicant agreeing to amend their operating schedule to include any condition(s) agreed between the parties or if all parties agree that a hearing is not necessary.

Duplication with other statutory or regulatory regimes will be avoided as far as possible. In circumstances where existing legislation already effectively promotes the licensing objectives it is likely that no additional conditions will be necessary. For this purpose each case will need to be assessed on its own individual merits.

18. Removal of DPS requirement at Community Premises

Instead of being required by way of a mandatory condition, to appoint an individual as a designated premises supervisor, (DPS), volunteer committees managing community premises are now allowed to take joint responsibility for the sale of alcohol in community premises.

Management Committees wishing to apply for the removal of the mandatory condition requiring a DPS at community premises will need to demonstrate clearly to the Authority how they operate and that there will be appropriate supervision of all alcohol sales at different types of events.

'Community premises' will include church halls, chapels, community and village halls and similar buildings. If there is any doubt as to whether a building is a community premises or not, the Authority will deal with such matters on a case by case basis with the main consideration being how the premises are being predominantly used, for example :

- are they genuinely made available for community benefit most of the time?
- are they accessible by a broad range of persons and sectors of the local community?
- are they being used for purposes which are beneficial to the community as a whole?

Applicants will be required to set out exactly how the premises are managed, its committee structure and how alcohol sales are to be properly supervised within the committee/management structure.

19. Enforcement

This Authority embraces the Department for Business Innovation and Skills “Regulators Code” which came into force on the 6 April 2014, and its standards have been integrated into our regulatory culture and processes. This authority supports the principals of better regulation to promote efficient and effective approaches to regulatory inspection and enforcement that improve regulatory outcomes without imposing unnecessary burdens on business.

Bearing in mind the principle of transparency, this licensing authority’s enforcement/compliance protocols/written agreements are available upon request to: The Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1TP , E-mail Licensing@walsall.gov.uk, Website www.walsall.gov.uk.

It is intended that, in general, action will be taken against ‘problem’ premises through the review process. In cases where more formal action, such as prosecution is considered to be appropriate, the key principles of consistency, transparency and proportionality will be maintained. The Authority will also have regard to its Enforcement Policy.

20. Equal Opportunities

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 relation, between persons with different protected characteristics, for example age, disability, race and religion.

21. Delegations

The Act provides that the functions of the authority are to be carried out by the Licensing and Safety Committee. The Licensing and Safety Committee will delegate these functions further and where appropriate, they can be delegated to officers.

The Local Authority has a scheme of delegations in place which sets out the types of decisions that have been delegated to officers and the circumstances within which they can be used.

Delegation of Powers:

Matter to be dealt with	Full Council	Sub Committee	Officers
Review of Licensing Statement of Policy	All cases		
Application for personal licence		If a police objection	If no objection made
Application for personal licence with unspent convictions		All cases	
Application for premises licence/club premises certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application for a provisional statement		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application to vary premises licence/club premises certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application to vary designated premises supervisor		If a police objection	All other cases
Request to be removed as designated premises supervisor			All cases
Application for transfer of premises licence		If a police objection	All other cases
Application for interim authorities		If a police objection	All other cases
Application to review premises licence/club premises certificate		All cases	
Decision on whether a representation is irrelevant frivolous vexatious etc			All cases

Decision to object when local authority is a consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application		All cases	
Determination of an objection to a temporary event notice		All cases	
Determination of application to vary premises licence at community premises to include alternative licence condition		If police objection	All other cases
Decision whether to consult other responsible authorities on minor variation application			All cases
Determination of minor variation application			All cases

A licensing sub-committee of three councillors will sit to hear applications where relevant representations have been received from responsible authorities and/or other persons.

22. Register of Licenses

The licensing authority will keep a register in the prescribed form containing:-

- (a) a record of each premises licence, club premises certificate and personal licence issued by it,
- (b) a record of each temporary event notice received by it,
- (c) matters mentioned in Schedule 3 of the 2003 Licensing Act
- (d) such other information that may be prescribed.

The licensing register will be available for inspection during office hours by any person without payment.

If requested to do so the licensing authority will supply any person with a copy of information contained in any entry, for which a fee will be charged. This may assist people in making representations to the licensing authority.

23. Comments on licensing policy

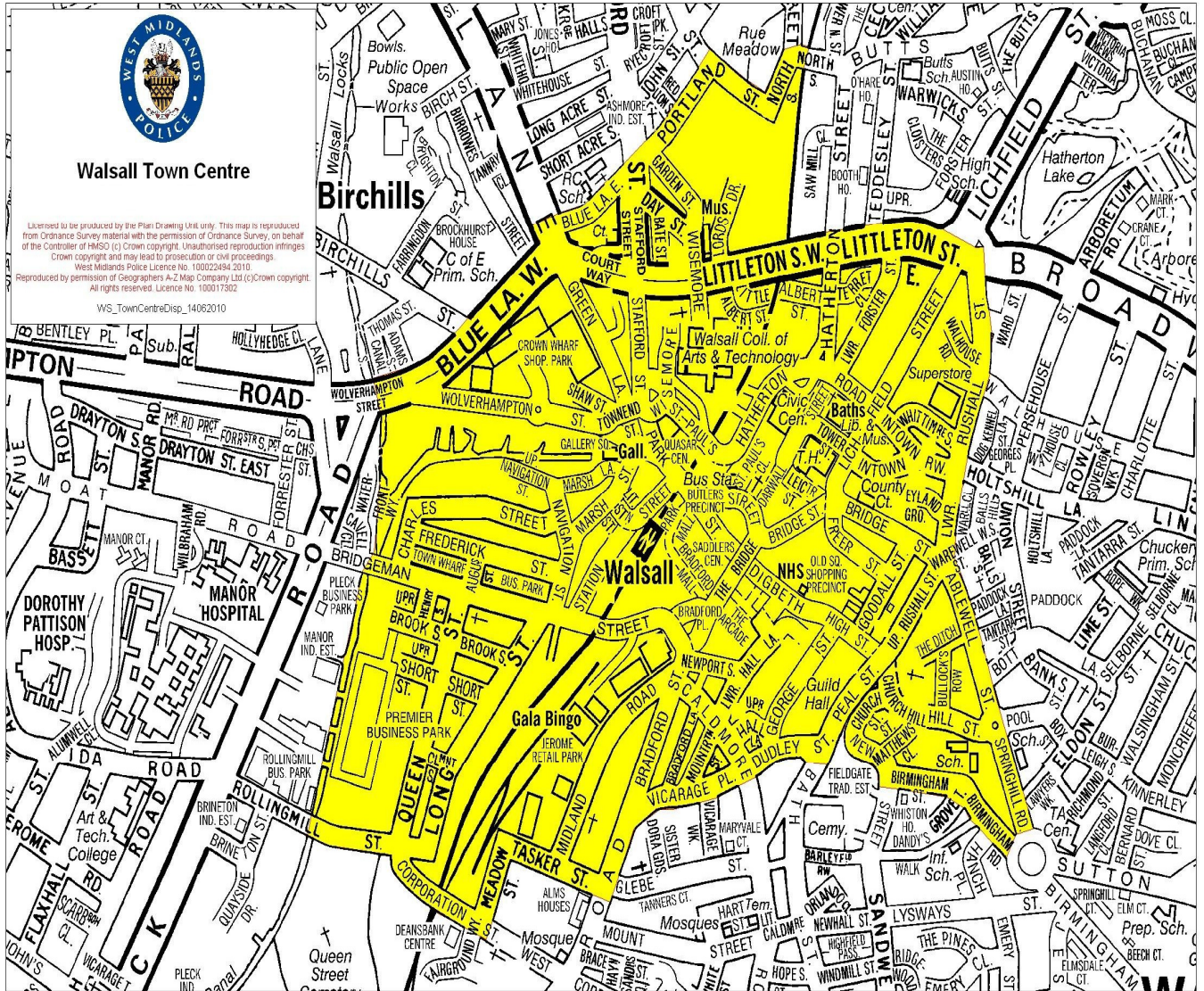
The Statement of Licensing Policy will be reviewed on a regular basis. Individuals and organisations that wish to comment on the policy are invited to send their comments in writing to:

Licensing Unit
Walsall M.B.C
Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1TP

Telephone Number: 01922 653050
Fax Number: 01922 653070
e-mail: licensing@walsall.gov.uk
website : www.walsall.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

CUMULATIVE IMPACT AREA



Appendix 2 - Definitions

In this Policy, the following definitions are included to provide an explanation of certain terms included in the Act and therefore in the policy. In some cases they are an abbreviation of what is stated in the Licensing Act 2003 or an interpretation of those terms. For a full definition of the terms used, the reader must refer to the Licensing Act 2003.

‘Appeals’

Appeals against decisions of the licensing authority are to the magistrates’ court for the area in which the premises are situated. The appeal must be lodged within 21 days of being notified of the licensing authority’s decision. On appeal a magistrates’ court may dismiss the appeal; substitute its own decision; remit the case to the licensing authority with directions; and make an order for costs.

‘Authorised Persons’

“Authorised Persons” are specified people who have statutory duties in relation to the inspection of premises, e.g. licensing officers, police, fire, health & safety, environmental health.

‘Responsible Authorities’

“Responsible Authorities” include the police, fire, enforcing authority for health and safety, planning authority, environmental health, bodies responsible for child protection and other specified authorities. Only these groups can make representations about an application for a premises licence.

‘Closure Order’

Powers for the police and courts to close premises. The 2003 Act significantly extends the existing powers of the police to serve court orders in a geographical area that is experiencing or likely to experience disorder or to close down instantly individual licensed premises that are disorderly, likely to become disorderly or are causing noise nuisance.

‘Club Premises Certificate’

A certificate which licenses a qualifying club for the sale/supply of alcohol. It can be granted to members clubs which comply with specific conditions e.g. membership rules, run by club committees, profits go to members not an owner etc. Club premises certificates replace registration under the Licensing Act 1964. The law for members clubs has changed relatively little under the 2003 Act. There is no time limit on the duration of the certificate but it may be withdrawn, surrendered or suspended.

‘Conditions’

A premises licence may be granted subject to different conditions, and these may be in respect of different parts of the premises and different licensable activities. There is no power to impose conditions on a personal licence. The only conditions which should be imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate are those which are necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Accordingly, if the existing law already places certain

statutory responsibilities on an employer or operator of premises, it cannot be necessary to impose the same or similar duties on the premises licence holder. Conditions must be proportional and tailored to size, style, characteristics and activities taking place at the premises concerned.

‘Designated Premises Supervisor’

The person in the case of premises selling alcohol, who will normally have been given the day to day responsibility for running the premises by the holder of the premises licence. They must also be a personal licence holder.

‘Late Night Refreshment’

The supply of hot food and/or drink to members of the public (whether for consumption on or off the premises) between the hours of 11.00pm and 5.00am.

‘Licensable Activities’

- The sale by retail of alcohol.
- The supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club, or to the order of a member of the club.
- The provision of Regulated Entertainment.
- The provision of Late Night Refreshment.

‘Licensing Authority’

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

‘Licensing Objectives’

The objectives as set out in the Act:

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

The Licensing Authority must carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives.

‘Licensed Premises’

Includes club premises and events unless the context otherwise requires.

‘Mandatory Conditions’

Conditions that the Act requires are imposed on a premises licence, club premises certificate or personal licence.

‘Objection Notice’

A procedure whereby the police can object to the grant of a personal licence on the grounds there where having regard to convictions of the applicant for relevant offences, the grant would undermine the crime prevention objective.

‘Operating Schedule’

A document (this is in effect the completed application form) containing a statement of the following matters (and any others that may be prescribed):-

- Steps taken by the licence holder to tackle the four licensing objectives.
- The licensable activities to be conducted on the premises.
- The times during which the licensable activities are to take place and any other times when premises are open to the public.
- Where the licence is required only for a limited period, that period.
- Where the licensable activities include the supply of alcohol, the name and address of the individual to be specified as the designated premises supervisor.

‘Personal Licence’

A licence granted to an individual and authorises that person to supply alcohol or authorise the supply of alcohol in accordance with a premises licence. The licence has no expiry. It ceases to have effect when revoked, forfeited, surrendered or suspended. A personal licence holder is not required where the premises concerned do not supply alcohol as one of its licensable activities. A personal licence holder is also not required for the supply of alcohol in a club which holds a club premises certificate. Only the police can object to the grant of a personal licence.

‘Premises Licence’

A licence granted in respect of any premises, which authorises the premises to be used for one or more licensable activities, has effect until revoked, surrendered or on the death, insolvency etc of the holder. Applications are dealt with by the local authority licensing committee in the area where the premises are situated.

‘Provisional Statement’

A procedure by which the licensing authority can give a statement approving for licensing purposes proposals for a premises being built or in the course of being constructed. Where a provisional statement is made, subject to limited exceptions, the full licence must normally be granted once the premises are completed.

‘Qualifying Club’

Club Premises Certificates will be issued to Qualifying Clubs. To be eligible for a Club Premises Certificate the club/organisation members must have joined together for a particular social, sporting or political purpose and then have combined to purchase alcohol in bulk as members of the organisation for supply to members and their guests. Qualifying conditions are specified in Section 61 of the Act and the council must be satisfied that these conditions have been met, including evidence to support that the club is non-profit making and that there is a minimum of 48 hours delay between application and acceptance of new members. The club must be established and conducted in 'good faith' (this involves consideration of details such as club finances).

‘Regulated Entertainment’

- A performance of a film.
- An exhibition of a film.
- An indoor sporting event.
- A boxing or wrestling entertainment (indoor or outdoor).
- A performance of live music.
- Any playing of recorded music.
- A performance of dance.
- Entertainment of a similar description to that falling within the performance of live music, the playing of recorded music and the performance of dance.

‘Relevant Representations’

The 2003 Act does not use the term “objections”. Instead other persons and responsible authorities may be able to make relevant representations about an application for a licence. Representations must relate to the licensing objectives and where made by a other person must not be frivolous or vexatious. When considering an application from a other persons or responsible authority the local authority need only consider relevant representations. The making of relevant representations engages the licensing authorities discretion to take “steps” consistent with the licensing objectives when considering the application.

‘Review of Licence’

Where a premises licence is in force a other person or responsible authority may apply to the council for it to be reviewed. The council must hold a hearing to review the licence and as a result must take any necessary steps to promote the licensing objectives, such as modification of conditions; exclusion of licensable activities; removal of the premises supervisor; suspension of the licence for up to three months; or the revocation of the licence.

‘Responsible Authority’

- The Chief Officer of Police in the area where the premises are situated.
- The Fire Authority in the area where the premises are situated.
- The Licensing Authority.
- The local authority responsible for minimising or preventing the risk of pollution of the environment or of harm to human health.
- The body representing matters relating to the protection of children from harm.
- The enforcing authority for Health and Safety at Work.
- The local Planning Authority.
- Trading Standards, local weights and measures.
- Director of Public Health.
- In relation to a vessel, a navigation authority, the Environment Agency, or the British Waterways Board

‘Statement of Licensing Policy’

Each licensing authority must every five years determine and publish a statement of licensing policy. There is a requirement to consult on the policy and keep it under review.

‘Temporary Event Notice’

A permitted temporary activity involving one or more licensable activities subject to various conditions and limitations.

‘Transfer’

A procedure where an application can be made to transfer the premises licence into a new name e.g. if a premises licence holder sells his premises an application may be made to transfer the premises licence to the new owner.

Reviewed Licensing Policy



Licensing Act 2003

Draft Statement of Licensing Policy.

Consultation Period: ???

2020



Walsall Council

Version: 1.1

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Version	Effective Date	Reason	Summary
1.1	01/01/2021	5 Year Review	Update Policy to include changes to legislation, changes to Cumulative Impact Policy following CIA

IMPORTANT NOTE

Where this policy refers to information, legislation, policy or guidance produced by other governing bodies or regulatory agencies, please note that the requirement detailed within this this policy will be subject to any amendments thereof.

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

Draft Statement of Licensing Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires each Licensing Authority to publish a Statement of its Licensing Policy at least every five years. During the five-year period, the policy must be kept under review and the licensing authority may make any revisions to it as it considers appropriate, for instance in the light of feedback from the local community on whether the licensing objectives are being met.
- 1.2 This document is Walsall Council's (Walsall MBC) Statement of Licensing Policy, which will come into force on once members have approved the consulted version. The policy will be updated and modified as and when the Council considers appropriate.
- 1.3 Walsall MBC is located in the West Midlands; an area comprising seven Metropolitan Councils in total. The Walsall Council covers 40.2 square miles of which 24.83 square miles are predominantly urban development. With an estimated population of 293,378 (2018) it is the fourth largest area in the County, in terms of population.
- 1.4 The towns of Willenhall and Darlaston, to the west of the M6, contrast with the eastern parts of the borough, which are more residential and, in parts, agricultural in character. Traditional and growth industries are spread throughout the borough. Walsall benefits from its position at the cross-roads of the motorway network and communications have been improved further by the M6 Toll Road.
- 1.5 Birmingham airport and the Genting Arena Complex are within easy reach and frequent trains to Birmingham provide links to the national network. Regeneration projects focussing on Walsall town centre, local centres, the wider borough, and key transport corridors continue to transform the borough's new economic well-being.
- 1.6 Through its statement of licensing policy, the Licensing Authority strives to sustain core values of Honesty and Integrity, Fairness and Equality, Value for Money, Innovation and Collaboration and Listening and Responding.

2 Licensing Act 2003

- 2.1 This Licensing Statement of Policy is intended to meet Walsall Councils obligations under Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 (“the Act”).
- 2.2 The Licensing Authority (“the Authority”) will carry out the licensing functions of Walsall MBC with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives contained in the Act. These are –
- the prevention of crime and disorder;
 - public safety;
 - the prevention of public nuisance; and
 - the protection of children from harm.
- 2.3 Each objective is treated as having equal importance.

3 Scope of the Policy

- 3.1 Section 5 of the Act requires a Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every five years.
- 3.2 The revised statement of licensing policy will take effect from the following consultation and approval by members.
- 3.3 The policy will be reviewed at appropriate intervals and Walsall Council will make such revisions to the policy as it considers appropriate. Where revisions to the policy are made they will be in accordance with statutory requirements and, following any amendment, a statement of such revisions, or a revised licensing policy statement will be published.
- 3.4 The main purpose of this policy is to provide clarity to applicants, interested parties, and Responsible Authorities, in relation to how Walsall Council will determine applications for the supply of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and the provision of late night refreshment. It will also provide a basis for all licensing decisions taken by Walsall Council and will inform Councillors of the parameters within which licensing decisions should be made.
- 3.5 In carrying out its functions, the Authority will not only have regard to this policy but also any guidance issued from time to time by the Home Office under Section 182 of the Act (referred to as ‘the guidance’,)
- 3.6 Licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from the licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation

concerned. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of such control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night-time economy in town and city centres.

- 3.7 However, licence holders are expected to take all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of crime and disorder and public nuisance in the immediate vicinity of their premises.
- 3.8 Licensing will be one of the key contributory factors in the overall management of the evening and night time economy, particularly in relation to town centres and other 'high risk' areas, working in partnership with the police and other responsible authorities.
- 3.9 In relation to the prevention of crime and disorder, Walsall Council recognises its duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It will continue to work in partnership with the police, responsible authorities defined in the Act, local businesses, local people and other interested parties, in the promotion of all the licensing objectives.

Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on licensed premises, by qualifying clubs and at temporary events within the terms of the 2003 Act; and conditions attached to various authorisations will be focused on matters which are within the control of individual licence holders and others with relevant authorisations, i.e. the premises and its vicinity.

- 3.10 In conducting the review of its policy statement, Walsall Council will consult in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Act and will also seek to integrate these requirements with local policies for crime prevention, community safety, planning, transport, tourism and child protection procedures.
- 3.11 This policy acknowledges the importance of the role of partnership working, with the police, local businesses, performers and local people, in how the Council fulfils its licensing responsibilities.
- 3.12 In regulating licensable activities, the aim of the Walsall Council licensing process is to promote well-managed premises, where licence holders are aware of, and sensitive to, the impact of their premises on local residents. Walsall Council wishes to encourage licensees to provide a wide range of entertainment activities during their opening hours, promoting the provision of live music, dance, theatre etc., for wider cultural benefit. These activities are considered to be key factors in maintaining a thriving and sustainable community. A fair balance will be struck between promoting the provision of entertainment and addressing concerns relevant to the licensing objectives. Walsall Council is conscious that licensing policy may inadvertently deter live music by imposing indirect costs of a disproportionate nature, for example a blanket policy that any pub providing live music entertainment must have door supervisors.

3.13 Walsall Council has a duty to protect the amenity of the borough, which is a mixed commercial and residential area. The Authority wishes to promote safer and stronger communities, ensuring all persons are as safe and secure as possible. Where an application is likely to increase the concentration of entertainment uses and/or lengthen hours of operation in a way that would materially impact on the local area, these factors will be taken into account.

3.14 This policy statement sets out the general approach the council will take when fulfilling its responsibility in determining applications made under the Licensing Act 2003. It will observe the right of any individual to apply for a variety of permissions and to have each application considered on its own merits. It will transparently protect the right, where provided in the Act, of any 'other person' to make representations in support or in opposition to an application, or to seek a review of licence where provision has been made for them to do so.

3.15 The policy relates to all 'licensable activities' as defined by the Act, namely:-

- the retail sale of alcohol.
- the supply of alcohol to club members.
- the provision of 'regulated entertainment' – to the public, to club members or with a view to profit including the following:
 - the performance of a play.
 - the exhibition of a film.
 - any indoor sporting event.
 - the provision of boxing or wrestling entertainment.
 - a performance of live music.
 - any playing of recorded music.
 - a performance of dance.
 - entertainment of a similar description to a performance of live music, any playing of recorded music or a performance of dance.
- the supply of hot food and/or hot drink from any premises between 11pm and 5am.

3.16 Each application for the grant, variation or review of a licence will be considered and determined on its individual merits. When making a decision, Walsall Council will operate in accordance with this licensing policy and the statutory guidance; however, if the Authority considers it appropriate to depart from either of those, full reasons will be provided as to why the departure was necessary, appropriate and justified.

3.17 In addition, the Act also regulates:

- The licensing of individuals for the sale or supply of alcohol ('Personal Licences');
- The authorisation of certain licensable activities on a temporary basis ('Temporary Event Notices').

4 Duplication

4.1 Walsall Council recognises that the licensing process should not duplicate powers, provisions, or restrictions enshrined in other primary legislation. Therefore, in so far as possible, it will avoid duplication of this kind. Legislation that may be relevant is set out below:

- The Gambling Act 2005
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Noise Act 1996
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981
- The Equality Act 2010

Walsall Council is committed to avoiding attaching conditions that duplicate other regulatory regimes as far as possible as set out in Chapter 10 of the s182 Guidance in force when this statement was made.

5 Partnership Working and Integrating Strategies

5.1 Walsall Council acknowledges the importance of integrating its policies with local crime prevention strategies, as well as public health, planning, transport, tourism, equality schemes and cultural strategies.

5.2 The Government recommends that licensing authorities should establish and set out joint enforcement protocols with the local police and the other authorities and describe them in their statement of policy. This will clarify the division of responsibilities for licence holders and applicants, and assists enforcement and other authorities to deploy resources more efficiently.

5.3 In particular, these protocols should also provide for the targeting of agreed problem and high-risk premises which require greater attention, while providing a lighter touch for low risk premises or those that are well run. In some local authority areas, the limited validity of public entertainment, theatre, cinema, night café and late night refreshment

house licences has in the past led to a culture of annual inspections regardless of whether the assessed risks make such inspections necessary. The 2003 Act does not require inspections to take place save at the discretion of those charged with this role. Principles of risk assessment and targeted inspection (in line with the Regulators' Code) should prevail and, for example, inspections should not be undertaken routinely but when and if they are judged necessary. This should ensure that resources are used efficiently and for example, are more effectively concentrated on problem premises. Licensing authorities should also remind operators of licensed premises that it is incumbent on them to provide appropriate training for their staff to ensure the promotion the licensing objectives.

While many strategies may not appear directly related to the promotion of the licensing objectives, they may affect them and therefore such strategies are important for the Authority to consider

The Need for Licensed Premises

- 5.4 There can be confusion about the difference between the "need" for premises and the "cumulative impact" of premises on the licensing objectives, for example, on crime and disorder. "Need" concerns the commercial demand for another pub or restaurant or hotel and is a matter for the planning authority and for the market. This is not a matter for a licensing authority.

6 Licensing Process

- 6.1 Walsall Council's licensing responsibilities are executed by the Licensing and Safety Committee, supported by licensing sub-committees, and by one or more officers acting under delegated authority. Please see the delegations set out at Part 26.
- 6.2 Where applications are not contentious, the licensing functions will be largely administrative. In the interests of efficiency and effectiveness these will, for the most part be carried out by officers. As part of the application process, applicants are expected to address each of the licensing objectives in their operational schedules having regard to the type of premises, the licensable activities to be provided, the operational procedures, the nature of the location and the needs of the local community
- 6.3 If a lawful application for a premises licence or club premises certificate is received, and no relevant representations are submitted by responsible authorities or other persons, the Licensing Authority must grant the application, subject only to conditions that are consistent with the operating schedule and any relevant mandatory conditions.

- 6.4 When setting out the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives, applicants are also encouraged to make themselves aware of, and be able to demonstrate that they understand the layout of the local area. This should include the physical environment and any relevant planning and transportation policies, tourism and cultural strategies or local crime prevention strategies, which may help to mitigate potential risks.
- 6.5 Any responsible authority, and/or any other person, may make representations to the Licensing Authority in relation to any application for the grant, variation, minor variation or review of premises licences and club premises certificates; the grant of a provisional statement. This right is not dependent upon their geographic proximity to the premises.
- 6.6 'Other person' is defined as any individual, body or business including a member of the relevant Licensing Authority.
- 6.7 Representations are not limited to objections, but may also be made in support of an application. However, a representation expressing support for an application will be subject to the same criteria under the Licensing Act.
- 6.8 Ordinarily, representations are invalid if they are made anonymously. However, if a person believes there are exceptional circumstances relating to the disclosure of their identity, they are advised to contact the Licensing Service for advice.
- 6.9 The Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee will determine any application for the grant of a new premises licence, where a relevant representation(s) objecting to the grant of the licence is received, and all applications for the review of a premises licence.
- 6.10 In accordance with the guidance, a representation is 'relevant' if it relates to the likely effect of the grant or variation of the licence on the promotion of at least one of the licensing objectives.
- 6.11 The outcome of any hearing before a Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee will be delivered to all parties verbally at the hearing and in writing as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 6.12 The Act requires the Authority to suspend a premises licence or club premises certificate if the annual fee remains unpaid by the due date (i.e. on or by, the anniversary of grant of the original licence). The Act provides a grace period of 21 days in cases where the non-payment is due to an administrative error or where there is a dispute over liability for the fee, after which the licence/certificate will be suspended.
- 6.13 The Authority is required to give a minimum 2 days' notice of the suspension of the licence/certificate, if payment is not made, however Walsall Council considers that 7 days' notice is more appropriate.

7 Review of Licences

7.1 Walsall Council may refuse to review licences if it considers

- a) that the representations are not relevant to any of the licensing objectives; or
- b) in the case of a representation made by any other person, that the representation is frivolous, vexatious or a repeat of a representation already made at the time of the licence application or previous application for review.

7.2 Anyone may appoint a representative to make representations on their behalf, including a ward councillor. However, it will be expected that any councillor who is also a member of the licensing committee and who is making such representations on behalf of another person will disqualify him or herself from any involvement in the decision making process affecting the application in question.

7.3 As elected members, and regardless of whether they live or run a business in the vicinity of those premises, Councillors may also apply for the review or submit representations in their own right if they have concerns about any premises.

7.4 Where possible though, Walsall Council will attempt to give licence holders early warning of any problems or concerns raised about the operation of licensed premises, and the need for improvement. It may be possible for an agreement to be reached between the authority, the licence holder, the relevant responsible authorities, or other persons, in respect of relevant representations.

7.5 Walsall Council will attempt to encourage a dialogue, and mediate between the relevant parties if necessary, to achieve a satisfactory solution without the need for a review of the premises licence.

7.6 In the first instance Walsall Council will decide whether any complaint or representation is relevant, vexatious, frivolous, or repetitious. This will be determined on the facts of each individual case and should be supported by evidence. This decision will be taken by officers under delegated powers.

7.7 Walsall Council will not allow more than one application for the review of any premises licence, originating from other persons, within a period of twelve months on similar grounds, save in exceptional and compelling circumstances or where it arises from a closure order.

7.8 Where Walsall Council conducts a review of a premises licence, the hearing will follow the process prescribed in the regulations. The Authority will ensure that all the parties to a review will receive a fair hearing. In particular, the licence holder will be made fully aware of the allegations

made in respect of their licence, and any evidence supporting the allegations or representations, in order that they or their legal representatives have the opportunity of robustly answering allegations and defending their premises licence.

7.9 When determining a review application, the Act provides a wide range of powers when considering what action may be proportionate and necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

7.10 In deciding which of these powers to invoke, wherever possible, Walsall Council will seek to establish the cause or causes of the problem, substantiated by the evidence before them. Remedial action may then be directed at identified causes.

The options available to the Sub-Committee include:

- Taking no action;
- Issuing an informal written warning to the licence holder and/or recommending an improvement within a specified period of time;
- Attaching conditions to the licence either temporarily, for a period of up to three months or permanently;
- The exclusion of a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, either temporarily, for a period of up to three months or permanently;
- The removal of the designated premises supervisor if applicable;
- The revocation of licence

7.11 Where representations are received and subsequently withdrawn, or agreement is reached prior to hearing (by all parties concerned), Walsall Council may determine the application, and only impose such conditions that

- will promote the licensing objectives;
- are consistent with the operating schedule; and/or
- are required by statute.

7.12 Walsall Council will give comprehensive written reasons for any decision taken.

7.13 The written reasons will be provided to all relevant parties attending a review hearing, in accordance with the timescales provided by statute or regulation, or within a reasonable time taking into account the parties' right to lodge an appeal with the Magistrates Court under Schedule 5 of the 2003 Act.

Summary (Expedited) Licence Reviews

- 7.14 The Summary Review procedure was effected by Section 53A-C of the Licensing Act 2003, inserted by section 21 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. This allows an expedient process for attaching interim conditions to a licence and a fast track licence review when the police consider that the premises concerned is associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both).
- 7.15 The Licensing Sub Committee shall determine, by email, telephone (or in such other manner as may be deemed appropriate by the Regulatory Services Manager or by the Solicitor to the Council), whether it is necessary to take interim steps pending the determination of the premises licence the subject of an application and a certificate issued by a Senior Police Officer stating that in his/her opinion named premises are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both) (the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 concerning the giving of notice of meetings will not apply).
- 7.16 Following a determination of interim steps, the licence will be subject to review, which will be heard in the usual manner.

8 Responsible Authorities and Other Persons

- 8.1 Any responsible authority and/or other person(s) who live or are involved in a business and are likely to be affected by the premises, may make representations about an application, variation, minor variation or review of a premises licence or club premises certificate or grant of a provisional statement.
- 8.2 The main responsible authorities relevant to Walsall Council are set out below and a full list of all responsible authorities is published on the Council's website.
- 8.3 The Authority will determine when it is appropriate to act in its capacity as a responsible authority, in accordance with its duties under section 4 of the Act, namely with a view to promoting the licensing objectives and with regard to its licensing policy and the statutory guidance
- 8.4 The Authority will not normally make representations or request a review of a licence when it is more appropriate for other responsible authorities to intervene, or when the basis for intervention falls within their remit. Licensing Authorities are not normally expected to act as a responsible authority on behalf of other parties such as local residents, local councillors or community groups.

8.5 **West Midlands Police**

Applicants are advised to include in their operating schedules any steps being taken to:-

- prevent disorder on the premises;
- prevent drunkenness in premises selling alcohol;
- prevent under age sales of alcohol;
- ensure customers enter and leave in an orderly manner;
- exclude illegal drugs; and
- exclude offensive weapons.

8.6 The police may consider the past history of a premises or an individual and may account decisions of the Magistrates' Courts when considering applications. Prior to submitting a representations, they may suggest that conditions be voluntarily added to a licence. However, with consideration to the specific location and style of a particular venue and the activities carried on there, the police may require applicants, or existing licence holders, to formalise extra measures in their operating schedule, in cases where it may be appropriate and proportionate to do so to promote public safety or prevent crime and disorder.

8.7 Any incidents of crime or disorder, which occur at, or can be linked to, a particular premises may lead to an application for review of the licence. Equally, any incidents which give cause for concern that the premises are not being properly managed, failure to comply with the operating schedule or conditions of licence, or where there are repeated complaints from the public, may also lead to a licence or club premises certificate being reviewed.

8.6 The police are expected to be Walsall Council main source of advice on matters relating to the promotion of the crime and disorder licensing objective.

8.7 Any current arrangements for the exchange of information between the police and other enforcement agencies will continue.

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

8.8 From the 1st October 2006, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ('The Fire Safety Order') replaced previous fire safety legislation.

8.9 As such, any fire certificate issued under the Fire Precautions Act 1971 will have ceased to have effect. The Authority notes that under Article 43 of the Fire Safety Order any conditions imposed by the Authority that relate to any requirements or prohibitions that are, or could be, imposed by the Order automatically cease to have effect, without the need to vary the

licence or certificate. This means that the Authority will not seek to impose fire safety conditions where the Order applies.

- 8.10 The Fire Safety Order covers 'general fire precautions' and other fire safety duties, which have the effect of protecting 'relevant persons' in case of fire in, and around, 'most premises'. The Fire Safety Order requires fire precautions to be in place 'where necessary' and to the extent that it is reasonable and practicable in the circumstances of the case.
- 8.11 Responsibility for complying with the Fire Safety Order rests with the 'responsible person', which may be the employer, or any other person or people who may have control of the premises. Each responsible person must carry out a fire risk assessment, which must focus on the safety in case of fire for all relevant persons. The fire risk assessment must identify risks that can be removed or reduced and establish the nature and extent of the general fire precautions that need to be taken including, where necessary, capacity limits.
- 8.12 The Local Fire and Rescue Authority will enforce the Fire Safety Order in most premises and have the power to inspect the premises to check the responsible person is complying with the responsibilities imposed upon them. They will look for evidence that the responsible person has carried out a suitable fire risk assessment and acted upon the significant findings of that assessment.
- 8.13 In accordance with the guidance, 'safe capacities' should only be imposed where appropriate for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder on the relevant premises. If a capacity has been imposed through other legislation, it would be inappropriate to reproduce it in a premises licence.
- 8.14 However, if no safe capacity has been imposed through other legislation, the Fire Authority may consider it appropriate for a new capacity to be attached to the premises licence, which would apply at any material time when the licensable activities are taking place and could make representations to that effect.

Director of Public Health

- 8.15 Health Bodies have been responsible authorities under the Act since April 2012 and health functions are now exercised by local authorities via the Director of Public Health. Although 'health' is not currently a licensing objective under the Act, health bodies hold certain information which other responsible authorities do not, but which may assist the authority in carrying out its licensing functions, especially in relation to the public safety or crime and disorder objectives.
- 8.16 The Director of Public Health may also have access to relevant evidence to inform such representations. These representations may include, amongst other things, the use of health data about the harms that alcohol can cause to underage drinkers.

- 8.17 Where a responsible authority, or other person, presents evidence to Walsall Council that links a specific premises with harms to children (such as ambulance data or emergency department attendances by persons under 18 years old with alcohol-related illnesses or injuries) this evidence will be considered and appropriate action will be taken to ensure this licensing objective is effectively enforced.
- 8.18 In relation to applications for the grant of a premises licence in areas where evidence is presented on high levels of alcohol-related harms in persons aged under 18 Walsall Council will consider what conditions may be appropriate to ensure that this objective is promoted effectively.
- 8.19 Evidence relating to alcohol-related emergency department attendance of under 18s, hospital admissions, and underage sales of alcohol, could potentially have implications for both the protection of children from harm and the crime and disorder objectives. Health bodies can provide important supporting data/evidence, to lead or support representations, in relation to this objective.
- 8.20 In relation to proxy purchases, data collected by health bodies could be used to inform other responsible authorities, including the police and licensing authorities, about a prevalence of proxy purchasing in a particular area. For example, the police could use this data to tackle instances of 'shoulder tapping' (where under 18s approach adults to buy alcohol on their behalf) to suggest or support measures which retailers could impose to protect themselves against selling alcohol to adults who may be buying on behalf of persons aged under 18.
- 8.21 Although less obvious, health bodies may also have a role to play in the prevention of public nuisance where its effect is prejudicial to health and where they hold relevant data.
- 8.22 There will need to be consideration as to how to collect anonymised information about incidents that relate to specific premises or premises in a particular area (for example, a cumulative impact area). The College of Emergency Medicine has issued guidelines for information sharing to reduce community violence which recommends that data about assault victims should be collected upon admission to emergency departments, including the date, time and specific location of the assault – i.e. the name of the pub, club or street where the incident occurred.
- 8.23 Sometimes, it may be possible to link ambulance callouts or attendances at emergency departments to irresponsible practices at specific premises, such as serving alcohol to people who are intoxicated or targeting promotions involving unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol at particular groups.

Trading Standards

- 8.24 The sale of age-restricted products, in this case alcohol, remains a priority for Trading Standards. The service recognises the priorities of Walsall Council and partners, such as Police, Licensing, Public Health and the Community Alcohol Partnership, and will assist them in achieving their aims and objectives.
- 8.25 Trading Standards will help ensure that;
1. owners of licensed premises, premises licence holders and designated premises supervisors are aware of their obligations in law and those associated with the licensing policy;
 2. non-compliant licensed premises are helped to achieve compliance; and
 3. there is restricted access to cheap alcohol by removing from sale counterfeit, illicit and non-duty paid alcohol.
- 8.26 In 2014, the 'Better Regulation Delivery Office' published their Code of Practice for the enforcement of legislation relating to age restricted products, including test purchasing. Whilst not legally binding the document is persuasive and places some new requirements on Trading Standards.
- 8.27 It sets out a way of working that is rooted in the statutory principles of good regulation: that regulation should be proportionate, consistent, accountable, transparent and targeted. It applies the requirements of the statutory Regulators' Compliance Code, which promotes 'a positive and proactive approach towards ensuring compliance by: helping and encouraging regulated entities to understand and meet regulatory requirements more easily; and, responding proportionately to regulatory breaches'.
- 8.28 Trading Standards will in appropriate circumstances provide advice to licensed premises regarding the steps to be taken in order to avoid selling alcohol to children.
- 8.29 Trading Standards will ensure that any conditions requested as part of a licence review are appropriate and necessary.
- 8.30 Trading Standards are aware that the sale of counterfeit and non-duty paid alcohol and tobacco products is having a serious impact on the local economy. Legitimate retailers are struggling to compete with the small minority of dishonest traders who operate within the shadow economy.
- 8.31 These dishonest traders are making large profits by selling cheap counterfeit products, or evading duty on genuine products and selling

these at the full retail price, or even discounted rates, to unsuspecting consumers.

- 8.32 Consumption of illicitly produced alcohol could have additional negative health consequences due to a higher ethanol content and potential contamination with toxic substances, such as methanol.
- 8.33 Licence holders found to be selling illicit alcohol or tobacco will be liable to prosecution and, whether convicted or not, risk having their premises licence reviewed by the Licensing and Safety Committee or one of its sub committees.

Health and Safety

- 8.34 The main objective is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of employers, employees and members of the public working at, or attending licensed premises. Applicants applying for a premises licence or club premises certificate should therefore be able to demonstrate a safe environment.
- 8.35 Although existing health and safety legislation will primarily be used, it may be appropriate to apply for the review of a licence in the following circumstances:-
- serious or regular contraventions of health and safety legislation.
 - failure to comply with improvement or prohibition notices.
 - service of a prohibition notice where a significant risk to public safety exists.
 - prosecution for failure to comply with health and safety legislation.
- 8.36 The Council and the Health and Safety Executive are jointly responsible for enforcing health and safety. As a general rule, the Council is responsible for the majority of premises but the Health and Safety Executive are responsible in the case of Council-owned premises, manufacturers or transport depots.

Environmental Health

- 8.37 Operating schedules should contain sufficient information for officers to form a view as to whether noise from licensable activities is likely to cause a problem. Applicants should also provide details of any proposed noise control measures intended to be put in place, particularly for premises in largely residential areas where regulated entertainment is being applied for outside the hours of 8am to 11pm.
- 8.38 When preparing operating schedules applicants should note that stricter measures for controlling noise may be sought, either through operating schedules or by imposing conditions, in the case of premises situated in largely residential areas. This is especially relevant where there is a history of problems associated with a particular premises.

- 8.39 If licence conditions are to be imposed, they must be specific to the premises in question and must relate to the type of licensable activity proposed.

Planning

- 8.40 The Authority recognises that planning permission, building control approval and licensing regimes should be properly separated to avoid duplication and inefficiency.
- 8.41 Licensing applications may not be used to affect a re-run of the planning application process; the licensing committee will not be bound by decisions of the planning committee, and vice versa.
- 8.42 There are circumstances when, as a condition of planning permission; a terminal hour has been set for the use of premises for commercial purposes. Where these hours are different to the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier closing time. Premises operating in breach of their planning permission are liable to prosecution under the planning legislative regime.
- 8.43 The Planning Authority may make representations in respect of an application (as a responsible authority under the Act) for a premises licence or club premises certificate as long as it relates to the licensing objectives. The granting of a licence, certificate or provisional statement will not override any requirement of the planning regime.

Children's Services

- 8.44 The Local Safeguarding Children's Board is the body recognised as being competent to advise on matters relating to the protection of children from harm, they are a responsible authority and are therefore, entitled to make representations.
- 8.45 In certain circumstances, where children will be present at a licensed premises, the Council expects responsible adults to be present to ensure their safety. Where relevant and appropriate, applicants must demonstrate how they will reasonably protect children from harm, not just by preventing underage sales but also how they will ensure that, whilst on the premises, children are not involved in crime and disorder, drugs or drug taking, entertainment of an adult nature or any other activity that may cause them harm.
- 8.46 The Council will expect cinemas to stipulate that children will be restricted from viewing age-restricted films classified according to the recommendations of the British Board of Film Classification. Similarly, theatre productions should be suitable for the audience present with consideration given in advance to the content and nature of the production.

8.47 In recent years, incidents of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and child criminal exploitation (CCE) taking place in or around licensed premises have been of particular concern across the country. Whilst there has been no specific intelligence suggesting incidents have taken place in Walsall, the Council will work via existing partnerships, including the licensed trade, to ensure that any concerns in relation to CSE and CCE can be tackled and addressed appropriately.

8.48 A resource that applicants should consider in the preparation of their applications, risk assessments and operating schedules are the materials produced by the Home Office on CSE and CCE, including its Child Exploitation Disruption Kit. Further advice and training materials for licence applicants can be accessed via Walsall Safeguarding Children Board's 'Virtual College' facility

Licensing Authority as a responsible authority

8.49 The Act enables the council to function as both a 'licensing authority' and to act as 'responsible authority' in its own right. These powers have been delegated to officers within the Council's licensing service. Officers may choose to intervene where they consider it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives without having to wait for representations from other responsible authorities.

8.50 For example, where an application is in a cumulative impact area and officers have concerns about additional harm, they may make a representations to that effect. Also, where an application is received in respect of a premises which has a history of complaints which mean that additional activity may undermine the licensing objectives.

8.51 The Council's licensing service has taken steps to achieve a line of separation between those officers processing applications and those making representations. The officer presenting any application to a Licensing Sub-Committee will also be different from the officer acting as the responsible authority.

9 Licensing Hours

- 9.1 Walsall Council wishes to emphasise that consideration will always be given to the individual merits of any application. However, it is clear that in some circumstances adopting more flexible licensing hours, in relation to the sale of alcohol, may be an important factor in avoiding a concentration of customers leaving premises simultaneously and generally lead to a slower dispersal of people from licensed premises. This can help to reduce the friction at late night fast food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport, which can be hot spots for disorder and disturbance.
- 9.2 Walsall Council recognises that providing consumers with greater choice and flexibility is an important consideration when it comes to developing thriving night-time local economies, which are equally important for local investment and employment. That said, economic considerations must always be balanced carefully against the duty to promote the four licensing objectives and the rights of local residents.
- 9.3 Each application will always be considered on its own individual merits, however, it should be recognised that restricting the hours of operation in some cases can play an important role in preventing public nuisance, especially in residential areas where there is a history of noise complaints relating to a particular premises from those living within the vicinity.
- 9.4 In accordance with 'the guidance', retail premises (e.g. shops, stores and supermarkets) will generally be permitted to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises during the normal hours they are open for shopping purposes.
- 9.5 However, in the case of individual premises known to be a focus of disorder and disturbance, then, subject to relevant representations, some limitation on licensing hours may be appropriate.

10 Temporary Event Notices (TEN)

- 10.1 There are two types of temporary event notice (TEN) which can be given to the Authority, standard and late.

Standard TEN

Anyone wishing to submit a standard TEN to the Licensing Authority must do so at least 10 clear working days prior to the event in question; not including the day the notice is submitted or the first day the event is due to take place.

Late TEN

If it is not possible to give 10 working days' notice, then a late TEN may be submitted providing there are at least 5 working days' notice given, again, not including the day of submission or the first day the event is due to take place.

- 10.2 The significant difference between a Standard and Late TEN is the loss of the notifier's right of appeal. If a relevant authority objects to a Standard TEN by way of submitting a counter notice, the applicant has a right of appeal. If the authority wishes to impose conditions on the notice and all parties agree, then a hearing is not necessary and the Authority will not normally hold a hearing.
- 10.3 Where all parties, including the applicant, fail to agree, the matter may be determined at a hearing of the Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee.
- 10.4 However, if a counter notice is submitted in relation to a late TEN, no right of appeal exists and the licensable activities may not go ahead.
- 10.5 Regulations control the number of TENs that may be held at any premises in a calendar year.

11 Adult Entertainment

- 11.1 An applicant wishing to provide adult entertainment should specify in the operating schedule what sort of adult entertainment they intend to provide and how frequently it will be provided. If sexual entertainment is to be provided, for example lap dancing, striptease etc. then a separate sexual entertainment licence may also be required.

Sexual Entertainment Venues (S.E.V)

- 11.2 Walsall Council has adopted a formal policy in relation to these types of premises under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. Standard conditions are attached to such licences. Where there are similar conditions attached to the 2003 licence for the premises, the more onerous will apply.

- 11.3 Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009, premises that provide sexual entertainment on no more than 11 times per year and no more frequently than once per calendar month are exempt. For further information on SEVs please contact Walsall Council Licensing Unit.

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12 Cumulative Impact Policy

- 12.0 These have undoubtedly helped licensing authorities to limit the number or type of licence applications granted in areas where the number of licensed premises is causing problems. Such problems have typically included crime and disorder or public nuisance caused by large numbers of drinkers being concentrated in one area.
- 12.1 Under the Home Office Guidance, issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, the definition of Cumulative Impact is:
- “Cumulative impact is the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area”
- 12.2 The cumulative impact policy was initially introduced on the 8 September 2008 and reaffirmed on the 7 January 2011.
- 12.3 As part of the 2020 review of the Statement of Licensing Policy Responsible authorities provided evidence that the WS1 post code area for Walsall were saturated with licensed premises (‘on/off licences’ and late night refreshment) and the level of saturation was having a significant cumulative effect, which undermined the licensing objectives.
- 12.4 The review showed the defined area where the cumulative impact was most demonstrable was under the WS1 post code including the town centre (Appendix 2).
- 12.5 Having regard to the statutory guidance issued under the Licensing Act 2003, the Council consulted on the issues, took into account the views of respondents, and considered all the evidence presented to it.
- 12.6 In light of the findings, the Authority, proposed a cumulative impact policy (amended in 2021) in respect of applications relating to the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption ‘on and off’ the premises’ and for the provisions of late night refreshment in a defined area of Walsall.
- 12.7 In this area applicants will be required to demonstrate how the granting of their licence will not have a cumulative impact on the licensing objectives. Where relevant representations are received to the application, the matter will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee to make a decision on the application.
- 12.8 Walsall Council recognises that any special policy regarding cumulative impact is not absolute and where licence applications will not add to cumulative impact and no relevant representations received, the licence/certificate will be granted as applied for.

12.9 The presumption contained in respect of this policy, does not relieve responsible authorities or other persons of the need to make relevant representations. If there are no relevant representations, Walsall Council must grant the application on the terms that are consistent with the application.

12.10 In determining an application, Walsall Council will have particular regard to the licensing objectives, the cumulative effect, and any adverse impact that may arise from the saturation of premises in the defined area.

12.11 The cumulative impact policy will not be used to revoke existing licences or certificates. However, such a policy may be a justification to refuse an application to vary a licence or certificate in circumstances where the variation is directly relevant to the policy and the refusal is strictly necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives, each case must be treated on its own merits.

12.12 Walsall Council recognises the difference between cumulative impact and the commercial need for premises in an area. Need and market forces are not matters for the Authority to consider as part of its licensing function.

12.13 Walsall Council will not operate a quota of any description. Each application must always be considered on its merits.

13 Late Night Levy

13.1 Walsall Council has considered the parameters for the introduction of such a levy but has resolved that it not be implemented at this time. The Council reserves its right to introduce such a levy, but will only do so after ensuring it has gone through the statutory consultation process and a formal decision has been made in respect of all evidence and comments received.

14 Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMRO)

14.1 Walsall Council has considered the parameters of such orders, but has resolved that none be implemented at this time. The Council reserves its right to introduce such orders, but will only do so after ensuring it has gone through the statutory consultation process and a formal decision has been made in respect of all evidence and comments received.

15 Children

- 15.1 Walsall Council recognises the great variety of premises for which licences and certificates may be sought. These will include theatres, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, cafes, food take-away premises, community halls, church halls and schools. However, in the case of premises used exclusively, or primarily, for the supply and consumption of alcohol on the premises, it is an offence to allow anyone under the age of 16, unaccompanied by an adult, to be present on such premises.
- 15.2 Where the consumption of alcohol takes place but is not the exclusive or primary activity at a particular venue, such as a hotel or cinema for example, it is an offence for, those under 16 to be unaccompanied between 12 midnight and 5am.
- 15.3 Other than these two restrictions there is no presumption in favour of giving access to children under 18 generally, or indeed, preventing their access. Each application and the circumstances prevailing at each individual premises must be considered on its own merits and admission will always be at the discretion of those managing the premises.
- 15.4 Walsall Council, in its own right, will not seek to limit the access of children to any premises unless it receives representations to that effect based on the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm to children. Applicants seeking premises licences and club premises certificates should include in their operating schedule any prohibitions or restrictions of their own in circumstances where it is felt that the presence of children would be undesirable or inappropriate.
- 15.5 Examples of areas which may give rise to concern in respect of children include premises –
- where nudity or entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is provided
 - where there is a strong element of gambling taking place
 - with a known association with drug taking or dealing
 - where there have been convictions for serving alcohol to those under 18
 - with a reputation for underage drinking
 - where the premises have been linked to child sexual exploitation.
- 15.6 In the case of premises used for film exhibitions, applicants should include in their operating schedule any specific arrangements for restricting access to children to ensure they meet the required age limit in line with any certification granted by the British Board of Film Classification.
- 15.7 Where a large number of children are likely to be present on any licensed premises, for example at a children's show or pantomime, then applicants

may need to demonstrate that measures are in place to ensure an appropriate number of adults are present in order to satisfy the licensing objectives.

- 15.8 In cases where it is considered necessary, options available for limiting access by children could include –
- a limit on the hours when children may be present
 - a limitation or exclusion on the presence of children when certain activities are taking place
 - the requirement to be accompanied by an adult
 - access being limited to parts of the premises only
 - an age limitation (for under 18s)
- 15.9 For premises where the sale or supply of alcohol takes place as a licensable activity, the Authority recommends that applicants adopt The Portman Group's Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks. The code seeks to ensure that drinks are packaged and promoted in a socially responsible manner and only to those who are 18 years of age or over. The premises should also comply with the Committee of Advertising Practice in relation to advertisements and promotions, particularly those provisions relating to the sale and promotion of alcohol.
- 15.10 The Authority also recognises the Guide to Responsible Alcohol Retailing jointly produced by The Association of Convenience Stores, The British Retail Consortium and The Wine and Spirits Trade Association, which covers key areas of under age sales, proof of age cards, staff training and alcohol promotions.

16 Live Music and Regulated Entertainment

- 16.1 Walsall Council is aware of the need to encourage and promote a broad range of entertainment, particularly live music and dancing as well as a range of traditional theatre performances for the wider cultural benefit of communities generally.
- 16.2 In determining what conditions maybe attached for the appropriate promotion of the licensing objectives, care will be taken to avoid measures which might deter live music dancing and theatre by imposing indirect costs of a disproportionate nature.
- 16.3 As a result of deregulatory changes that have subsequently amended the 2003 Act, there are a number of exemptions that now apply to the provision of all categories of regulated entertainment. Applicants/licence holders should ensure that they are fully aware of the current Section.182 guidance issued by the Home Office.
- 16.4 It is still possible however, for a premises licence or club premises certificate to be reviewed if appropriate grounds to do so exist. In determining a review application, the Authority is allowed, if it is considered appropriate, to lift the suspension of such restrictions or conditions that apply to such venues/times and give renewed effect to an existing condition.
- 16.5 Entertainment licensing requirements were further deregulated as a result of the Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014, which came into force on 6 April 2015.
- 16.6 The 2014 Order deregulated entertainment licensing in the following ways:
- The provision of regulated entertainment, by or on behalf of local authorities, health care providers, or schools on their own defined premises, between 08.00 - 23.00hrs on the same day, with no audience limit.
 - The audience limit for a performance of live amplified music in relevant alcohol licensed premises or in a workplace between 08.00 - 23.00hrs on the same day was raised from 200 to 500.
 - Local authorities, health care providers and schools are now exempt from entertainment licensing when making their own defined premises available to third parties for live and recorded music activities between 08.00 - 23.00hrs on the same day for audiences of up to 500.
 - Community premises, not licensed to supply alcohol, are now exempt from entertainment licensing requirements for live and recorded music between 08.00 - 23.00hrs on the same day for audiences of up to 500.
 - Travelling circuses are now exempt from entertainment licensing in respect of all descriptions of entertainment, except an exhibition of a

film or a boxing or wrestling entertainment, where the entertainment or sport takes place between 08.00 - 23.00hrs on the same day, with no audience limit.

- Greco-Roman and freestyle wrestling are now deregulated between 08.00 - 23.00hrs for audiences of up to 1000 people.
- An exhibition of film that is incidental to another activity (where that other activity is not itself a description of entertainment set out in paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act) is exempt now from licensing.
- The exhibition of films in community premises has also been deregulated under section 76 of the Deregulation Act 2015 and no licence is required for an exhibition of film on community premises between 08.00 - 23.00hrs on any day provided that:
 - the film entertainment is not provided with a view to profit;
 - the film entertainment is in the presence of an audience of no more than 500 people;
 - the admission of children is subject to such restrictions as are necessary to comply with the recommendation issued by the BBFC or relevant Licensing Authority regarding the admission of children; and
 - a person concerned in the organisation or management of the exhibition of the film has obtained the prior written consent of the management committee of the premises, or if there is no management committee, a person who has control of the premises in connection with the carrying on by that person of a trade, business or other undertaking, or failing that a person with a relevant property interest in the premises.

17 Late Night Refreshment

- 17.1 Local Powers to Deregulate 26.1 Section 71 of the Deregulation Act 2015 inserted paragraph 2A into Schedule 2 of the Licensing Act 2003 in relation to the provision of late night refreshment.
- 17.2 This amendment created a discretionary power to licensing authorities to exempt premises in certain circumstances, from the requirement to have a licence to provide late night refreshment.
- 17.3 The powers allow a relevant Licensing Authority to exempt the supply of late night refreshment if it takes place:
- on or from premises wholly situated in a designated area;
 - on or from premises which are of a designated description; or
 - during a designated period (beginning no earlier than 23.00hrs and ending no later than 05.00hrs).
- 17.4 Walsall Council does not currently consider it appropriate to exercise the discretionary powers within paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 to the Licensing Act 2003.
- 17.5 If the Authority reviews this decision and considers exercising the powers in the future, it will only do so having carefully considered the risks to the promotion of the licensing objectives and having carried out a comprehensive consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders.

18 Licence Conditions

- 18.1 The Authority may only impose conditions (other than mandatory conditions) on a premises licence or club premises certificate (and in certain circumstances Temporary Event Notices) where they form part of an applicant's operating schedule or following a decision of the licensing sub-committee at a formal hearing. However this may include the voluntary addition, by the applicant, of conditions following mediation in response to the submission of a relevant representation,
- 18.2 Any conditions attached to licences, certificates and other authorisations must be tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the premises and events concerned and will reflect, as far as possible, local crime prevention strategies.
- 18.3 The Authority will not attempt to impose any 'blanket' conditions which apply to all premises, but the applicant's operating schedule, which forms part of the application should include sufficient information to enable a responsible authority or other person to assess whether the steps being taken to promote the licensing objectives are satisfactory or not.

- 18.4 The Council, therefore, expects all licence holders to set out, in their operating schedule, the measures and management controls they will have in place to: prevent alcohol being sold or served to children (other than in the limited circumstances permitted under the Act), demonstrate all reasonable precautions, and due diligence intended to prevent sales to under age persons whilst trading.
- 18.5 The Council considers that when effectively applied, 'Challenge 25' policies, where the individual attempting to purchase alcohol must prove they are 18 or over if they look as if they could be under 25, are an effective measure in preventing the sale of alcohol to children.
- 18.6 The Council expects licensed premises to embrace the 'Challenge 25' initiative. Premises licensed for the sale or supply of alcohol, particularly off-sales, are expected to display clear and prominent signage informing customers that it is an offence to:
- a) sell, or allow the sale of, alcohol to children;
 - b) allow an adult to buy, or attempt to buy, alcohol on a child's behalf; and/or
 - c) for a child to buy, or attempt to buy, alcohol themselves.
- 18.7 Where the Council is required to review a licence due to the sale of alcohol to children, the presumption will be for the licensee to demonstrate what measures and controls they had in place to prevent the situation arising.
- 18.8 When submitting an operating schedule, applicants are required by the Act to outline the measures and controls they commit to complying with in place in order to meet the licensing objectives. These measures will likely form the basis of conditions attached to the premises licence or club premises certificate if/when it is granted. However, only conditions considered appropriate and necessary, for the promotion of the licensing objectives, will be imposed and any breaches of conditions will, in most cases, be dealt with primarily through the review process.
- 18.9 The responsible authorities identified in this statement may also propose conditions of their own by making representations in relation to an application for the grant or variation of a premises licence. However, these must not be over burdensome or disproportionate and will only be imposed by the Authority in cases where it is considered appropriate and necessary to meet the licensing objectives.
- 18.10 In such cases, any conditions proposed by a responsible authority, and subsequently agreed by an applicant, can be attached to the premises licence without the need for a formal hearing. This is achieved either by the applicant agreeing to amend their operating schedule to include any condition(s) agreed between the parties, or if all parties agree that a hearing is not necessary.

18.11 As far as possible, duplication with other statutory or regulatory regimes will be avoided. However, in circumstances where existing primary legislation already effectively promotes the licensing objectives it is likely that no additional conditions will be necessary. For this purpose each case will be assessed on its own individual merits.

19 Removal of the requirement for a DPS at Community Premises

- 19.1 Instead of being required to appoint an individual as a designated premises supervisor (DPS), by way of a mandatory condition, volunteer committees managing community premises are may decide to take joint responsibility for the sale of alcohol on or from a community premises.
- 19.2 Management Committees wishing to apply for the removal of the mandatory condition requiring a DPS at community premises will need to demonstrate clearly to the Authority how they operate and that there will be appropriate supervision of all alcohol sales at different types of events.
- 19.3 Community premises will include church halls, chapels, community and village halls and similar buildings. If there is any doubt as to whether a building constitutes a community premises, the Authority will deal with such matters on a case by case basis with the main consideration being the primary use of the premises, for example;
- a. is it genuinely made available for community benefit most of the time?
 - b. is it accessible by a broad range of persons and sectors of the local community?
 - c. is it being used for purposes which are beneficial to the community as a whole?
- 19.4 Applicants will be required to set out exactly how the premises is managed, its committee structure and how alcohol sales are to be properly supervised within the committee/management structure.

20 Black Country Regulators Operating Framework

20.1 Walsall Council embraces the Department for Business Innovation and Skills 'Regulators Code', which came into force on the 6 April 2014. Its standards have been integrated into our regulatory culture and processes and the authority supports the principles of better regulation to promote efficient and effective approaches to regulatory inspection and enforcement that improve regulatory outcomes without imposing unnecessary burdens on business.

20.2 Bearing in mind the principle of transparency, Walsall Council joined together with its Black Country neighbours and produced the Black

Country Regulators Operating Framework. This framework is available upon request to: Licensing , Walsall Council, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 1TP. E-mail Licensing@walsall.gov.uk, Website www.walsall.gov.uk

In general, action will be taken against 'problem' premises through the review process. In cases where more formal action, such as prosecution is considered to be appropriate, the key principles of consistency, transparency and proportionality will be maintained.

21 Equal Opportunities

21.1 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 relation, between persons with different protected characteristics, for example age, disability, race and religion.

21.2 The Council recognises the right to freedom of speech (Human Rights Article 10) and will not intervene in this matter, when discharging its licensing functions, unless to do so would be appropriate to promote one or all of the licensing objectives. Holders of premises, club or personal licences/certificates should be aware of the potential for some organisations to have an influence on or advocate illegal activity that would be in direct contradiction of the spirit of the licensing objectives.

21.3 The Council may, based on evidence and on receipt of written representations from responsible authorities or other persons, seek to prohibit certain types of meetings or gatherings at licensed premises or clubs by attaching conditions in order to promote the licensing objectives, in particular the prevention of crime and disorder and the promotion of public safety.

22 Delegations

- 22.1 The Act provides that the functions of the authority must be carried out by the Licensing and Safety Committee. The Licensing and Safety Committee delegates certain individual powers, where it is appropriate to do so, via the Council's scheme of delegation.
- 22.2 The Scheme of Delegation, below, sets out the types of decisions that have been delegated to officers and the circumstances within which they can be used:

Delegation of Powers:

Matter to be Dealt with	Full Committee	Sub Committee	Officers
Review of Licensing Statement of Policy	All Cases		
Application for personal licence		If a police objection	If no objection made
Application for personal licence with unspent convictions		All cases	
Application for premises licence/club premises certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application for provisional statement		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application to vary premises licence/club premises certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application to vary designated premises supervisor		If a police objection	All other cases
Request to be removed as designated premises supervisor			All cases
Application for transfer of premises licence		If a police objection	All other cases
Application for interim authorities		If a police objection	All other cases
Application to review premises		All cases	

licence/club premises certificate			
Decision on whether a complaint is irrelevant frivolous vexatious etc.			All cases
Decision to object when local authority is a consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application		All cases	
Determination of an objection to a temporary event notice		All cases	
Determination of application to vary premises licence at community premises to include alternative licence condition		If a police objection	All other cases
Decision whether to consult other responsible authorities on minor variation application			All cases
Determination of minor variation application			All cases

22.3 A licensing sub-committee of three councillors will sit to hear applications where relevant representations have been received from responsible authorities and/or other persons.

23 Public Register

- 23.1 The Licensing Authority will keep a register in the prescribed form containing:-
- a record of each premises licence, club premises certificate and personal licence issued by it,
 - a record of each temporary event notice received by it,
 - matters mentioned in Schedule 3 of the 2003 Licensing Act
 - such other information that may be prescribed.
- 23.2 The licensing register will be available for inspection during office hours by any person without payment.
- 23.3 If requested to do so the Authority will supply any person with a copy of information contained in any entry, for which a fee will be charged. This may assist people in making representations to the Licensing Authority.

24 Personal Licence – New Applications

- 24.1 A personal licence, issued under Section 117 of the Licensing Act 2003, authorises an individual to make, or authorise, the sale of alcohol in accordance with a premises licence.
- 24.2 Every premises licence that authorises the sale of alcohol must specify the named individual, appointed onto the licence, who acts as the designated premises supervisor (DPS). Only the holder of a Personal Licence can be appointed into the position of DPS.
- 24.3 Applications for personal licences must be made to the Licensing Authority of the area where the applicant is ordinarily resident at the time they make their application.
- 24.4 The applicant must:
- a. be aged 18 or over
 - b. be entitled to work in the United Kingdom
 - c. possess a licensing qualification or is a person of a prescribed description
 - d. have not forfeited a personal licence in the five year period prior to their application being made
 - e. must be free of any conviction for any relevant offence or any foreign offence or required to pay an immigration penalty
- 24.5 Walsall Council will reject an application if the applicant fails to meet one or more of the requirements set out in (a) to (d) above.

- 24.6 Where the applicant meets the requirements in (a) to (e) but does not meet the requirements of (e), Walsall Council will give the Chief Officer of Police for its area a notice to this effect. Having received such a notice, if the Chief Officer of Police is satisfied that the granting of the application would undermine the crime prevention objective, within 14 days he must within give Walsall Council a notice to that effect.
- 24.7 Where the applicant fails to meet the requirements of (e), as a result of a conviction for an immigration offence or because they have been required to pay an immigration penalty, Walsall Council will give a notice to the Secretary of State for the Home Department to that effect. The Home Office may object to an application on grounds that granting the personal licence would be prejudicial to the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises.
- 24.8 Where an objection to the grant of a personal licence is received from either the Chief Officer of Police or the Home Office, the applicant will be entitled to a hearing. If no objections are received, Walsall Council will grant the application.
- 24.9 At a hearing to determine a personal licence application, to which the Chief Officer of Police or Home Office have objected, Walsall Council will have regard to all of the circumstances including the following:
- The need to assess each case on its merits
 - The duty to promote the crime prevention objective
 - The objection notice given by the Police or Home Office
 - The guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
 - The seriousness of the relevant offence
 - The sentence or penalty imposed on the applicant for the relevant offence
 - Any representations made by the applicant
 - Any other evidence as to the previous character of the applicant
- 24.10 If, having considered all of the circumstances, Walsall Council considers that it is appropriate for, either, the promotion of the crime prevention objective or for the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises to reject the application, it must do so. In all other cases the application must be granted.
- 24.11 If an application is refused, the applicant has a right of appeal against the decision. Similarly, if the application is granted, despite a police objection notice or an objection from the Home Office, the Chief Officer of Police or Home Office has a right of appeal against the Authority's determination. Walsall Council will therefore record in full the reasons for any decision.

25 Personal Licences – Suspensions and Revocations

- 25.1 Section 138 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 amended the Licensing Act 2003 and granted Licensing Authorities the power to suspend or revoke personal licences issued by it, with effect from 6 April 2017.
- 25.2 When Walsall Council becomes aware that a person, to whom it has granted a personal licence, has been convicted of a relevant offence, convicted of a foreign offence, or has been required to pay an immigration penalty, it will consider whether to revoke the licence or suspend the licence for a period of up to six months.
- 25.3 This applies to convictions and civil immigration penalties imposed upon the licence holder at any time before or after the licence was granted, as long as the conviction was received after 6 April 2017; or if the requirement to pay the civil penalty arose after 6 April 2017. Only a Magistrates' Court has the power to order the forfeiture or suspension of a personal licence for convictions received prior to 6 April 2017.
- 25.4 The prescribed process for the suspension or revocation of a personal licence by the Authority is set out at Section 132a of the Licensing Act. Only the Licensing and Safety Committee or Sub-Committee have the power to revoke or suspend a personal licence; however, a Licensing Officer may make the actions preceding a final decision.
- 25.5 Walsall Council will not take action if the licence holder has appealed against the conviction or the sentence imposed in relation to the offence, until the appeal is disposed of. Where no appeal is made, the Authority will not take action until the time limit for making an appeal has expired.
- 25.6 If Walsall Council is considering revoking or suspending a personal licence, it will give notice to the licence holder. This notice must inform the licence holder of their right to submit representations about the conviction, any decision of a court in relation to the licence, or any decision by an appellate court if the licence holder has appealed such a decision. The licence holder may also decide to include any other information, for example, about their personal circumstances.
- 25.7 The licence holder must be given 28 days in which to make a representation, beginning on the day the notice was issued. The Authority does not need to hold a hearing to consider the representations. Before deciding whether to revoke or suspend the licence, the Authority will consider any representations made by the licence holder, any decisions made by the court or appellate court in respect of the personal licence of which Authority is aware, and any other information the Authority considers relevant.
- 25.8 Walsall Council may not be aware of whether the court previously considered the possible revocation or suspension of, and there is no obligation on it to find this out before making a decision.

- 25.9 Where the court has considered the personal licence and decided not to take action, this does not prevent the Authority from deciding to take action. Licensing Authorities have different aims to courts and must fulfil their primary statutory duty, the promotion of the licensing objectives. Therefore, it is appropriate for Walsall Council to follow due process and reach its own independent decision in respect of the licence holder's suitability to hold a personal licence.
- 25.10 If Walsall Council has considered the possibility of suspension and/or revocation, together with all relevant information available at the time, and proposes not to revoke the licence it will give notice to the Chief Officer of Police, and invite the Chief Officer to make representations about whether the licence should be suspended or revoked, having regard to the prevention of crime.
- 25.11 The Chief Officer may make representations within the period of 14 days from the day they receive the notice from the Authority.
- 25.12 Any representations made by the Chief Officer of Police will be taken into account by the Authority in deciding whether to suspend or revoke the licence.
- 25.13 Convictions may come to light via police in another area, for example if the personal licence holder no longer lives in the area of the issuing authority, or if the offence took place in another police force area. In this instance it would be good practice for the police providing the information to notify the police force in the Licensing Authority area, because it is the local Chief Officer who must provide representations if the Licensing Authority proposes not to revoke the licence.
- 25.14 Where the licence holder is convicted of immigration offences, or has been required to pay a civil penalty for immigration matters, Walsall Council will notify the Home Office Immigration Enforcement service and allow representations to be made in the same way.
- 25.15 In deciding whether to suspend or revoke a personal licence, Walsall Council will have regard to all of the circumstances including the following:
- The need to assess each case on its merits
 - The duty to promote the licensing objectives
 - The guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
 - The seriousness of the relevant offence
 - The sentence or penalty imposed on the licence holder for the relevant offence
 - Any representations made by the Police or Home Office Immigration Enforcement

- Any representations made by the licence holder
- Any evidence as to the previous character of the holder of the licence.

25.16 Walsall Council will notify the licence holder and the Chief Officer of Police of the decision made (even if the police did not make representations). The licence holder may appeal the Authority's decision to revoke or suspend their personal licence. A decision to revoke or suspend the licence does not take effect until the end of the period allowed for appealing the decision (21 days); or if the decision is appealed against, until the appeal is disposed of.

25.17 If the personal licence holder is a DPS, the will notify the premises licence holder once the decision is made to revoke or suspend the licence, if it becomes necessary to do so in order for the Authority to be able to carry out its functions.

25.18 The Licensing Authority may also notify any person who has declared an interest in the premises under section 178 of the 2003 Act, if it becomes necessary to do so in order for the Licensing Authority to be able to carry out its functions.

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26 Immigration Act 2016 – Entitlement to Work

26.1 Section 36 of Schedule 4 of the Immigration Act 2016 amended the Licensing Act 2003, thereby introducing immigration safeguards in respect of licensing applications made in England and Wales on or after 6 April 2017. The intention of these changes is to prevent illegal working in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol or late night refreshment.

26.2 The licensing objective of 'prevention of crime and disorder' includes the prevention of immigration crime and the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. The Council will work with the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) and Police, in respect of these matters.

26.3 Section 36 of and Schedule 4 of the Immigration Act 2016 (the 2016 Act) amended the 2003 Act to provide that in England and Wales:

- Premises licenced to sell alcohol or provide late night refreshment and personal licences cannot be issued to an individual who does not have permission to be in the UK, or is not entitled to undertake work relating to the carrying on of a licensable activity;
- Licences issued to those with limited permission to be in the UK automatically lapse upon the expiry of their right to remain or work in the UK.
- Immigration offences, including civil penalties, are 'relevant offences' as defined by the 2003 Act;
- The Home Secretary (in practice Home Office (Immigration Enforcement)) was appointed a responsible authorities under the licensing regime, which requires Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) to receive premises licence applications (except regulated entertainment only licences), applications to transfer premises licences, and, in some limited circumstances, personal licence applications. As a responsible authority the Home Secretary (Home Office (Immigration Enforcement)) to make appropriate representations and objections to the grant of licences; and
- Immigration officers have a right of entry to premises they have reason to believe are being used to sell alcohol or provide late night refreshment, to investigate whether immigration offences are being committed in connection with the licensable activity.
- The Licensing Authority must have regard to any guidance issued by the Home Office in relation to the immigration related provisions now contained in the Licensing Act 2003.
- The Licensing Authority will also work in partnership with the Home Office (Immigration Enforcement) and West Midlands Police, with a view to preventing illegal working in premises licensed for the sale of alcohol or late night refreshment.

27 Appendix 1 - Definitions

- 28.1 In this Policy, the following definitions are included to provide an explanation of certain terms included in the Act and therefore in the policy. In some cases they are an abbreviation of what is stated in the Licensing Act 2003 or an interpretation of those terms. For a full definition of the terms used, the reader must refer to the Licensing Act 2003.
- 28.2 **‘Appeals’**
Appeals against decisions of the Licensing Authority are to the magistrates’ court for the area in which the premises are situated. The appeal must be lodged within 21 days of being notified of the licensing authorities’ decision. On appeal a magistrates’ court may, dismiss the appeal; substitute its own decision; remit the case to the Licensing Authority with directions; and make an order for costs.
- 28.3 **‘Authorised Persons’**
“Authorised Persons” are specified people who have statutory duties in relation to the inspection of premises, e.g. licensing officers, police, fire, health & safety, environmental health.
- 28.4 **‘Responsible Authorities’**
“Responsible Authorities” include the police, fire, enforcing authority for health and safety, planning authority, environmental health, bodies responsible for child protection and other specified authorities. Only these groups can make representations about an application for a premises licence.
- 28.5 **‘Closure Order’**
Powers for the police and courts to close premises. The 2003 Act significantly extends the existing powers of the police to serve court orders in a geographical area that is experiencing or likely to experience disorder or to close down instantly individual licensed premises that are disorderly, likely to become disorderly or are causing noise nuisance.
- 28.6 **‘Club Premises Certificate’**
A certificate which licenses a qualifying club for the sale/supply of alcohol. It can be granted to members clubs which comply with specific conditions e.g. membership rules, run by club committees, profits go to members not an owner etc. Club premises certificates replace registration under the Licensing Act 1964. The law for members clubs has changed relatively little under the 2003 Act. There is no time limit on the duration of the certificate but it may be withdrawn, surrendered or suspended.

28.7 **'Conditions'**

A premises licence may be granted subject to different conditions, and these may be in respect of different parts of the premises and different licensable activities.

There is no power to impose conditions on a personal licence. The only conditions which should be imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate are those which are necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Accordingly, if the existing law already places certain statutory responsibilities on an employer or operator of premises, it cannot be necessary to impose the same or similar duties on the premises licence holder. Conditions must be proportional and tailored to size, style, characteristics and activities taking place at the premises concerned.

28.8 **'Designated Premises Supervisor'**

The person in the case of premises selling alcohol, who will normally have been given the day to day responsibility for running the premises by the holder of the premises licence. They must also be a personal licence holder.

28.9 **'Late Night Refreshment'**

The supply of hot food and/or drink to members of the public (whether for consumption on or off the premises) between the hours of 11.00pm and 5.00am.

28.10 **'Licensable Activities'**

- The sale by retail of alcohol.
- The supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club, or to the order of a member of the club.
- The provision of Regulated Entertainment.
- The provision of Late Night Refreshment.

28.11 **'Licensing Authority or Authority'**

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council

28.12 **'Licensing Objectives'**

The objectives, as set out in the Act, are:

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

The Licensing Authority must carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives.

28.13 'Licensed Premises'

Includes club premises and events unless the context otherwise requires.

28.14 'Mandatory Conditions'

Conditions that the Act requires are imposed on a premises licence, club premises certificate or personal licence.

28.15 'Objection Notice'

A procedure whereby the police can object to the grant of a personal licence on the grounds there where having regard to convictions of the applicant for relevant offences, the grant would undermine the crime prevention objective.

28.16 'Operating Schedule'

A document (this is in effect the completed application form) containing a statement of the following matters (and any others that may be prescribed):-

- Steps taken by the licence holder to tackle the four licensing objectives.
- The licensable activities to be conducted on the premises.
- The times during which the licensable activities are to take place and any other times when premises are open to the public.
- Where the licence is required only for a limited period, that period.
- Where the licensable activities include the supply of alcohol, the name and address of the individual to be specified as the designated premises supervisor.

28.17 Other Persons

Person(s) who live or are involved in a business and are likely to be affected by the premises.

28.18 'Personal Licence'

A licence granted to an individual and authorises that person to supply alcohol or authorise the supply of alcohol in accordance with a premises licence. The licence has no expiry. It ceases to have effect when revoked, forfeited, surrendered or suspended. A personal licence holder is not required where the premises concerned do not supply alcohol as one of its licensable activities. A personal licence holder is also not required for the supply of alcohol in a club which holds a club premises certificate. Only the police can object to the grant of a personal licence.

28.19 'Premises Licence'

A licence granted in respect of any premises, which authorises the premises to be used for one or more licensable activities, has effect until revoked, surrendered or on the death, insolvency etc of the holder. Applications are dealt with by the local authority licensing committee in the area where the premises are situated.

28.20 'Provisional Statement'

A procedure by which the Licensing Authority can give a statement approving for licensing purposes proposals for a premises being built or in the course of being constructed. Where a provisional statement is made, subject to limited exceptions, the full licence must normally be granted once the premises are completed.

28.21 'Qualifying Club'

Club Premises Certificates will be issued to Qualifying Clubs. To be eligible for a Club Premises Certificate the club/organisation members must have joined together for a particular social, sporting or political purpose and then have combined to purchase alcohol in bulk as members of the organisation for supply to members and their guests.

Qualifying conditions are specified in Section 61 of the Act and the council must be satisfied that these conditions have been met, including evidence to support that the club is non-profit making and that there is a minimum of 48 hours delay between application and acceptance of new members. The club must be established and conducted in 'good faith' (this involves consideration of details such as club finances).

28.22 'Regulated Entertainment'

- A performance of a film.
- An exhibition of a film.
- An indoor sporting event.
- A boxing or wrestling entertainment (indoor or outdoor).
- A performance of live music.
- Any playing of recorded music.
- A performance of dance.
- Entertainment of a similar description to that falling within the performance of live music, the playing of recorded music and the performance of dance.

28.23 'Relevant Representations'

The 2003 Act does not use the term "objections". Instead interested parties and responsible authorities may be able to make relevant representations about an application for a licence. Representations must

relate to the licensing objectives and where made by an interested party must not be frivolous or vexatious. When considering an application from an interested party or responsible authority the local authority need only consider relevant representations. The making of relevant representations engages the licensing authorities discretion to take “steps” consistent with the licensing objectives when considering the application.

28.24 ‘Review of Licence’

Where a premises licence is in force any interested party or responsible authority may apply to the council for it to be reviewed. The council must hold a hearing to review the licence and as a result must take any necessary steps to promote the licensing objectives, such as modification of conditions; exclusion of licensable activities; removal of the premises supervisor; suspension of the licence for up to three months; or the revocation of the licence.

28.25 ‘Responsible Authority’

- The Chief Officer of Police in the area where the premises are situated.
- The Fire Authority in the area where the premises are situated.
- The Licensing Authority.
- The local authority responsible for minimising or preventing the risk of pollution of the environment or of harm to human health.
- The body representing matters relating to the protection of children from harm.
- The enforcing authority for Health and Safety at Work.
- The local Planning Authority.
- Trading Standards, local weights and measures.
- Director of Public Health.
- In relation to a vessel, a navigation authority, the Environment Agency, or the British Waterways Board

28.26 ‘Statement of Licensing Policy’

Each Licensing Authority must every five years determine and publish a statement of licensing policy. There is a requirement to consult on the policy and keep it under review.

28.27 ‘Temporary Event Notice’

A permitted temporary activity involving one or more licensable activities subject to various conditions and limitations.

28.28 'Transfer'

A procedure where an application can be made to transfer the premises licence into a new name e.g. if a premises licence holder sells his premises an application should be made to transfer the premises licence to the new owner (subject to any outstanding annual fee payments).

28 Comments

28.1 The Statement of Licensing Policy will be reviewed on a regular basis. Individuals and organisations that wish to comment on the policy are invited to send their comments in writing to:

Licensing Unit
Walsall M.B.C
Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall
WS1 1TP

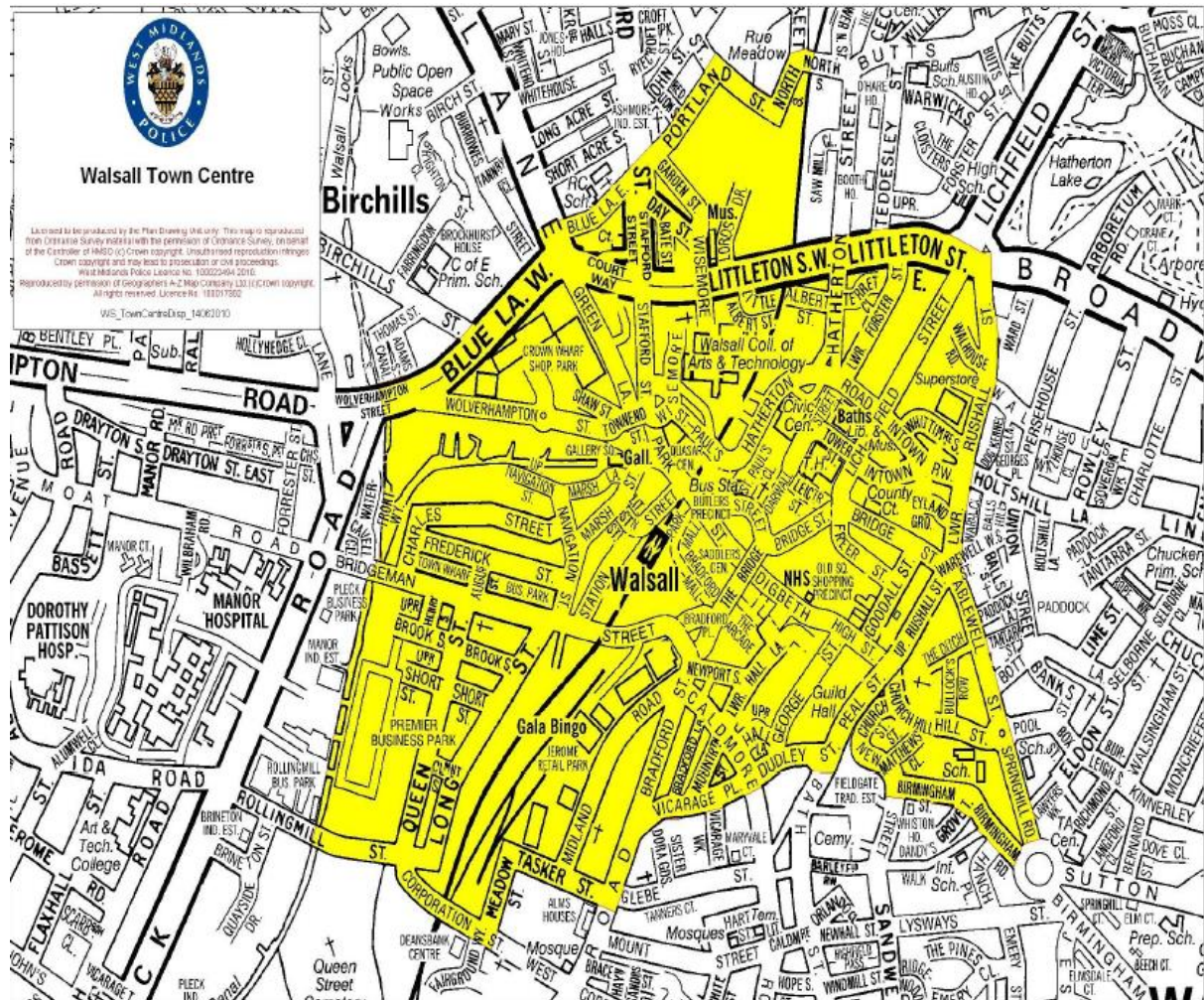
Telephone Number: 01922 653050
Fax Number: 01922 653070
e-mail: licensing@walsall.gov.uk
website : www.walsall.gov.uk

29 Appendix 2 – Cumulative Impact Zone



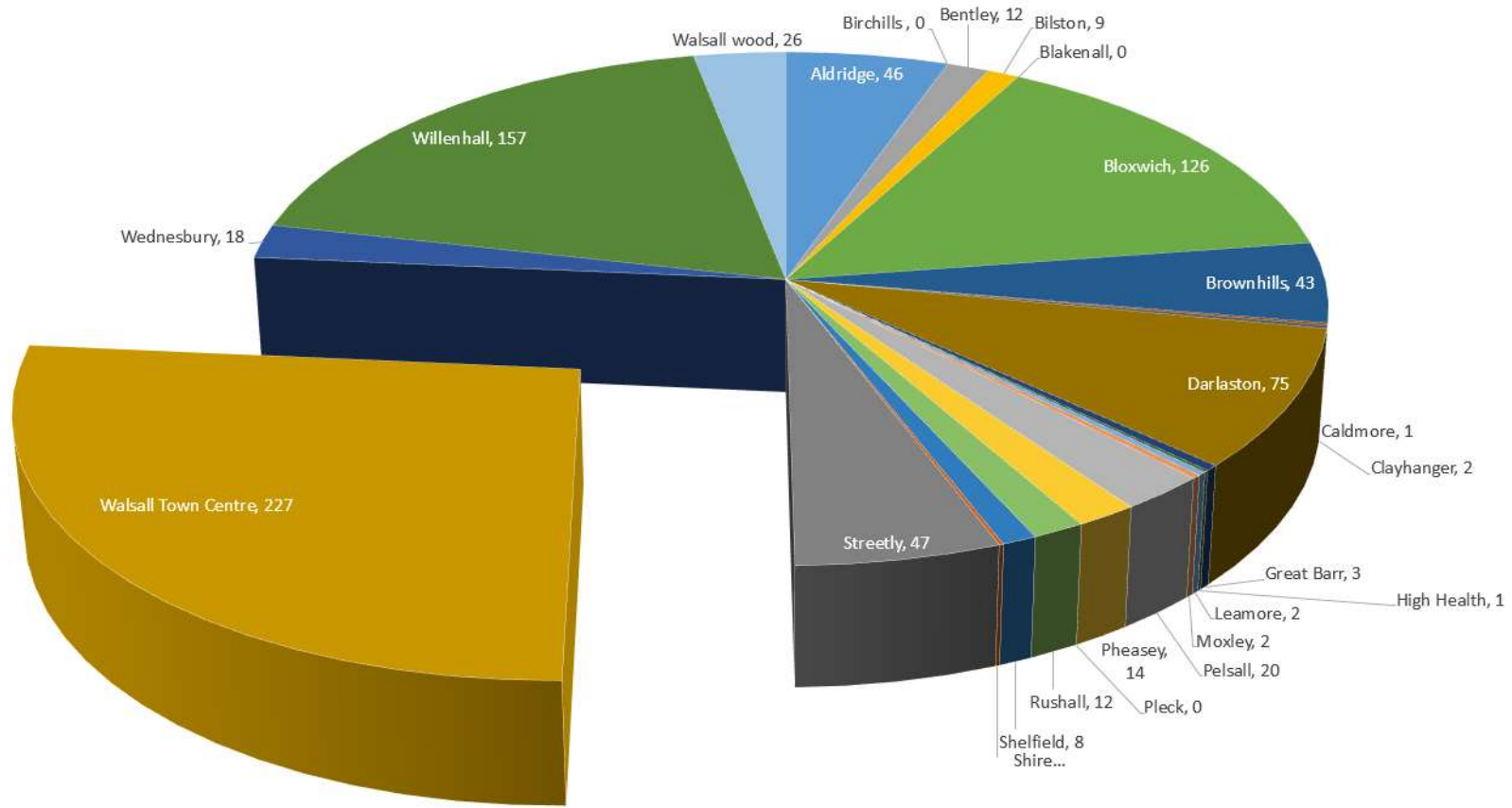
Current Area Covered by Cumulative Impact Policy

CURRENT AREA COVERED BY THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY



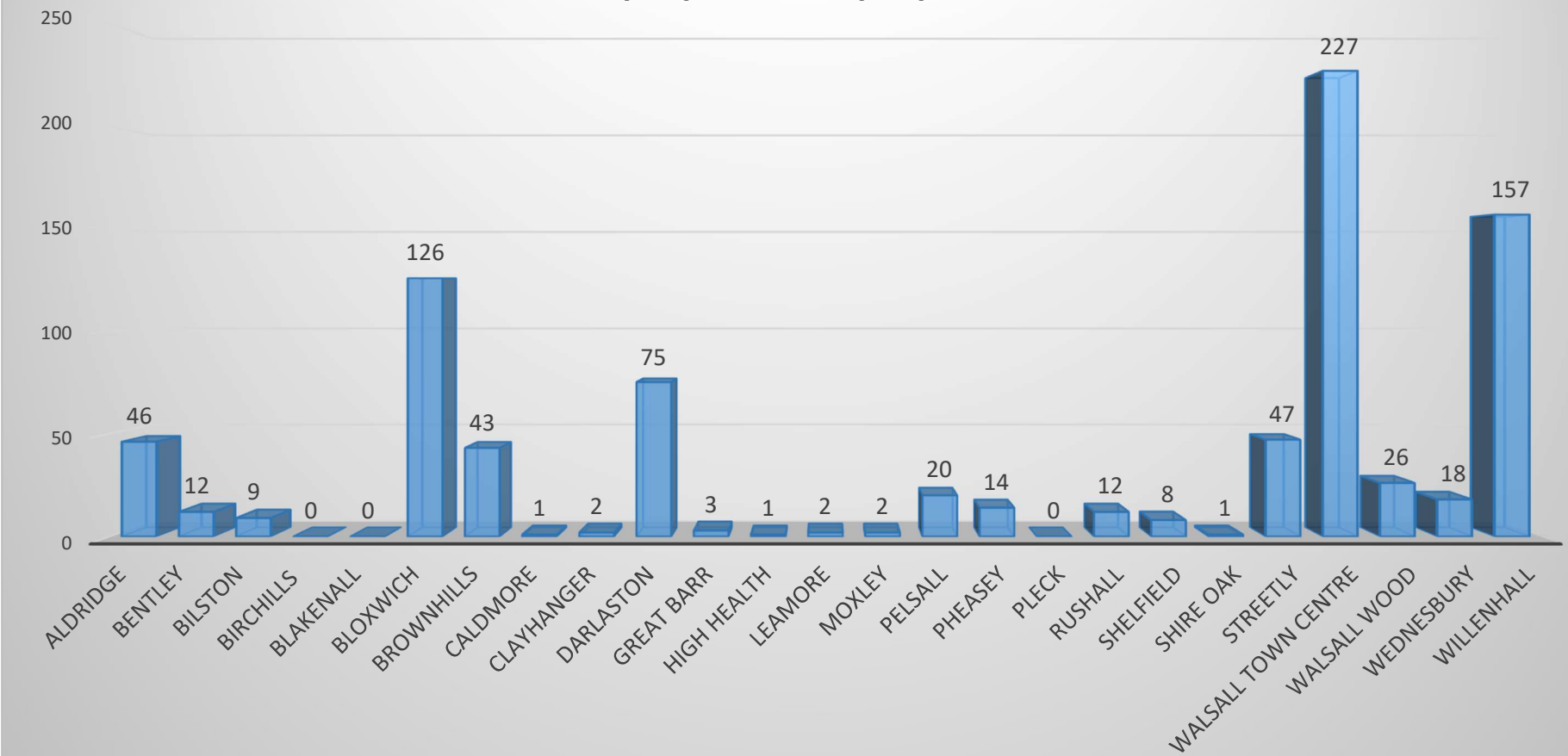
Clean and Green Litter Complaints

Litter data 1-4-2017 – 31/3/2018

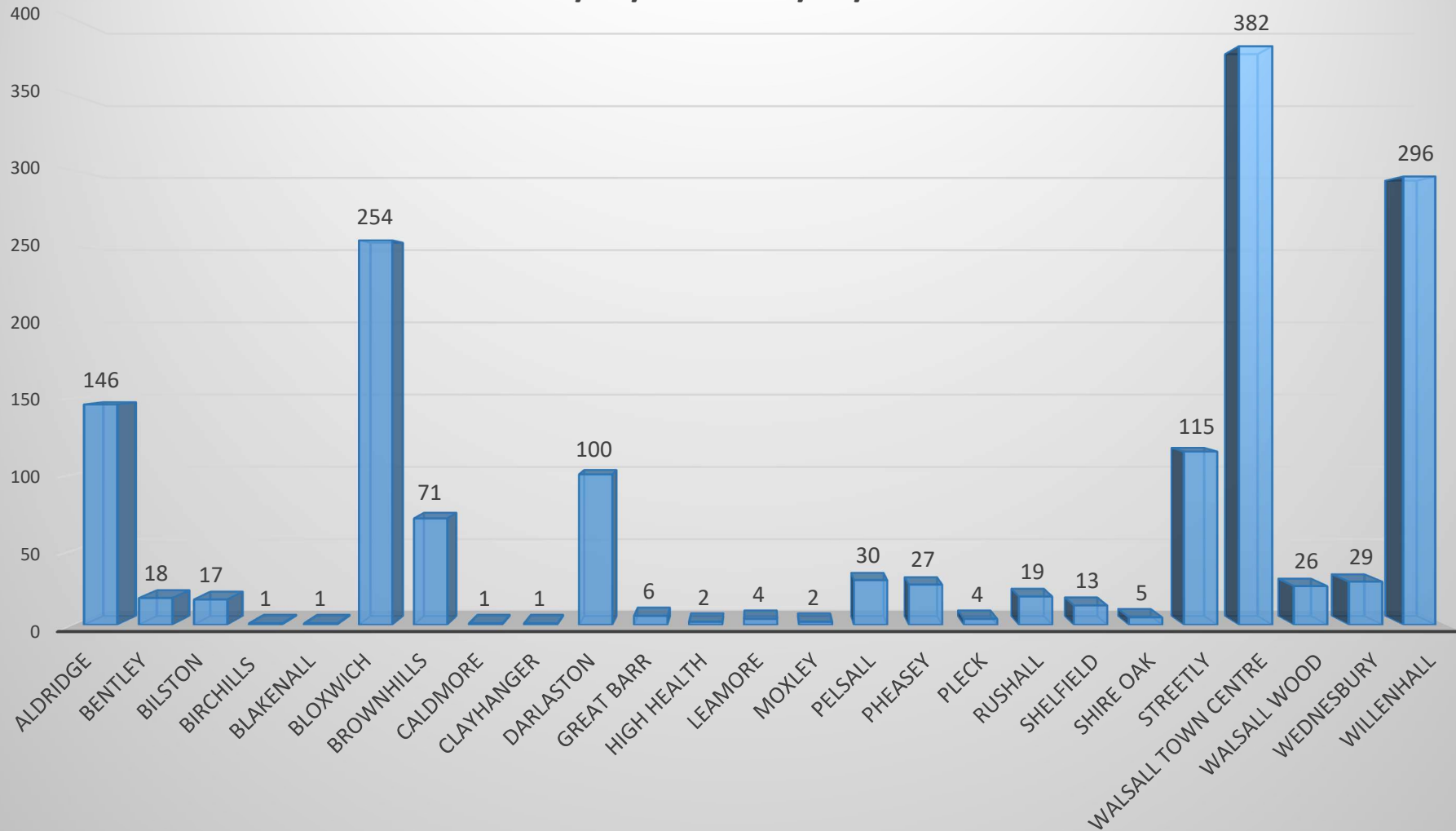


- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| ■ Aldridge | ■ Birchills | ■ Bentley | ■ Bilston | ■ Blakenall | ■ Bloxwich | ■ Brownhills |
| ■ Caldmore | ■ Clayhanger | ■ Darlaston | ■ Great Barr | ■ High Health | ■ Leamore | ■ Moxley |
| ■ Pelsall | ■ Pheasey | ■ Pleck | ■ Rushall | ■ Sheffield | ■ Shire Oak | ■ Streetly |
| ■ Walsall Town Centre | ■ Wednesbury | ■ Willenhall | ■ Walsall wood | | | |

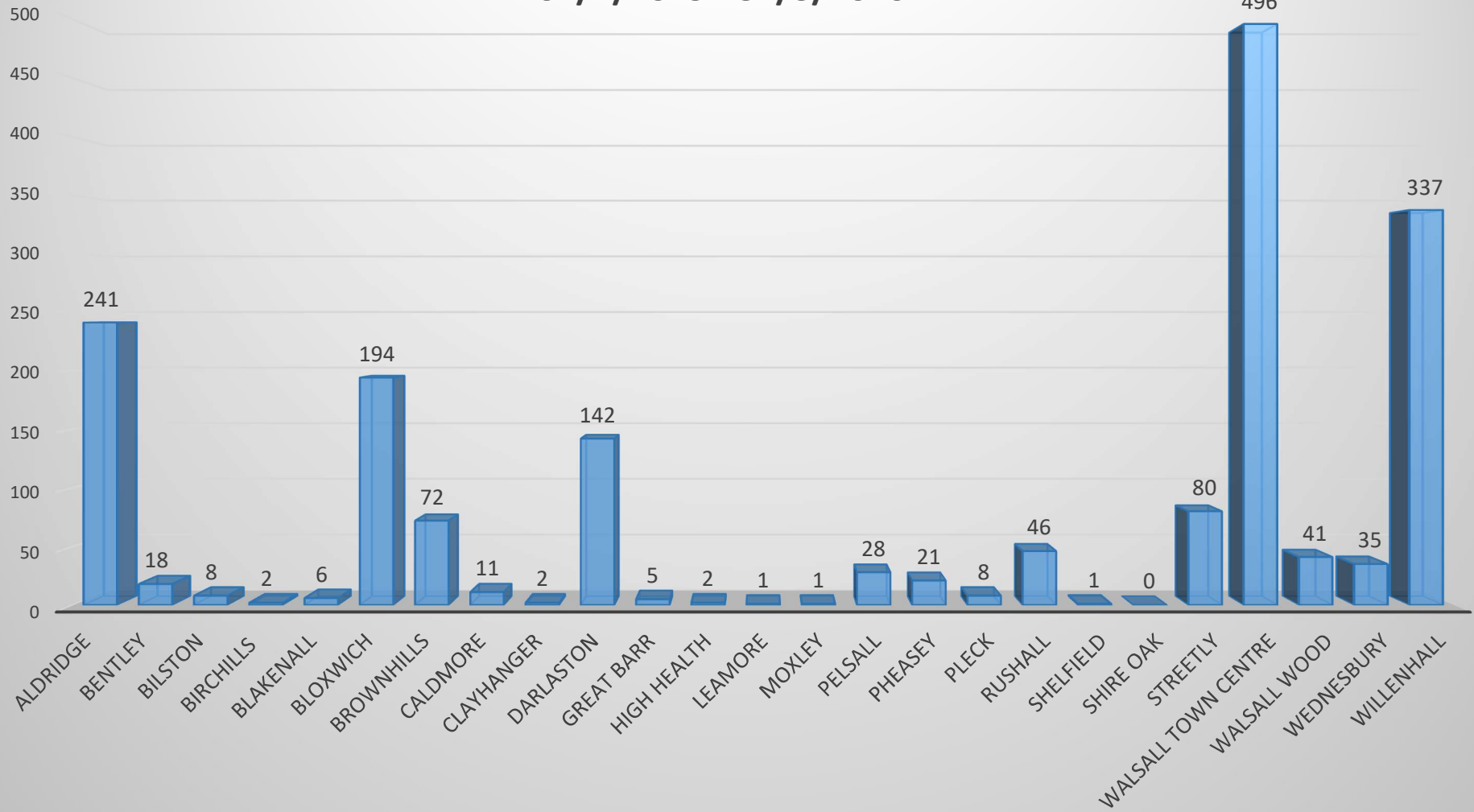
Litter Complaints 01/04/2017 - 31/03/2018



Litter Complaints 01/04/2018 - 31/03/2019



Litter Complaints 01/4/2019 - 31/3/2020



Trading Standards Data

The Big Picture

As already explained, through the mechanism enabling the adoption of Cumulative Impact Zones/Areas (CIZ) the Licensing Act acknowledges that an excessive accumulation of certain activities in an area can have a detrimental impact on a locale.

Although the adoption of a CIZ is a provision of the Licensing Act 2003, the benefits and outcomes that can be achieved through the adoption of a CIZ can be further reaching than just licensable activities.

The Licensing Act is based upon principles of partnership working, which recognises that licensable activities may be a common denominator, but they are only one piece of the picture.

On the face of it, the adoption of a CIZ can be incremental in:

- reassuring residents and businesses that the Council is aware of the underlying issues in a particular area;
- sending out the strongest message that the area is a priority and the problems are not being ignored;
- providing a mechanism for monitoring activity levels;
- enabling the Council to prioritise and focus funds and resources in the area.

How is this relevant to Walsall?

Between 2013 and 2018, Walsall Council received 499 illicit tobacco complaints from traders and residents, and this trend has not abated.

The reporting rate has remained steady, however the number of retailers subject to these complaints has been increasing rapidly with new retail premises opening up, seemingly for the sole purpose of selling illicit tobacco.

A pattern has emerged, whereby the offending retailers are predominantly food and drink convenience stores, with a predominance of Eastern European themed shops being operated by males of Kurdish descent.

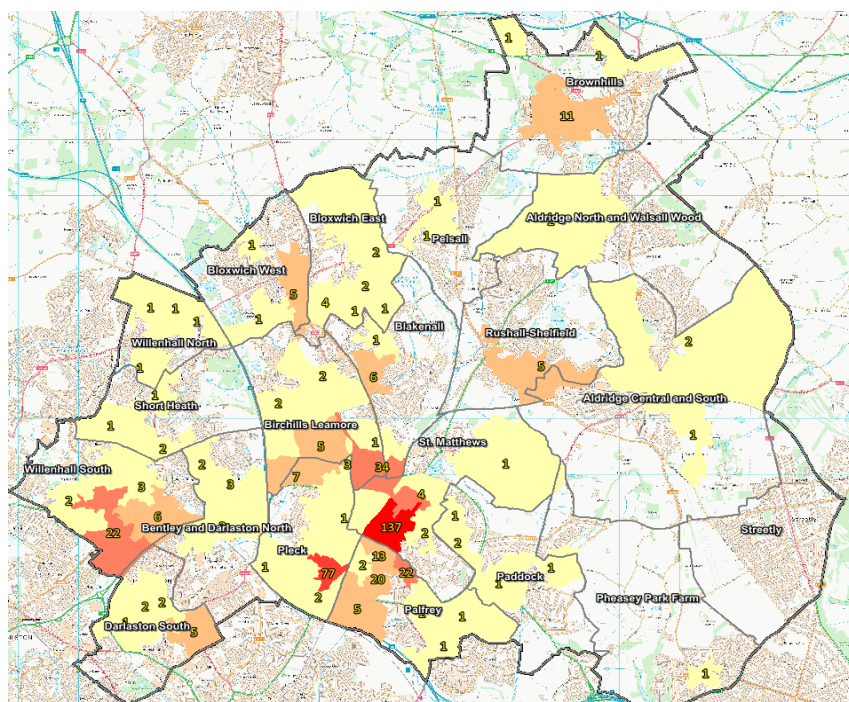
Takeaways, market stalls, car washes and even barber shops and ice cream vans have also been the subject of similar reports alleging their involvement in the sale of illicit tobacco.

So what do these business models have in common?

Their business activities rely heavily on cash transactions, mobility, and integration into remote areas and communities; this lends itself to operating outside the kind of scrutiny present in town centres and other retail areas.

The location of complaints is shown on the map below:

Heat map of illicit tobacco complaints reported to Trading Standards since 2013



The heat map highlights the hotspot areas of Caldmore and Pleck.

These areas also suffer from high levels of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), which are exacerbated by the regular influx of customers visiting the area to buy illicit tobacco – potentially engaging in other criminal activity at the same time.

Nationally, HMRC estimated that in one year alone (2013/2014) tobacco smuggling cost the UK over £2.1 billion in lost revenue and while this is actually a decline from the estimate of £3.4 billion in 2001, in Walsall Trading Standards' figures do not follow this trend and neither does the number of illicit tobacco seizures.

To tackle the illicit epidemic in Walsall, in recent years Trading Standards has adopted a robust enforcement strategy. Operations targeting problem premises have been carried out in conjunction with the police, HMRC, Immigration and a specialist dog search team. Traders have been found to use increasingly sophisticated means of concealing illegal tobacco, thereby making it difficult to detect without a specialist 'sniffer' dog team. Concealments include illicit goods being hidden inside fridge workings, beneath floorboards and inside stairs.

In Walsall, partnership working, shared intelligence, and successful joint enforcement activity has revealed a clear relationship between licensed premises of a certain profile and geographical location, and other criminal activity.

Since 2013, a series of full-scale multi-agency enforcement operations have been conducted in Walsall and, while individual premises details cannot be disclosed here, in no less than 100% of cases a licensed premises was found to have been used as a shield for conducting illegal activity.

In addition to environmental and food-related offences (e.g. fly-tipping, pest-control, food and health & hygiene etc.) the enforcement operations resulted in the following:

- The seizure of:
 - 645,059 illicit cigarettes; and
 - 52.5kg / 4,388 packets of illicit/illegal hand-rolling tobacco;
Amounting to a lost retail value, for legitimate business in Walsall, of almost half a million pounds on tobacco products alone; and
 - 2,632.5 litres of illegal alcohol;
- The identification of specific modus operandi of offenders;
- The Identification of location/area of illegal activity;
- A clear pattern of criminal activity relating to licensed premises;

Date	Seizures		Alcohol (Litres)	Licensed Premises
	Cigarettes	Tobacco (kg)		
October 2013	✓	✓	X	✓
November 2013	✓	✓	X	✓
May 2014	✓	✓	X	✓
May 2014	✓	✓	X	✓
September 2015	✓	X	✓	✓
June 2016	✓	✓	X	✓
September 2017	✓	✓	X	✓
March 2018	✓	✓	X	✓
January 2020	✓	✓	X	✓

It cannot be overstated - that for a series of enforcement operations to provide a 100% success record, the seizures and activity summarised above represents the tip of the iceberg and there is much more work to be done in tackling the problem.

The evidence clearly shows that the scale and depth of the criminal network operating in the Caldmore area of Walsall relies upon licensed premises for its success and along with the opportunity to review the CIZ comes an opportunity to consider how we may use the provision to its greatest effect.

Therefore, recognising the Government's recent amendment to the CIZ legislation, Walsall Council Regulatory Services propose embracing the changes and using them for the long-term improvement of the greatest areas of concern.

By extending the current Walsall CIZ area to include the problem areas identified during the last 3 years enforcement activity, the Council could subject all new premises licence applications within the area to greater scrutiny and establish a rigorous inspection programme of existing ones, where intelligence supported such a course of action.

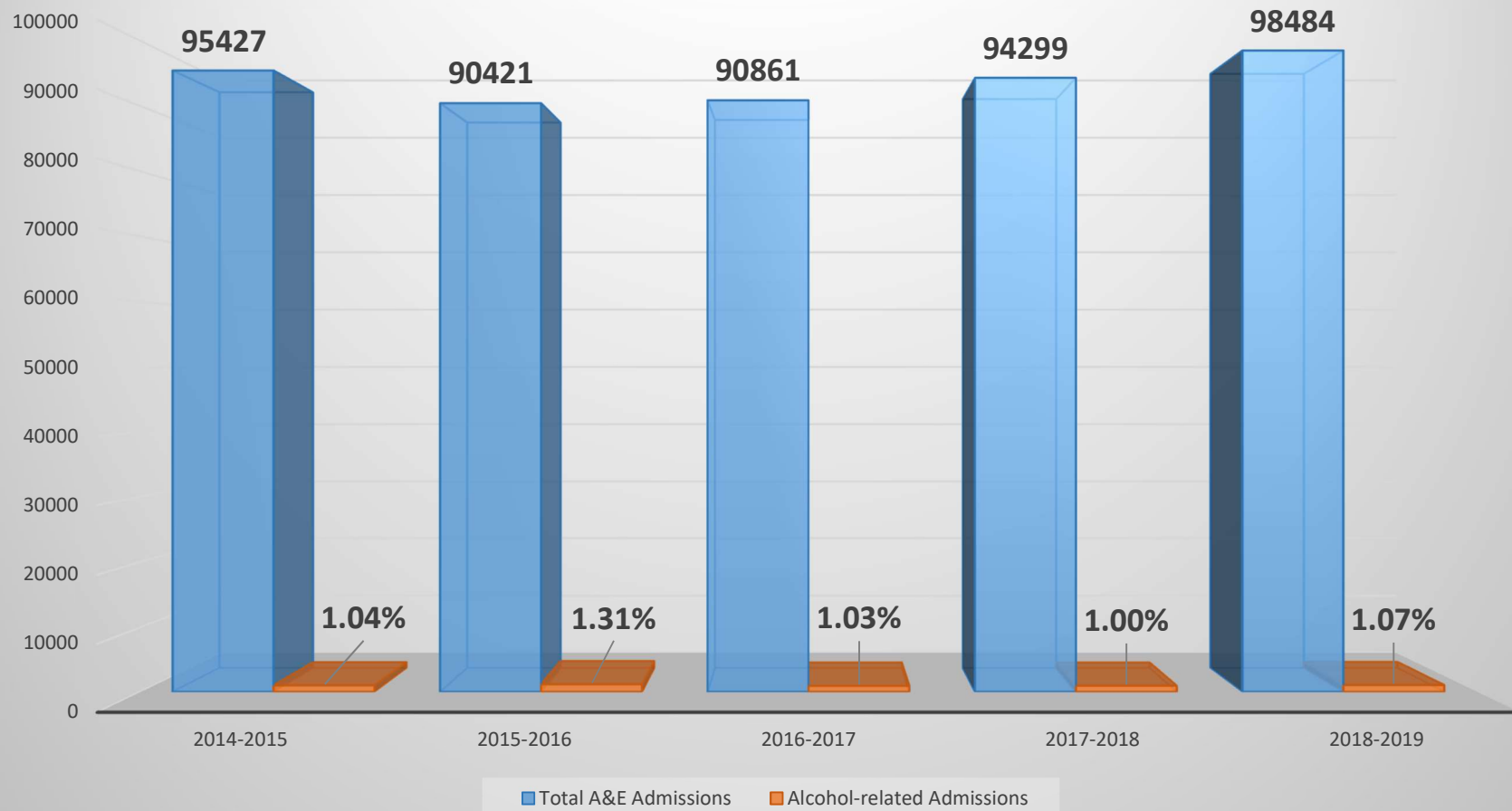
This could aid the early identification of problem applicants and, potentially, premises fitting the problem profile and reduce the likelihood of further problem premises becoming licensed.

There are rarely quick fixes for complex social problems such as exist in this area, but the Council is duty-bound to use every tool at its disposal to tackle the issues and turn around the fortunes of such places.

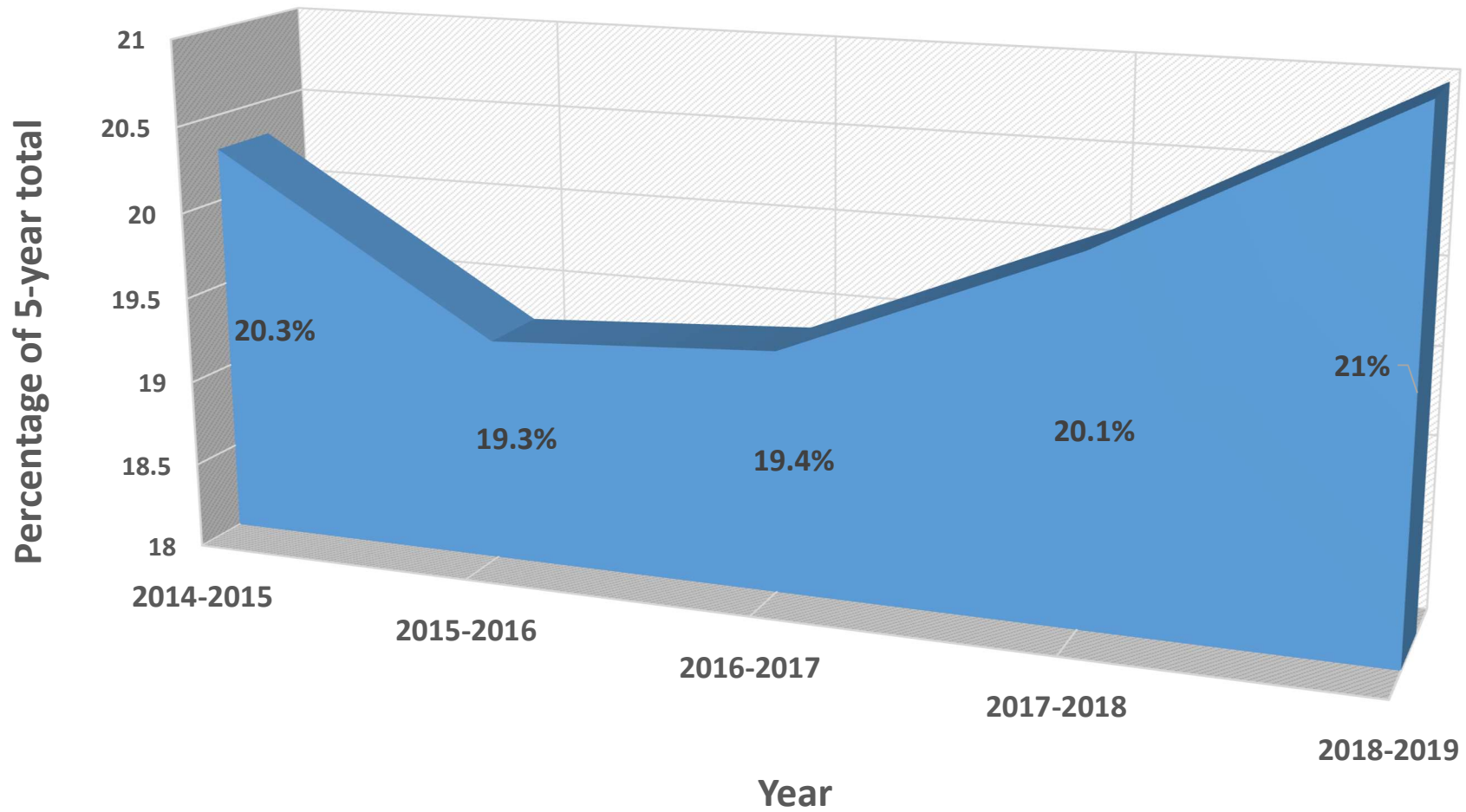
In this respect, the CIZ is a mechanism for sending out a clear message that the Council is serious about tackling crime in the area, that the various enforcement agencies are applying partnership collaborative approaches to pool resources and share information, and are actively using all available intelligence to maximum effect.

Public Health Data

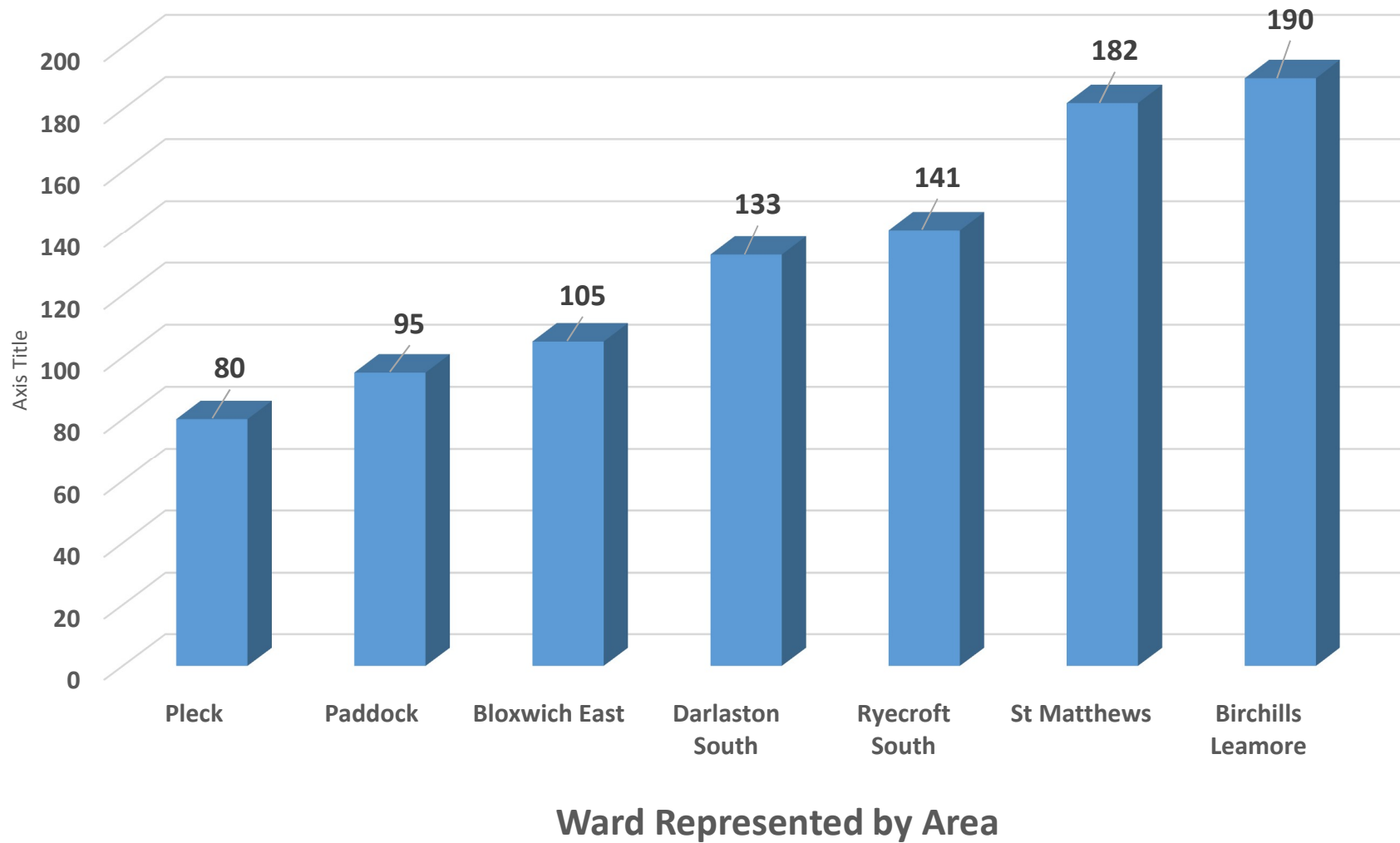
Alcohol Related A&E Admissions 2014/15 - 2018/19



% of Alcohol Related A&E Admissions 2014/15 - 2018/19



Highest Recorded Alcohol related admissions (in excess of Q1)



Appendix 3: Emergency Incidents






Emergency incidents - Assaults Walsall CCG for 2019 Calendar Year

Assaults, based on Chief Complaint of: "Assault Domestic", or "Assaulted" or "Assaults". Please note that figures may not be truly representative as:

- Caller may not want to say that alcohol is involved, or that an assault has taken place.
- Prevailing Chief Complaint relates to symptoms rather than cause.
- Chief Complaint is as recorded at the time of call.

On the map, higher number of incidents are represented by a darker shaded postcode sector.

Emergency incidents by Postcode Sector Walsall CCG 2019 (calendar year)

	Outliers (>Q4)	(3)
	Quintile 4	(5)
	Quintile 3	(7)
	Quintile 2	(10)
	Quintile 1	(16)

Walsall borough boundary is represented by the purple line

Total incidents: 488

