



# HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

## STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

2026

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## APPENDIX ONE

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This policy statement is based on the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and has taken full account of the guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 by the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).
- 1.2 This policy will apply for a period of five years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. It will be kept under review and revised/amended if considered appropriate to support the licensing objectives. Any policy changes or revisions will be subject to consultation.

### **The Borough of Hartlepool**

- 1.3 Hartlepool Borough Council, acting as the licensing authority for the Licensing Act, recognises the benefits to Hartlepool of a thriving service economy and wishes to promote, wherever possible, a town that meets and exceeds the requirements of its residents and visitors. However, the licensing authority recognises that certain types of licensed premises, particularly those offering alcohol and/or music, may have a detrimental impact on those who live nearby through the escape of noise or the actions of patrons both on and off the premises.
- 1.4 The licensing authority intends to seek a balance between the needs of residents and local businesses by using this Licensing Policy, and other strategies, to promote and encourage well-managed, neighbour friendly licensed premises that represent a positive addition to life in Hartlepool.

### **Legal Background to this Policy Statement**

- 1.5 Hartlepool Borough Council, acting as the licensing authority, is able to grant or reject applications for the sale of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment or late night refreshment. Conditions designed to ensure safety, protect children from harm, prevent crime, disorder and public nuisance will be attached to licences where appropriate. However, the ability of licensing authorities to grant licences and attach conditions is limited by provisions in the Act, Regulations made under the Act and by guidance from the Secretary of State. The licensing authority must have regard to the guidance and will deviate only where there are justifiable reasons for doing so.
- 1.6 In formulating this policy document the licensing authority has had regard to the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, recognising that everyone has the right to respect for his/her home and private life and that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his/her possessions.

- 1.7 The Human Rights Act 1998 makes it unlawful for a public authority to act in a way which will be incompatible with a convention right. The licensing authority will endeavour to ensure that any licensing decision does not cause a breach of a convention right.
- 1.8 The licensing authority in taking into account the provisions of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 will also have regard to the likely effect of the exercise of their functions on crime and disorder in their area.

## **2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE LICENSING POLICY**

### **Purpose**

- 2.1 The licensing policy has four main purposes:
- To reinforce to elected Members on the Licensing Committee, the boundaries and powers of the local authority, and to provide them with parameters under which to make their decisions.
  - To inform the licence applicants of the parameters under which the authority will make licence decisions, and therefore how a licensed premises is likely to be able to operate within the area. (Note however that each case will be examined on an individual basis.)
  - To inform residents and businesses of the parameters under which the authority will make licence decisions, and therefore how their needs and concerns will be addressed.
  - To support decisions made by the licensing authority when these decisions are challenged in a court of law.

### **Scope**

- 2.2 The Act is concerned about the supply and sale of alcohol, the provision of certain entertainment and late night refreshment.
- 2.3 Activities that require a licence under the Licensing Act 2003 and covered by this policy include:
- Retail sale of alcohol
  - Supply of hot food or drink from a premises from 23.00 to 05.00 hours
  - Supply of alcohol or provision of regulated entertainment to club members or guests
  - Provision of regulated entertainment listed below to the public or section of the public, or club members or with a view to profit:

- Performances of a play
- Exhibition of a film
- Indoor sporting events
- A boxing or wrestling entertainment
- Live music performances
- Playing of recorded music
- Dance performances

- 2.4 The scope of the policy covers new applications, renewals, transfers, variations and reviews of both premises licences, personal licences and club premises certificates. The policy also applies to temporary events notices (TEN's).

### **3. TYPES OF LICENCES**

#### **Personal Licences**

- 3.1 A personal licence will be granted where an applicant:
- a) is aged 18 or over
  - b) possesses an accredited licensing qualification
  - c) has not forfeited a personal licence in the last 5 years
  - d) has not been convicted of a relevant offence
- 3.2 The licensing authority will, however, reject any application where the applicant fails to meet a), b) or c) above.
- 3.3 Where an applicant has an “unspent” relevant conviction, the police may oppose the application. If such an objection is lodged a licensing hearing will be held. Where no such objection is received from the police, the licensing authority will grant the licence.
- 3.4 At a hearing the licensing authority will consider carefully whether the granting of a licence will be in keeping with the promotion of the crime and disorder objective. Considerations will include the seriousness and relevance of the conviction(s), the period that has elapsed since the offence(s) were committed and any mitigating circumstances. The licensing authority will only grant the application if it is satisfied that doing so will promote this objective.
- 3.5 Reason(s): Prevention of crime and disorder is both an objective of the Licensing Act 2003 and an important responsibility of the Council under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The holder of a personal licence should be a person who is not only properly qualified but a person who will assist the fight against crime. Granting a licence to a known criminal will, in many cases, undermine rather than promote the crime and disorder objective.

## **Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates**

- 3.6 An application for a premises licence or club premises certificate must consist of: -
- an application form, in the prescribed format, detailing the licensable activities and proposed operating hours
  - an operating schedule
  - a plan of the premises to which the application relates
  - the appropriate fee
- 3.7 If the licensable activities include the sale of alcohol, a consent form from the individual agreeing to be the designated premises supervisor (DPS) will also be required (not required for club premises certificates).
- 3.8 The application must be advertised in the prescribed manner.

## **4. LICENSING PRINCIPLES**

### **General**

- 4.1 In carrying out its licensing functions the authority will promote the licensing objectives set out 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
- 4.2 To achieve these objectives the authority will use its full range of powers and consider all relevant responsibilities including its planning controls, transport controls and crime and disorder policies. The authority will enter into appropriate partnership arrangements, working closely with the police, the fire authority, local businesses, community representatives and local people in meeting these objectives.
- 4.3 In determining a licence application the overriding principle adopted by the licensing authority will be that each application will be determined on its individual merits.
- 4.4 The Act covers the licensing of individuals for the retail sale of alcohol (personal licences), the licensing of premises for the retail sale of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment (premises licences), the supply of alcohol and/or the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment from certain clubs (club premises certificates) and the permitting of certain licensable activities on a temporary basis (temporary event notices).

- 4.5 In general a reference in this policy to a licence will include a club premises certificate.

## **Duplication**

- 4.6 So far as is possible, this Policy is not intended to duplicate existing legislation and regulatory regimes that are already placed on employers and operators, e.g. Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. Conditions in respect of public safety will be attached to licences only if they are considered necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 4.7 It is accepted that licensing and planning regimes are separate and distinct and it is therefore possible that duplicate, or similar, conditions may be applied to a premises under both regimes. It is also possible that contrary decisions about the granting or refusal of a licence/planning permission may occur as such decisions must take into account differing legislative matters.

## **Licence Conditions**

- 4.8 Licensing is about regulating the carrying on of licensable activities on licensed premises, by qualifying clubs and at temporary events within the terms of the 2003 Act. Conditions attached to various authorisations will be focused on matters which are within the control of individual licensees and others granted relevant authorisations.
- 4.9 Conditions will be specifically tailored to the premises and activities to be undertaken, with a view to ensuring the licensing objectives are achieved.
- 4.10 Licensing law is not a mechanism for the general control of anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from licensed premises and therefore beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation concerned.
- 4.11 The licensing authority will not impose blanket standard conditions. Where there are outstanding representations regarding a licence application, licence conditions will be tailored to the individual application to help promote the licensing objectives. They will not be imposed where it is considered that other regulatory regimes provide sufficient protection to the public e.g. health and safety at work and fire safety legislation.
- 4.12 In the spirit of openness, transparency and reasonableness, the licensing authority encourages all parties to a licence application to discuss concerns during the statutory consultation period so that any necessary conditions can be agreed without the need for the intervention of the licensing authority.
- 4.13 To assist applicants, the licensing authority has published a range of model conditions that applicants are encouraged to consider as part of their risk assessment process. These model conditions can be found at [www.hartlepool.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/licensing).

## **Alcohol Harm Reduction**

- 4.14 The licensing authority recognises that for most people alcohol represents an enjoyable addition to well-balanced social activities. However, there is increasing concern that, for some people, alcohol misuse is leading to self harm and social nuisance.
- 4.15 In determining licence applications, the licensing authority will have regard to any relevant Government guidance relating to alcohol consumption, alcohol misuse and alcohol harm.

## **Protection of Children**

- 4.16 Whilst the protection of children from harm is a licensing objective, the licensing authority will not normally impose conditions restricting or prohibiting the admission of children to licensed premises. However, conditions designed to protect children will be imposed where necessary if relevant representations have been received.
- 4.17 The licensing authority will not impose any licence conditions requiring the admission of children to licensed premises.
- 4.18 Examples of premises where the introduction of additional controls are likely to be necessary are:
- Where entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature are provided.
  - Where there have been convictions of members of the current staff at the premises for serving alcohol to minors or premises with a reputation for underage drinking.
  - Where there is a known association with drug taking or dealing.
  - Where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises.
  - Where the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided at the premises.
  - Where entertaining or providing facilities for the entertainment of children is a significant part of the premises' operation.
- 4.19 In such circumstances, additional conditions may be expected where considered necessary for the prevention of harm to children. These may include: -
- Limitations on the hours when children may be present
  - Age limitations
  - Limitations on the parts of premises to which children will be given access
  - Requirements for accompanying adults
  - Full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place



- 4.20 Where the exhibition of films is permitted, the licensing authority will impose a condition requiring the exhibition of films to be limited to only those age groups recommended by either the British Board of Film Classification or the licensing authority. For such films, licensees must indicate in their operating schedules how such action will be assured. Only in exceptional cases will variations of this general rule be granted by the licensing authority and then only with appropriate safeguards.
- 4.21 In relation to specialist Film Festivals where it is desired to show films not classified by the BBFC the licensing authority will, provided adequate notice has been given, classify the films concerned. Information regarding such classifications will be available for inspection at the Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool. To achieve consistency and the protection of children the licensing authority will use the guidelines published by the BBFC.
- 4.22 In connection with the protection of children from harm, the licensing authority will provide details of which body is responsible for such matters. Details of licence applications, where relevant, should be forwarded to this nominated body for examination.
- 4.23 Where there is provision of entertainment specifically for children (e.g. a children's disco) the licensing authority will expect the presence of sufficient appropriate adults to control the entertainment and the access and egress of the children to ensure their safety.
- 4.24 Where it is the intention of the licensee to offer responsibility for the supervision of children as part of a licensable activity, the licensing authority will expect licensees to take appropriate measures to ensure the suitability of employees for such purposes – this may involve employees providing a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

### **Designated Premises Supervisors**

- 4.25 The sale and supply of alcohol, because of its impact on the wider community and on crime and anti-social behaviour, carries with it greater responsibility than that associated with the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment.
- 4.26 Because of this the licensing authority expects that the designated premises supervisor (DPS) for a licensed premises will be able to demonstrate that they are in day to day control of the premises, playing an active role in its operation through a regular personal presence.

## **Licensing Hours**

- 4.27 The licensing authority does not accept that longer opening hours for licensed premises have been a benefit to Hartlepool but rather that they place an undue and unnecessary strain on the local transport infrastructure, Accident & Emergency services and law enforcement agencies and can create a nuisance for those residents who are affected by the general operation of a premises or from revellers returning home during the early hours.

Shops, stores and supermarkets will in general be licensed to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any time when the retail outlet is open for shopping but licences for before 9:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. in residential areas will generally be refused. In addition, licence applications for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises for before 9:00 a.m. or after 11:30 p.m. in residential areas will generally be refused.

In non residential areas applications for licences to allow the sale of alcohol or the supply of late night refreshment beyond 2:00 a.m. will normally be refused subject to relevant representations being received.

- 4.28 Whilst zoning will not be adopted, the licensing authority will impose stricter conditions with regard to noise control in areas which have denser residential accommodation.

## **Live Music, Dancing & Theatre**

- 4.29 The licensing authority recognises that traditional cultural activities such as music and dancing should be encouraged as part of a wider cultural strategy. Account should be taken of the need to encourage and promote entertainment such as live music, dancing and theatre for the wider cultural benefits of communities generally.
- 4.30 Only conditions considered necessary, proportionate and reasonable for the promotion of the licensing objectives will be attached to licences for activities of this nature. The authority will avoid measures that may deter live music, dancing and theatre by imposing unjustified indirect substantial costs. The licensing authority will closely monitor the impact of licensing on such activities and, where a negative impact can be identified, will re-visit the Licensing Policy with a view to investigating how the situation might be reversed.

## **Enforcement**

- 4.31 Where necessary, enforcement action will be taken in accordance with the principles of the Regulators Code and the Council's Enforcement Policy.
- 4.32 In particular, regard will be had to the following principles:

- Targeting - i.e. focusing on activities that give rise to the most serious risks or where hazards are least well controlled.
  - Consistency - i.e. similar approaches in similar circumstances to achieve similar ends.
  - Transparency - i.e. helping duty holders to understand what is expected and distinguishing between statutory requirements and guidance.
  - Proportionality - i.e. action taken should be proportional to the risk presented.
- 4.33 The authority will establish protocols with the local police and the fire brigade on enforcement issues to avoid duplication and to provide for the most efficient deployment of council, police and fire officers in respect of inspection of licensed premises and the enforcement of licensing law.
- 4.34 Furthermore the policy of the Council will be a light touch inspection regime for well managed and maintained premises with a targeted and increased inspection and enforcement regime for “high-risk” premises and those suspected of not being operated within the terms and conditions of the licence.

### **Integration of Strategies and Other Policies**

- 4.35 Hartlepool Borough Council fully recognises and endorses the value of good relations between persons of different racial groups. The licensing authority recognises the obligations placed upon it by the Equality Act 2010 and will ensure that this Policy promotes race equality and the elimination of unlawful discrimination.
- 4.36 The Council will integrate its various strategies to achieve consistency and transparency in the achievement of the licensing objectives.
- 4.37 Arrangements for reporting to local authority transport committees will be made to ensure transport strategies take account of the need to quickly disperse people from busy town centre areas to reduce the potential for nuisance and disturbance.
- 4.38 Arrangements will be made for the reporting of Hartlepool’s employment situation and the needs of the local tourist economy to the licensing committee to ensure that these issues are taken into account when licensing matters are being considered.

## **5. CONSIDERATIONS**

### **General Requirements**

- 5.1 The licensing authority will expect individual applicants to address the licensing objectives in their operating schedule, (as required under the Act). The operating schedule will have regard to the nature of the area where the premises are situated, the type of premises concerned, the licensable activities to be provided, the times during which it is proposed that relevant licensable activities are to take place and details of other times during which it is proposed that the premises are to be open to the public.
- 5.2 In many cases it may be helpful to all concerned for council officers to discuss with applicants and/or their advisers a draft operating schedule before it is formally submitted. This will help ensure it properly addresses all the issues of concern to the council. Where licensable activities include the supply of alcohol, specified information on the individual identified as premises supervisor shall be supplied as well as whether the supply of alcohol is proposed for consumption on and/or off the premises and operational procedures.

### **Nuisance**

- 5.3 The licensing authority will expect the operating schedule to clearly demonstrate actions intended to ensure the operation will be “neighbour friendly”. In particular, the applicant shall propose adequate practical steps to prevent disturbance to local residents.
- 5.4 The licensing authority does not accept that longer opening hours for licensed premises have been a benefit to Hartlepool but rather that they place an undue and unnecessary strain on the local transport infrastructure, Accident & Emergency services and law enforcement agencies and can create a nuisance for those residents who are affected by the general operation of a premises or from revellers returning home during the early hours.
- 5.5 Shops, stores and supermarkets will in general be licensed to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any time when the retail outlet is open for shopping but licences for before 9:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. in residential areas will generally be refused. In addition, licence applications for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises for before 9:00 a.m. or after 11:30 p.m. in residential areas will generally be refused.
- 5.6 In non residential areas applications for licences to allow the sale of alcohol or the supply of late night refreshment beyond 2:00 a.m. will normally be refused subject to relevant representations being received.
- 5.7 In relation to noise from within the building the licensing authority will expect the applicant to have carried out acoustic tests to ascertain whether there is sound leakage. This noise could relate not only to entertainment but also from

air handling equipment or patrons. The licensing authority will expect potential noise breakout to have been addressed in practical ways such as:

- Keeping doors and windows closed and providing suitable mechanical ventilation
- Installing soundproofing measures to control noise breakout and vibration to an acceptable level.

5.8 The licensing authority will expect venues that attract queues to formulate a scheme to avoid disturbance to nearby residents. In some cases this may be achieved by simply ensuring that the direction of the queue is away from residential accommodation.

5.9 However, possible excessive noise generated by customers and/or disorder requires more rigorous action. It is important that queues formed later in the evening or in early morning are adequately supervised to keep noise/disorder to a minimum. Such action can also help stop drug dealing during the queuing process but the prime purpose will be to prevent noise and disturbance. Door supervisors will generally be expected to carry out this role, but they must be adequately trained and given clear instructions as to their duties and responsibilities – where necessary they should be adequately supervised by a suitably nominated person or persons.

5.10 In terms of patrons leaving the premises, particularly late at night or early in the morning, the licensing authority will expect the applicant to indicate in their operating schedule that consideration has been given to, and included where appropriate, such practical steps as:

- Erecting prominent notices at the exits to premises asking customers to leave quietly and not to slam car doors, etc
- At appropriate times making announcements to the same effect.
- Instructing door staff to ask customers leaving the premises to leave the area quietly
- Reducing the volume of music towards closing time and where appropriate playing quieter, more soothing music.
- The availability of licensed taxis or private hire vehicles to take patrons from the premises
- In appropriate cases door supervisors or a premises manager patrolling nearby streets periodically to assess for themselves whether there is a noise or disorder problem and how best to deal with it
- Banning from the premises people who regularly leave in a noisy fashion.
- Increasing outside lighting levels
- Where there is a private forecourt, yard, etc, preventing patrons from using it for eating and drinking etc after a certain time. Planning conditions are usually imposed to restrict use after 8.00 pm or at sunset where adjacent to residential properties.

5.11 There can be little doubt that a well-managed licensed venue can benefit the local community. However, there is clearly a risk of local residents being

disturbed particularly if the venue is open late at night. People leaving the premises, particularly late at night or in the early hours of the morning, can be a significant problem. Customers may be less inhibited about their behaviour and may be unaware of the noise they are creating.

- 5.12 A responsible applicant or licensee will wish to further the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance by introducing practical measures such as those referred to above to prevent such nuisance.

## **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

- 5.13 The licensing authority does not accept that longer opening hours have been a benefit to Hartlepool but rather that they place an undue and unnecessary strain on the local transport infrastructure, Accident & Emergency services and law enforcement agencies and create a nuisance for those residents who are affected by the general operation of a premises or from revellers returning home during the early hours.

Shops, stores and supermarkets will in general be licensed to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any time when the retail outlet is open for shopping but licences for before 9:00 a.m. or after 10:00 p.m. in residential areas will generally be refused. In addition, licence applications for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises for before 9:00 a.m. or after 11:30 p.m. in residential areas will generally be refused.

In non residential areas applications for licences to allow the sale of alcohol or the supply of late night refreshment beyond 2:00 a.m. will normally be refused subject to relevant representations being received.

- 5.14 The licensing authority will expect an applicant to indicate in their operating schedule the steps proposed to prevent crime and disorder such as:
- Use of CCTV both within and outside the premises
  - Procedures to prevent the supply of alcohol to those already drunk
  - Metal detection and search facilities
  - Procedures for risk assessing promotions and events such as “happy hours” for the potential to cause crime and disorder, and plans for minimising such risks
  - Measures to prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs
  - Employment of licensed door supervisors and other appropriately trained staff
  - Participation in an appropriate scheme designed to ensure effective liaison with the local community
- 5.15 Reason(s): Prevention of crime is both an objective of the Licensing Act 2003 and an important responsibility of the Council under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is important, therefore, that the applicant is able to demonstrate to the licensing authority the practical steps that will be taken to further this objective.

- 5.16 Premises that are supplying alcohol for consumption on the premises after midnight and whose operation, at that time, is primarily or significantly of the 'vertical drinking' format, will be expected to provide all drinks in plastic glasses.
- 5.17 Reason: Standard drinking glasses are made of annealed glass that, when broken, can create long shards which can be used as a stabbing weapon. Toughened glass will shatter completely when broken but, due to its manufacturing process, is extremely hard and may cause blunt force injuries if thrown or used as a weapon.
- 5.18 Rigid or flexible plastic glasses will not shatter when broken and will not cause blunt force injuries. As such, the licensing authority believes such a condition is a reasonable and proportionate requirement that will prevent those serious injuries that occur when drinking glasses are used as weapons.

### **Construction/Maintenance and Safety**

- 5.19 The licensing authority will expect licensed premises to meet all legal safety requirements, but in addition wishes to promote the highest possible standards of safety for patrons and others who may be affected by a licensed premises. It will expect the applicant to have addressed the requirements of Health and Safety at Work and Fire Safety legislation and, where appropriate, other technical standards that may be appropriate for the premises concerned.
- 5.20 The licensing authority will also expect the operating schedule to detail how the premises will be properly managed and maintained to ensure public safety at all times.
- 5.21 The licensing authority expects licensed premises to be a safe environment and applicants will be expected to consider how customers can be kept safe from foreseeable risks.

### **Pricing of Alcohol**

- 5.22 The Licensing Authority encourages all licensed premises to apply a minimum price of 50p per unit of alcohol to all products sold under their premises licence. (The unit pricing will be reviewed in line with national Guidance.)
- 5.23 Where licensed premises are found to be selling alcohol below this price, and problems associated with that premises are in breach of the licensing objectives, a responsible authority or interested party may bring a licence review. Following the review, the Licensing Committee may impose a condition in relation to the pricing of alcohol, in order to uphold the licensing objectives.

- 5.24 The Licensing Authority will expect applicants to demonstrate in their operating schedule how the pricing of alcohol products on sale in their premises will not negatively impact on the licensing objectives.
- 5.25 **Reason:** The licensing authority believes the price of a product influences its demand and, where alcohol is sold cheaply, consumers may be encouraged to buy, and consume, more of it.
- 5.26 The expectation that licensees will not sell alcohol below the stated minimum unit price does not create a legally binding obligation but it does place a duty on licensees to take into account the price of the alcohol they sell and the effect that price may have on levels of alcohol consumption.
- 5.27 If a licence is reviewed and the Licensing Authority believes that one or more of the licensing objectives has been undermined because of the price that alcohol has been sold at, it may impose a condition on the licence to prevent irresponsible pricing in future.

### **Access for Persons with Disabilities**

- 5.28 All premises are expected to provide adequate facilities and access for people with disabilities. The needs of disabled people must therefore be addressed in the operating schedule.
- 5.29 Reason(s): Wherever practicable, persons with disabilities should not be treated in a less advantageous way. In addition, responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 will need to be considered and adequate facilities provided in premises where necessary.

### **Publicity**

- 5.30 All those affected by an application should be made aware of its existence and of the opportunity to make representations. In an attempt to ensure this is achieved, applications for a premises licence must be advertised in accordance with statutory requirements.
- 5.31 Reason(s): The grant of a licence can have a significant impact on the lives or businesses of those living or working in the vicinity of premises for which a licence is sought. Therefore, all those likely to be affected by an application have the right to be made aware of it and of the opportunity to make representations.

### **Other Policies, Objectives and Guidance**

- 5.32 Applicants for licences will be expected to have taken into account new legislation, relevant strategies and policies such as the local crime prevention



strategies, planning and transportation policies, tourism and cultural strategies in determining their operating schedules.

- 5.33 In addition to the above, applicants will also be expected to address the impact of their premises on the local community and demonstrate that matters such as the prevention and clearance of litter and other waste materials arising from the use of their premises have been considered.
- 5.34 The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 also known as 'Martyn's Law' has been developed to ensure public premises and events are better prepared for terrorist attacks, requiring organisers to take reasonable practicable steps, which vary according to their capacity, to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack and reduce physical harm. We would expect all licensees to comply with any requirements set out within the Act as and when it comes into force.

## **Planning**

- 5.35 Premises for which a licence is required must have a suitable, appropriate authorised use under planning legislation.
- 5.36 The licensing authority will not normally entertain an application for a licence unless the applicant can demonstrate that the premises has either an appropriate (in terms of the activity and hours sought) planning consent, or an appropriate certificate of lawful use or development. Exceptions may be made where the applicant can demonstrate compelling reasons why the application should not be refused and the planning status of the premises has not yet been finalised.
- 5.37 Reason(s): Licensing applications should not be a re-run of a planning application and should not cut across decisions taken by the local authority Planning Committee or following appeals against decisions taken by that Committee. Proper integration will be assured by the Licensing Committee, where appropriate, by providing regular reports to the Planning Committee on the situation regarding licensed premises in the area, including the general impact of alcohol related crime and disorder. This will enable the Planning Committee to have regard to such matters when taking its decisions and avoid any unnecessary overlap.

## **Drug Awareness**

- 5.38 The licensing authority recognises that drug use is not something that is relevant to all licensed premises. However, it is recognised that special conditions may need to be imposed on certain venues where drug use is, or has been, taking place in order to reduce the sale and consumption of drugs and to create a safer environment for all.

- 5.39 The licensing authority will expect licensees of venues to take all reasonable steps to prevent the entry of drugs into their premises; to take appropriate steps to prevent drugs changing hands within the premises; and to otherwise adopt precautionary measures to address the consequences of drug misuse.

### **Door Supervisors**

- 5.40 Whenever any persons are employed at licensed premises to carry out any regulated security activity, all such persons must be licensed with the Security Industry Authority.
- 5.41 The licensing authority may consider that certain premises require stricter supervision for the purpose of promoting the reduction of crime and disorder or other licensing objectives. In such cases, the licensing authority may impose a condition that licensed door supervisors must be employed at the premises either at all times or at such times as certain licensable activities are being carried out.
- 5.42 Reason: Door supervisors, and others placed in a similar position, are often those first called upon to respond to issues of safety and disorder on licensed premises. The licensing authority intends to ensure that such people are equipped with the skills necessary for the discharge of this important role.

### **Public Health as a Responsible Authority**

- 5.43 There is not a specific licensing objective related directly to health within the current legislation. When making a representation, the Director of Public Health will be required to relate such representations and available data to the other licensing objectives. This may include underage drinking, prevention of accidents, injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption.

## **6. CUMULATIVE IMPACT**

- 6.1 The licensing authority has carefully considered the issues of alcohol related crime, disorder and nuisance in Hartlepool and has determined not to publish any Cumulative Impact Assessments.

## **7. ADMINISTRATION, EXERCISE & DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS**

- 7.1 The licensing authority has delegated its decision-making functions to the Licensing Committee, Sub-Committees and officers in accordance with the guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

- 7.2 Many decisions and functions are purely administrative in nature and these will be delegated to officers in the interests of speed, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- 7.3 Detailed information regarding the delegation of functions can be found in Appendix One.

## **8. CONTACT DETAILS**

- 8.1 Further details regarding the licensing application process, including application forms can be obtained from:

The Licensing Team  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

Tel No: 01429 523354  
Fax No: 01429 523308  
Email: [licensing@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@hartlepool.gov.uk)

## APPENDIX ONE

### Delegation of Functions

Matter to be dealt with	Full Committee	Sub Committee	Officers
Application for personal licence		If an objection made	If no objection made
Application for premises licence/club certificate		If a representation made	If no representation made
Application for provisional statement		If a representation made	If no representation made
Application to vary premises licence/club premises certificate		If a representation made	If no 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	
Decisions regarding personal licence holder following conviction of offences		All cases	
Decision on whether a complaint is relevant frivolous vexatious etc.			All cases
Decision to make representations on behalf of the licensing authority acting as a Responsible Authority			All cases
Determination of a police objection to a temporary event notice		All cases	