
Report to the Licensing Board

Date of Meeting: 6 October 2020

Subject: General Permitted Extension - Festive Period 2020 -21

Report by: Clerk to the Licensing Board

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Licensing Board to consider its approach to the festive period 2020-21.

2.0 Background

2.1 For a number of years the Board has agreed a general permitted extension to licensing hours over the festive period. This approach has been well received by the licensed trade.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 It is recommended that the Board:

3.1.1 Note that the Statement of Licencing Policy has incorporated the Festive Policy

3.1.2 Agree that any general extension incorporated into the Statement of Licensing Policy 2018 shall apply for the period of 11 December 2020 to 2 January 2021 subject to any national restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19.

4.0 Consideration

4.1 For 6 years the Board has granted a General Extension of licensed hours for the Festive Period. This approach has now been incorporated into the current consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Statement of Licensing Policy "Festive Policy" considers it appropriate to grant a general extension of one additional hour to the terminal hour on all On Sales premises, unless that would extend trading beyond 2 am. An additional special provision to allow a 2am terminal hour where Christmas Eve and New Years Eve fall on a day other then a Friday and Saturday. This has been the same approach taken by the Board in previous years. As indicated above, to date this policy has been well supported, by the Police and the trade in

particular. The Statement does indicate that the dates that the festive policy will apply will continue to be set at this meeting in the cycle by the Board. Therefore it has been considered appropriate at this point to make a recommendation on when any agreed festive policy would apply.

This year there is a high degree of uncertainty in relation to the On Sales trade as a result of the impact of Covid-19. Any decision of the Board in relation to festive opening hours will be subject to any national restrictions on opening.

- 4.2 The administration of extended hours applications can be time consuming for the licensing team, as the Licensing Standards Officer is required to submit a report on each application, even if there are no concerns regarding the extension in question. As a result of this requirement, applications for extended hours cannot be determined under delegated powers, and require Board Members to approve each application. The fee payable for this is £10 and does not cover the cost of processing the application. Separately, this imposes a regulatory burden on licensed premises.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. None

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. As reported previously to the Board the potential reduction in the number of extended hours applications will result in continued reduced income. However the cost of processing an application far exceeds the statutory fee and the loss of income is offset by the overall benefits gained by the Board, Council and applicants as detailed in this report.

5.3. Staffing

The grant of a general extension would remove the requirement for licence holders to submit an extended hours application. This would reduce the administrative burden on the licensing service, and would not require the Board to determine applications subject to a LSO report at short notice and prior to the Festive Break.

6.0 Equalities Impact

- 6.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

7.0 Legality

- 7.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

8.0 Appendices

8.1 None.

9.0 Background Papers

9.1 Consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy .

Author(s)

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Approved by

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