

Draft Licensing Policy Summary document

Foreword

Lambeth is required by law to publish a new Licensing Policy every five years and our current policy applies until 29th January 2019. A draft Licensing Policy has been prepared and we are seeking the views of Lambeth residents and businesses on this through a public consultation. This public consultation is now live on the Lambeth consultation webpage.

Introduction

The draft Licensing Policy sets out the expectations of the Council, as the licensing authority for Lambeth, and provides guidance for applicants for new licences or variations to existing licences (for example, where an increase in hours is being requested). Existing premises licences are not affected unless a variation is being applied for or where a licence comes to review, in which case the new policy will apply.

The Licensing Policy covers all premises in Lambeth where any of the following take place:

- The sale or supply of alcohol
- Regulated entertainment
- The provision of late night refreshment
- Supply of alcohol in qualifying clubs

The Licensing Act 2003 requires that the Council review the Licensing Policy at least every five years, consulting the public on a draft Licensing Policy and making revisions to the policy as appropriate. Through the Licensing Policy, the Council sets out to promote the four licensing objectives of the Licensing Act 2003, which are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

What has informed the proposals?

We have reviewed the evidence, changes in the legislation and guidance on the legislation.

To do this we have:

- Reviewed the current Statement of Licensing Policy with a set of review criteria developed to review Licensing Policies by Safe Sociable London Partnership in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime.
- Reviewing changes in the Licensing Act 2003 and in the s182b Guidance issued by the Home Secretary to guide on the application of the Licensing Act 2003 including the development of Licensing Policies.
- Reviewing the Lambeth evidence and benchmarking against other London local authorities.

We have also consulted key stakeholders in Lambeth, including:

- Local Business Improvement Districts;
- Safer Community Partnership Chairs;
- The British Beer and Pub Association and Hospitality UK;
- Responsible Authorities – Licensing, Community Safety, Police, Planning, Fire Service, Public Health, and Children’s Services.

Summary of proposed changes

The draft Licensing Policy has been updated to reflect changes in the legislation and guidance on licensing and clearer alignment with other legislation and regimes outlined. The draft Licensing Policy has also been updated to be more easily accessed and used, with clear policies to outline the expectations of the Licensing Authority.

Key new inclusions are:

- A section and appendix on the alignment with the Mayor’s Vision for London as a 24-Hour City.
- A series of policies that outline the Council’s approach to certain licensing related matters that will be considered as part of Licensing applications and reviews.
- A policy and appendix stating the Council’s preferred hours for operation to be considered in Licensing applications, these are varied by location within the borough and the type of venue.
- A policy noting that any likely resource impacts for the Council of a new license or variation to an existing license will be considered as part of the application.
- A policy noting the expectations of a new license or variation to an existing license for outside spaces. This would include beer garden’s, roof terraces, pavements outside premises and open-air events.
- A policy outlining the expectations for new licenses and variations to existing licenses where the business provides an alcohol delivery service.
- A policy outlining the expectations for new licenses and variations to existing licenses in relation to how dispersal and entry to venues is managed to minimise the impact on residents and passing members of the public.
- A new policy on expectations of the Council relating to Sexual Entertainment Venues.