

- Alcohol-related crime has more than doubled in Blackpool over the last 5 years. Over half (56%) of alcohol-related violence is concentrated in three wards in central Blackpool - Bloomfield, Claremont and Talbot, reflecting the most disadvantaged areas and the night time economy within the town;

4.4.1 The authority wishes to encourage high quality, well-managed premises. The operating schedule should describe how these high management standards will be achieved. In particular, applicants will be expected to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of best practice
- That they understand the legal requirements of operating a licensed business
- Knowledge and understanding of the licensing objectives, relevant parts of the licensing policy, and their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003

4.1.2 The operating schedule must include all of the information necessary to enable the licensing authority, responsible authorities and members of the public to assess whether the steps outlined for the promotion of the licensing objectives are sufficient. This will mean that applicants will need to complete their own risk assessments on their businesses. Where the operating schedule does not provide enough detail, there is an increased likelihood that representations will be made.

4.1.3 Applicants are not required to seek the views of responsible authorities before submitting their applications however they may find them a useful source of expert advice about the local issues that should be taken into consideration when making an application. Discussions with the responsible authorities, and where relevant local residents, before applications are submitted may minimise disputes during the application process.

4.1.4 The authority will expect that the completed operating schedule is specific to the premises subject to the application and the licensable activities to be carried out rather than containing general or standard terms.

4.1.5 For an applicant to assess what steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, they must first understand the area in which they intend to operate. By way of example the controls required in an area suffering from a high level of deprivation, alcohol dependency and street drinking may be completely different to those required in other areas. Applicants are expected to make their own enquiries and demonstrate how they have considered the following in the operating schedule:

- The layout of the local area and physical environment including crime and disorder hotspots, proximity to residential premises and proximity to areas where children and young persons may congregate;
- Any risk posed to the local area by the proposed licensable activities; and
- Any local initiatives (for example local crime reduction initiatives or voluntary schemes which may help mitigate potential risks)

4.4.1 There are no standard permitted hours for the sale of alcohol prescribed in the Act instead the Council has the power to make decisions on hours based on local knowledge. In some circumstances, staggered licensing hours will allow for a more gradual dispersal of customers reducing potential disorder and disturbance at for example late night food outlets and taxi ranks. There is no general presumption in favour of lengthening licensing hours and the four licensing objectives will be the paramount consideration at all times.

4.8 Town Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment The Council has assessed the available evidence and has determined that an area is suffering from cumulative impact. This evidence relates to premises licensed for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises and late night takeaways (licensed for late night refreshment). This is undermining the licensing objectives.

4.8.1 The area shown edged in red on the map in Appendix B is of such a concern that an application for a new licence or the variation of an existing licence should be refused unless that applicant can demonstrate that their application will not lead to an increase in the impact of licensed premises in this area. 4.8.2 The nature of the problems in this area are the high level of alcohol related crime/police incidents almost 4x the Blackpool average and 8 x the Lancashire average. Alcohol related hospital admissions are nearly 200% higher than the national average. More information on the evidence can be found in the cumulative impact assessment. 4.9 Off Licence Cumulative Impact Assessment

4.10.1 Applications for new licences or variations to existing licences within a cumulative impact area, which are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally, be refused if a relevant representation is received. To persuade the Council to depart from its policy an applicant must demonstrate that their application will not add to the existing cumulative impact in the area. This should be done through the operating schedule and the risk assessment process (if used)

4.10.2 Early contact, before submission of the application, with the responsible authorities is encouraged to discuss plans and control measures.

4.10.3 Examples of factors, which the Council may consider, demonstrate that there will be no impact may include:

- Premises ceasing operation before midnight
- Premises which are not alcohol led and only operate during the day-time
- Situations where the applicant is relocating their business within the cumulative impact area but is retaining the same style of business, operating hours and conditions

4.10.4 Examples of factors the licensing authority will not consider to rebut the presumption of refusal:

- The premises will be well managed and run as all licensed premises should meet this standard
- The premises will be constructed to a high standard
- The applicant operates similar premises elsewhere without complaint

4.10.5 As with all applications made under the Licensing Act 2003, if no representations are received, the Council must grant the application. Anyone who does make a representation may rely on the evidence published in the cumulative impact assessment or the fact that a CIA has been published for the area

4.10.6 Where representations are received the Council will consider the circumstances of each individual application and decide whether it would be justified in departing from its policy and CIA in the light of the individual circumstances of the case.