



**Review of Durham County Council's Statement of Licensing Policy  
Response from Balance  
April 2024**

We welcome the opportunity to respond to Durham County Council's review of its Statement of Licensing Policy. Our response is in the context of the wide range of harm that is caused in our local communities when alcohol is too available, too heavily promoted and too cheap and the important role that local authorities can play in raising awareness of this harm as well as addressing and preventing it at a population level. This includes the vital role of the licensing process and the Statement of Licensing Policy in particular.

**Alcohol causes a range of harms to local communities**

Alcohol is no ordinary commodity and the North East of England suffers from some of the highest rates of alcohol-related hospital admissions, mortality and morbidity. Alcohol consumption is the leading risk factor for ill-health, early mortality and disability among people aged 15-49 in England and new figures (April 2024, ONS) revealed a record high in 2022 for alcohol deaths with the North East having the worst rates of any English region: 21.8 deaths per 100,000 and a total of 576 deaths, 374 men and 202 women. Liver disease has soared 400% since the 1970s and, in 2022, liver disease rates rose by nearly a fifth, again with the highest rates in the North East.

The way in which alcohol is purchased and consumed is contributing to these harms. Alcohol is available all day every day and in a wide range of settings – many of which have not traditionally sold alcohol e.g. soft play centres. It has also become much more affordable.

Strategic documents, such as the local Statement of Licensing Policy, are instrumental in addressing the issue of alcohol availability and a key local aim should be to ensure the policy's continued strategic alignment with the local authority's broader vision of preventing and reducing alcohol harms.

**There are many elements in the current policy which should be brought forward**

In reviewing Durham's current policy, we welcome the local commitment to ensure that a balance is reached in meeting the needs of businesses in the county and the demand for leisure and cultural activities alongside the need to protect those who could be adversely affected by licensed premises. In the context of this, we encourage Durham to consider the importance of a diverse night time economy and entertainment offer,

recognising the added value that the provision of more alcohol-free options would bring.

In terms of the current policy itself, there are many elements which Balance would like to see carried forward into the next version. For example, in 2019 Durham was a pioneer in including significant reference to public health information within its policy, in particular the importance of integrating the vision of an alcohol free childhood within its local licensing processes. This inclusion is something that we are encouraging all local authorities to consider and we encourage it to remain in the next version for Durham.

Furthermore, the existing policy contains reference to the strong body of evidence that setting a minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol reduces alcohol consumption as well as reducing harm. We welcome the encouragement it gives to all licensed premises to apply an MUP of 50p to all alcoholic products sold under their premises licence and that, where the premises are found to be selling alcohol below this price and there are problems associated with the premises, a responsible authority may bring review proceedings and, following the review, conditions may be imposed in relation to pricing.

This was a welcome inclusion in 2019: we recommend it is carried forward and that Durham considers increasing this price to 65p per unit, in line with the recent decision by the Scottish Government to increase its MUP for alcohol, to ensure the level remains effective. For Scotland, an MUP of 65p will make good inflation and increase the benefits of the policy: there will be further reductions in alcohol consumption, deaths and hospital admissions as well as a reduction in NHS hospital costs. The most deprived groups would benefit the most from an increased MUP, experiencing the largest reductions in health harms. It makes sense for Durham to mirror this as this would also be our ask to national Government.

### **There are ways in which the policy can be strengthened even further**

Given that the finalised SLP will provide the context against which licensing decisions are made, as well as being a key channel for those involved in the process to access relevant information, we make the following recommendations and comments in order to further balance the needs of the local community and local licensed businesses as well as to protect public health:

- As well as the useful references to Balance research, the vision of an alcohol free childhood and broader public health information, the policy would benefit from reference to Durham's commissioning of Balance to lead an evidence-based collaborative alcohol denormalisation programme on behalf of its funders and Durham's valuable participation in Balance forums – the Local Alcohol Leads Network, the Champions Network and the Alcohol Crime and Regulation Forum.

This would outline to both residents and businesses the commitment from Durham to improving the experience of those who live, work and visit the city.

- In the next couple of months Balance will be releasing important updated regional and local data – public perceptions on alcohol issues (regional level) and cost profiles (regional and local level). This data will be shared with local authorities as soon as possible and would be worth considering for inclusion in the next version of the SLP.
- To bring the policy up to date, the policy could make reference to its work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to address alcohol related crime and disorder and its alignment with Durham and Darlington’s Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership.
- The local authority could consider adopting further policies to demonstrate its commitment to an alcohol free childhood, for example a commitment that local authority-organised events aimed primarily at families would not seek licenses for the sale or supply of alcohol or, in relation to non-council events aimed at families, alcohol sales would be confined to a small area of the event site.
- Another point to consider is ensuring that the new policy continues to be protected from the vested interests of the alcohol industry. The sole aim of the industry is to increase its profits by increasing its customer base which often includes the need to attract young people as consumers. Given that the alcohol industry’s products cause significant harm to communities, local authorities should safeguard themselves from apparent corporate social responsibility. Regionally, the Association of Directors of Public Health North East have produced a [position statement on alcohol and the commercial determinants of health](#) and nationally, there is a toolkit to support local authorities in [good governance](#) and avoiding conflicts of interest.

### **Our thoughts in relation to specific issues raised by Durham**

- **The problem of drink spiking as well as sexual harassment and gender-based violence**

In January 2023, Balance with support from licensing colleagues responded to a Home Office consultation on spiking. We made the following points which may be helpful to Durham in reviewing its current policy:

- We supported updating Section 182 guidance to make specific reference to spiking. We also recommended the government conducts a review of the Licensing Act 2003 as a whole, to include a consultation on introducing a public health licensing objective. We also recommended the government develops a

comprehensive national alcohol strategy, informed by an independent evidence review of alcohol harms.

- We agreed with updating Section 182 guidance to encourage local licensing authorities to consider placing additional conditions on licences to safeguard patrons against spiking, noting that conditions placed on licences need to be both proportionate and enforceable. We noted that if there is evidence that spiking in a particular premises is taking place, local authorities will need to rely on police colleagues to draw this to their attention and to request review, additions of conditions, revocation etc. We also flagged that some local authorities in the North East – including Durham – already include spiking within their local policies.
- We supported updating Section 182 guidance to encourage licensing authorities to consider the prevalence, prevention and reporting of sexual harassment and misconduct and gender-based violence in statements of local licensing policy.
- We also supported the collection of data on local licensing authorities' use of their powers to impose conditions or revoke premises licenses, where venues do not take sufficient measures to protect and provide support to customers in spiking incidents and noted that many local authorities already return detailed information and we support the continuation of this along with the return of any other useful data.

- **Licensing hours and opening hours**

We recommend that the framework of core hours included in the current policy is as a minimum preserved and ideally reviewed to ensure that it adequately balances the needs of both businesses and the public, with special consideration given to the framework's impact on the availability of alcohol. Statements of Licensing Policy set out expectations of licensees which could have a positive impact on public health and while these expectations are not legally binding given the 24 hour provisions within the Licensing Act, they can help local authorities to challenge applications for later licences if clear expectations are set out in advance.

We trust that these comments are helpful in the review of the current policy and that they enable Durham to put in place a licensing policy that can address the harms of alcohol that aligns with the council's commitments to improving public health.

We are happy to discuss any of the points raised above in more detail – please contact

To whom it may concern.

On behalf of Durham Constabulary, I have reviewed the current Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-2024 and wish to provide the following information which I think will be beneficial to have incorporated into the Statement of Licensing policy 2024-2029.

In addition to the four licensing objectives, the local authority has requested additional information, views, and opinions around.

The problem of drink spiking,

Licensing hours and opening hours

Preventing and reporting incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based violence

Information around these areas is documented below with guidance and suggestions of policy and procedures the local Authority may want to include in the statement of licensing policy.

### **Prevent and reporting incidents of sexual harassment and misconduct and gender-based violence.**

Resident and visitor safety, especially the safety of those using the night-time economy, is an important factor that the Council, applicants, and licence holders must take into consideration report - Tackling violence against women and girls' strategy – published 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 link below to the home office guidance.

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=f1b1eee75e31ab08JmltdHM9MTcxNDUyMTYwMCZpZ3VpZD0yMDM0YjUzMjY0OTRiLTlyZWltMGYzZC1hNGMwODgxMzYzMTgmaW5zaWQ9NTIzMA&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=2034b533-894b-62eb-0f3d-a4c088136318&psq=home+office+national+strategy+on+violence+against+women&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ292LnVrL2dvdMvYybm1lbnQvcHVibGljYXRpb25zL3RhY2tsaW5nLXZpb2xlbmNILWFnYWluc3Qtd29tZW4tYW5kLWdpcmxzLXN0cmF0ZWd5&ntb=1>

### **Definition of Sexual Harassment**

The definition of sexual harassment was created with a range of experts on the subject. The defining characteristics are that it is unwanted, persistent, and of a sexual nature.

#### **List of unacceptable behaviours are:**

1. Unwelcome sexual gestures or innuendos
2. Groping, pinching, or smacking someone's body.
3. Exposing yourself to someone
4. Entering the toilet that does not best accommodate your gender.
5. Derogatory comments based on someone's age, gender, race, orientation, or ability.

#### **Examples of unacceptable behaviour include (but are not limited to):**

Unwelcome comments with a sexual overtone

Unwelcome and/or irrelevant questions about your personal life (including sex, romance, and sexual orientation)

Someone exposing their sexual organs to you without consent.

Someone groping, pinching, or touching your body without consent.

Procedures and policies for how to handle perpetrators of sexual harassment to be included in the operating schedule/conditions. These will of course differ from premises to premises but ensure that they reflect a zero-tolerance attitude towards harassment and discrimination.

Ensure that there are clear guidelines on how to handle complaints made by targets of sexual harassment, a positive response involves believing them, responding sympathetically, and taking the incident seriously. Negative responses are characterised by not believing them or suggesting that the incident was their fault.

Establish consequences to perpetrators of sexual harassment that reflect zero tolerance of those behaviours. These can range from removal from the premises to a ban from the premises for an extended period of time.

**Example of Model policy for licensed premises to adopt.**

1. This premises shall enforce a strict Zero Tolerance policy to sexual harassment and discrimination.
2. The policy shall enforce zero tolerance to the following behaviours:
3. Unwelcome sexual gestures or innuendos
4. Groping, pinching, or smacking someone's body Exposing yourself to someone.
5. Entering the toilet that does not best accommodate your gender.
6. Derogatory comments based on someone's age, gender, race, orientation, or ability.
7. This policy is for all patrons and staff at this premises.

**Training:**

1. Management will ensure that all staff are trained and briefed adequately on the policy.
2. All casual staff shall receive a briefing on the policy and its operations during staff training.
3. Security shall be briefed and trained on the policy.

**Reporting an incident**

1. When a customer needs to report an incident, they may do so by speaking to any member of security or staff.
2. The staff or security who received the report shall pass it on to a manager or supervisor
3. When a staff member needs to report an incident, they will pass it on to a manager or supervisor
4. Reports of victims will be taken seriously, as well as the reports of others observing the incident (staff or other visitors) depending on the context of the situation.
5. Reports will be dealt with in a manner that reflects zero tolerance of sexual harassment.

**Dealing with a report / enforcement:**

1. All perpetrators will be removed from the main space of the premises for discussion.
2. The manager or

supervisor will, in consultation with others, decide if the perpetrator has violated the zero-tolerance policy.

3. If the policy has been violated, the perpetrator will be dealt with in a manner that correlates with zero tolerance of harassment.

a. This should at minimum involve the perpetrator's presence no longer being allowed in the premises on the day of the offense.

b. Visitors who break the policy on more than one occasion shall be dealt with in a more severe manner, including longer-term bans from the premises.

## **The problem of drink spiking**

### Types of spiking

1. Drink spiking is when someone puts drugs or alcohol into a person's drink without their knowledge or consent. It can include putting alcohol into a non-alcoholic drink, adding extra alcohol to an alcoholic drink or slipping prescription or illegal drugs (such as tranquillisers, amphetamines or GHB—also called liquid ecstasy) into an alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink. It can be difficult to tell whether a drink has been spiked, as substances used for spiking usually have no taste, odour, or colour.
2. Needle spiking (sometimes referred to as injection spiking) is where someone surreptitiously injects, with a hypodermic needle, (or other form of administration e.g. combi-pen) a victim with a substance.

## **Recommended actions for licensed premises**

Many licensed premises work incredibly hard to ensure that their customers can enjoy a night out safely and deter perpetrators.

Ensure all reports of spiking are acted upon and that all incidents of alleged spiking are recorded and reported to the police. It is also helpful to the police if staff:

obtain full details of the affected person reporting the incident, including a description of what they are wearing as officers will want to track them on CCTV.

can provide as detailed a description of the suspected perpetrator as possible, if known, including clothing

Provide an approximate time of the incident and the location within the premises where they believe it occurred.

Secure the drinking vessel(s) that is suspected as containing the 'drug' so this can be tested at a later time.

Seize any drinking vessel that the suspect may have been using.

Ensure the health and safety of the customer, which could be by calling emergency services, ensuring they are with trusted friends who will look after them, offering assistance if needed, and providing a safe space for the customer.

Ensure appropriate training is provided to relevant members of staff.

Review searching procedures and amend as necessary, as well as reviewing how often toilets are inspected, as victims of spiking have been found in there. Premises should also review the functionality of any CCTV and ensure it is not obscured.

Consider providing information (such as posters) regarding drink spiking in the premises.

Consider if it would be useful to provide anti-spiking bottle stoppers and protective drink covers. It may also be helpful to see if drug testing kits have been made available in your area by the police or council.

Take into consideration the home office report understanding and tackling spiking – published 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 link below.

<https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=7dc82b328b8fbbdcJmltdHM9MTcxNDUyMTYwMCZpZ3VpZD0yMDM0YjUzMy04OTRiLTlyZWltMGYzZC1hNGMwODgxMzYzMTgmaW5zaWQ9NTlyOQ&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=2034b533-894b-62eb-0f3d-a4c088136318&psq=home+office+national+strategy+on+spiking&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ292LnVrL2dvdMvYbm1lbnQvcHVibGljYXRpb25zL3VuZGVyc3RhbmRpbmctYW5kLXRhY2tsaW5nLXNwaWtpbmvcvcmVwb3J0LXVuZGVyc3RhbmRpbmctYW5kLXRhY2tsaW5nLXNwaWtpbmctYWNjZXNzaWJsZQ&ntb=1>

#### **Comments in relation to existing 2019-2024 policy.**

**Under part 2.16 Reviews** – to be added.

Where a Magistrates Court makes a Closure Order under section 80 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the relevant licensing authority under section 167 licensing act 2003 must review the premises licence.

**Under part 3.15 Temporary Event Notices** – other local authorities have in their statement of licencing policy additional information around TEN's which would assist the police and environmental health wording from Newcastle policy is detailed below. The part in bold whereby TENs are being used purely to extend the existing hours of operation is something Durham Constabulary would like to be added to the policy as the number of TEN's received by late night venues who just want to extend alcohol sales for extra profit encourages patrons to stay out later, consume more alcohol which can lead to crime and disorder and should not be encouraged.

*Although the statutory legal minimum time required for the notification of a temporary event to the Licensing Authority, Police and Environmental Health is 10 working days, or 5 working days for a late temporary event, it is essential that proper consideration of the proposed event is given.*

*For that reason, the Licensing Authority would encourage compliance with its preferred timescale as set out at paragraph 6.26.4. 60 6.26.3*

***The Licensing Authority will encourage bona fide community events. Applications for TENS at existing licensed premises will not be encouraged where the proposal is simply to extend the existing hours of operation.***



*6.26.4 As Statutory guidance allows the Licensing Authority to publicise its preferred timescale for notification the Licensing Authority encourages applicants to submit notifications at least 4 weeks but not more than 12 weeks before an event where an existing premises licence is in operation. For applications where there is not a current premises licence, for example community events, 15 working days in advance of the event would be encouraged to allow for proper consideration of the event.*

**Under part 5 of the current statement of licencing policy** – How the council promotes the licensing objectives there are schemes which have been introduced since the last policy which applicants and licence holders are encouraged to engage in and I feel would be of benefit to be added into the policy.

1. using Sentrysis (this system is being introduced into licensed premises and is a direct reporting system to Durham Constabulary)
2. promoting 'Ask for Angela' in your venues.

### **5.12 Alcohol deliveries**

Applicants seeking a licence that would enable them to provide alcohol as part of an alcohol delivery service should include in their operating schedule the procedures, they intend to operate to ensure that:

The person they are selling alcohol to is over 18.

That alcohol is only delivered to a person over 18.

That a clear document trail of the order process from order to delivery is maintained (with times and signatures) and available for inspection by an authorised officer

The time that alcohol is sold on the website/over the phone and the time the alcohol is delivered is within the hours stated on the licence for the sale of alcohol.

**11.0 Enforcement and monitoring** – additional factors for enforcement to include serious offences within licensed premises and failure to comply with conditions.

When considering enforcement action or a request for a review the Council will take relevant circumstances into account. However, the following matters will be viewed particularly seriously.

- use of premises for criminal activities such as the supply of drugs or money laundering
- failure to promptly respond to a warning given by a responsible authority
- previous convictions for licensing offences
- previous failure to comply with licence conditions and the requirements of the Act
- failure to engage with a responsible authority in an effective manner

**Section around street drinkers be considered.**

Consumption of alcohol on the street drinkers or people who are drunk can cause anti-social behaviour, disorder and be a nuisance to visitors, businesses, and residents.

Licence holders can play an important part in minimising this by restricting street drinkers' access to alcohol such as:

- Avoiding stocking low-cost high strength alcohol such as white ciders and high strength lagers.
- Restricting the sale of strong beer and cider above 5.5% ABV. • Preventing the sale of single cans or bottles of beer and cider.
- Ensuring all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 not to serve alcohol to a person who is drunk. • Not offering irresponsible drinks promotions as outlined in the section above.
- Keeping and using a refusals registers or refusals button on the electronic point of sale and ensuring this is completed each time a sale is refused to a person who is drunk. The log should show the date, time, description of customer, name of staff member who refused the sale and the reason it was refused. This should be made available to the Police or authorised Council officers on request and should be regularly reviewed to identify trends and patterns.
- Taking part in community safety initiatives with Northumbria Police and Safe Newcastle and sharing intelligence.
- Ensuring that the premises operates in conjunction with the Public Space Protection Order

### **Section around preventing thefts to be considered.**

Preventing theft from the premises High value alcohol and alcohol which is close to entrances can be a target for theft. This can be prevented by:

- Ensuring that storage areas and cellars are locked and secured when the premises are open to the public.
- Shops selling alcohol ensuring that alcohol is not displayed within the first few meters of the door to prevent 'grab and run' thefts.
- More expensive alcohol or other items attractive to thieves being security tagged.
- Installing lockable shutters which can be closed at the end of the licensed hours will also prevent illegal sales of alcohol. Possessions can also be a target for thieves particularly if customers are relaxed and enjoying a night out. Measures such as:
  - Regular property patrols and highlighting potential risks to customers
  - Having well managed cloakrooms and toilets • Having well-lit premises
  - Installing bag hooks at tables and bars • Installing mirrors to aid supervision

Response in relation to the Consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy

## Introduction

The City of Durham Trust is a local civic society and registered charity. Its purpose is to celebrate, protect and enhance the heritage and landscape of the City of Durham. It recognises that the Statement of Licensing Policy for the County of Durham has a significant impact upon the City and the Trust was recently involved in objecting to the licensing application relating to the proposed Stack development in Silver Street, Durham City.

The Trust has been involved in the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy carried out by the City of Durham Parish Council for the purposes of the consultation by the licensing authority and supports fully the Parish Council's case for a specific Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) in respect of new premises and a new Late Night Levy to fund additional policing and other measures arising from the City's night time economy.

## Cumulative Impact

The Trust has observed with concern the increase of licensed premises in the City of Durham over the last five years. We believe that the City Parish now has over 230 active licensed premises. This is a trend which seems likely to continue with major additions planned such as Stack making the concept of cumulative impact of even more importance than may previously have been the case.

For this purpose, the definition of cumulative impact in Chapter 14 the Revised Guidance issued by the Home Office in December 2023 under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Home Office Guidance) is adopted here being, "the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area".

The Trust accepts that there is a continuing commercial demand for licensed premises in the City of Durham but agrees that this should not be a relevant matter where licensing is considered and where achievement of the licensing objectives must be the paramount consideration.

Chapter 14 of the Home Office Guidance explains that the purpose of a CIP is to help 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. The Trust believes that a CIP would have a positive impact on the achievement of licensing objectives in the City Centre and would not preclude successful applications for licensed premises on a case by case basis such as for a small restaurant or café or theatre.

# THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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During the consultation phase of the current Statement of Licensing Policy, requests were made for a CIP for the City. A Cumulative Impact Assessment was carried out or completed after the current Statement was approved and published and therefore could not influence its drafting and content. Although the assessment once concluded did not support any modifications to the existing licensing policy, we believe that changes to licensed leisure provision in the Centre mean that a new assessment is now needed. We accept that the need for a CIP needs to be supported by evidence of problems caused or exacerbated by the cumulative impact of licensed premises. We believe that a new assessment needs to be carried out before a revised Statement of Licensing Policy is drafted. It is an issue of fundamental importance to the content of the licensing policy and should not be considered as an afterthought.

## Late Night Levy

The Trust has noted the success of the Late Night levy in Northumbria. We believe that it should be the responsibility of holders of premises or club premises licences in the City Centre to pay for the alleviation of some of the issues created by the activities and consequences of customers of such premises. These measures would include additional police hours, neighbourhood wardens, taxi marshals, first aid and street cleaning and initiatives relating to drink spiking and sexual harassment. It would help facilitate existing measures being extended and improved and provide an additional way of dealing with the cumulative impact of the increasing concentration of licensed premises in the City Centre.

John Lowe  
Chair, City of Durham Trust



**TRINITY**  
CHAMBERS

2 May 2024

Head of Licensing  
[Licensing@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Licensing@durham.gov.uk)

Dear Sir

DURHAM LICENSING POLICY 2019 – 2024

I am instructed by the City of Durham Parish Council to make comments on the Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-2024. The Parish Council represent the local community.

**INTRODUCTION**

Section 5 of the 2003 Act requires a licensing authority to publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every five years. Durham County Council is presently consulting on its Statement of Licensing Policy to cover the period between 2024-2029.

Although this is a county-wide policy, it has significant implications for the City of Durham Parish area, its communities and vibrant night-time economy of approximately 234 licensed premises. As such, the Parish Council and other bodies such as the Police and Durham University are keen to engage positively with this review.

The County Council has not stated what aspects of the policy it would like to amend but has indicated it is specifically interested in reviewing the Policy's effectiveness in three areas:

- the problem of drink spiking
- licensing hours and opening hours
- sexual harassment and misconduct and gender-based violence

A Working Group to review the existing policy has been established by the Parish Council and its comments primarily relate to two matters. First, the benefits of introducing a Late Night Levy and second, the continuing and growing need to control the number of licensed premises in this small city centre by the introduction of a Cumulative Impact Policy. This is followed by the Parish Council's detailed comments on other sections of the Licensing Policy including those listed above.

**LATE NIGHT LEVY (3.23)**

The Parish Council wishes to see the introduction of a Late-Night Levy for Durham City, similar to that which operates in Newcastle upon Tyne and other areas. We are of the view the Late-Night Levy will be another crucial tool in enabling all stakeholders to ensure that those people who come into the city centre are able to enjoy themselves in a safe and friendly environment.

The Late-Night Levy in Northumbria has been used to fund additional police officers' hours, neighbourhood wardens, community protection officers and projects to benefit those working and socialising in the NTE including Club Host projects to reduce sexual harassment in clubs, defibrillators, first aid training, taxi marshals and street-cleaning.

At present, public bodies are funding The Hub@St Nics Church which provides night-time support for those in need. The service is well attended and there is a strong view that the licensed economy premises should fund or contribute to it.

A Late-Night Levy is identified in the Licensing Policy as an alternative mechanism to control Cumulative Impact and it should be explored by the Council. The statistics from The Hub (included as a separate Appendix to this response) show it regularly deals with intoxication, sexual harassment and misconduct and gender-based violence. As these areas are identified for review in the licensing policy it is logical that the Council should introduce a Late-Night Levy to fund initiatives which address them.

### **THE CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF CONCENTRATIONS OF LICENSED PREMISES (3.21)**

The Parish Council supports the introduction of a cumulative impact policy for Durham City. DCC commissioned an external report on this in 2020 which concluded there was insufficient evidence to support its introduction. The Parish Council is convinced that crime and disorder and public nuisance are caused by customers of licensed premises in the City and a Cumulative Impact Policy would help address these issues. Based on the data from The Hub we say there is now a case to be made and request a fresh assessment using up-to-date evidence from responsible bodies. The PC would assist by gathering and collating evidence from Durham Police (crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour statistics), the NHS (alcohol related emergencies and admissions), the Council (noise and litter), complaints from local residents' associations, residents' questionnaires and local consultation.

### **OTHER COMMENTS ON LICENSING POLICY**

#### **1.4 – Durham University student numbers should be updated.**

The Policy provided a snapshot of student figures at the time of publication in 2019. Durham University now has 30% more students overall (21588 up from 16,355) and 86% live within DH1. A further 1,576 reside within daily commuting distance of the University and are likely to socialise in the city. See figures in Appendix below.

#### **2.6 – Integration of licensing policy with other strategies, policies and plans.**

Given the significant role of the University in the City, we believe that the University's own Policy on Student Alcohol Awareness and Use should form part of the integration with this Policy and should be in the Licensing Policy at Appendix X.

<http://www.durham.ac.uk/resources/about/policies/PolicyonStudentAlcoholAwarenessandUseF.pdf>

#### **2.6 – alcohol related harm data**

The Policy states that up-to-date statistical information for alcohol related harm can be found on Durham Insight, the correct hyperlink is: <https://www.durhaminsight.info/alcohol-related-harm/>

#### **2.7 & 5.8 – Licensing and planning integration**

The Parish Council believes that integration between these two regimes is essential and hopes that the new online system for licensing applications across the county facilitates this integration. The Parish Council also supports more consistency between the two regimes including (where possible) the same conditions being imposed on planning permission and licences.

The Parish Council requests that 5.8 paragraph 5 should read;

All applicants and existing licence holders are expected to achieve and to adhere to any relevant planning permissions, including hours of operation. Applicants are encouraged to secure any necessary planning permissions before applying for any licence. Where the planning authority has set a terminal hour on a premises' planning permission, it is likely that the licensing authority will ensure consistency and impose similar conditions on the licence to promote the licensing objectives. Efforts will be made to ensure consistency and integration between licensing and planning policy as detailed in Point 2.7 of this policy.

### **3.15 and 3.16 – Temporary Events Notice**

The Parish Council believes that TENs should be widely publicised so the public know how they operate and for residents to know when and where there is likely to be additional late-night noise.

In particular, information should be more readily available in relation to post-event feedback to the Local Authority.

The policy should also state that where a TENs application is purely for additional hours to sell alcohol, it will be refused absent special circumstances.

The policy should specify that where the event is likely to lead to additional policing, the event organiser should make a financial contribution towards this subject to negotiations directly with the police.

### **4.1 – Durham County Council want to promote the county as a safe and healthy environment**

The Parish Council fully applauds this but requests a more balanced approach which also reflects the rights of residents who live in and around the city centre.

### **6.5 – Minimum unit pricing**

The Parish Council believes that the minimum unit price of 50p to all alcoholic products sold under premises licences is far too low. This figure should be set higher and the policy should be worded to take into account changes to the Retail Price Index. For example, the RPI has risen from 283 to 383 during the tenure of this Licensing Policy. The key findings of the independent evaluation of minimum alcohol pricing on behalf of Public Health Scotland shows how effective this policy is at reducing alcohol harm with no significant negative impacts on alcohol sellers. It should be noted the minimum price set by PHS will rise to 65p in September 2024.

### **6.7 – security by design and how the design of premises can positively impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives.**

The Parish Council fully supports this section but there should be more emphasis on how outdoor seating is managed to promote the licensing objectives. The Business and Planning Act provided a streamlined and cheaper route for businesses to place furniture on the pavement (bypassing the requirement for planning permission) to support businesses during Covid. As this is now a permanent licensing mechanism, applications should be properly scrutinised and conditions enforced. There is a particular proliferation of outdoor seating on the Riverwalk, Milburngate and Elvet Bridge.

### **6.9 – arrival to departure (anti-spiking and gender-based violence).**

The Parish Council supports the reference to *anti-spiking measures* as a means of good management practice but this needs greater emphasis.

The Parish Council requests the Local Authority and Police develop an anti-spiking strategy. This strategy should consider the prevalence, prevention and reporting of sexual harassment and misconduct and gender-based violence.

The Parish Council also believes that the Policy should present an “anti-spiking mission statement” outlining the Council’s work to tackle the issue, including a clear statement of those actions covered by the title ‘spiking’. This includes giving someone alcohol or drugs without their knowledge whether by needle or otherwise.

The Government is to review guidance issued under the Licensing Act 2003 to consider whether it should require licensing authorities to include the prevalence, prevention and reporting of sexual harassment and misconduct and gender-based violence in statements of local licensing policy. The Parish Council support all measures to manage and reduce such issues.

The Home Affairs Committee report on spiking recommended that all staff working at music festivals, including vendors, to be given compulsory safeguarding training, “and this be a requirement that licensing authorities consider when approving events”. The Parish Council contend that staff of all licensed premises should undergo safeguarding training.

#### **5.8 & Appendix II Framework Hours**

The Parish Council fully supports the Framework Hours for licensed premises and cannot emphasise their importance enough in addressing issues of late-night noise disturbance for local residents and promoting the objective of preventing a public nuisance.

The Parish Council has been advised that these hours are for guidance only but would suggest they are the starting point for all new licensed premises applications to adhere to. Any applications to operate premises outside the Framework Hours near residential areas should be subject to particular scrutiny in terms of the objective to prevent public nuisance.

#### **Miscellaneous**

The Parish Council would welcome the County Council taking an active role in supporting us to lobby Government in making public health one of the main licensing objectives.

The Parish Council contends the Policy should specify that petrol stations must not be licensed, as is consistent with national legislation.

Further the Policy should state that where a new alcohol retailer’s licence is granted, there must always be a requirement for them to have appropriate security measures in place.

Yours sincerely



Miss Nicola Allan

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# Crossgate Community Partnership

Durham County Council  
Licensing Consultation  
PO Box 617  
Durham DH1 9HZ

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

## Review of Statement of Licensing Policy

The Crossgate Community Partnership (CCP) is a charity whose objects are:

- to promote the conservation and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Crossgate and the surrounding area in Durham City
- to promote the establishment, continuation, and improvement of local amenities
- to build and maintain a strong, safe, healthy, and balanced community by encouraging the residents of Crossgate and neighbouring areas to participate in community activities.

The area represented by the Crossgate Community Partnership (CCP) includes North Road and is immediately adjacent to the City Centre, on the other side of the River Wear. Our area has many licensed premises within it and is affected by all licensed premises within North Road and the City Centre.

At a meeting of members held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 the CCP discussed the review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and agreed the following response.

1. We support the case made by Durham City Parish Council for a Cumulative Impact Policy and believe that a detailed Cumulative Impact Assessment should be carried out and completed before a new draft Statement of Licensing policy is prepared.
2. We also support the Parish Council's proposal that there should be a Late Night Levy to fund additional policing and measures arising from the City's night time economy such as taxi wardens, first aid and street cleaning and initiatives relating to spiking of drinks and sexual harassment.
3. We support the County Council's existing policy in relation to framework hours to protect the amenity of local residents.
4. We are concerned that safety issues in relation to new applications are addressed adequately at licensing committee stage rather than being passed between Licensing and Planning, with each relying on the other to intervene. The CCP was represented at the Durham City STACK licensing application hearing and, from our local knowledge, believe that Moatside Lane is unsafe as an emergency exit from the Silver Street building due to its surface, gradient and width. Although our views were heard, our concerns were not resolved at the hearing. We believe that where, as here, safety concerns are fundamental, the application should not be granted unless a satisfactory solution can be agreed at the

hearing and a full response obtained from the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

5. The CCP has seen the disruption to local residents which can be caused by the use and misuse of Temporary Events Notices in a residential area. One exceptional case was the Platinum Jubilee Street Party which was held in Hawthorn Terrace, Durham City on 4 June 2022. Numbers greatly exceeded those expected and supervision and stewarding was inadequate. The TEN expired at 11pm but the concomitant road closure order ended at 8 pm. In consequence, access along the highway was prevented for an unreasonable period of time by the large numbers of people in the street until late into the evening. Local residents did not feel properly consulted and therefore their legitimate and well justified concerns were not addressed properly. We appreciate that this was ostensibly a street party to mark the Queen's Jubilee, and that requirements were relaxed for this occasion. Nevertheless we believe that the event exposed wider issues in relation to the use of TENS.

More routine use of TEN licenses creates noise and disruption in our residential area. Parents complain about children kept awake by outdoor music at a local restaurant, without the necessary notice being prominently displayed in advance.

We therefore fully endorse the Parish Council's view that more information about TENS should be widely publicised so that the public know how they are operated and for residents to know in advance that there is likely to be additional late-night noise. Under the same principle as with a Late Night Levy, the events organiser needs to be required to make at least a contribution to the cost of any additional policing. It is noted that additional policing was required in relation to the Platinum Jubilee Street party mentioned above. It seems reasonable and fair that an events organiser contributes in such circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Roger Cornwell

Chair, Crossgate Community Partnership

To whom it may concern,

**Re: Consultation on Statement of Licensing Policy (May 2024)**

Durham University responded to Durham County Council's consultation on its licensing policy back in 2019. At the time, Durham University and Durham Students Union welcomed the opportunity to consider the policy in more detail from a Durham City perspective and convened an internal working group to achieve this. Representatives from University Catering (Colleges), Student Wellbeing & Community Engagement and Durham Students Union were involved and the group considered a variety of information sources in developing its position.

Since then, Durham University has responded directly to several licensing applications, and contributed data on student occupancy for several more. Our Community Relations & Housing Unit has remained committed to partnership working to ensure up to date knowledge of the city's nighttime economy. This has included shifts with the city's Night Hub and Street Friends officers, work on a number of groups organised by both DCC and the Durham Constabulary looking at matters of concern within or related to the City's night time economy, and working annually with Durham City Safety Group to consider the risks and mitigations needed to maintain student safety in the city during Welcome & Orientation Week (particularly at those licensed venues close to the river corridor). The University is also now proud to be a recognised partner supporting the City's 'Night Hub', which provides a fantastic support service for our students where they do not feel safe on a night out.

We have therefore approached this consultation from the perspective of wanting our students, who make up a large number of residents in Durham City (many of whom live directly in and around some of the busiest parts of the City's nighttime economy), to have the very best, and safest, experience in and around the licensed nighttime economy of the City. We have also considered however, our direct experience of seeing and hearing about the cumulative impact of the licensed economy on the amenity of residents.

We support the right of everyone to peaceful enjoyment of the home and communicate firmly with our students resident in the City (through campaigns, the Student Pledge, college induction talks, college correspondence, codes of conduct and direct correspondence from the highest levels of the institution) on the importance of being good neighbours. However, we are regularly made aware of the concerns of City residents, both student and non-student, around late-night noise and its detrimental impact on them as well as concerns about unpleasant things seen in the City, particularly at night in and around licensed venues. The behaviours described include: shouting, urination in public, lack of awareness of surroundings, risk taking and inconsiderate behaviour towards others. The experiences shared include: finding vomit on the pavement, littered take away boxes and broken glass outside residential homes. The association is, often, that these anti-social behaviours are linked with alcohol consumption and the licensed economy.

We recognise the importance to Durham City of a vibrant and diverse offering being available to residents (student and non-student) and visitors, and the licensed economy clearly plays a part in this. In 2019 we confirmed that we felt a Cumulative Impact Assessment (and subsequent identification of a CIZ and accompanying policy) could have a positive impact in Durham City. We were keen to support a policy which balanced the city's economic needs with those of its residents such that every resident, both student and non-students, should be able to lead a healthy and comfortable life in Durham City. We asked for simple steps such as:

- active promotion of the "Shhh... 11pm-7am" campaign, or similar, which highlights what "late-night" means and guides considerate behaviour from the City's inhabitants and visitors towards one another;
- increased co-operation from licensed venues in multi-agency safety planning meetings around peak periods, like Welcome & Orientation Week;
- increased signage for, education around and enforcement of the Public Space Protection Order which currently exists to ban open alcohol in specified areas in the City centre;
- minimum pricing policies to discourage pre-loading and targets the drinkers causing the most harm to themselves and society, whilst having almost no effect on moderate drinkers;
- procedures to proactively minimise public nuisance and noise e.g. noise management plans and sound reduction plans towards closing times.

We supported consideration for several areas of the city for a Cumulative Impact Assessment and would update these as follows:

- 1) The area encompassing Walkergate and Claypath, including the riverside below Walkergate;
- 2) The area encompassing Market Place, Silver Street (to the start of Framwellgate Bridge and encompassing the riverside past Fowlers Yard and to the A690 Miburngate bridge), Saddler Street (to its junction with Owengate and Elvet Bridge);
- 3) The area encompassing North Road from the viaduct roundabout to the start of Framwellgate Bridge, Crossgate to the junction with and including Neville Street, Riverwalk through to the newest development to the boundary of the Radisson Hotel.

When considering our own role within the licensed economy, we feel strongly that provision and development of licensed social spaces within Colleges and the Students Union could support students staying 'on campus', helping minimise negative impacts in the higher density areas of the City. Licensed social spaces within Colleges (or 'College Bars') play this important role in the licensed economy in Durham City as they:

- are mostly located away from the areas of the City with a high concentration of licensed venues and, by and large, are not situated in mixed residential areas;
- continue to be recognised as one of the safest places in Durham for students to socialise in;
- hold a significant proportion of the total licensed capacity of the City;
- lead to Durham City having a different 'pattern' of footfall than other areas of the County;
- are a unique part of the nighttime economy.

In 2019 we therefore supported a policy which:

- excluded applications for new licences or variations to existing licences of 'College Bars', and possibly also other areas of the licensed economy, from the policy conditions;
- gave clear guidance on those licensable operations which might improve the quality and variety of the Durham City experience, for example (but not limited to) theatres and healthy late night food concepts.

The University also takes its responsibilities when it comes to student wellbeing very seriously. To improve and share best practice for supporting licensing objectives, support for student development and promotion of longer-term healthy lifestyle choices the University welcomes Durham County Council's and Durham Constabulary's input into this review. When it comes to our licensed social spaces in Colleges, our commitment to this responsibility can be seen in our policies around alcohol, our intensive training for bar teams, student leaders and influencers and our engagement with the LSAVI initiative (a police backed security initiative for licensed premises to provide safer and more secure environments). We don't just train students to understand alcohol and its impacts but we also educate them in how to support their peers and talk about concerning behaviour. From our own experiences of bar operations, we supported a policy which would raise standards across the licensed economy, making Durham a recognised 'safe' City to visit, live in, work in and study in. Indeed, the advance of various initiatives by Durham Constabulary over recent years (Op Hydrate being an excellent example of this) shows there is a strong desire across city partners to advance this agenda. Detailed, responsible operational procedures and appropriate licensing related training is a first step in this but a policy could also include:

- requirements for new applicants to consult on and publish policies and procedures that remove, insofar as is possible, detrimental impact on the local amenity of residents in the neighbouring area (this could for example be supported by a requirement to demonstrate engagement with and put contextual plans in place for, residents, agencies and businesses within a set radius of a new applicant's venue);
- recognition of the importance and benefit associated with initiatives like LSAVI which support the raising of standards in the licensed economy.

In 2024, we have continued to engage in the dialogue around a potential late-night levy, engaging with both the City of Durham Parish Council and the Durham BID to understand different perspectives on the matter. In 2019 we supported consideration being given to a late-night levy however cautioned that such measures should only be introduced in full consultation with those upon whom this may impact as well as with those this would be aimed at benefitting. We suggested a levy should be introduced only if it could be managed in such a way that it brought significant benefits back to the licensed economy in Durham City via initiatives, campaigns, events, targeted activity and so on. Our

position on this matter remains unchanged, and though we do note and respect that the operating context for licensed venues has changed significantly since the pandemic, we have however also seen the 'Night Hub' initiative developed as an outstanding example of a successful initiative which could be funded through such a levy.

Finally we would note the following as specific requests of DCC regarding the statement:

- the data on student numbers requires urgent updating and the team drafting the final version of the statement must contact the University (ideally through our Community Relations & Housing Unit) to correct this;
- DCC could consider appending the University's own policy on alcohol harm reduction as complimentary to documentation highlighted at section 2.6;
- DCC should give serious consideration as to how it can support, within its statement, a shared understanding across the licensed economy of the impact upon residential amenity in areas where both residents and local business jointly reside (like in Durham city where student accommodation often sits next to bars, restaurants, and night clubs) and where it is well known that noise issues persist. DU has funded a dedicated Public Protection Officer, within DCC, for 2 years now to help tackle noise nuisance and their work serves as testament to this ongoing issue in mixed commercial / residential areas. It does however show that when local, low-level interventions are made, simple and effective solutions can be found;
- Specific mention should be made in the policy of the City's resident-led "Shhh...11pm to 7am campaign" wherever appropriate. This is a unique initiative in Durham City, highly visible and frequently used with good success to tackle transient noise (typically resulting from patrons returning home, on foot, from venues in the nighttime economy). It should feature in the statement as an example of good practice;
- The function of the Framework Hours is so important to the promotion of the public nuisance objective, that they should become obligatory for all new licensed premises applications. We have previously commented on an application which concerningly requested hours of operation outside of the Framework Hours so our position on this should be clear.

We thank you for your time reading through our feedback, and the context herein provided, and we welcome further engagement with partners at DCC as appropriate as this work progresses.

Yours Faithfully,

**Hannah Shepherd (CIHCM), Senior Manager Community Relations & Housing**



# Statement of Licensing Policy 2023

This report was generated on 10/05/24. Overall 59 respondents completed this questionnaire. The report has been filtered to show the responses for 'All Respondents'.

The following charts are restricted to the top 12 codes. Lists are restricted to the most recent 100 rows.

## Do you think the current policy provided sufficient information for the following people... (Licensing Applicants)



## Do you think the current policy provided sufficient information for the following people... (Responsible authority e.g. police, fire, health and safety etc.)



## Do you think the current policy provided sufficient information for the following people... (Elected officials (councillors) )



## Do you think the current policy provided sufficient information for the following people... (Licence holders )

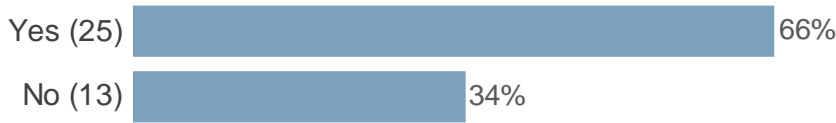


## Do you think the current policy provided sufficient information for the following people... (Businesses and trade organisations )



Statement of Licensing Policy 2023

**Do you think the current policy provided sufficient information for the following people... (Residents of and visitors to County Durham)**



**Why don't you think the current policy provides applicants with sufficient information?**

It does not mention council tax payers money was used to subsidise what was the county councillors bar at county hall.

It should lay out in plain language what is and what is not acceptable in terms of hours of operation, noise levels, siting in residential or commercial areas.

There appears to be either a lack of awareness due to insufficient information, or a disregard for the provisions set out in the document.

See attached document

**Why don't you think the current policy provides responsible authorities with sufficient information?**

access to information is difficult to navigate and can be limited.

difficult language and terminology to understand

Because they have allowed the city to increase the number of licensed premises (230 +) in a city that not that long ago had less than 40!

See attached document

**Why don't you think the current policy provides elected officials with sufficient information?**

Not enough training to understand the policy

As above

See attached document

**Why don't you think the current policy provides licence holders with sufficient information?**

again not enough engagement or training

Because it doesn't lay out in strict terms what and what not is acceptable

As above

See attached document

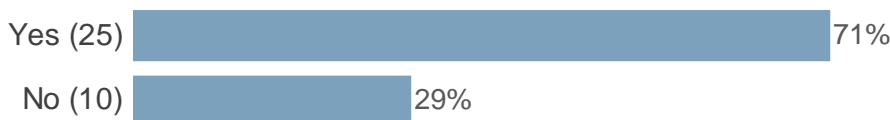
**Why don't you think the current policy provides business or trade organisations with sufficient information?**

- updates should be emailed or posted out
- lack of training
- no up to date info readily available
- Not rolled out using diverse methods of communication
- As above
- As above
- See attached document

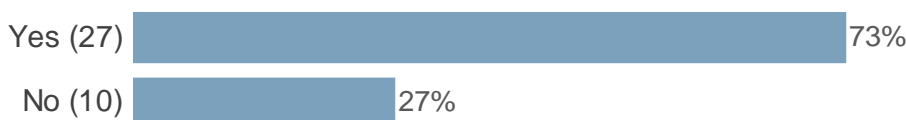
**Why don't you think the current policy provides residents of, or visitors to County Durham with sufficient information?**

- It makes little difference. DCC ignore the social challenges presented by excessive alcohol and continue to dish out licenses.
- not advertised well enough
- Loud events such as Hardwick Live are run without consideration to residents living near by.
- lack of information
- where would this be available
- The document is long and technical. It lacks concise summaries for ordinary readers.
- I didn't know it existed - better communication with general public
- I've never seen anything as a resident
- As above
- The few residents that are left in the centre of Durham, where the majority of licences are issued have NO voice whatsoever. The whole city is now run for the pleasure of students. What visitors must think if out in the city at nighttime must think is beyond belief. They may of course be delighted in having so much alcohol, loud music, drunken antics and lack of authority!
- Licenses should be published for everyone to see the details
- Lack of information easily available.
- See attached document

**Do you think the current policy provides sufficient and satisfactory information in support of the following licensing objectives... (Crime and disorder )**



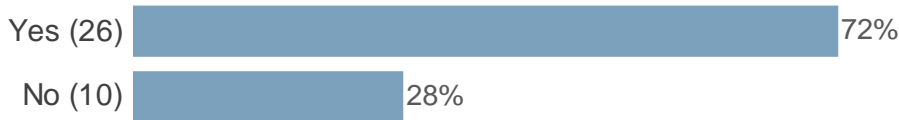
**Do you think the current policy provides sufficient and satisfactory information in support of the following licensing objectives... (Public nuisance )**



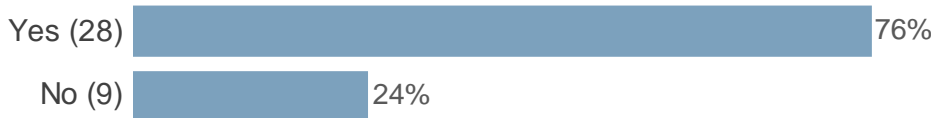


Statement of Licensing Policy 2023

**Do you think the current policy provides sufficient and satisfactory information in support of the following licensing objectives... (Public safety )**



**Do you think the current policy provides sufficient and satisfactory information in support of the following licensing objectives... (Protection of children from harm)**



**Why don't you think the current policy provides sufficient and satisfactory information in support of the crime and disorder objective?**

Needs to include more around issues such as violence against women and girls / spiking / one punch assaults - what these are but also suggestions of what can be done to tackle these issues and signposting to relevant organisations

It does the cover drink and driving by the police who attend Shiney Row Bedic lodge Masonic Hall.

Because they are not enforced by shops, landlords.

if enforced yes, but this does not appear to be the case

where is the info found

Durham city on a Saturday night is full of crime and disorder - so current policy isn't sufficient

Whilst the Statutory Licensing Policy summarises cumulative impact assessments of concentrations of licensed premises and other control measures like the late-night levy, none of these have been undertaken in Durham County Council. The Policy also discusses the available option of a special policy where there are high concentrations of licensed premises, resulting in areas being disproportionately affected by crime and disorder, but the policy lacks any update on work undertaken on these assessments, and sufficient detail on the process or further guidance for any responsible authority to request a review of such control measures or contribute to local authority-led elements of the Act, such as Cumulative Impact Assessments.

Walk round the city and see for yourself

Because there continues to be issues within the City and residents unsure of how to report or to see any action to resolve issues.

Not stringent enough and lacking in sufficient sanctions that can either lead to self regulation or to enforcement action by the appropriate authorities.

**Why don't you think the current policy provides sufficient and satisfactory information in support of the public nuisance objective?**

It's biased, does not include Council staff drinking in the Garden House during lunch breaks.

Shops selling to underage and landlords selling more alcohol to already drunken people

Hardwick Live is a sound nuisance to Sedgefield and nothing is done.

not enforced

as above

Drunks cause nuisance in Durham City

Same as above. Data mapping tools can be useful to address issues around crime and disorder and public nuisance but the policy fails to mention how these techniques can be used.

People should not feel threatened on their own streets

Because there continues to be issues within the City and residents unsure of how to report or to see any action to resolve issues.

As above.

**Why don't you think the current policy provides sufficient and satisfactory information in support of the public safety objective?**

Does not include Durham elected MP,s being drunk in the Parliament bar.

schemes such as ask Angela should be promoted for staff and public awareness

Same reasons as above.

not enforced

as above

Because there continues to be issues within the City and residents unsure of how to report or to see any action to resolve issues.

As above

See attached document

**Why don't you think the current policy provides sufficient and satisfactory information in support of the protection of children from harm objective?**

Couldn't see any mention of what is being done to prevent/ reduce FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) which is the disability caused by prenatal alcohol exposure, thought to be more prevalent than autism but underdiagnosed, not well known about and poorly supported.

We have witnessed children running around at our local pub without supervision. Parents fighting and using inappropriate language witnessed by children and ignored by management.

Same as above

not enforced

as above and fact that safe guarding isnt on most people in public domains priority

Not all methods of communication addressed

As above. More specific controls are needed in order to keep children from harm.

**Do you agree or disagree with the inclusion of more information and advice regarding... (...the problem of drink spiking?)**



**Do you agree or disagree with the inclusion of more information and advice regarding... (...licensing hours and opening hours?)**



**Do you agree or disagree with the inclusion of more information and advice regarding... (...preventing and reporting incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based violence?)**



**Why don't you think we should include more information and advice regarding the problem of drink spiking?**

Just goes on an on, re writing this and that, that know one reads. Surely it's all common sense. Save some staff time and money.

Because Durham students are often disciplined for drug offences yet it is suppressed by the Uni.

Plenty of info already.

It is unknown as to the level of the problem. Many of those people who claim or believe to have been spiked havent been

People are aware of spiking, extensive information is unnecessary

**Why don't you think we should include more information and advice regarding licensing hours and opening hours?**

Know body reads all these pages and pages of information. Keep it precise and simple.

No one can afford to go out even when open.

Same as above

**Why don't you think we should include more information and advice regarding preventing and reporting incidents of sexual harassment and gender-based violence?**

As above, the more you write the less irs read.

Same as above

Statement of Licensing Policy 2023

**Do you think the current policy should be changed and amended in any other way?**



**Please explain what in you think needs changing and why.**

jnjun

See answer to Q2

Cover backhanders and brown envelopes.

Would welcome the inclusion of what more can be done to promote total abstinence from alcohol during pregnancy due to the possibility of causing FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder).

Too many bars and drinking holes in durham city

further knowledge and awareness in relation to spiking and any kind of harassment

Hold landlords responsible

Only the Christmas Day hours. Could you please change in to the normal hours . Now there is a restriction on Christmas Day hours. Almost 1 year I'm in the shop I have not face any issues with alcohol sales . Very less young people in that area.

More consideration needs to be given to residents concerning large events near their homes. I have no objection to music festivals, but Hardwick Live is too close to Sedgfield. I have no legal protection to having excessive loud music being blasted out for 3 days.

insufficent info available on where to find help

Limit day drinking in Durham city. Have police out earlier during the day.

There should be a Cumulative Impact Policy that does impose quotas on the number of premises and the capacity of those premises. There should also be a Late-Night Levy to fund additional policing of the night-time economy AND to fund a clean-up of the relevant streets and and passageways by 7.00 am the following morning.

I support Durham Parish Council's request for a specific cumulative impact policy for new premises, coupled with more enforcement against problems caused by existing premises. Some concentrations of licensed premises, for example in some parts of some town centres, are appropriate but they should be carefully monitored and enforcement taken against anti-social developments. An example of this is the uncontrolled spreading out onto pavements which block the path of residents and other pedestrians. Try walking up the bottom end of Claypath or along Saddler Street on Fridays and at weekends – the combination of people standing on the pavement coupled with the proliferation of A boards and sign boards can block the pavements entirely forcing pedestrians into the road or, at worst, completely blocking the route for disabled people and families with pushchairs. Another problem is in Riverwalk where Fridays often puts up awnings enclosing the whole area between its premises and the public benches, blocking pedestrian access for people turning into or out of the riverside footpath from the footpath going past Poundland and Savers. It can be intimidating to try to negotiate the large and noisy groups of people outside the bars and pubs in all these areas, especially at night. The night time economy is fine, but other people's needs must be taken into account by licensees and their licenses should be revoked or modified if they persistently make life difficult for pedestrians. I also support the Parish Council's request for a late night levy to fund additional policing of the night time economy.

**Please explain what in you think needs changing and why.**

Whilst there is no statutory health objective under the 2003 Licensing Act 2003, there are proximal health issues which can be linked to the licensing objectives. Some areas close to us have already done this, and as such you should consider adding Health as a 5th licensing objective. By looking at smaller time periods, and smaller areas, with more of a bottom up approach, many public health concerns can be linked to local social, rather than physical, health issues in an area. As a result it may be useful to shift from focusing on traditional public health issues and physical health, to social health issues, such as street drinking, domestic violence and issues linked to deprivation. Some areas have already done this. Given the current four licensing objectives, these social concerns can be better applied and possibly provide a proxy route to addressing longer terms harms. While this may be an indirect route, it could be an effective one. It is also because of this that the notion of wellbeing could be particularly useful within licensing, focusing on local quality of life issues and the 'wellbeing of the wider community', as already mentioned in non-statutory guidance. Adding an additional health objective however would give local authorities the practical ability to address the wider social impact of licensing, in effect allowing for the more even application of the current objectives. Guidance on effective participation in licensing for public health teams, produced by Public Health England (PHE) and the Local Government Association, states that "SLPs: Provide an important opportunity to incorporate relevant local public health concerns within the wider policy context of the local licensing authority. For example, including local health statistics on alcohol consumption, along with highlighting action that could help remedy any particular concerns".

Living in Durham for over 40 years, I think the licensing laws have become to relaxed ,In my opinion and experience there are too many pubs and restaurants able to sell alcohol past 23:00 hours. My morning wanders through the streets of our city I come across. Glasses, Bottles, Vomit and Human Excrement. So I ask you does Durham and the permanent residents deserve this .

More inclusive addressing all age groups

Should be driven by and linked to public health/health and wellbeing objectives

As already stated there needs to be stricter controls on the operation of licensed premises and increased sanctions. Naturally there needs to be sufficient freedom for businesses to flourish but not at the expense of the safety and well being of residents and visitors.

See attached document

**Is there any other information that you think should be included in or excluded from our statement of licensing policy in support of any of the four licensing objectives?**

No (31)  76%

Yes (10)  24%

**Please explain what further information you think should be provided or removed and why.**

inmiu

A statement to say regardless of so called consultation it will be implemented anyway.

Under prevention of harm to children should include how County Durham can help implement elements of the NICE guidelines re FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). I am a County Durham resident and adoptive parent of 2 children diagnosed with FASD - preventable, lifelong, irreversible disability and brain damage caused by prenatal alcohol exposure thought to be more prevalent than autism.

Stronger penalties for pubs breaking the rules.

Licensee's should not be allowed to trade if they have been bankrupted - time after time they are trading on drugs money /loopholes in the law.

**Please explain what further information you think should be provided or removed and why.**

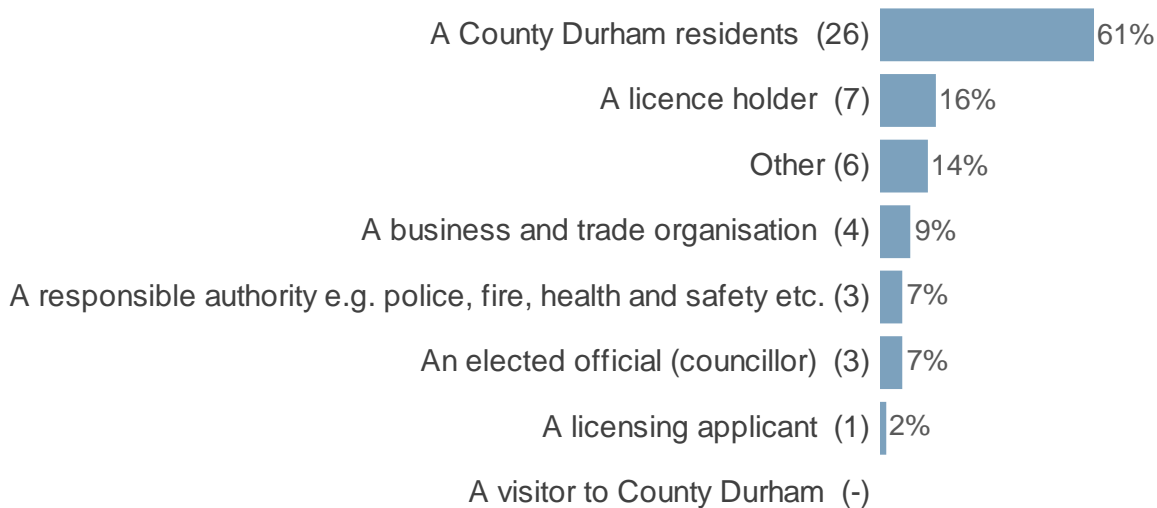
See above comments. Licensees must be reminded that they have a duty of care to residents and visitors who do not wish to use their facilities and their licences should be dependent on maintaining no inconvenience or nuisance, otherwise the Council should be able to revoke or modify the licence. Licensees should be required to draw attention of their patrons to avoiding illegal parking while they are visiting the premises. Cars parked illegally cause dangerous conditions for pedestrians in Saddler Street, especially in the evenings when they pull up close to buildings in order to avoid blocking the narrow road. The result is that pedestrians have to go into the road. They should not be there at all but there are never traffic wardens to deal with them. Cars also park with impunity on the double yellow lines outside The Capital and Bistro Italiano in Claypath, often on the wrong side of the road which is illegal at night, forcing other vehicles, including buses, into the path of oncoming vehicles. Again, there are never traffic wardens in sight.

- Temporary event Notices-there needs to be a distinction and further guidance for TENs for night time economy venues requesting extensions and other small, one off events like Christmas markets.
- Durham BID-this has similar traits to late night levies but there is no mention of the current Durham city BID in the policy.
- Currently, the cost of alcohol harm in County Durham, 2015/16. Source: Balance, 2018 is included in the policy. Balance is currently updating these costs and as such should be updated in this policy.
- Inclusion of the Home Office toolkit for supporting police forces with tackling alcohol-related harm:ACUK\_HomeOffice\_PoliceIntervention\_Toolkit\_+Leaflet\_V8.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk) in the useful documents section.
- Inclusion of County Durham and Darlington Serious Violence Prevention Partnership and Strategy 2024-26: <https://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/victims-services/serious-violence> in section on links to other strategies.

Make the policy accessible for processing by a diverse community

Problem severity gambling prevention and sign posting

**Are you responding as:  
Please tick all that apply.**



**If other, please specify.**

Service provider

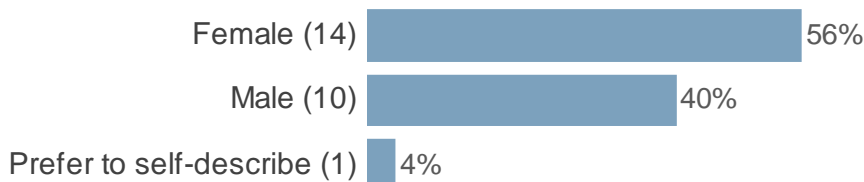
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner

Permanent Resident

The City of Durham Trust is a local civic society and registered charity.

test

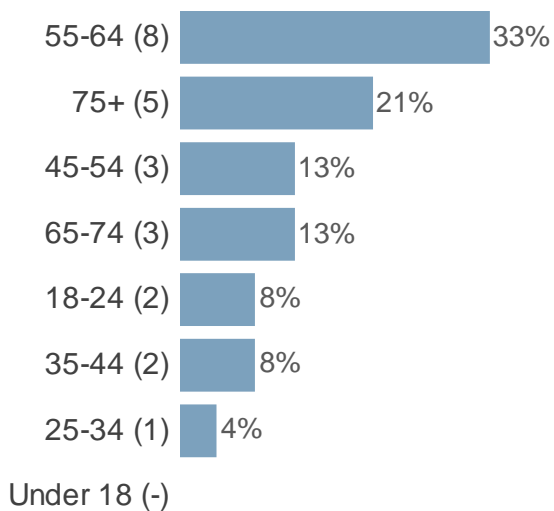
**Are you:**



**If prefer to self-describe, please specify.**

Mind your own business

**What is your age?**

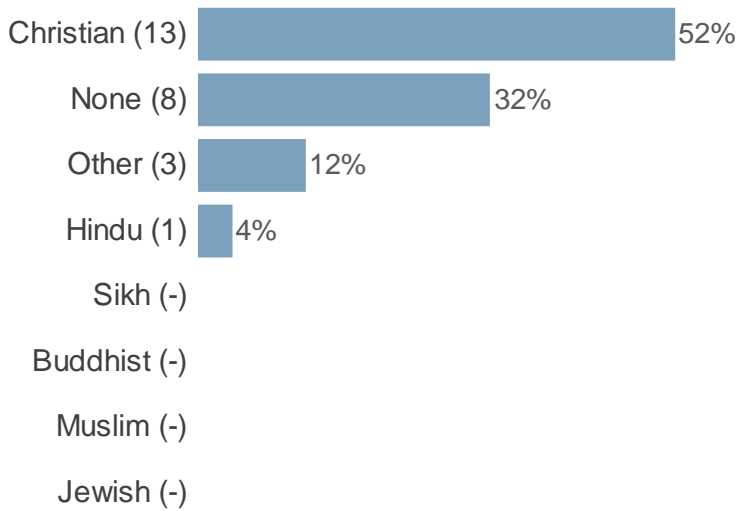


**Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?**

**(This may include any long-standing illness, disability or infirmity which has a substantial effect on your day-to-day life. Long standing means it has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least a year).**



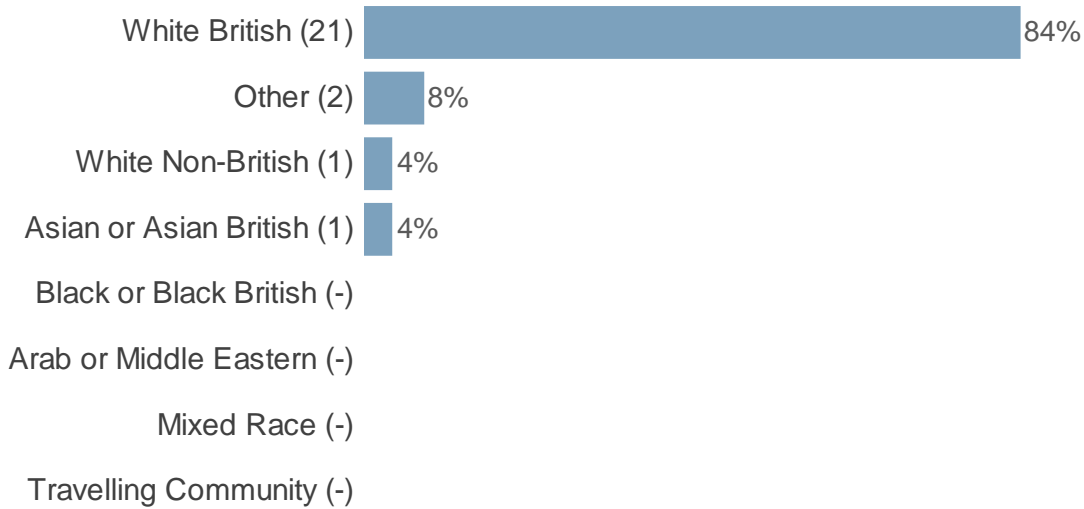
### What is your religion or belief?



### If other, please specify.

Mind your own business

### What is your ethnicity?



### If other, please specify.

As above



### How would you describe your sexual orientation?

