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14<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Licensing Act 2003 - Consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy and the Cumulative Impact Policy**

The Licensing Act affects anyone operating premises or organising events involving the sale or supply of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and the provision of late night refreshment after 11pm. It promotes four licensing objectives, namely the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, the Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

The Act requires the City Council to publish a Statement of Licensing Policy showing how we administer our duties under the Act. The Statement is kept under review and remains in existence for up to three years.

The existing policy comes to an end on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and a new policy will be required from 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011. In accordance with The HM Government Code of Practice, we are undertaking 12 weeks public consultation on our proposed policy and are again seeking feedback from the local community.

As a part of the consultation process, we are writing to everyone likely to be affected. We recognise that in some areas it may be difficult to identify the correct persons or bodies to consult, so we would be most grateful if you could pass this letter to the most appropriate person or body to respond, if necessary.

We have prepared a draft of the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with Government guidance. Amendments include changes over the past three years in legislation and guidance, a review section has been added and information within the enforcement section has been updated. The document, which tracks all the changes for ease of reference, can be viewed and downloaded from our website at <http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/ccm/content/business/licensing-and-permissions/licensing-policy-consultation.en> Alternatively, printed copies can be made available by telephoning the above number or by calling at the Customer Service Centre reception in Hobson House, St Andrews Street, between the hours of 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday.

Please note that our policy includes a Cumulative Impact Policy within the Statement of Licensing Policy.

Government Guidance on Cumulative Impact defines it as 'the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area'.

If after considering the available evidence and consulting prescribed individuals, the licensing authority is satisfied that it is appropriate and necessary to include an approach to cumulative impact within the licensing policy statement, it can indicate that it will be adopting a special cumulative impact policy.

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The effect of creating a special policy is to create a rebuttable presumption that applications for new premises licences for new premises licenses or club premises certificates, or major variations will be refused if relevant representations are received about the likely cumulative impact of the proposals on the licensing objectives, unless it can be demonstrated that the operation of the premises involved will not add to the cumulative impact already being experienced.

There should be an evidential basis for the decision to adopt a cumulative impact area, provided by the police. There needs to be the identification of areas of concern about crime and disorder or public nuisance and consideration of whether it can be demonstrated that crime and disorder and nuisance are arising and are caused by the customers of licensed premises and if so identifying the area from which problems are arising and the boundaries of that area; or that the risk factors are such that the area is reaching a point when cumulative impact is imminent.

Subject to the findings of the consultation, the Council may include a special policy about future premises licence or club premises certificate applications from that area and publish the special policy as part of the overall statement of licensing policy.

The council currently has a cumulative impact policy covering three areas, one within the City Centre, an area at the Cambridge Leisure Park, Clifton Way and Mill Road. The evidence supporting the policy and maps of two of the areas identified form a part of the policy.

Government guidance recommends that once adopted, special policies for cumulative impact should be reviewed regularly to assess whether they are needed any longer or whether they need expanding.

We welcome any comments that you may have on the Statement of Licensing Policy and/or the Cumulative Impact Policy. Your contribution will be important to us in deciding the final content of our Statement of Licensing Policy. All comments received will be considered at the licensing committee on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and full council on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2010. Although we are not able to give an individual response to each comment received, we will be publishing the results and committee reports on our website in October and the new Statement of Licensing Policy in January 2011.

Please send any response to the Licensing Team at the address stated overleaf by 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010. You can also e-mail your response to [licensing@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@cambridge.gov.uk).

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

Christine Allison  
Licensing Manager