

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 APRIL 2018

REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING AND HEALTH

NIGHT TIME ECONOMY AND PUBLIC HEALTH: IMPACT OF ALCOHOL USE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL (WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE MARKET TOWNS)

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the key points arising from the recent consideration by the Licensing Committee of the impact of alcohol use in public health in East Herts. Members' views are invited.
- The report invites the Committee members to consider the extracts from the draft Position Statement on 'Licensing Decision Making relating to the Night Time Economy' given in Essential Reference Paper B. These extracts from the longer document are particularly relevant to the subject of this report. This Position Statement has been endorsed for consultation by the Licensing Committee and seeks to address some of the public health, policing and wider issues related to the night time economy by providing clearer guidance to all stakeholders regarding the licensing of premises selling alcohol in the district.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY:

That:

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| (A) | the views of Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health team on the impact of alcohol misuse on public health are noted and views on how the council and Public Health colleagues can work together to mitigate these impacts are passed to the Head of Housing and Health for consideration; |
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(B)	views on the key aspects of the draft Position Statement on 'Licensing Decision Making relating to the Night Time Economy' given in Essential Reference Paper B are provided to the Head of Housing and Health for consideration.
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1. Background

- 1.1 On 14th March 2018, Robin Trevillion of Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health team gave a presentation to the Licensing Committee titled 'Public Health, Alcohol Misuse and Licensing with a focus on East Herts'.
- 1.2 This followed a presentation by Hertfordshire Police on the impact of the local night time economy (NTE) to the Licensing Committee which was subsequently discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 12 December 2017.
- 1.3 Public Health were asked to present to the Licensing Committee as part of that committee's continuing exploration of the impact of licensing matters, and the NTE more generally, on local services.

2.0 Report

The national picture regarding alcohol use and Public Health's objectives

- 2.1 As part of the council's continued work with partners to promote public safety and health and wellbeing outcomes, Public Health were invited to present to the Licensing Committee on the impact of alcohol use. Robin Trevillion of the County's Public Health team gave a presentation to the Licensing Committee on 14 March 2018.
- 2.2 Robin Trevillion explained that the latest guidance is that men and women should aim to regularly drink no more than 14 units of alcohol a week. Examples of one unit of alcohol include, half a pint of 'regular' strength beer, one single measure of spirits or half a small glass of wine.

- 2.3 Across England, it is estimated that some 10.8 million adults are drinking at levels that pose some risk to health, with 1.6 million believed to have some degree of alcohol dependence.
- 2.4 Nationally, alcohol-related harm has been estimated to cost society around £21 billion a year, primarily in terms of the impact of crime and the cost of policing, lost productivity and health care. In contrast, national revenue from alcohol duty is around £11 billion a year.
- 2.5 Robin Trevillion referred to Public Health's role as a responsible authority. The team thus has the right to be consulted on and make representations regarding licensed premises applications. Of note, Public Health:
- receives copies of all new licence applications, variations and reviews
 - is able to present health-related evidence to those determining licence applications (the Licensing Sub-Committee in East Herts)
 - can apply for / support a review of an existing premises licence
 - can contribute to the development and review of council's Licensing Policy.
- 2.6 The Public Health team sees licensing activity as one way in which the team seeks to further public health objectives relating to alcohol use. Robin Trevillion explained that the Public Health team (and profession more widely) wishes to work with partners to reduce:
- the number of adults consistently drinking at an unhealthy level
 - the incidence of binge-drinking
 - the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions and premature deaths
 - the number of young people drinking alcohol and the amount they are drinking
 - the amount of alcohol-related violent crime.

Alcohol use in East Herts

2.7 While not a cause for complacency, Robin Trevillion presented figures showing that hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions are below the national average in all parts of Hertfordshire, with the rate in the county lowest among those living in East Herts:

- in England in 2016/17, there were 636 hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions per 100,000 people
- the highest rate in Hertfordshire was in Watford at 603 per 100,000 people
- the lowest rate in Hertfordshire was in East Herts at 416.

2.8 Furthermore, East Herts is well below the England-wide average, and is the lowest or second lowest district in Hertfordshire, on various measures of alcohol sales. Of note, there are fewer premises licensed to sell alcohol per square kilometre than the England-wide average; 1.0 premises per square kilometre in East Herts compared with 1.3 across England.

Summary of Public Health's issues

2.9 Robin Trevillion concluded his presentation by summarising Public Health's key issues and suggested potential actions:

Issue	Potential action
Access to alcohol by young people	All partners to promote and ensure age challenge processes
High levels of consumption among some groups	All partners to promote and ensure processes and training to prevent sales to those already drunk
Availability of cheap high strength alcohol	Public education of alcohol strengths and intake limits. Seek ways to limit sales of such drinks

Alcohol-related violence	Work together across public services to identify any premises particularly linked to alcohol-related violence and consider reviews of the licences
Number of alcohol-related hospital attendances/admissions	Work together across public services to identify any premises particularly linked to alcohol-related hospital attendance and consider reviews of the licences
Noise nuisance and disturbance to sleep	Consider such nuisance at time of licence application, variation or review

Actions to mitigate the impact of alcohol use on public health

- 2.10 Given the role alcohol consumption plays across society, one organisation or service alone cannot tackle the issues identified by Public Health. East Herts Council has thus put much effort into forging links with other public bodies, the licensed trade and the public to act against excessive alcohol use. Of note, the council and police work with local licence holders on the Pub Watch scheme. This covers four out of the five towns in East Herts with a total of 62 members. Bishop's Stortford has the highest membership with 21 venues signed up, Hertford with 19, Ware with 17, and Sawbridgeworth with five. Currently, there is no Pub Watch coverage in Buntingford.
- 2.11 Pub Watch has been running for approximately ten years and those involved in the scheme meet monthly with the police and the council to share intelligence . Of particular relevance, the Behave or Be Banned (BOBB) Scheme is an example of a successful Pub Watch initiative where individuals are banned from premises if they commit anti-social behaviour, typically fuelled by alcohol consumption. On average there are between 100 – 120 individuals on the BOBB scheme at any one time banned from one or all licensed premises in a town centre.
- 2.12 In addition, earlier this year the council learnt that the bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner submitted by the council and the police, on behalf of East Herts Community Safety Partnership, for support to introduce Scannet Live ID was

successful in being allocated funding subject to the final agreement of the proposal. This is a piece of equipment, when installed on the doors of late night entertainment establishments, can assist security staff identify fake ID and flag up those banned from the establishment and/or other venues. It is hoped this will go a long way toward reducing alcohol-related violence and curbing the continued drinking of those already heavily intoxicated.

Position Statement on 'Licensing Decision Making relating to the Night Time Economy'

- 2.13 At its meeting of 12th December 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered that principles underpinning the proposed review and revision of the council's statutory Statement of Licensing Policy. A draft Position Statement on 'Licensing Decision Making relating to the Night Time Economy', which it is proposed will become an addendum to the council's statutory Licensing Policy has been now been produced. It was endorsed for consultation by the Licensing Committee on 14th March 2018.
- 2.14 Among other aims, the addendum sets out to far more clearly explain:
- how relevant 'stakeholders', including residents living in the vicinity of existing or proposed licensed premises, can make representations to the council, including calling for a review of an existing licence
 - triggers for enforcement action by the council and/or other parties
 - how the council will proactively support best practice in the night time economy, for example, by promoting the use of Live ID and making best use of CCTV.
- 2.15 Officers will shortly be commencing consultation on this and, of course, all members will be invited to comment. In advance of this, members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are

invited to consider the specific proposed provisions of the Position Statement listed in Essential Reference Paper B which are considered particularly pertinent to the consideration of the impact of alcohol use on public health under discussion in this report. Comments are invited.

3.0 Summary and recommendations

3.1 In summary, Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health team have raised that alcohol use has a significant impact on the public health. Licensing activity and decision-making is one of a wide range of ways that partners can work together to tackle alcohol misuse and its impacts.

3.2 Public Health and the council share a desire to maintain relatively low levels of ill-health and disorder in East Herts linked to alcohol use. To that end, both agencies are working together, with the police, the licensed trade and the public, to reduce the negative impacts of alcohol misuse.

3.3 Council officers have recently drafted a Position Statement on 'Licensing Decision Making relating to the Night Time Economy'. It is planned that this will form an addendum to the council's statutory Statement of Licensing Policy and so will impact on the decision-making process as it relates to premises seeking to or already selling alcohol.

3.4 Members are invited, in advance of their invitation to comment on the full draft Position Statement as part of the formal consultation process, to comment on the elements of the Statement listed in ERP B which are particularly pertinent to the matters discussed in this report.

4.0 Implications/Consultations

4.1 Relevant information can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor Graham McAndrew
graham.mcAndrew@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health
01992 531594
jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health
01992 531594
jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk