

APPENDIX A

1. The Application

- 1.1 This report concerns an application for a summary review of the premises licence held by Ravichandran Nattuselvam and Aravindaiah Priyadharshan Rajarajan at 3 Brighton Road, South Croydon, CR2 6EA. The application is made by the police, as a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and was received by the Council's Licensing Team on 4 July 2022.
- 1.2 The premises licence was granted to Ravichandran Nattuselvam and Aravindaiah Priyadharshan Rajarajan by way of transfer on 1 August 2019.
- 1.3 This application is made under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 which allows the police, where the police consider that a licensed premises is associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both), to apply to the licensing authority for a summary review of the licence. This power is only available to the Police and only applies where a premises licence authorises the sale of alcohol.
- 1.4 A copy of the review application and accompanying certificate signed by a Police Superintendent is attached at Appendix A1.
- 1.5 The licensing sub committee took the interim step on 5 July 2022 of suspending the premises licence pending the full review hearing. The premises licence holder made representations on this decision and those representations were considered by the Council's licensing sub committee at a hearing on 7 July 2022 which was attended by the premises licence holder. The sub committee, having considered the representations, determined that the premises licence should remain suspended pending the review hearing which must be held within 28 days of the application being made. Copies of the decision by the licensing sub committee on 5 July to impose interim steps, the representations from the premises licence holder on those interim steps and the decision of the licensing sub committee on 7 July to maintain the interim steps are attached at Appendix A2.
- 1.6 Between 5 and 18 July 2022, there was a statutory 10 working day period in which responsible authorities and other persons could make representations on the application. This included the police. The police made further representations in this period.
- 1.7 A copy of the further police representations is attached at Appendix A3.
- 1.8 An extract from the Home Office statutory guidance to Local Authorities under the Licensing Act 2003 concerning summary reviews is attached at Appendix A4.
- 1.9 A copy of the premises licence is attached at Appendix A5.

2. **Promotion of Licensing Objectives**

2.1 There are four licensing objectives that underpin the Licensing Act 2003 and section 4 of the Act states that a licensing authority must carry out its functions with a view to promoting those licensing objectives, which are:

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

3. **Relevant representations**

3.1 Representations have been received on the application from two other responsible authorities and a local resident as an 'other person'. Copies are attached at Appendix A6.

3.2 The licence holder has been provided with a copy of the review application and a copy of all the representations made.

4 **Policy Considerations**

4.1 Under the terms of the Act, the Council has published a Statement of Licensing Policy. This is available on the Council website at www.croydon.gov.uk . Hard copies are also available from the Council's Place Department and copies of the policy will also be available at the licensing sub committee hearing. The following paragraphs from the Statement are considered particularly relevant with regard to this application.

4.8 The fundamental principles of the Act and its accompanying guidance are that nothing in this 'Statement of Policy' will:

undermine the rights of any person to apply under the 2003 Act for a variety of permissions and have each application considered on its individual merits, or,

override the right of any person to make representations on any application or seek a review of a licence or certificate where they are permitted to do so under the 2003 Act.

4.9 Parties should be aware that, for a representation to be considered relevant, it must be one that is about the likely effect of the grant of a new licence/certificate or variation of an existing licence/certificate on the promotion of the four licensing objectives. Also, if the representation is made by an 'other person', it will not be relevant if the licensing authority considers it to be 'vexatious or frivolous', or in the case of a review, 'repetitious'.

4.10 Applicants and those making relevant representations in respect of applications or seeking a review of a licence or a certificate have the right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court against the decisions of the Council.

- 4.11 In considering all licence/certificate applications, the Council will take into account the character of the surrounding area, the impact of the licence/certificate on that area and the nature and character of the operation.
- 4.12 As part of any application for a premises licence/club premises certificate or a variation to an existing licence/certificate, applicants are required to submit an 'Operating Schedule', which must include the steps proposed to promote the Licensing Objectives set out in paragraph 2.2.
- 4.13 Part 5 of this Statement gives guidance to applicants on some of the matters they may wish to consider when preparing their Operating Schedules.
- 4.14 Licensing is about permitting activities but also ensuring the responsible management of licensed premises, qualifying clubs and temporary events within the terms of the 2003 Act, and conditions are likely to be attached to licences, certificates and permissions that will cover matters which are within the control of individual licensees.
- 4.15 However, the Council acknowledges that it can only impose conditions where relevant representations have been received on an application and that such conditions must be considered necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Where no relevant representations have been made, the application will be granted by the licensing authority in terms consistent with the applicants operating schedule.
- 4.16 When considering these conditions, the Council will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.

NEED and CUMULATIVE IMPACT

- 4.17 The Council will not take 'need' into account when considering an application, as this concerns 'commercial demand' and is a matter for the planning process and the market.
- 4.18 However, the Council recognises that a significant number and type of licensed premises in a particular area may lead to problems of crime, disorder and nuisance and notes that in accordance with the Statutory Guidance to the Act, their cumulative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives is a proper matter for the Council to consider. For example, national analysis of alcohol sales data (sales in the on and off trade) has shown a positive association at local authority level between off-trade sales and alcohol-specific hospital admissions.
- 4.19 Where the Council recognises that there is such a cumulative effect it will consider adopting a specific Cumulative Impact Policy for that area, if this is shown to be necessary. Reducing availability, affordability and attractiveness are some of the most effective ways to reduce alcohol-harm and related crime.

- 4.20 In these circumstances, the Council may consider that the imposition of conditions is unlikely to address the apparent problems and may consider the adoption of a special policy whereby there will be a presumption that new premises licence or club premises certificate applications, or applications to materially vary a premises licence, will be refused. A material variation may be, for example, an increase in permitted hours or to add a licensable activity onto a premises licence.
- 4.21 Based on the Statutory Guidance to the Act, in deciding whether to adopt such a Policy in an area, the Council will consider the following:
- local crime and disorder statistics, including statistics on specific types of crime and crime hotspots
 - statistics on local anti-social behaviour offences
 - the density and number of current premises selling alcohol
 - Alcohol use and misuse in Croydon's population
 - Claimants of benefits due to alcoholism
 - Alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18's
 - Ambulance incidents and dispatches
 - Alcohol related road traffic accidents
 - Statistics on alcohol related emergency attendances and hospital admissions
 - Mortality
 - Complaints recorded by the local authority
 - Evidence from local councillors and
 - Evidence obtained through local consultation.
- 4.22 There are concerns about parts of the borough which experience high levels of alcohol related crime and alcohol related hospital admissions and where it is clear that the density of shops selling alcohol for consumption off the premises is significantly higher than in other parts of the borough.
- 4.23 As a result, the Council has considered it appropriate to designate, the following four areas within Croydon as being subject to a special Cumulative Impact Policy in respect of off licences and shops and supermarkets selling alcohol off the premises:
- i. Along the Brighton Road; South End; High Street, George Street corridor, from the Royal Oak Centre on Brighton Road, Purley to the junction of George Street and Cherry Orchard Road in Central Croydon
 - ii Along the London Road/Streatham High Road corridor, in 3 sections; from the junction of London Road and Tamworth Road in West Croydon to the j/w Canterbury Road; from the j/w Broughton Road to the j/w Melrose Avenue and; from the j/w Northborough Road to the borough boundary with London Borough of Lambeth

iii Along the Brigstock Road and High Street, Thornton Heath corridor, from the junction of Brigstock Road and London Road in Thornton Heath to the junction of High Street, Thornton Heath and Whitehorse Lane

iv Along the length of Central Parade, New Addington

4.24 The effect of a Cumulative Impact Zone Policy for each of the areas listed above is that where relevant representations are received on any new applications for a premises licence to sell alcohol off the premises, or on a material variation to an existing such premises licence there will be a presumption under the special policy that the application will be refused. A material variation would be, for example, an increase in permitted hours for the sale of alcohol or to add the sale of alcohol off the premises as a licensable activity to the premises licence.

4.25 The Cumulative Impact Policy is intended to be strict, and will only be overridden in genuinely exceptional circumstances. However, the Licensing Authority will not apply these policies inflexibly. It will always consider the individual circumstances of each application; even where an application is made for a proposal that is apparently contrary to policy.

4.26 It is not possible to give a full list of examples of when the council may treat an application as an exception. However, in considering whether a particular case is exceptional, the Licensing Authority will consider the reasons underlying the policy.

4.27 The Licensing Authority will not consider a case to be exceptional merely on the grounds that the premises have been or will be operated within the terms of the conditions on the licence, or that are or will be generally well managed because of the reputation or good character of the licence holder or operator. This is expected in the conduct of all licensed premises. Moreover, licences are for premises and can be easily transferred to others who intend to operate within the scope of the licence and its conditions.

4.28 The Council will review the special policies regularly to see whether they have had the effect intended and whether they are still needed or whether they need expanding.

4.29 The Council will not use these policies solely:

- As the grounds for removing a licence when representations are received about problems with existing licensed premises, or,
- To refuse modifications to a licence, except where the modifications are directly relevant to the policy, for example where the application is for an extension in permitted hours or to add a licensable activity.

4.30 The Council recognises though that where no relevant representations are made in relation to an application in a cumulative impact area, the application must be granted in terms consistent with the applicants operating schedule.

- 4.31 The Council recognises that the diversity of premises selling alcohol, serving food and providing entertainment covers a wide range of contrasting styles and characteristics and will have full regard to those differences and the differing impact these will have on the local community.
- 4.32 Where an application is made for a new or transfer and variation of a licence, in respect of premises that have closed and been unused and that closure was to a relevant extent as a consequence of crime and disorder and/or nuisance issues at the premises, the Council would expect the applicant to make clear in their operating schedule how they will ensure the crime and disorder and public nuisance objectives will be met, bearing in mind any previous crime and disorder/nuisance concerns there may have been.
- 4.33 It therefore also recognises that, within the Cumulative Impact Policy areas, it may be able to approve licences that are unlikely to add significantly to the existing problems, and will consider the circumstances of each individual application on its merits.
- 4.34 In addition to the cumulative impact zones listed above, the Council is aware of concerns amongst responsible authorities and residents about the number of shops licensed to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises in certain other areas of the borough and the impact they may be having on crime and disorder. It is not intended at this time to introduce cumulative impact zones in these areas, however, they will be monitored and assessed regularly and should concerns increase, consideration will be given to formally identifying them as cumulative impact zones. For the time being, those areas will be classed as special stress areas and they are as follows:
- High Street & Portland Road, South Norwood
 - Lower Addiscombe Road
- 4.35 The Council acknowledges that the licensing function cannot be used for the general control of anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are beyond the direct control of the licensee of any premises concerned and that apart from the licensing function, there are a number of other measures available for addressing issues of unruly behaviour that can occur away from licensed premises.
- 4.36 In recognising the importance of such measures, the Council will continue to seek further improvements to those already achieved in respect of planning controls and working in partnership with local businesses and transport operators on a number of measures to create a safe and clean environment in the following areas:
- Provision of extensive CCTV and radio communication systems
 - Improvements to street lighting
 - Rubbish collection and street cleaning
 - Provision of better late night bus, tram, rail and taxi/minicab services
 - Provision of Police Officers/street and litter wardens

- Designation of areas within the borough, as part of a Public Space Protection Order, where alcohol may not be consumed publicly and monitoring the possible need for future designations in other parts of the borough*
- Working in partnership with Croydon Borough Police on law enforcement issues relating to disorder and anti-social behaviour. These include the use of powers to issue fixed penalty notices, prosecuting those selling alcohol to people who are underage and/or drunk, confiscating alcohol from adults and children in designated areas and instant closure of licensed premises or temporary events on the grounds of disorder, or likelihood of disorder or excessive noise from the premises
- Working in partnership with Licensees and expecting them to support existing and future agreed measures set up to promote the strategic objectives for crime and disorder reduction within the Borough
- Acknowledging the powers of the police or other responsible authorities, or a local resident or business under the 2003 Act, to seek a review of the licence or certificate

*Would existing licence/certificate holders and new applicants please note that a number of areas within the borough of Croydon are to lie within Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) that may control the consumption of alcohol in public areas. Please contact the Council's licensing team if you wish to discuss how such orders may affect licensed premises.

5. LICENSING OBJECTIVES and OPERATING SCHEDULES

5.1.1 The following sections set out the Council's Policy relating specifically to the four Licensing Objectives:

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

5.1.2 In each section the Council defines its intended outcome and lists the factors that may influence achieving that particular objective, but because of the wide variety of premises and activities to which this Policy applies, the lists provided are not exhaustive. Applicants will know their premises best and will be expected to address all aspects relevant to the individual style and characteristics of their premises and events.

5.1.3 Further, each section lists possible control measures to assist applicants, but again these lists are not exhaustive. Also, many of the control measures achieve more than one Objective but have not been listed under each Objective and applicants do not need to mention a control measure more than once in their Operating Schedule.

5.2 Crime and Disorder

- 5.2.1 Croydon Council is committed to reducing crime and disorder within the Borough and creating an environment where people feel safe.
- 5.2.2 In addition to the requirements under the 2003 Act for the Council to promote the licensing objective of preventing crime and disorder, it also has a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the Borough.
- 5.2.3 Licensed premises, especially those offering late night/early morning entertainment, alcohol and/or refreshment, can be a source of crime and disorder problems.
- 5.2.4 The Council considers that the promotion of the Licensing Objective to prevent crime and disorder also places a responsibility on licence holders to work in partnership to achieve this Objective.
- 5.2.5 The Council will expect applicants to demonstrate in their Operating Schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained so as to minimise or prevent crime and disorder in and around the vicinity of their premises and events.
- 5.2.6 The Licensing Authority recommends that for certain events, a comprehensive risk assessment is undertaken by premises licence applicants & holders to ensure that crime and disorder and public safety matters are identified and addressed. For larger public events, including those in open spaces and for premises that wish to stage promotions or events, the Licensing Authority recommends that licence applicants and holders address Risk Assessment and post event debrief processes in their application operating schedule/event planning.
- 5.2.7 Applicants and premises licence holders may wish to engage the services of suitably trained individuals or companies to assist them in this risk assessment process. In addition, they may seek guidance and advice from the Licensing Authority or the Metropolitan Police regarding the process, although the responsibility for undertaking the risk assessment remains with the Applicant/Premises License holder as neither body is able to actually undertake such risk assessments for applicants/licence holders. Applicants and premises licence holders are also reminded that the Licensing Authority is not able to recommend the services of a particular individual or company for this purpose.
- 5.2.8 Drugs, violence, anti social behaviour and theft of customers property are examples of crime and disorder issues which may be addressed by the

following examples of recommended management practice being included in operating schedules, having due regard to the type of premises and/or activities:

- effective and responsible management and supervision of the premises, including associated open areas, appropriate storage of alcohol, discouraging loitering/consuming alcohol outside the premises, ensuring opening hours are adhered to
- participation in responsible management schemes such as the 'Best Bar None' accreditation/award scheme
- appropriate instruction, training and supervision of those employed or engaged to prevent incidents of crime and disorder
- adoption of existing and future best practice guidance (e.g. Safer Clubbing, the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Toolkit and other recognised codes of practice including those relating to drinks' promotions, i.e. The Point of Sale Promotions published by the British Beer and Pub Association and cheap drinks deals/Happy Hours)
- acceptance of accredited 'proof of age' documentation, as recognised by the Council in consultation with the Police
- maintaining appropriate signage and a refusals log
- employment of sufficient SIA licensed door staff, i.e. within nationally accepted standards
- provision of toughened or plastic glasses
- provision of secure deposit boxes for confiscated items as recognised by the Council in conjunction with the Police
- provision of litter bins and security measures, such as lighting outside premises
- Other schemes including only purchasing alcohol from authorised wholesalers, not selling certain alcohol types/strengths (e.g. high strength beers/ciders or single cans above 6% ABV), restricting sales on certain alcohol types (e.g. miniature spirits), allowing a 'track and trace' identifier on products so Police/Trading Standards can identify which off-licence seized alcohol is from, signing up to local responsible retailer schemes
- Provision of closed circuit television, with cameras covering relevant internal and external areas (including beer gardens) and entrances/exits to premises

Note: As this Policy applies to a wide range of premises and activities, the above list will not be applicable in all cases and in some cases additional matters may need addressing.

5.2.9 Additionally, when preparing their Operating Schedules, applicants are recommended to seek advice from the Council Licensing Team and Croydon Police Licensing and/or Crime Prevention Officers, as well as taking into account, as appropriate, local planning and transport policies, and, tourism, cultural and crime prevention strategies.

5.2.10 Where relevant representations have been made, the Council will consider attaching conditions to licences and permissions to deter and prevent crime and disorder both inside and immediately outside the premises.

5.3 Public Safety

5.3.1 The Council is committed to ensuring that the safety of any person visiting or working in licensed premises is not compromised. To this end, applicants will be expected to demonstrate in their Operating Schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to ensure public safety, relevant to the individual style and characteristics of their premises and events.

5.3.2 The 2003 Act covers a wide range of premises that require licensing, including, cinemas, concert halls, theatres, nightclubs, public houses, off licences, cafés/restaurants, fast food outlets/takeaways and sometimes open spaces.

5.3.3 Each of these types of premises present a mixture of different risks, with many common to most premises and others unique to specific operations. These will range from fire safety, including fire precautions and means of escape arrangements in all types of premises, to the use of scenery and pyrotechnics in theatres and special lighting effects in night clubs.

5.3.4 It is essential that premises are constructed or adapted and operated so as to acknowledge and safeguard occupants against these risks.

5.3.5 The following examples of influencing factors are given to assist applicants when addressing the issue of public safety during the preparation of their Operating Schedule:

- the number of people attending the premises
- the condition, design and layout of the premises, including the means of escape in case of fire
- the nature of the activities to be provided, in particular the sale of alcohol and including whether those activities are of a temporary or permanent nature
- the hours of operation and hours of opening if different
- customer profile (i.e. age, mobility)
- the use of special effects such as strobe lighting, lasers, pyrotechnics, smoke machines, foam machines etc.

5.3.6 Public safety issues may be addressed by the following examples of recommended management practice being included in operating schedules, having due regard to the type of premises and/or activities:

- effective and responsible management of premises
- provision of a sufficient number of people employed or engaged to secure the safety of everyone attending the premises or event, i.e.

number of door supervisors within nationally accepted standards (and having SIA accreditation where necessary)

- appropriate instruction, training and supervision of those employed or engaged to secure the safety of everyone attending the premises or event
- suitable customer-care policies for assisting lone customers taken ill or injured etc. at the premises
- provision of effective CCTV in and around premises
- provision of toughened or plastic glasses
- implementation of crowd management measures
- regular testing (and certification where appropriate) of procedures, appliances, systems etc. pertinent to safety codes and standards

Note: As this Policy applies to a wide range of premises and activities, the above list will not be applicable in all cases and in some cases additional matters may need addressing.

5.3.8 Additionally, when preparing their Operating Schedules, applicants are recommended to seek advice from the Council's Health and Safety Officers and the London Fire Brigade.

5.3.9 The Council will consider attaching Conditions to licences and permissions to promote public safety.

5.4 Prevention of Public Nuisance

5.4.1 The Council recognises the need to protect the amenities of people living, visiting and working in the vicinity of licensed premises, whilst balancing the rights of businesses to develop.

5.4.2 Licensed premises, especially those operating late at night and in the early hours of the morning, can give rise to a range of public nuisances which may impact adversely on local communities.

5.4.3 These concerns mainly relate to noise and disturbance, light pollution, noxious smells, litter and anti-social behaviour and due regard will be taken on the impact these may have.

LICENSING HOURS

5.4.4 The Council will generally deal with the issue of licensing hours having due regard to the individual merits of each application, considering the potential for nuisance associated with the style, characteristics and activities of the business and examining any steps that might reduce the risk of nuisance.

5.4.5 The Council recognises that longer licensing hours for the sale of alcohol will avoid concentrations of people leaving premises at the same time, which is necessary to reduce the potential for friction at late night fast food outlets, taxi ranks/minicab offices and other sources of transport that can lead to disorder and disturbance.

- 5.4.6 The Council will not set fixed trading hours within designated areas (“zoning”) as it recognises this could lead to significant movements of people across boundaries at particular times seeking premises opening later and would lead to the peaks of disorder and disturbance the Council is trying to avoid. Additionally, this would seemingly treat residents in one area less favourably than those in another.
- 5.4.7 However, although the Council will treat each case on its individual merits, generally it will not grant permission for licensable activities beyond 2330 hours on Sundays to Thursdays and Midnight on Fridays and Saturdays in respect of public houses situated in areas having denser residential accommodation. The Council would expect good reasons to be given to support any application for extensions beyond these hours, including addressing possible disturbance to residents and local parking. Additionally, in these areas, consideration will be given to imposing stricter conditions in respect of noise control.

SHOPS, STORES AND SUPERMARKETS

- 5.4.8 The Council acknowledges that the Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 states that shops, stores and supermarkets should normally be free to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any times when the retail outlet is open for shopping unless there are good reasons, based on the licensing objectives, for restricting those hours.
- 5.4.9 However, there is local concern about crime and disorder associated with shops licensed to sell alcohol off the premises. Accordingly, while the Council will treat each case on its individual merits there will be a presumption that permitted hours for the sale of alcohol will be restricted to between 8am and 11.30pm on Sunday to Thursday and 8am to midnight on Friday and Saturday in respect of shops in residential areas or within one of the four relevant Cumulative Impact Zones where representations are made by the police and/or local residents and where premises are shown to be a focus of crime, disorder or nuisance. Applications to vary the permitted hours for the sale of alcohol off the premises within the above hours shall similarly be treated on their merits

PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE - GENERALLY

- 5.4.10 The Council will expect applicants to demonstrate in their Operating Schedule that they have identified satisfactory measures and will implement and maintain these so as to prevent public nuisance, having due regard to the style, characteristics and activities of their particular premises and events and of the locality.
- 5.4.11 The following examples of influencing factors are given to assist applicants when addressing the issue of the prevention of public nuisance during the preparation of their Operating Schedule:

- the location of the premises and proximity to residential or other noise sensitive premises
- effective and responsible management and supervision of the premises and associated open areas
- the hours of opening
- the nature of the activities to be provided and their location within the premises, the customer profile, whether the activities are temporary or permanent and whether they are to be held inside or outside
- the design and layout of the premises and in particular the presence of noise limiting features
- the number of people attending the premises
- the availability of public transport
- a 'wind down' period between the end of the licensable activities and the closure of the premises
- a 'last admission time' policy

5.4.12 Public nuisance issues may be addressed by the following examples of recommended management practice being included in operating schedules, having due regard to the type of premises and/or activities:

- effective and responsible management and supervision of the premises, including any outside areas
- appropriate instruction, training and supervision of staff to prevent public nuisance
- adoption of current best practice guidance (i.e. Good Practice Guide on the Control of Noise from Pubs and Clubs produced by the Institute of Acoustics), including designing shop fronts so as to limit noise nuisance from premises, i.e. from opening windows or continental-style concertina doors
- control of opening hours for all or part (i.e. garden areas) of the premises – including other times when deliveries take place/rubbish and bottles are binned – and the operation of generating plant and equipment
- installation of acoustic insulation, suitably controlled, sited and silenced ventilation or air conditioning systems and sound insulation and limiting devices
- managing people, including staff and traffic, arriving and leaving the premises, including patrolling entrance queues
- managing the departure of customers
- liaising with transport providers
- siting and operation of necessary external lighting, including security lighting, with the possible nuisance to nearby properties
- suitable arrangements for collection and disposal of litter, including bottles, so as to minimise disturbance to nearby properties
- no flyposting of events/careful distribution of flyers, including by promoters
- effective ventilation systems to prevent nuisance from odour

Note: As this Policy applies to a wide range of premises and activities, the above list will not be applicable in all cases, and in some cases additional matters may need addressing.

5.4.13 Additionally, when preparing their Operating Schedules applicants are recommended to seek advice from Council Pollution Enforcement Officers.

5.4.14 The Council will consider attaching Conditions to licences and permissions to prevent public nuisance.

5.5 Protection of Children from Harm

ACCESS TO LICENSED PREMISES

5.5.1 The wide range of premises that require licensing means that children can be expected to visit many of these, often on their own, to buy food and/or for entertainment.

5.5.2 Although the 2003 Act details certain age and/or time limitations on the admission of accompanied or unaccompanied children to certain types of licensed premises, the Council recognises that additional limitations may have to be considered where it appears necessary to protect them from physical, moral or psychological harm.

5.5.3 The Council will consider the merits of each application before deciding whether to impose conditions limiting the access of children to individual premises.

5.5.4 While no policy can anticipate every situation, the following are examples of premises that will raise concern:

- where entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature is commonly provided;
- where there have been convictions of members of the current staff at the premises for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for underage drinking;
- with a known association with drug taking or dealing;
- where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises (but not, for example, the simple presence of a small number of cash prize gaming machines); and
- where the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided at the premises.

5.5.5 When dealing with a licence application where limiting the access of children is considered necessary, the Council may consider any of the following options, in combination where appropriate:

- limitations on the hours when children may be present;
- limitations on the exclusion of the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place;

- limitations on the parts of premises to which children might be given access;
 - age limitations (below 18);
 - requirements for an accompanying adult (including for example, a combination of requirements which provide that children under a particular age must be accompanied by an adult); and
 - full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.
- 5.5.6 The Council will not impose conditions on licences or certificates requiring that children be admitted to any premises and, where no limitation is imposed, this will be left to the discretion of the individual licensee. However, where applicants volunteer prohibitions and limitations in their operating schedules and no relevant representations have been made to the Council, these will become conditions attached to the licence/certificate conditions and will be enforceable as such.

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY

- 5.5.8 The Council recognises the Croydon Children’s Safeguarding Board and any successor groups to be the ‘responsible authority’ competent to advise on matters relating to the ‘protection of children from harm’, and to whom copies of applications should be sent.

CHILDREN IN LICENSED PREMISES – GENERALLY

- 5.5.13 The Council will expect applicants to demonstrate in their Operating Schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to protect children from harm, having due regard to the style, characteristics and activities of their particular premises and/or events.
- 5.5.14 Whilst children may be adequately protected from harm by the action taken to protect adults, they may also need special consideration and no policy can anticipate every situation. Applicants should consider the following influencing factors, for which there is the potential for children to be exposed, when addressing the issue of protecting children from harm during the preparation of their Operating Schedule:
- drugs, drug taking or drug dealing
 - gambling
 - activities of an adult or sexual nature
 - incidents of violence or disorder
 - environmental pollution such as noise or smoke
 - special hazards such as falls from heights
 - opportunities to purchase, acquire or consume alcohol

Note: A number of these factors are listed in more details in paragraph 5.5.6, but as this Policy applies to a wide range of premises and activities, the

above list will not be applicable in all cases, and in some cases additional matters may need addressing.

5.5.15 Protection of children from harm issues may be addressed by the following examples of recommended management practice being included in operating schedules, having due regard to the type of premises and/or activities:

- effective and responsible management of premises
- provision of a sufficient number of people employed or engaged to secure the protection of children, including child performers, from harm
- appropriate instruction, training and supervision of those employed or engaged to secure the protection of children from harm
- adoption of best practice guidance (Public Places Charter)
- limitations on the hours when children may be present in all or parts of the premises
- limitations or exclusions by age when certain activities are taking place
- imposition of requirement for children to be accompanied by an adult
- appropriate instruction and training for counter staff in the prevention of underage sales, including acceptance of accredited 'proof of age' identification, such as a photo card driving licence, a passport, a citizens card, a validate card or a scheme which carries the PASS hologram logo and keeping a 'refusal' book.

5.5.16 Additionally, when preparing their Operating Schedules, applicants are recommended to seek advice from Council Licensing and Child Protection Officers.

5.5.17 The Council will consider attaching Conditions to licences and certificates to protect children from harm.

5.5.18 While the Council expects Licence holders to comply with the law, the 2003 Act details a number of specific offences designed to protect children in licensed premises and the Council will work closely with the police to ensure the appropriate enforcement of the law, especially relating to the underage sale and supply of alcohol to children.

6. INTEGRATING STRATEGIES and AVOIDING DUPLICATION

6.1 There are many stakeholders in the leisure industry covering a wide range of disciplines and although their strategies are not always directly related to the promotion of the licensing objectives, they often indirectly impact upon them.

6.2 The Council therefore acknowledges the importance of co-ordinating and integrating these policies, strategies and initiatives and will maintain multi-disciplinary working groups to ensure its licensing policy integrates with local crime prevention, planning, transport, tourism, race equality schemes and cultural strategies, as well as any other plans relating to the management of the town centre and the night-time economy.

CRIME PREVENTION

- 6.3 Conditions attached to Licences and Certificates will, so far as possible, reflect local crime prevention strategies. Examples of such conditions can be found in the Pool of Conditions relating to prevention of crime and disorder contained in the Statutory Guidance to the Act.

CULTURAL STRATEGIES

- 6.4 The Council will make arrangements to monitor the impact of licensing on regulated entertainment, particularly live music, ensuring that only necessary, proportionate and reasonable licensing conditions impose any restrictions on such events.
- 6.5 Where there is any indication that such events are being deterred by licensing requirements, the statement of licensing policy will be examined to see if the situation might be reversed.

PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

- 6.8 The Council recognises that there should be a clear separation of the planning, building control and licensing regimes in order to avoid duplication and inefficiency.
- 6.9 Licensing applications will not be a re-run of the planning application and will not cut across decisions made by the planning committee or permissions granted on appeal.
- 6.10 The Council will however expect applications for premises licences or for a variation to an existing premises licence at permanent commercial premises to be from businesses having the relevant planning consent for the property concerned. In addition, persons submitting temporary event notices should ensure the premises in question has the requisite planning consent for the proposed activities and hours of operation. Where this is not the case, applicants will be expected to show good reason why the premises do not have planning permission.
- 6.11 The Croydon Local Plan sets out the criteria that will be used to assess planning applications for any changes of use that require planning permission. Some changes of use do not require planning permission but an application for prior approval may be required to ascertain whether there are matters related to the change of use that do require planning permission. Applicants should contact the Council's Development Management service at development.management@croydon.gov.uk with any enquiries related to planning applications or the prior approval process.
- 6.12 Any application for planning permission will be expected to take into account the impact of noise and fumes (and other forms of potential nuisance) on neighbouring premises and to provide details of any mitigating measures, as applicable.

- 6.13 The Council will ensure that if requested, reports will be sent from the licensing committee to the planning committee advising them of the situation regarding licensed premises in Croydon, including the general impact of alcohol related crime and disorder, to assist them in their decision-making.

ADVANCING EQUALITY

- 6.14 The Council recognises its legal obligation under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.
- 6.15 The Council will assess and consult on the likely impact and monitor for any adverse impact on the advancement of equality which may arise as a result of this Policy Document and will publish the results.

DUPLICATION

- 6.16 The Council will, so far as possible, avoid duplication with other legislation and regulatory regimes that already place obligations on employees and operators, e.g. the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Regulatory Reform Fire Safety Order 2005 and the Equality Act 2010 in respect of accessibility for disabled people.
- 6.17 Conditions relating to public safety will only be attached to premises licences and club premises certificates where considered necessary for the promotion of that licensing objective and not covered by any other legislation and where regulations do not cover the unique circumstances of certain licensable activities in specific premises.
- 6.18 The Council acknowledges that bingo clubs are dealt with under the Gambling Act 2005 and will have due regard to the relevant advice regarding duplicating licence conditions which has been given under both this legislation and the 2003 Act when dealing with applications relating to alcohol, regulated entertainment or late night refreshment under the 2003 Act.

9. STANDARDISED CONDITIONS

- 9.1 Where Conditions are properly attached to licences or certificates they will be tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the particular premises and events concerned.

10. ENFORCEMENT

- 10.1 It is essential that licensed premises are maintained and operated so as to ensure the continued promotion of the licensing objectives and compliance with the specific requirements of the 2003 Act and it is the responsibility of premises licence holders and designated premises supervisors (where applicable) to ensure this happens and that regulatory compliance is

maintained. The Council and its partners will make arrangements to monitor premises and take appropriate enforcement action to ensure this but enforcement action should be considered to be the last resort and such intervention should not be necessary where premises are operated & managed effectively.

10.2 Each of the Responsible Authorities under the Act may make representations on an application or seek a review of a premises licence/club premises certificate, based on concerns around any of the licensing objectives. That said, it is anticipated that specific responsible authorities will take a central advisory & enforcement role, as necessary, with regard to relevant licensing objectives, for example –

- Prevention of crime and disorder – Police
- Prevention of Public Nuisance – Council Environmental Health (Pollution) Team and the Planning Department
- Public Safety – Council Food & Safety Team or HSE (as applicable) and the LFB
- Protection of Children from Harm – Croydon Children’s Safeguarding Board, Police and the Trading Standards Team

10.3 Under the London Borough of Croydon Licensing Act 2003 Enforcement Protocol, originally approved by the Council’s substantive Licensing Committee on 21 June 2006, using the principles of risk assessment, the Council will work closely with the responsible authorities in enforcing licensing law and inspecting licensed premises. This should ensure that resources are more effectively concentrated on problem and high risk premises. This Protocol shall be reviewed, through a separate process to this policy review in the coming months and an updated version shall be available from the Council Licensing Team and posted on the Council’s website.

10.4 The Council will carry out its regulatory functions in accordance with good enforcement practice and particular regard will be had to fundamental principles. In that regard, Enforcement shall be:

- Targeted
- Consistent
- Transparent
- Proportionate
- Necessary

Any enforcement activity shall be undertaken in a fair, open and consistent manner in conformity with the above principles.

The Home Office has produced Statutory Guidance under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. The following paragraphs from the Guidance are re produced below to assist the sub committee –

10.8 The licensing authority may not impose any conditions unless its discretion has been engaged following receipt of relevant representations and it is satisfied as a

result of a hearing (unless all parties agree a hearing is not necessary) that it is appropriate to impose conditions to promote one or more of the four licensing objectives.

- 4.2 All relevant parties have been made aware of the date, time and location of the Sub Committee meeting.
- 4.3 An ordnance survey extract map of the area with the application premises at the centre is attached at Appendix A7.