

**Report to: Licensing and Environmental Health Committee, 6 March 2023**

**Report of: Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services on Behalf of Worcester City Council**

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**Subject: CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY REVIEW – LICENSING ACT 2003**

**1. Recommendation**

**That Committee:**

- 1.1 Notes the contents of the report and, that the Council’s Special Policy on Cumulative Impact requires review ahead of July 2023**
- 1.2 Notes that a report setting out a review of the Council’s Special Policy on Cumulative Impact will be presented to this Committee in June 2023.**

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Council has included a special policy of Cumulative Impact within its Statement of Licensing Policy since 2005.
- 2.2 Home Office Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 defines Cumulative Impact as:  
  
*“the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licensed premises concentrated in one area”*
- 2.3 This special Policy was introduced by the Council following evidence having been presented by West Mercia Police demonstrating, that at the time the City Centre of Worcester was being adversely affected by an increase in crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour due to the large number of licensed premises being concentrated in the area.
- 2.4 Since its introduction, the policy has been kept under regular review and over time has evolved and adapted to the requirements of the city’s night-time economy. A copy of the Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 – 2024 is included at **Appendix 1**, within which Section 12 covers Cumulative Impact and Appendix B of the policy includes a map of the existing Cumulative Impact Zone.
- 2.5 In 2018 changes to the Licensing Act 2003 (Section 5A), introduced a requirement for local authorities to formally review Cumulative Impact Policies every 3 years. It further introduced a requirement for local authorities, should they find it necessary to continue with a special policy of Cumulative Impact, to undertake a Cumulative Impact Assessment. This assessment informs any reviewed and revised policy.
- 2.6 The last review of the Council’s Cumulative Impact Policy took place during 2019/20, where the evidence gathered and presented (Cumulative Impact Assessment) supported

the need to continue to have a Cumulative Impact Policy in place. The Cumulative Impact Assessment can be found at Appendix 2.

- 2.7 However it was agreed by this Committee, that the cumulative impact assessment which had been undertaken, confirmed that the area where cumulative impact provisions apply should be reduced and the policy be limited to applications from businesses whose operating model was to act as vertical drinking establishments between the hours of midnight and 6am, and businesses acting as Late Night Refreshment houses within the provisions of the Act, at any time between midnight and 5am.
- 2.8 Council duly received a Referral Report from this Committee incorporating the findings of the assessment and approved a revised Statement of Licensing Policy on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (**Appendix 1**).

### **3. Information**

- 3.1 Members should note, that officers have now started the formal policy review process, with contact having been made with West Mercia Police and also Worcestershire Public Health authority, requesting the necessary Worcester City Centre crime, antisocial behaviour, and public health statistical data.
- 3.2 This current report simply intends to inform Members of the future report that will be presented to this Committee, as during the previous review it was clear that an earlier discussion on the subject and process that sits behind Cumulative Impact Assessment would have been beneficial to Members in reaching a decision.
- 3.3 Following assessment of both the police and public health data, a Cumulative Impact Assessment will be undertaken and where necessary, the Council's special policy of Cumulative Impact will be reviewed, revised and updated.
- 3.4 The findings of the assessment and if necessary, a revised and updated Cumulative Impact Policy will then be presented to members at a future Licensing and Environmental Committee meeting, for consideration.

**Ward(s):** All  
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**Background Papers:** **Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 – 2024 (inc. Special Policy on Cumulative Impact)**  
[Appendix 3 - Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 - 2024 with CIP updated ...pdf \(worchester.gov.uk\)](#)

**Licensing & Environmental Health Committee – March 2020 – Licensing Act 2003, Review of Cumulative Impact Policy**  
[Worcester City Council - Council & Democracy - Agenda for Licensing and Environmental Health Committee on Thursday, 12th March, 2020, 7.00 pm](#)