



**CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL  
STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

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## CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

Cambridge is a unique blend of market town, sub-regional centre, national and international tourist attraction and centre of excellence for education and research. It is a city of great beauty and is renowned for the qualities of its streets, spaces and buildings.

Cambridge City Council (the Licensing Authority), in association with local partnerships, wants Cambridge to be vibrant, socially mixed, safe, convenient and enjoyable, where all residents feel integrated into the life of the City and a part of its success.

Cambridge City Council has a clear vision to lead a united city, 'One Cambridge – Fair for All', in which economic dynamism and prosperity are combined with social justice and equality. This is a vision shared with Cambridge citizens and partner organisations. Our vision includes:

- An international city which celebrates its diversity and actively tackles discrimination on gender, race, nationality, ethnic background, religion, age, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation.
- A city in which all citizens feel that they are listened to and have the opportunity to influence public decision making, and which values, supports and responds to individual and community initiatives.
- A city where all citizens and organisations appreciate their duties as well as their rights, where people are free to enjoy themselves but also show consideration for others, and where the community works together to reduce harm and nuisance including by education and, where needed, robust enforcement of the law.

The overarching objectives of Cambridge City Council in licensing premises are to:

- Promote the Authority's visions and values
- Protect the rights and health and safety of the general public, workers, residents, businesses, minority and vulnerable groups
- Ensure the principles of consistency, transparency, accountability and the promotion of good standards in licensing
- Demonstrate compliance with statutory responsibilities in relation to procedures and enforcement
- Ensure consistent and transparent decision making

It is recognised that licensed entertainment provides a valuable contribution towards the economy of Cambridge and we seek to balance the needs of local business holders and licensees, whilst protecting those of local residents. The City of Cambridge was awarded purple flag status in September 2019. A Purple Flag helps members of the public to identify

town and city centres offering an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Licensing Policy Statement has been produced in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act') and is in line with guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act.
- 1.2 The policy relates to all those licensing activities identified as falling within the provisions of the Act, namely: -
  - Retail sale of alcohol
  - Supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club, or to the order to a member of the club
  - The provision of regulated entertainment
  - The provision of late night refreshment
- 1.3 The policy relates to all types of premises covered by the Act.
- 1.4 The Licensing Authority will take the policy into account where its discretion is engaged (i.e. at a hearing following representations).
- 1.5 Nothing in this policy will undermine the right of any individual to apply under the terms of the Act for a variety of permissions and to have any such application considered on its individual merits.
- 1.6 The Licensing Authority may depart from this policy if the individual circumstances of any case merit such a decision in the interest of the promotion of the licensing objectives. Full reasons will be given for departing from the policy.

## 2. Objectives

- 2.1 The Licensing Authority has a duty under the Act to carry out its licensing functions by promoting the licensing objectives, which are: -
  - The prevention of crime and disorder
  - Public safety
  - The prevention of public nuisance, and
  - The protection of children from harm.

Each objective has equal importance.

- 2.2 In carrying out its licensing functions, the Licensing Authority must also have regard to the licensing objectives, its Policy Statement and any statutory guidance under the Act and is bound by The Human Rights Act 1998. The Council must also fulfill its obligations under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in Cambridge. The Statement of Licensing Policy recognises the Equality Act 2010 places a legal obligation on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations, between persons with different protected characteristics.
- 2.3 It is recognised that the licensing function is only one means of securing the delivery of the above objectives and should not be seen as a means for solving all problems within the community. However, the licensing function is an important means of achieving the objectives. The Licensing Authority will continue to work in partnership with its neighbouring authorities, the police, other agencies, local liaison groups, businesses and individuals towards the achievement of the licensing objectives through good practice.
- 2.4 The Licensing Authority will expect individual applicants to address the licensing objectives in their operating schedule having regard to the type of premises, the licensable activities to be provided, the operational procedures, the nature of the location and the needs of the local community. Applicants should include in their operating schedule the steps, which they consider necessary to promote the licensing objectives. If the steps are insufficient, or if the information given in the operating schedule does not enable a responsible authority or any other person to assess whether the steps proposed are satisfactory, it is more likely that relevant representations will be received, usually leading to a hearing.
- 2.5 All responsible authorities (listed in section 15) will have the chance to comment on all applications received and will provide evidence from their own areas of expertise if they believe an application would impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. All evidence provided will be taken into account by the Licensing Authority at any subsequent hearing.

### **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 In preparing this policy statement the Licensing Authority has consulted with the following:
- the Chief Officer of Police for Cambridgeshire
  - the Chief Officer of the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
  - persons/bodies representative of the Local Authority with the function of public health
  - persons/bodies representative of local holders of premises licences
  - persons/bodies representative of local holders of club premises

certificates

- persons/bodies representative of local holders of personal licences
- persons/bodies representative of businesses and residents in the City of Cambridge
- persons/bodies representative of Child Protection Services at Cambridgeshire County Council
- other organisations as appear to the Licensing Authority to be affected by licensing matters, including local community, cultural, educational and entertainment organisations.

3.2 We have considered the views of all those consulted prior to determining this policy.

## 4. Fundamental Principles

4.1 Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on premises, such as qualifying clubs, pubs and temporary events which fall within the terms of the Act. Any conditions imposed will focus on matters that individual licensees and others in possession of relevant authorisations are able to control.

4.2 In addressing these matters, the Licensing Authority will primarily focus on the direct impact the activities taking place at the licensed premises will have on those living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.

4.3 Licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from the licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or permission concerned. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of such control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night-time economy in Cambridge.

## 5. The cumulative impact of a concentration of licensed premises

5.1 Cumulative impact is the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area e.g. the potential impact on crime and disorder or public nuisance.

5.2 The cumulative impact of licensed premises on the promotion of the licensing objectives is a matter that the Licensing Authority can take into account. This should not, however, be confused with 'need' which concerns the commercial demand for a particular type of premises e.g., a pub, restaurant or hotel. The issue of 'need' is therefore primarily a matter for the market to decide and does not form part of this licensing policy statement.

- 5.3 The Licensing Authority can only publish a Cumulative Impact Assessment if there is evidence that a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area is causing a cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority will keep the situation as to whether an area is nearing this point under review.
- 5.4 The absence of a Cumulative Impact Assessment does not prevent any responsible authority or other person making representations on a new application for the grant or variation of a licence on the grounds that the premises will give rise to a detrimental cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives in a particular area.
- 5.5 Following previous consultations and representations received by Cambridge Constabulary, the Licensing Authority has adopted a special policy on cumulative effect that remains in place and is now the Cumulative Impact Assessment.
- 5.7 Having considered the available evidence and undertaken consultation, the Licensing Authority considers that it is appropriate and necessary to control cumulative impact. The Licensing Authority has adopted a Cumulative Impact Assessment, which is separate to this Statement of Licensing Policy. Further information on the Cumulative Impact Assessment and the areas which it covers can be found in the Cumulative Impact Assessment document.

## 6. Licensing Hours

- 6.1 Flexible licensing hours for the sale of alcohol can help to ensure that concentrations of customers leaving premises simultaneously are avoided. This can help to reduce the potential for disorder and disturbance. Licensing hours should not inhibit the development of a thriving and safe evening and night-time economy. This is important for investment, local employment, tourism and local services associated with the night-time economy. Providing customers with greater choice and flexibility is an important consideration but should always be balanced carefully against the duty to promote the four licensing objectives and the rights of local residents to peace and quiet.
- 6.2 Subject to the policies regarding cumulative impact in the areas of the City specified in paragraph 5.8, shops, stores and supermarkets will generally be permitted to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any times when the retail outlet is open for shopping, unless representations raise good reasons based on the licensing objectives, for restricting those hours, for example, a limitation may be appropriate following police representations in the case of shops known to be a focus of disorder and disturbance.

6.3 The Licensing Authority will deal with the issue of licensing hours on the individual merits of each application. When issuing a licence, following receipt of relevant representations, stricter conditions on noise control are likely to be imposed in the case of premises that are situated in predominantly residential areas. However, this should not limit opening hours without regard to the individual merits of any application.

## 7. Children and Licensed Premises

7.1 Cambridge City Council will consider its Safeguarding for Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy when determining licensing applications. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

7.2 It is an offence under the 2003 Licensing Act to:

- Permit children under the age of 16 who are not accompanied by an adult to be present on premises being used exclusively or primarily for supply of alcohol for consumption on those premises under the authorisation of a premises licence, club premises certificate or where that activity is carried on under the authority of a TEN; and
- To permit the presence of children under 16 who are not accompanied by an adult between midnight and 5am at other premises supplying alcohol for consumption on the premises under the authority of any premises licence, club premises certificate or TEN.

7.3 There are a great variety of premises for which licences may be sought including theatres, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, cafes, take away, community halls and schools. Access by children to any premises will not be limited unless it is considered necessary for the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm to them.

7.4 Conditions requiring the admission of children to any premises cannot be attached to licences or certificates. Where no licensing restriction is necessary, this should remain a matter for the discretion of the individual licensee or club or person who has been given a temporary event notice.

7.5 When deciding whether to limit access to children, the Licensing Authority will consider each application on its merits. Particular areas that will give rise to concern in respect of children, would include premises –

- where entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature are commonly provided
- where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises
- with a known association with drug taking or dealing
- 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

- where the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided at the premises.
- where there is a known association with the provision of illicit tobacco and alcohol
- where the supply of alcohol is in close proximity to services where young vulnerable people may frequent

7.6 The range of alternatives which may be considered for limiting access to children where that is necessary for the prevention of harm to children are:

- restrictions on the hours when children may be present
- age restrictions (below 18)
- restrictions or exclusions on the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place
- restrictions or exclusions when certain activities are taking place
- requirements for accompanying adults
- full exclusion of those people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place
- restrictions on the parts of premises to which children may have access.

7.7 In the case of premises which are used for film exhibitions Cambridge City Council will expect licence holders or clubs to include in their operating schedules arrangements for restricting children from viewing age-restricted films classified according to the recommendations of the British Board of Film Classification or, in specific cases, a certificate given to the film by the Council itself.

7.8 The Licensing Authority recognises the Child Protection Services of Cambridgeshire County Council as being competent to advise on matters relating to the protection of children from harm.

7.9 The Licensing Authority commends the Portman Group Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging and Promotion of Alcoholic Drinks. The Code seeks to ensure that drinks are packaged and promoted in a socially responsible manner and only to those who are 18 years old or older.

## 8. Licence Conditions

8.1 A key concept of the Act is for conditions to be attached to licences and certificates, which are tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the premises and events concerned. This is essential to avoid the imposition of disproportionate and overly burdensome conditions on premises where there is no need for such conditions.



- 8.2 The Licensing Authority cannot attach conditions to premises licences and club premises certificates unless they are considered appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority may only attach conditions (except for statutory mandatory conditions and conditions drawn from the operating schedule) if relevant representations have been received. Conditions will generally be considered unnecessary if they are already adequately covered by other legislation. Blanket standard conditions will not be imposed without regard to the merits of the individual case.
- 8.3 Conditions attached to premises licences and club premises certificates under prevention of crime and disorder will, so far as possible, reflect local crime prevention strategies.
- 8.4 In deciding what conditions should be attached to licences and certificates to promote the licensing objectives, the Licensing Authority will be aware of the need to avoid measures which might deter live music, dancing or theatre by imposing indirect costs of a substantial nature. Only appropriate conditions will be imposed on such events. Where there is any indication that such events are being deterred by licensing requirements, the policy will be revisited with a view to investigating how the situation might be reversed.
- 8.5 Applicants should consider the measures which they propose to control noise nuisance from the premises or from departing customers. Depending on the individual circumstances, this may include:
- Sound limitation devices
  - Acoustic lobbies
  - Acoustic double glazing
  - Noise insulation
  - Specifying non amplified or acoustic music only
  - Notices requesting customers to leave quietly
  - A dedicated taxi service
  - Use of door supervisors at exit points
  - A winding down period during which music is turned down and lights up, alcohol service ceases and sales of food and hot and cold soft drinks continues, and requests are made for customers to leave quietly.

## 9. Integrating Strategies and the avoidance of duplication

- 9.1 By consultation and liaison, the Licensing Authority will secure the proper integration of this licensing policy with local crime prevention, Cambridgeshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy, planning, transport, tourism, equality schemes, cultural strategies and any other plans introduced for the management of the city and the night-time economy. Many of these

strategies are not directly related to the promotion of the licensing objectives, but indirectly impact upon them.

- 9.2 Where any protocols to be agreed with the police identify a particular need to disperse people from the city swiftly and safely to avoid concentrations which could lead to disorder and disturbance, the Licensing Authority will aim to inform those responsible for providing local transportation so that arrangements can be made to reduce the potential for problems to occur.
- 9.3 The Council's Licensing Committee will receive, when appropriate, reports on:
- the needs of the local tourist economy for the area to ensure that these –are reflected in their considerations
  - the employment situation in the area and the need for new investment and employment where appropriate.
- 9.4 Planning, building control and the licensing regimes will be separated to avoid duplication and inefficiency. Licensing applications will not be a re-run of the planning application and will not cut across decisions taken by the planning committee or following appeals against decisions taken by that committee. When a terminal hour has been set as a condition of planning permission that is different from the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier of the two closing times.
- 9.5 So far as is possible, the policy is not intended to duplicate existing legislation and regulatory regimes that already place obligations on employers and operators.
- 9.6 The Licensing Authority will monitor the impact of licensing on the provision of regulated entertainment, and particularly live music and dancing. As part of implementing cultural strategies, proper account will be taken of the need to encourage and promote a broad range of entertainment, particularly live music, dancing, circus activity, street art and theatre, including the performance of a wide range of traditional and historic plays for the wider cultural benefit of the community which also balances the evening economy. The Licensing Authority will balance the prevention of disturbance in neighbourhoods with these wider cultural benefits, particularly cultural benefits for children. Only appropriate conditions will be imposed on such events.
- 9.7 The absence of cultural provision in any area can lead to young people being diverted into anti-social activities that damage local communities and the young people involved themselves.
- 9.8 Cambridge City Council has an important role in coordinating events in the City and to ensure that cultural diversity thrives. The Council currently has five licensed open spaces. These are: Parkers Piece; Jesus Green; Midsummer Common; Coldhams Common and the grounds of Cherry Hinton Hall.

- 9.9 The Equality Act 2010 places a legal obligation on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization; to advance equality of opportunity; and to foster good relations, between persons with different protected characteristics.
- 9.10 Applicants will be encouraged to make themselves aware of any relevant planning and transportation policies, tourism and cultural strategies or local crime prevention strategies and to have taken these into account, where appropriate, when formulating their operating schedule.
- 9.11 The Licensing Authority will have regard to equality and will expect an applicant to meet their statutory obligations in this area and not unlawfully discriminate or refuse service on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation or display discriminatory signs.

## 10. Licence Reviews

- 10.1 The process set out in the Licensing Act 2003 for reviewing premises licences represents a key protection for the community where problems associated with the licensing objectives are occurring after the grant or variation of a premises licence.
- 10.2 Responsible authorities (including the Licensing Authority) and other parties can apply for the review of a licence.
- 10.3 The Licensing Authority will work in partnership with other responsible authorities to achieve the promotion of the licensing objectives and will give Licence or Certificate holders early warning of any concerns identified at a premises. The Licensing Authority will also encourage other responsible authorities to do the same.
- 10.4 When a review has been requested the role of the Licensing Authority will be to administer the process and determine its outcome at a hearing. Where the Licensing Authority has applied to review an authorisation, there will be a clear separation of responsibilities to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest. (See paragraph 12.3).
- 10.5 The Licensing Authority may decide that no action is necessary if it finds that the review does not require it to take any appropriate steps to promote the licensing objectives. In appropriate cases the Authority may issue an informal warning to the licence holder and/or recommend improvement within a particular period of time. Any warnings or recommendations will be issued in writing.

- 10.6 Where the Licensing Authority considers that action under its statutory powers is appropriate it may take any of the following steps:
- to modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition);
  - to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
  - to remove the designated premises supervisor;
  - to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
  - to revoke the licence.
- 10.7 In cases where the crime prevention objective is being undermined the Licensing Authority will give serious consideration to revoking the licence even in the first instance.

## 11. Enforcement

- 11.1 The Licensing Authority intends to establish protocols with the police and any other relevant enforcement body on enforcement issues. These protocols will provide for the targeting of agreed problem and high-risk premises, which require greater attention, while providing a lighter touch approach in respect of low risk premises which are well run.
- 11.2 In general, action will only be taken in accordance with the Council's enforcement policy, as adopted at the time, which reflects the Council's obligations relating to enforcement and is consistent with the Regulators Compliance Code. To this end, the key principles of consistency, openness, proportionality, clear standards and practices, courtesy and helpfulness and training will be maintained.
- Cambridge City Council's enforcement policy is available on our website [www.cambridge.gov.uk/content/enforcement-policy](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/content/enforcement-policy)

## 12. Administration, exercise and delegation of functions

- 12.1 The functions of the Licensing Authority under the Act may be carried out by the Licensing Committee, by a Sub-Committee or by one or more officers acting under delegated authority.
- 12.2 Many of the decisions and functions will be largely administrative in nature. In the interests of speed, efficiency and cost-effectiveness these will, for the most part, be delegated to officers as set out in the Cambridge City Council Constitution
- 12.3 In determining applications where the Licensing Authority has acted as a responsible authority, there will be a clear separation of responsibilities to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest. This will be achieved by allocating distinct functions to different Officers within the

authority, so the Officer presenting the report to the Sub-Committee and advising the Members will be a different individual to the Officer who is acting as the responsible authority. The Officer acting as the responsible authority will not be involved in the decision-making process.

### 13. Effective Date and Review

- 13.1 This policy statement will take effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021.
- 13.2 The policy statement will be kept under review and will remain in existence for a period of up to 5 years. It will be subject to review and further consultation before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026, or as required by law.

### 14. Contact details, advice and guidance

- 14.1 Applicants can obtain further details about the licensing and application processes, including application forms and fees from:

website: [www.cambridge.gov.uk](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk)

e-mail: [commercial@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:commercial@cambridge.gov.uk)

telephone: 01223 457879

fax: 01223 457909

post: Commercial & Licensing, –Environmental Services,  
Cambridge City Council, PO Box 700,  
Cambridge, CB1 0JH

in person: Customer Service Centre, Mandela House, 4,  
Regent Street, Cambridge, CB2 1BY (Monday to  
Friday 09:00- 17:15)

- 14.2 The Licensing Authority has also published further documents to accompany this policy containing additional details about each type of application and the review process. These can be viewed at <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/guidance-for-applicants>
- 14.3 This policy can be made available in large print on request and similarly translations can be made available in a variety of languages. Please contact us for further help or assistance.
- 14.4 The Council, Police and Fire Authorities will be willing to give advice and guidance to applicants.
- 14.5 Informal discussion is encouraged prior to the application process in order to resolve any potential problems and avoid unnecessary hearings and appeals.

15. **Responsible Authorities** are:

**The Licensing Authority**

Commercial & Licensing, Environmental Services, Cambridge City Council,  
PO Box 700, Cambridge, CB1 0JH

Tel: 01223 457879 Fax: 01223 457909 e-

mail: [commercial@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:commercial@cambridge.gov.uk)

**The Chief Officer of Police**

The Chief Officer, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Southern Division,  
Police Station, Parkside, Cambridge, CB1 1JG

Telephone: 01223 823397 Fax: 01223 823232

**The Fire Authority**

Fire Protection, Cambridge Fire Station, Parkside, Cambridge, CB1 1JF

Email: [danny.hans@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:danny.hans@cambsfire.gov.uk)

**Planning**

Environment & Planning, Cambridge City Council, The Guildhall,  
Cambridge, CB2 3QJ

Telephone: 01223 457100

e-mail: [planning@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cambridge.gov.uk)

**Environmental Health**

The Environmental Health Manager, Environmental Services, Cambridge  
City Council, PO Box 700, Cambridge, CB1 0JH

Telephone: 01223 457890 Fax: 01223 457909 e-

mail: [commercial@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:commercial@cambridge.gov.uk)

**Child Protection**

Child Protection Services, Licensing Applications, OCYPS, PO Box 144, St  
Ives, Cambs, PE27 9AU

Telephone: 03450455203

[Referralcentre2.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Referralcentre2.children@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Trading Standards**

Cambridgeshire County Council, PO Box 450, Great Cambourne,  
Cambridge, CB23 6ZR

e-mail: [trading.standards@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Public Health**

The Director of Public Health, C/O Head of Public Health Programmes, Cambridgeshire County Council, Scott House Box No, SC0 2213, 5 George Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3AD

**Home Office – Immigration Enforcement**

Alcohol Licensing Team, Lunar House, 40 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 2BY

In addition, for vessels:

**Environment Agency**

The Team Leader, Great Ouse & Stour Waterways, The Environment Agency, Kingfisher House, Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5ZR.

Telephone: 01733 464072

e-mail: [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk), quoting Great Ouse & Stour Waterways

**Conservators of the River Cam**

The River Manager

Conservators of the River Cam

Baits Bite Lock, Fen Road, Milton, Cambridge, CB24 6AF

Telephone/Fax 01223 863785

e-mail [river.manager@camconservators.org.uk](mailto:river.manager@camconservators.org.uk)

**Maritime & Coastguard Agency**

Surveyor in Charge, Harwich Marine Office, Maritime & Coastguard Agency, East Terrace, Walton-on-Naze, Essex, CO14 8PY