

Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) Bridgend Town Centre

Background

The Council area contains a mix of urban and rural communities, and has a population of approximately 139,178. (Source data: ONS website Table KSI01UK 2011 Census).

The main towns are Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl. The population of Bridgend is approximately 15,000 living within a two mile distance of the town (source: Bridgend Town Council).

Some town centre streets are pedestrianised. Since the inception of the Licensing Act 2003 in November 2005, Derwen Road, Market Street, Wyndham Street and Nolton Street have been the subject of a special policy to mitigate the negative cumulative impact of licensed premises.

Reasons for the CIA

The cumulative impact of large numbers of licensed premises undermines the licensing objectives of:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety
- The protection of children from harm

Evidence

The main evidence was submitted by South Wales Police (SWP). The Police are acknowledged by the Home Office as the lead Responsible Authority to the licensing authority for crime and disorder. The SWP report identifies that

“We have seen a 34% increase in crime demand and reporting across all categories of NTE crime/demand detailed within the report pre COVID.

Post COVID, figures are generally lower which is to be expected as we emerged from lockdown.

There is every likelihood that this legacy increase will resume and as such Police will support the continuance of the Cumulative Impact Area to ensure criminal conduct and disorderly conduct is minimised in Bridgend Town Centre.”

Numbers of licensed premises

Desktop review of streets in the four designated streets currently within the CIA area 2023. There has not been a decrease in the number of premises open after 0300 hours for the sale of alcohol. All licences in force as at March 2023

Street	Predominant activity	Sale of alcohol latest terminal hour or Late Night Refreshment (not

		necessarily operating throughout Monday to Sunday with these hours)
Market Street	Night Club	0300
Market Street	Restaurant	0100
Market Street	Night Club	0400
Market Street	Convenience Store	1800
Market Street	Cafe	2230
Market Street	Night Club	0400
Market Street	Public House	0100
Wyndham Street	Coffee Shop Restaurant	2300
Wyndham Street	Restaurant	0000
Wyndham Street	Late Night Refreshment	0400
Wyndham Street	Restaurant	0100
Wyndham Street	Late Night Refreshment	0400
Wyndham Street	Late Night Refreshment	0230
Wyndham Street	Night Club/Late Night Refreshment	0400/0430
Wyndham Street	Restaurant	0200
Wyndham Street	Late Night Refreshment	0230
Derwen Road	Nightclub	0430
Derwen Road	Late Night Refreshment	0300
Nolton Street*	Restaurant	0100
Nolton Street*	Restaurant	0200
Nolton Street*	Public House	0100
Nolton Street*	Late Night Refreshment	0300
Nolton Street*	Public House	0200
Nolton Street*	Restaurant	2330
Nolton Street*	Late Night Refreshment	0000
Nolton Street*	Public House	0100

*CIA only applies to Nolton Street (from its junction with Ewenny Road, to its junction with Merthyr Mawr Road)

Other evidence considered

The statutory consultation also included a questionnaire to help identify additional issues of concern in the town centre.

Regard should be given to the very small sample replies and the responses were as follows:

Of the seven responses, all of which were submitted by members of the public, were in favour of the Council retaining a CIA. Two respondents were not in favour. One replied that there were:

“issues 10-15 years ago however the number of licensed premises in Bridgend has declined significantly in recent years. Those that remain are, in many cases, struggling for viability as evidence by the high turnover of licensees”.

The respondents cited anti-social behaviour, violent behaviour littering and street fouling/lavatory provision as the main concern.

All types of premises were referred to as being contributory to problems and in the day and night time economies.

Smoking and drinking outside, street drinking and town centre investment were mentioned in the comments' section.

Other measures considered

- Pubwatch Scheme
- Public Space Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which provides the Police with the power to require a person in the designated area not to drink alcohol or to surrender any alcohol or alcohol containers (other than sealed containers) in their possession.
- Provision of CCTV in public areas
- Enforcement powers available to the Police, Licensing Officers and Trading Standards Officers under the Licensing Act 2003
- Introduction of pilot taxi marshals scheme

Conclusion

The Licensing Authority is satisfied that there is evidence to support the adoption and publication of a CIA in the named streets in Bridgend Town Centre. Having taken into consideration other existing initiatives, it believes that it is proportionate and the most effective measure to address the problems identified. However, the impact of Covid on crime and occurrences in the night time economy cannot be discounted. For that reason, the Council will review this policy sooner than the recommended three year period, to align with the next review of the Statement of Licensing Policy due by the end of 2024.

Application of the policy

Having regard to the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Bridgend Council has consulted upon the issue of cumulative impact in Bridgend Town Centre. It has taken into account the views of the South Wales Police and other respondents and has adopted a CIA in respect of Derwen Road, Market Street, Wyndham Street, and Nolton Street (from its junction with Ewenny Road, to its junction with Merthyr Mawr Road, but not the area between Merthyr Mawr Road and the junction with Court Road Bridgend).

Regard will also be given that where relevant representations are received for a premises adjoining or in close proximity to the CIA area, and where those representations raise a material impact on the area then the CIA will apply if the

licensing authority reasonably judges that to grant the particular application would be inconsistent with its inconsistent with its duty to promote the licensing objectives.

This CIA should be read in conjunction with Bridgend County Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2019-2024.

The CIA applies to applications for the grant and full variation of Premises Licences. It does not apply to Club Premises Certificates or Temporary Event Notices.

Applicants are expected to address the effects of cumulative impact within the Operating Schedule. They are expected to clearly demonstrate how the operation of the premises would not add to the negative cumulative impact being experienced in the area.

The CIA is not absolute. The circumstances of each application will be considered on its merits and the Licensing Authority will grant licences that are unlikely to add to the negative cumulative impact on the licensing objectives.

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