

LICENSING COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY - VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2025
AT 10:00

Present

Councillor M Lewis – Chairperson

S Easterbrook
RJ Collins
H Griffiths

R Williams
H T Bennett
P W Jenkins

J E Pratt
A R Berrow

RM James
S J Bletsoe

Apologies for Absence

J Llewellyn-Hopkins, C Davies and O Clatworthy

Officers:

Mark Galvin
Nimi Chandrasena
Katie Wintle
Kirsty Evans

Senior Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Democratic Services Officer
Lawyer
Senior Licensing Officer

Declarations of Interest

Cllr S Bletsoe declared a personal interest as he is a member of Bridgend Town Council, Coity Higher Community Council, a governor of Pen Y Bont Primary School and other various volunteer organisations that on occasion apply for temporary events notices.

Cllr S Easterbrook declared a personal interest as he is a member of the Bridgend Town Council. He stated he was a town centre trader and a member of the Bridgend Traders Forum. He also stated he was a member of Development Control Committee stated that Planning and Licensing regimes were to remain separated to a point to avoid duplication and inefficiency

45. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the Minutes of the Licensing Committee Meeting dated 21/05/25 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	30/09/25

46. Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact Assessment

Decision Made	<p>A report was presented by the Senior Licensing Officer, the purpose of which, was to provide members with a proposed draft Statement of Licensing Policy (SLP) along with a draft Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) for consideration and noting before proceeding to Cabinet and Council for approval.</p> <p>There was a debate between members and officers that made reference to the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mention of concerns around Wyndham Street and Market Street on the analysis of the problems associated with licensing issues in this vicinity of the town, that included ant-social behaviour and crime and disorder, not only in establishments that were part of the town's night time economy, but also with the drinking of alcohol within streets of the town centre by members of the public. Reference was made as to why there was a mention of specific areas when a member was only aware of 1 licensed property on Wyndham Street. There was further mention of other areas close to Market Street but not Market Street itself where the member felt the CIA did not accurately reflect the current position of areas where crime and disorder was presently prevalent. The Senior Licensing Officer responded that the purpose of the meeting was to review the evidence provided by the Police as part of the CIA and in the event members were not satisfied with such evidence available to support the CIA in its current format, members had the option to remove the CIA from consideration for their approval, as this was not part of the Statement of Licensing Policy.• A member stated that the Local Authorities (LA's) adoption of a policy to govern the night-time economy should be reconsidered if it meant that the provisions of the policy made it challenging for certain types of businesses to operate. The Senior Licensing Officer responded that the CIA did not change the fundamental way that licensing decisions were made under the Licensing Act, therefore they would be reviewed on a case by case basis and establishments applying for a license would
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have to demonstrate that their application would not add to the high levels of crime and disorder in a particular area, for example within what is classed as the Saturation Area of Bridgend Town Centre .

- A member asked if similar assessments have been required in other towns such as Maesteg, Pencoed and Porthcawl. The Senior Licensing Officer responded the police had been asked to review their data to determine whether a CIA would be the right way forward in these towns. Their findings did not depict any high evidence in relation to those areas however and the outcome of their findings, were only related to areas of Bridgend as mentioned in the report.
- A member drew attention to the date on the evidence received by the Police and noted that the data was a year old and sought the possibility of deferring a decision until such time, more up to date data was available. The Senior Licensing Officer stated that the data would always be historic, due to the timings of when the review of the policy is conducted. She stated that in terms of deferring the report, there was a requirement to comply with the LA's statutory duty to review the policy and as such required members to make a decision but their decision could be not to support the CIA.
- A member inquired about introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to areas considered under the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA). The Senior Licensing Officer responded that the two elements were to be treated separately as they were different legislation, and not a matter for the Committee but other departments within the Council.
- The Committee considered the report and appendices and raised concerns with approving the CIA as drafted at this stage, on the basis that the evidence provided by South Wales Police was outdated and insufficient. The Senior Licensing officer mentioned that in sourcing data from the Police, it was important that there was a timeline specified for that, as we would be reliant on Police resources.

The Senior Licensing officer proposed that the CIA could be removed from the LA policy and, following a consultation, the report could resume the process for approval. She stated that alongside these processes taking place, the LA could liaise with the Police to obtain better and more up to date evidence than what members had before them in this meeting. This would enable the LA's statutory duty of approving a policy and submitting it to proceed to cabinet and council before the end of the year.

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	<p><u>RESOLVED :</u></p> <p>The Committee therefore unanimously decided to approve the Statement of Licensing Policy to comply with its statutory duty, with the removal of any information relating to the CIA, which requires further information from South Wales Police in order to be fully considered. The Committee noted that this will be subject to a two-week consultation period and may be required to return to Committee for further consideration pending any responses.</p>
Date Decision Made	30/09/2025

47. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	30/09/2025

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 11:04.