

Public Health Response to consultation on Statement of Licensing Policy (SoLP) 2018

Special Stress Area

The Council, supported by Police Licensing, and local ward Councillor are proposing to extend the Special stress Area (SSA) (ref. 3.2 of the SoLP) to cover Central Hove, to extend from the west side of Holland Road northwards/ intersection with the North side of Lansdowne Road, going westwards along Eaton Road/Blatchington Road to the junction and then south along Sackville Road down to the seafront ([see link for map of proposed extension](#)).

The SSA is defined as an area of concern to be monitored for levels of public nuisance and anti social behaviour (ASB). Applications in the SSA are expected to have a robust operating schedule with appropriate conditions. Unlike the CIZ there is no presumption of refusal. This proposal reflects the number of licensed premises in Church Road Hove, concerns which have been raised by residents and local Councillor in relation to the area, and the evidence from Public Health framework document. The proposal would also be consistent with the current SSA that acts as a buffer to the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ).

Question 1. Do you agree with the proposal to extend the SSA into Central Hove?

Yes. To support potential applicants and others involved in the licensing application process, the Public Health Intelligence Team produces an annual report entitled “Public Health Framework for Assessing Alcohol Licensing”.

The framework provides information about a range of alcohol associated crime and disorder and health indicators. For each indicator the report ranks the ward by its position relative to the other 20 wards in the city (there are 21 wards in total).

As regards the crime and disorder indicators, in the most recent framework (4th edition October 2017) Central Hove is ranked the fifth worst for police recorded alcohol related incidents, the seventh worst for non-injury assault and the eight worst for both all violence against the person and for sexual offences. As for the health indicators Central Hove ward was ranked the third highest for alcohol specific admissions 2016–17, the fourth highest for both A&E attendances with

a record of alcohol and for alcohol related mortality 2013–15. The ward was ranked the fifth highest for alcohol suspected ambulance call outs and the eighth highest for clients in alcohol treatment.

Based on the above information it is clear that there is already considerable nuisance, crime and disorder from alcohol consumption in Central Hove and hence public health would support the extension of the Special Stress Area to include Central Hove.

Matrix approach in relation to café bars

The second proposal is regarding the café bar category as described in 3.3.3 of the SoLP and categorised in the matrix ([see link to current SoLP where the matrix is shown on page 16](#)).

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (SoLP) (paragraph 3.3.3) states:

Café Bars – the licensing authority may be prepared to look favourably upon an application for the grant of a licence, subject to the following conditions that will prevent the premises becoming a public house.

- The sale of intoxicating liquor and other beverages shall be waiter/waitress service for consumption by persons seated at tables.
- Substantial food shall be available at all times.

It is suggested that the term “café bars” to define this category of premises is misleading. Officers suggest the term “café” is more appropriate as essentially we are not talking about bars but small food led cafes or delis where alcohol is not the primary activity and the venues do not open late. It is also suggested adding notes to the matrix that this category is defined as “small food led establishments”.

The Annual report shows an increase in café bars granted 2017/18 but a big decrease in pubs/clubs. There are considerably more pubs and restaurants in the City compared to café bars. As of March 2018 there were 323 Pubs, bars & nightclubs, 297 Restaurants and 89 café bars.

[Please see link to Licensing Committee Report](#)

Concern has been raised about the increase in café bars granted in the CIZ. Resident's representations to licensing panels have highlighted issues of saturation of licensing premises in the CIZ, particularly the North Laine area,

leading to an increase in public nuisance and Members have raised their concerns.

Therefore, it has been agreed to consult on whether to reduce the hours of café bars in the CIZ from the current 11.30pm to earlier in the evening.

Question 2

- i) Do you agree to the change of name from “café/bars” to “café” (notes to Matrix to be amended to “small food led establishment”)?**

This would seem a reasonable change.

- ii) Do you agree with the proposal to reduced hours for café/bar category in CIZ to earlier in the evening?**

In general public health would support initiatives aimed at reducing the amount of alcohol available across the city. Reducing the times during which cafes could serve alcohol to their customers would most probably contribute to this. However, what is not clear is whether licensed cafes encourage moderate drinking in the evenings by their clientele who might otherwise go to pubs and bars.

If you do agree, what time do you consider would be appropriate and why?