


Non-Executive Report of the: Licensing Committee 8th December 2015	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Steve Halsey: Corporate Director of Communities, Localities and Culture	Classification: Unrestricted
Licensing and Brick Lane	

Originating Officer(s)	David Tolley: Head of Consumer and Business Regulations
Wards affected	Spitalfields and Banglatown

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Licensing Committee requested that the Consumer and Business Regulations Service provide details of their current activities within the Brick Lane area.
- 1.2 Due to ongoing operations within this part of the Borough, an outline of certain activities can only be given at present.
- 1.3 The report also details non- enforcement activities that are carried out in the Brick Lane area to ensure that visitors have an enjoyable time but do not disrupt those that live in the surrounding area.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Licensing Committee note, consider and comment on the activities that the Consumer and Business Regulations Service is actively undertaking within the Brick Lane area.

3 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 This is a noting report. No decisions are requested.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 See above. Not applicable.

5. DETAILS

- 5.1 Under the Licensing Act 2003, the Council is required to determine its policy with respect to exercising its licensing functions and as part of that policy, the Council may have a special policy whereby it can designate an area within the

Borough as a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ), if it feels that the number of licensed premises is having an adverse impact on any of the Licensing Objectives i.e. crime and disorder, noise/nuisance, public safety and harm to children.

5.2 On 1st November 2013, the CIZ for the Brick Lane area came into effect after adoption of the Statement of Licensing Policy at Full Council.

5.3 The table below demonstrates the number and type of licences within the CIZ, which is just below 20% of all the licences within the Borough.

Alcohol	56
Regulated entertainment	2
Late night refreshment	8
Alcohol and Regulated Entertainment	34
Alcohol and Late Night Refreshment	28
Alcohol, Late Night Refreshment and Regulated Ent	63
Regulated entertainment and Late Night Refreshment	1
Grand Total	192

5.4 Since the inception of the CIZ, 50 new licences have been issued within the area, this does not include variations etc.

Educational Programmes

5.5 The Tower Hamlets Street Pastors are a group of trained volunteers from surrounding churches who have a concern for their local community. They work with the police and local council, to patrol the streets of Tower Hamlets on a Friday evening usually between 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. in order to care for, listen to and help people, whether it is to give flip-flops to young ladies walk in their high heels due to alcohol consumption or to give out warm hats, gloves or thermal blankets to those sleeping rough. They are able to diffuse potentially aggressive situations, maintaining the safety of the lost, drunk or distressed and sometimes signposting people to appropriate help agencies. Licensing Officers have engagement with the Street Pastors through the Community Alcohol Partnership. The Street Pastors advise on hot spots and areas of concern which is later reviewed by the Licensing Officers.

5.6 Pubwatch is a national voluntary organisation set up to promote best practice with the aim is to achieve a safer drinking environment in all licensed premises throughout the UK. 'Pubwatch' has made an important contribution to reductions in alcohol-related violence in recent years. It does so by creating a safer drinking environment in licensed premises. The scheme enables licensees to take collective action to ban troublemakers, provides an early warning system and promotes good working relations between licensees, the

police and local authorities. It provides a proven and effective partnership forum for local agencies to develop targeted interventions to tackle alcohol related disorder in the night time economy. There are approximately 10 active premises within the CIZ. Licensing Officers attend and manage the Pubwatch scheme and are constantly attempting to get more members when they carry out routine inspections.

5.7 The Good Trader Scheme is an initiative that has been launched with the Trading Standards Service and Public Health. Officers have been encouraging retailers to attend training and sign up to codes of practice with regards to the sale of alcohol to under 18, to promote challenge 25, to keep a refusals book and to empower retail staff. The scheme has also promoted the removal of high strength alcohol.

5.8 The Best Bar None Scheme was launched in Tower Hamlets last year with eight premises achieving the award. The scheme was originally launched in the Brick Lane area but is now being rolled out across the Borough. The scheme is managed through Council Officers within the Consumer and Business Regulations Service who have been accredited to assess business and to award the scheme. We are currently assessing a further 20 applications across the Borough. The purpose of the scheme is to:

- Reduce alcohol related crime and disorder
- Building a positive relationship between licensed trade, police and local authorities
- Reduces harmful effects of binge drinking
- Improves knowledge and skills of enforcement and regulation agencies, licensees and bar staff to help them responsibly manage licensed premises
- Process of becoming recognised by BBN includes meeting minimum standards and culminates with a high profile award night with category winners and an overall winner
- Responsible owners are recognised and able to share good practice with others
- Highlight how operating more responsibly can improve the profitability of an individual business and attractiveness of a general area

Enforcement Programmes

5.9 The Council has a number of enforcement initiatives that it has carried out to ensure that the set licence conditions are being met. Where appropriate every effort is made to work with premises holders and local business to ensure compliance before more serious forms of enforcement is pursued.

- Reviews of licence conditions; this is carried out when there is need to change the licence holders behaviour in relation to running their business. There were 21 reviews in the last 12 months.
- Prosecutions; where licence holders are deliberately disregarding conditions that have been set.
- Joint Operations with the Police, Trading Standards and HMRC in relation to inspections of premises to ensure that conditions are being met and

counterfeit and contraband material is not being sold. This has cumulated in 99 joint visits over the last 12 months. These activities normally move on to warning letters, reviews or prosecutions being brought forward.

- Routine evening visits by Licensing Officers to ensure conditions are being met and that premises are not trading without the appropriate licences. There have been approximately 140 visits in the last 12 months.
- Routine patrols by the THEO's along Brick Lane, dealing with any anti-social behaviour.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 6.1 No specific financial implications emanate from this report. The details of the current activities within the Brick Lane area on the impact of the Cumulative Impact Zone are provided for consideration and comment by the Licensing Committee.

7 LEGAL COMMENTS

- 7.1 The report sets out for consideration and noting the current activities within the Brick Lane area for the service pursuant to the Council policy made under the Licensing Act 2003. There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

8. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 No adverse impacts have been identified

9. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The activities carried out within Brick Lane, aim to create a level economic landscape for all business, encouraging business to flourish and increase visitor foot fall, thus increasing the economic viability of the area. This then has a compensatory effect for the Council.

- 9.2 Where enforcement action is taken, the Council seeks to recover its full costs through the Courts.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 There are no adverse impacts identified.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Council will be at risk of legal challenge if its decision making process on determining applications is not transparent and evidentially based.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 One of the key licensing objectives is to prevent licensed premises from

being a source of crime and disorder. The Responsible Authorities support and assist with crime and disorder reduction by controlling those who manage premises open to members of the public and imposing conditions on relevant premises licences.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report
NONE

Appendices
None

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended) List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

- N/A