

## **Licensing Act 2003**

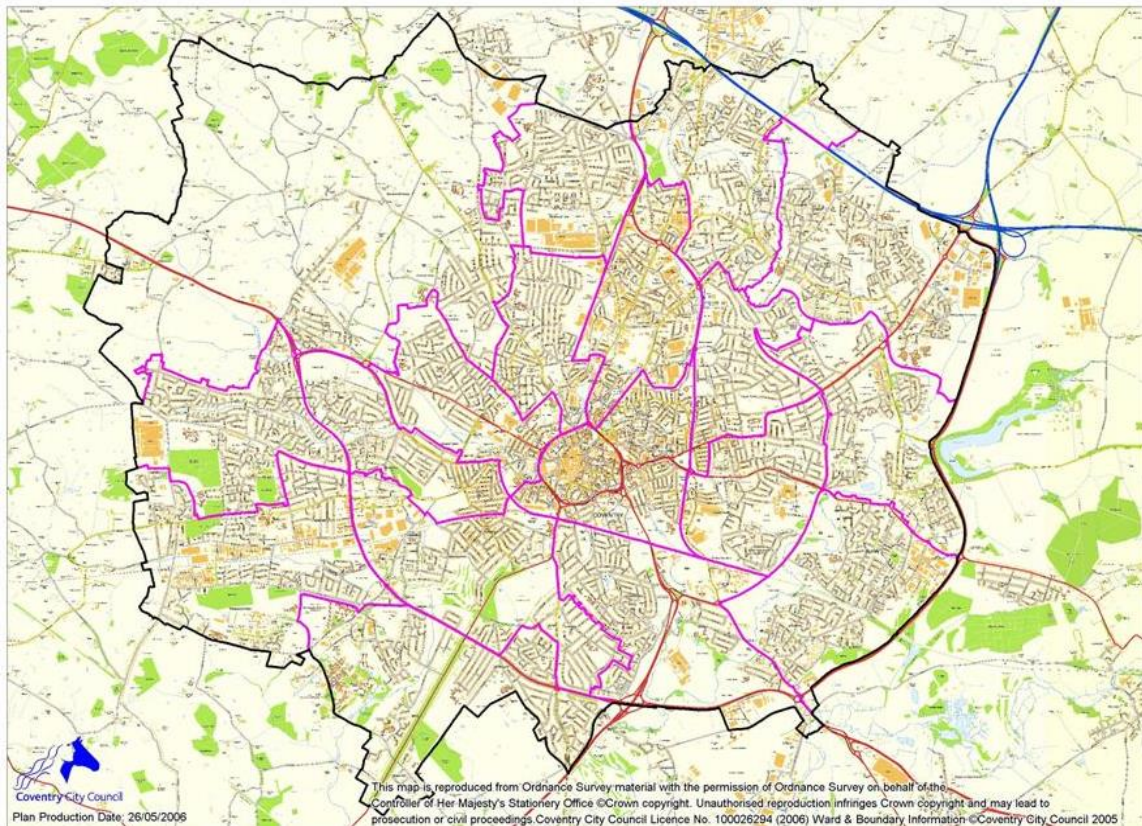
# **Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 - 2026**



## Important Note

In producing this Statement of Licensing Policy, the Licensing Authority is aware that the Government may from time to time amend the Licensing Act 2003, subordinate legislation and statutory guidance.

The Council does not intend to revise this policy document because of any such amendments and readers of this document are advised to check on the Home Office/Gov.uk website to ensure they have the latest information.



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## **Supporting documentation**

The City Council, in consultation with the Responsible Authorities and the Community Safety Partnership has produced two guidance documents which give premises licence holders and other responsible staff practical guidance on the effective management of licensed premises.

These guides are issued during the licensing process and are also available from licensing pages of the City Council web site

- Guidance for On Licensed Premises
- Guidance for Off Licensed Premises

## STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Coventry City Council ('the Council') has a duty under the terms of the Licensing Act, 2003 ('the Act') to carry out its functions as the Licensing Authority with a view to promoting the following licensing objectives:

- **The prevention of crime and disorder**
- **Public safety**
- **The prevention of public nuisance**
- **The protection of children from harm**

1.2 The promotion of these objectives is the paramount consideration when determining an application and any conditions attached to an authorisation.

1.3 Coventry is a growing city situated in the West Midlands with a population of 371,500 inhabitants. It is mainly urban but includes significant areas that are semi-rural. A map of the city is shown on page 2.

1.4 This Statement of Licensing Policy relates to all those licensing activities identified as falling within the provisions of the Act, namely: -

- **The sale by retail of alcohol**
- **The supply of alcohol by clubs**
- **The provision of regulated entertainment**
- **The provision of late-night refreshment**

For the purposes of this document any reference to an "authorisation" means a Premises Licence, Club Premises Certificate, Temporary Event Notice (TEN) and where appropriate to the context, a Personal Licence.

1.5 The Council recognises that the licensing function is only one means of promoting delivery of the above objectives and should not therefore be seen as a means for solving all problems within the community. The Council will therefore continue to work with the Coventry Partnership, neighbouring authorities, West Midlands Police ('the Police'), the Coventry Community Safety Partnership, local businesses, arts organisations, performers, local people and those involved in child protection (Coventry Safeguarding Children Board) to promote the common objectives as outlined. In addition, the Council recognises its duty under S.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998, with regard to the prevention of crime and disorder etc.

1.6 This policy statement has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act. The Policy statement is valid for a period of 5 years from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021. This policy statement will be subject to review and further consultation prior to any substantial changes.

#### **Responsible Authorities**

1.7 A list of contact details for Responsible Authorities authorised under the Act is attached to this policy statement as Appendix 2.

- 1.8 The Council has recognised the Coventry Safeguarding Children Board as the local body competent to advise it on the protection of children from harm and has designated it as a responsible authority for the purpose of Section 13 of the Act.

### **The Licensing Authority as a Responsible Authority**

- 1.9 The Licensing Authority will, when acting as a Responsible Authority, act in accordance with the Government Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act wherever possible. In particular, it will not normally intervene in applications where the issues are within the remit of another Responsible Authority and will ensure an appropriate separation of responsibilities between the officer administering an application and an officer acting as a Responsible Authority.

### **Public Health as a Responsible Authority**

- 1.10 There is not a specific licensing objective related directly to health within the current legislation. When making a representation, the Director of Public Health is most likely to relate such representations to the objectives on public safety and protecting children from harm. This is likely to include the prevention of accidents, injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption, such as unconsciousness or alcohol poisoning.
- 1.11 Health bodies hold valuable information which may not be recorded by other agencies, including analysis of data on attendance at emergency departments and the use of ambulance services following alcohol related incidents. Sometimes it may be possible to link ambulance callouts and attendance to irresponsible practices at specific premises. Anonymised data can be collated about incidents relating to specific premises and presented to Licensing Sub-Committees when representations are made.

## **2 CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 Before publishing this policy statement the Council has consulted with and given proper consideration to the views of the following in line with the statutory guidance:
- Chief Constable of West Midlands Police;
  - West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority;
  - Director of Public Health – Coventry City Council;
  - Other responsible authorities;
  - Representatives of current authorisation holders;
  - Representatives of Local businesses; and
  - Representatives of Local residents.
- 2.2 Further details on the consultation and political approval process undertaken prior to publishing this document are available via [coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings](http://coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings).

## **3 FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS**

- 3.1 Under the terms of the Act any person may apply for a variety of authorisations and have each application considered on its individual merits. Equally, any person has a right to make relevant representations on an application or to seek a review of a licence or certificate where provision has been made for them to do so in the Act.
- 3.2 Applicants and those making relevant representations in respect of applications to the Council have a right of appeal to Coventry Magistrates' Court against the decisions of the Council.

## **4 LICENSING CONDITIONS**

- 4.1 Licensing is about regulating the carrying on of licensable activities on licensed premises, by qualifying clubs and at temporary events within the terms of the Act. Premises include open spaces. Conditions attached to various authorisations will be focused on matters, which are within the control of individual licensees and others in possession of relevant authorisations. Accordingly, these matters will centre on the premises being used for licensable activities and the vicinity of those premises. If there is an incident or other dispute, the Council will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activities in the area concerned.
- 4.2 The Council cannot impose conditions unless it has received a relevant representation.
- 4.3 When considering any conditions, the Council acknowledges that licensing law should not be seen as the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from licensed premises and therefore beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation concerned. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of general control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night-time economy of the city. For example, applicants should note that stricter conditions to control noise are likely to be imposed in the case of premises situated in largely residential areas.
- 4.4 The Council does not propose to implement standard licensing conditions on licences or other relevant types of authorisation across the board. Therefore, the Council will attach conditions to relevant authorisations which are tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the premises and events concerned and that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives in the light of the representations received.

## **5 OPERATING HOURS**

- 5.1 The Licensing Authority welcomes the opportunities afforded to the local economy by the 2003 Act and will strive to balance this with the rights of local residents and others who might be adversely affected by licensable activities based on the principles laid down in this document
- 5.2 When dealing with licensing hours, each application will be dealt with on its individual merits. The Licensing Authority recognises that longer licensing hours with regard to the sale of alcohol can assist to avoid concentrations of customers leaving premises simultaneously. This is expected to reduce the friction at late night fast food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport which can lead to disorder and disturbance. The Licensing Authority does not wish to unduly inhibit the development of thriving and safe evening and night-time local economies which are important for investment and employment locally and in the main welcomed by residents and visitors to the city.
- 5.3 The Licensing Authority will not set fixed trading hours within designated areas. However, an earlier terminal hour and stricter conditions with regard to noise control than those contained within an application, may be appropriate in residential areas where relevant representations are received, and such measures are deemed appropriate to uphold the licensing objectives.
- 5.4 Shops, stores and supermarkets will generally be free to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any times when the retail outlet is open for shopping, unless there are good reasons based on the licensing objectives for restricting those hours.

## **6 LATE NIGHT LEVY AND EARLY MORNING RESTRICTION ORDER(S)**

- 6.1 The Licensing Authority, having not been presented with sufficient evidence to the contrary, does not consider that the application of a Late Night Levy or Early Morning Restriction Order(s) are appropriate for the Council's area at the present time. The Licensing Authority will keep these matters under review and accordingly reserves the right, should the need arise, to introduce these measures during the life of this statement of licensing policy.

## **7 CUMULATIVE IMPACT**

- 7.1 For the purposes of this document 'cumulative impact' means the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area. Cumulative impact is a proper matter for the Council to consider in developing its licensing policy. This should not be confused with 'need', which concerns the commercial demand for another particular type of premises. The Government Guidance states that "need" is not a matter for the Licensing Authority but is a matter for the planning authority and the free market.
- 7.2 The Licensing Authority, having not been presented with sufficient evidence to the contrary, does not consider any area within the city to currently have a particular concentration of licensed premises causing a cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. The Licensing Authority will keep this matter under review and accordingly reserves the right, should the need arise, to introduce a special policy concerning cumulative impact during the life of this statement of licensing policy.
- 7.3 The absence of a special policy does not prevent any Responsible Authority or any other party from making representations on a new application for the grant of an authorisation on the grounds that the premises will give rise to a negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. The Act allows for such consideration, but the individual merits of each application must always be considered.

## **8 PROMOTION OF THE LICENSING OBJECTIVES**

### **Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

- 8.1 Licensed premises, especially those offering late night/early morning entertainment or alcohol and refreshment for large numbers of people, can sometimes be associated with elevated levels of crime and disorder.
- 8.2 The Licensing Authority expects existing authorisation holders and new applicants to regularly review their arrangements in addressing crime and disorder issues pertinent to their particular licensable activities, location and/or premises. Information and advice can be obtained from the Police, business network groups and other sources. The Licensing Authority also encourages local residents and other businesses to discuss issues of concern directly with individual businesses, or, to contact the Police Licensing Officer if they believe that particular licensed premises are failing to promote this objective.
- 8.3 The City Council as a statutory member of the Local Community Safety Partnership will develop and deliver against multi-agency strategies and action plans to tackle the misuse of alcohol, which has also been identified in the Cabinet Office's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy as being a precursor to crime and anti-social behaviour. The Licensing Authority expects existing authorisation holders and new applicants to be able to demonstrate the measures they use, or propose to adopt, to prevent and actively discourage the sale/supply of alcohol to children and the sale/supply of alcohol to individuals who are

already intoxicated and thus potentially vulnerable themselves or pose a risk to others. In general, conditions will reflect local crime issues and subsequent prevention strategies.

- 8.4 The risk assessment approach remains fundamental in the operation and good practice of all licensed premises. Authorisation holders and applicants are strongly recommended to work closely with the Local Policing Unit Partnerships Team in particular, in bringing into effect appropriate control measures to either overcome established or prevent potential problems. A combination of short and longer-term strategies may need to be deployed by authorisation holders to sustain and promote the prevention of crime and disorder. The Police have a list of recommended SIA registered Operators and we would advise that this list be used when considering the employment of SIA registered door staff.
- 8.5 During unprecedented times, such as a pandemic, authorisation holders will also have to work closely with other agencies, such as Environmental Health Officers in order to produce appropriate and adequate risk assessments to demonstrate compliance with relevant government guidance.
- 8.6 The Licensing Authority will expect new applicants and existing authorisation holders to adopt recognised good practice in whatever area of operation they are engaged. The Licensing Authority regards the Police as the primary source of advice in relation to preventing crime and disorder and will normally expect Police advice/recommendations to be followed unless there are good reasons for not doing so. A number of reviews may arise in connection with crime that is not directly connected with licensable activities. For example, reviews may arise because of drugs problems at the premises; money laundering by criminal gangs, the sale of contraband or stolen goods, the sale of firearms, or the sexual exploitation of children. The Licensing authority does not have the power to judge the criminality or otherwise of any issue, this is a matter for the courts.
- 8.7 Queues at late night take-aways can be a source of disorder and applicants for premises licences for this type of premises are expected to address this in their Operating Schedule.
- 8.8 The City Council has specific duties under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 that underpins any control strategy that is employed. The Council will continue to work in partnership with the Police in addressing crime and disorder issues.
- 8.9 The objective of preventing crime and disorder will include the Licensing Authority taking appropriate decisions and/or imposing appropriate conditions, upon a representation being received containing evidence that a licensed premise has a music policy which might incite violence, crime or disorder or the threat of such against minority groups.
- 8.10 Coventry's Director of Public Health will support the police by facilitating access to health information such as anonymised A&E data due to alcohol related admissions. e.g. as part of a license review application. They will also provide Trading Standards with evidence of the health impact of illicit/counterfeit alcohol.
- 8.11 The Licensing Authority is of the view that generally, in order to promote the licensing objectives; all licensed premises within the city are encouraged to be members of the relevant local Pubwatch Scheme, where one exists.
- 8.12 The Licensing Authority and Police have a zero tolerance of illegal substance/drug misuse in licensed premises and recognise that drug use is not something that is associated with all licensed premises. However, it is recognised that special conditions may need to be imposed for certain venues to reduce the likelihood of drugs being sold and consumed on the premises and to achieving a safer environment for those who may have taken them.



- 8.13 Once away from licensed premises a minority of consumers may behave inappropriately and unlawfully. There are additional mechanisms both within and outside the licensing regime that are available for addressing such issues. The Council will address a number of these issues through the Community Safety Service and the Local Partnership in line with the strategic objectives for crime and disorder reduction and drug and alcohol misuse within the city.

In relation to premises seeking or holding a Premises Licence and where alcohol will be sold under the terms of that licence the Licensing Authority expects that (a) any Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) will have been given sufficient management authority and to be able to exercise effective day-to-day control of the premises and (b) authority to make alcohol sales when given by the DPS or any other Personal Licence holder should be clearly evidenced in writing. This is to ensure that premises selling alcohol are properly managed in accordance with the Act and that premises operate in a way that promote the prevention of crime and disorder. This will also benefit operators themselves through being able to demonstrate a commitment to the proper management of premises, particularly if enforcement becomes necessary.

### **Promotion of Public Safety**

- 8.14 Public safety is not defined within the Act, but the Government Guidance advises that it is concerned with the physical safety of people using the premises and not with public health. To ensure the safety of customers, applicants should be prepared to demonstrate, where necessary, that the premises comply with all health and safety regulations and that risk assessments, where needed are current, and in line with relevant government guidance.
- 8.15 Applicants and event organisers will be expected to assess not only the physical environment of the premises (or site) but also operational practices, in order to protect the safety of members of the public visiting the site, those who are employed in the business, those who are engaged in running an event or anyone else that could be affected by site activities. This assessment would normally take place within a risk assessment framework.
- 8.16 Holders of premises licences, and club certificates, or those organising temporary events, should interpret 'public safety' widely to include freedom from danger or harm.
- 8.17 For licensed or certificated premises and for temporary events, public safety must be kept under review and where changes to operational practices/events occur, or the customer profile changes, a review of risk assessments must be undertaken.
- 8.18 Fire safety is governed by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and is not something with which the Licensing Authority will normally become involved.
- Where a Responsible Authority has recommended a safe capacity limit on all or part of premises the Licensing Authority will normally expect an applicant/authorisation holder to follow such a recommendation unless there are good reasons for not doing so.
- 8.19 Businesses must ensure that in carrying out their activities they protect and support even the most vulnerable people and keep them safe from harm.
- 8.20 Coventry's Director of Public Health will support the sharing of health information such as anonymised A&E data with other responsible authorities where it links to public safety. They will also explore the impact of alcohol related incidents on emergency services such as West Midlands Ambulance Service.

## **Prevention of Public Nuisance**

- 8.21 The Licensing Authority remains sensitive to the expectations and needs of different parts of the community in respect of leisure and cultural pursuits and will view applications accordingly. The impact of those activities on people who have to live, work and sleep within the local vicinity of a licensed premises or event will also be considered. If the impact of licensed activities is disproportionate and unreasonable or markedly reduces the amenity value of the area to local people, then the Licensing Authority will take account of this when exercising its functions.
- 8.22 The Licensing Authority considers that the potential for public nuisance can be prevented or much reduced by good design and planning during new or ancillary construction works, by the provision of good facilities and effective management. This will require appropriate advice at the planning and development stages of new projects. Applicants should consider carefully the suitability of the premises for the type of activity to be undertaken, particularly in terms of ventilation, noise breakout and noise/vibration transmission to adjoining premises.
- 8.23 Licence holders already in receipt of complaints should seek an early remedy to any confirmed problem. The organisers of temporary events should pre-empt potential nuisance, especially when complaints have previously arisen at the same venue.
- 8.24 The Licensing Authority expects authorisation holders to use their risk assessments and operating schedules to review and, if need be, to make necessary improvements to the premises, or to operational practices, in order to prevent public or statutory nuisance.
- 8.25 Where the provisions of existing legislation prove inadequate or inappropriate for control purposes, the Licensing Authority will consider imposing licence conditions. Any condition deemed appropriate and imposed by the Licensing Authority to promote the prevention of public nuisance will focus on measures within the direct control of the licence holder or designated premises supervisor.
- 8.26 Coventry's Director of Public Health will provide evidence on the impact of the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups such as street drinkers, and the effect this has on anti-social behaviour.

## **Protection of Children from Harm**

- 8.27 The Act details a number of legal requirements designed to protect children in licensed premises. The Licensing Authority is duty bound to ensure that authorisation holders including organisers of temporary events, create safe environments (in terms of physical, moral and psychological welfare) for children who may be on the premises. Children should be unable to access alcohol or drugs and be subject to an appropriate level of care and supervision at all times.
- 8.28 The Act prohibits children aged under 16 years old and unaccompanied by an adult, from being present in licensed premises (including premises operating under a TEN) that are being used primarily or exclusively for consumption of alcohol
- 8.29 The admission of children to any premises will otherwise normally be left to the discretion of the individual licensee/event organiser, as the Act does not generally prohibit children from accessing licensed premises. Where children are accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult, then additional measures should not normally be necessary. The Licensing Authority supports the view that children should enjoy access to a range of licensed premises where possible but cannot impose conditions requiring the admission of children to any premises.

The Licensing Authority will judge the merits of each separate application before deciding whether or not to impose conditions restricting access by children. Conditions which may be relevant in this respect are outlined in the Government Guidance.

- 8.30 In premises where alcohol is sold or supplied it is a mandatory condition that premises licence holders will operate a recognised "Proof of Age" scheme. The City Council supports the Challenge 25 scheme and where this is not proposed within the operating schedule, alternative and similarly rigorous controls should be detailed. The City Council recommends that the premise licence holder operates a method for recording when a sale is refused as part of any age challenge scheme (also known as a refusals book).
- 8.31 The Licensing Authority expects that customers should be confronted by clear and visible signs on the premises that underage drinking constitutes an offence in law and that they may well be required to produce proof of their age to a member of staff. Organisers of temporary events should apply similar safeguards in their undertakings. By ensuring licensed premises refuse sales of alcohol to children, or those attempting to purchase it on behalf of children, this will impact positively on a reduction in child alcohol-related health problems.
- 8.32 Venue operators seeking premises licences and club premises certificates can volunteer prohibitions and restrictions in their operating schedules because their own risk assessments have determined that the presence of children is undesirable or inappropriate. These will become conditions attached to the licence or certificate where no relevant representations are received by the Licensing Authority.
- 8.33 The Licensing Authority regards the Coventry Safeguarding Children Board as being the primary source of advice and information on children's welfare and would normally expect any advice/recommendations from the Board to be followed unless there are good reasons for not doing so. The Licensing Authority will attach appropriate conditions where these appear appropriate to protect children from moral, psychological or physical harm. It is also reasonable for the Licensing Authority to expect the Responsible Authorities to intervene where the basis for the intervention falls within the remit of that other authority. For example, the police should take appropriate steps where the basis for the review is concern about crime and disorder or the sexual exploitation of children.
- 8.34 The Licensing Authority will consider the need to protect children from sexual exploitation when undertaking licensing functions.
- 8.35 Coventry's Director of Public Health will engage with Coventry Safeguarding Children Board to share relevant information such as data on young people accessing substance misuse services. They will also consider the proximity of licensed premises to schools, youth centres, play groups and family centres and share anonymised A&E data with other responsible authorities relating to young people and alcohol related incidents
- 8.36 In order to prevent children from seeing films incompatible with their age, authorisation holders who exhibit films will be expected to impose and enforce viewing restrictions in accordance with the recommendations of the British Board of Film Classification. In exceptional cases e.g. where the BBFC has not classified a film then the Council may specify viewing restrictions which an authorisation holder will be expected to comply with.
- 8.37 It is expected that authorisation holders will ensure that, whenever children are in the vicinity of a film or exhibition that is being shown/staged in a multi-purpose premises, sufficient ushers/stewards (minimum 18 years old) will be in attendance at the entrance to the viewing rooms at all times to ensure children cannot enter or view the film or exhibition.

- 8.38 Children have access to a range of regulated public entertainment venues and may be present as members of a viewing audience or as performers in their own right. The Licensing Authority expects authorisation holders including those organising temporary public events, to make proper provision for child safety and welfare during such events. Notwithstanding public safety issues, supervisory arrangements must be reflected within operating schedules. Suitable monitoring strategies should also be in place to ensure that supervisory levels are appropriate.
- 8.39 Where a large number of children are likely to be present on any licensed premises, for example, a children's show or pantomime, the Council may require that there is an adequate number of adult staff at places of entertainment to control access and egress of children and to protect them from harm. Children present at events as entertainers will be expected to have a nominated adult responsible for each child performer.

## **9 MANDATORY LICENSING CONDITIONS**

- 9.1 The Government has introduced a range of mandatory conditions aimed at establishing minimum standards for the way alcohol is sold. The conditions apply to all alcohol retailers.

## **10 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Relationship with Planning**

- 10.1 The planning and licensing regimes involve consideration of different (albeit related) matters. The Licensing and Regulatory Committee and Sub-committees are not bound by decisions made by the City Council's Planning Committee, and vice versa.
- 10.2 The grant of any application or variation of a licence which involves a material alteration to a building would not relieve the applicant of the need to apply for planning permission or building control approval, where appropriate.
- 10.3 There are also circumstances when as a condition of planning permission; a terminal hour has been set for the use of premises for commercial purposes. Where these hours are different to the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier closing time. Premises operating in breach of their planning consent would be liable to enforcement action under planning law.
- 10.4 The Local Planning Authority may also make representations against a licensing application in its capacity as a Responsible Authority, where such representations relate to one or more of the licensing objectives (see Paragraph 1.1 above).

### **Applications**

- 10.5 An applicant may apply under the terms of the Act for a variety of authorisations and any such application will be considered on its individual merits. Any person may make representations on an application or seek a review of a licence or certificate where provision has been made for them to do so in the Act.
- 10.6 The Licensing Authority expects each and every applicant for a premises licence, club premises certificate or variation and **TEN** to address how they intend to meet the licensing objectives. Where no information is given by the applicant, there may be circumstances where the Licensing Authority considers the application to be incomplete and the application is returned without further processing.

- 10.7 In determining a licence application the Licensing Authority will take each application on its merits. Licence conditions will only be imposed following a hearing and in order to promote the licensing objectives and will only relate to matters within the control and ability of the applicant. Licence conditions will not normally be imposed where other regulatory provision is in force (e.g. planning, environmental health, fire safety, and building control legislation) so as to avoid confusion and duplication, except where they can be exceptionally justified to promote the licensing objectives.
- 10.8 The Licensing Authority will impose only such conditions as are proportionate towards promoting the licensing objectives and which do not propose unnecessary burdens, and which are appropriate to the individual size, style and characteristics of the premises and events concerned.
- 10.9 In considering applications, the Licensing Authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned. The Licensing Authority recognises that 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 authorisation concerned.
- 10.10 Conditions include any limitations or restrictions attached to a licence certificate or other authorisation and essentially are the steps or actions the holder of the authorisation will be required to take or refrain from taking at all times when licensable activities are taking place at the premises in question.
- 10.11 It is recommended that an applicant for a TEN should give at least 28 days prior notice of their intended event, together with a full description of the event, risk assessment and details of how the applicant will promote the licensing objectives. Further, that at the same time of submitting their application to the Licensing Authority they serve notice to the Police and Environmental Health (unless an electronic application). Section 100 of the Licensing Act 2003 stipulates a period of at least 10 working days, exclusive of the day on which the event is to start and exclusive of the day on which the notice is given.

### **Deregulated Public Entertainment**

- 10.12 As a result of the Live Music Act 2012 and The Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014 most public entertainment taking place between 0800 and 2300 hrs has, subject to certain conditions, been deregulated and removed from the scope of Licensing Authority control. No authorisation is required where public entertainment is being provided under these statutory exemptions. However, if exempt public entertainment is or will be taking place as well as licensable activities (e.g. selling alcohol) then an authorisation covering the licensable activities will still be required. Operators of 'on-licensed' premises should also note that it is possible to re-introduce full licensing controls over public entertainment where a premises licence or a club premises certificate has been reviewed and a Licensing Sub-Committee determines that it is appropriate for such controls to be re-introduced.

## **Large Scale Events and Safety Advisory Groups**

- 10.13 Organisers of major events are encouraged to approach the Council at the earliest opportunity to discuss arrangements for the licensing of their events. Larger events will require a time-limited premises licence. This will involve the preparation of a substantial operating schedule, full public consultation, and a longer lead in period.
- 10.14 The Council requires a minimum notice period of not less than 3 months for events with a maximum number of attendees between 500 – 19,999, and not less than 6 months for events with a maximum number of attendees greater than 20,000. These events have significant potential to undermine the promotion of the Licensing Objectives due to the number of attendees, the temporary nature of facilities and the variety and complexity of matters that may be relevant. The Council believes these concerns can only be properly mitigated by an applicant engaging with the licensing process at an appropriate time before the event. As part of the process the applicant will be required to participate in -the Council's Safety Advisory Group (SAG) meeting(s) prior to the event being held.
- 10.15 The Council's Regulatory Services Department co-ordinates a SAG with membership comprising of all the emergency response and responsible authorities who can support event organisers on event planning if good time is allowed. All major events will be scrutinised by the SAG.
- 10.16 The Authority acknowledges the benefits of working closely with the Responsible Authorities and other statutory bodies in supporting event organisers in operating safe and well managed events. SAGs or multi-agency meetings are one way of promoting such partnership working.

## **11 Best Practice Schemes**

- 11.1 The Council supports best practice schemes for licensed premises. If your premise is in an area covered by a scheme, you are encouraged to become a member of the scheme. Schemes, set up by local businesses, have adopted an agreed approach to reduce crime and disorder in the area by excluding those whose presence on their premises pose a risk to a safe drinking environment. The schemes are supported and attended by West Midlands Police and the Council's Licensing Team. The Coventry Pubwatch Scheme operates within the city and further details are available from [BIDS@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:BIDS@coventry.gov.uk)

## **12 GUIDANCE FOR ON AND OFF LICENSED PREMISES**

- 12.1 Guidance has been developed by the Licensing Authority and the Responsible Authorities in order to provide a reliable source of information to support authorisation holders in the responsible day to day management of their premises and advise what they must be doing to comply with the Licensing Act. This guidance will be referred to whenever the Licensing Authority or any Responsible Authority have made recommendations for improvements in the management of licensed premises or where new conditions of operation are being considered.
- 12.2 Every licensed premise has been issued with this guidance and new applicants or new Licensees will receive a copy as part of the application process. Further copies can be downloaded from the City Council web site.

## **13 INTEGRATING STRATEGIES AND THE AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION**

- 13.1 By consulting widely prior to this policy statement being published, the Council has taken full account of local policies covering crime prevention, public health, anti-social behaviour, culture, transport, planning and tourism as part of an integrated strategy for the Council, police and other agencies. Many of these strategies may not be directly related to the

promotion of the licensing objectives, but indirectly impact upon them.

13.2 There are a number of wider issues which may need to be given due consideration when dealing with applications. The Council's Licensing and Regulatory Committee can request reports, where it thinks it is appropriate on the following areas: -

- the needs of the local tourist economy to ensure that these are reflected in their considerations;
- the employment situation and the need for new investment and employment where appropriate;
- the general impact of alcohol related crime and disorder, by providing regular reports to the planning committee. This will enable the planning committee to have regard to such matters when taking its decisions and avoid any unnecessary overlap; and
- the national and local needs of when dealing with a pandemic.

### **Crime, Nuisance and Harm Prevention strategies**

13.3 Crime, nuisance, harm prevention and drug and alcohol misuse strategies developed through the Coventry Community Safety Partnership (CCSP) will be reflected in any licence conditions suggested by Responsible Authorities, so far as possible.

13.4 The CCSP, with membership including the Council, Police and the West Midlands Fire Service, is committed to making Coventry a safe place in which to live, work and visit. The CCSP will co-ordinate action to protect and support our most vulnerable children and adults. It is the role of the CCSP to strategically plan, commission and oversee services that tackle crime and disorder and address drug and alcohol misuse.

### **Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

13.5 Alcohol has been identified as a priority within Coventry's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Drinking too much can cause physical and mental harm. Public health related licence conditions will be used where practicable to reduce the impact of alcohol on public safety and other licensing objectives

13.6 The vision of Coventry's Alcohol Strategy is to reduce the harms caused by alcohol misuse and make Coventry a safer and healthier place where less alcohol is consumed. This aim can be supported through opportunities within the licensing process.

### **Cultural strategies**

13.7 The Strategic Arts Policy sits within the framework of the Local Cultural Strategy and has been developed within the context of Coventry's existing arts infrastructure, initiatives and activities. The Council will monitor the licensing of regulated entertainment and particularly live music and dancing, to ensure that potential event organisers have not been deterred from making applications because of licensing requirements.

### **Coventry a Marmot City**

13.8 In line with the principles of the Marmot Review 'Fair Society, Healthy lives' Coventry City Council has agreed to develop common policies to reduce the scale and impact of health inequalities across the city. This includes focusing interventions such as alcohol reduction on reducing the social gradient in health.

There is a social gradient in the harms from alcohol consumption, but not in alcohol consumption itself. Quantities and patterns of drinking differ across socio- economic groups, as do harmful outcomes.

According to the Marmot Review, those people from more deprived areas who consume alcohol are more likely to have problematic drinking patterns and dependence than those

from more affluent areas.

With regards to under 18s, the evidence suggests that fewer young people are drinking alcohol than they did in the past and fewer are suffering serious health implications needing attendance at hospital. However, despite recent declines, the proportion of children in the UK drinking alcohol remains well above the European average and the majority of 17 year olds do drink alcohol. The UK continues to rank among the countries with the highest levels of consumption among those who do drink, and British children are more likely to binge drink or get drunk compared to children in most other European countries. Furthermore, other consequences of alcohol consumption such as regretted sexual activity, arguments, involvement in crime and violence are more prevalent than hospital attendance ([PHE - Data intelligence summary: Alcohol consumption and harm among under 18 year olds](#))

## **Transport**

- 13.9 As part of an agreed enforcement protocol where the police have identified a particular need to disperse people from the city centre swiftly and safely so as to avoid situations which could lead to disorder and disturbance, the Council will inform those responsible for providing local transportation so that arrangements can be made to reduce the potential for problems to occur.

## **Duplication**

- 13.10 When considering any application, the Council will avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes so far as possible. Therefore, the Council will not attach conditions to an authorisation in relation to a matter covered by another regulatory regime unless going beyond such a regime is considered appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in the particular circumstances.

## **Promotion of Equality**

- 13.11 The Licensing Authority in carrying out its functions under the Act is obliged to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination harassment and victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons with different protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Government Guidance advises that conditions should not be attached to authorisations which would duplicate existing statutory requirements. The Council therefore takes this opportunity to remind operators of premises of their duties towards disabled persons (including performers) on their premises under the Building Regulations and the Equality Act 2010. This includes a duty that any person who provides a service to the public must make reasonable adjustments to any physical feature that makes it impossible or unreasonably difficult for a disabled person to access a service, or to provide the services by a reasonable alternative means.

## **14 ENFORCEMENT**

- 14.1 The Licensing Authority has an established working relationship with the Police and other enforcing authorities on enforcement issues. This will provide a more efficient deployment of resources targeting high risk premises and activities.
- 14.2 This enforcement regime in relation to licensing follows the Government's Regulators' Code in that it follows the basic principles of Openness, Helpfulness, Proportionality and Consistency. This is clarified by the operation of a ladder of intervention for Licensed Premises. This ladder of intervention is contained at Appendix 1. Link to enforcement policy.



- 14.3 Licensed premises are visited by the Responsible Authorities and the Licensing Authority to carry out targeted inspections to check that the premises licence/certificate is being complied with, to check compliance with other legislation and/or to deal with a complaint that has been received.
- 14.4 On some occasions a multi-agency group (representing a number of Responsible Authorities) known as the Licensing Taskforce, will visit the premises. The Taskforce officers inspect the areas of the premises relevant to their role. Again, any action taken will be in line with the ladder of intervention.
- 14.5 There are several enforcement options available depending on the outcome of the inspection or complaint which includes:
- Verbal advice – this covers minor complaints/infringements where advice is seen as the most appropriate way to deal with the issue.
  - Written warning – this is a step-up from verbal advice and authorisation holders are given a letter recording the warning given and containing the details of any necessary remedial action.
  - Action planning – this plan will be written down and given to the authorisation holder and DPS. It explains what actions are required and within what time period, in order to comply with the licensing objectives, specific legislation or conditions. It will be regularly reviewed and if the authorisation holder/DPS have complied, the action plan will be terminated. If there are areas of non-compliance, the authorisation holder may face prosecution or their authorisation may be called for a review.
  - Mutual consent to the addition of licensing condition which reflects a harm identified by any of the Responsible Authorities and which the premise licence holder agrees not to continue (known as a minor variation)
  - Review – when there is evidence to show that the licensing objectives are not being met then the authorisation holder will have to attend a review hearing in front of the Licensing Sub-Committee. A decision will be made by the Licensing Authority Sub-Committee based on the evidence put forward as to whether the DPS will be removed and/or the authorisation revoked, suspended, amended or have additional conditions applied.
  - Prosecution – under the Licensing Act, certain offences can be instituted by the Licensing Authority / Director of Public Prosecutions / the Weights and Measures Authority (Trading Standards). In addition, Responsible Authorities have a wide range of powers to institute prosecution under other specific legislation depending on the nature of evidence found.
  - Closure – The Council and several of the Responsible Authorities have the power to close licensed premises whilst on site if they deem it necessary e.g. the Police, Health & Safety, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and the Fire Service. The Licensing Team also have powers to request closure through the Magistrates Court for continuing unauthorised alcohol sales.

## **15 ADMINISTRATION, EXERCISE AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS**

### **Licensing and Regulatory Committee**

- 15.1 The powers of the Council under the Act may be carried out by the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, by a Sub-Committee or, instead, by one or more Council officers acting under delegated authority.
- 15.2 It is considered that many of the decisions and functions will be purely administrative in nature. In the interests of speed, efficiency and cost effectiveness the Council has delegated these functions to Sub-Committees, or in appropriate cases, to officers supporting the licensing function.
- 15.3 Where under the provisions of the Act there are no relevant representations on an application these matters will be dealt with by officers. Should there be relevant

representations then an oral hearing will usually take place before a licensing sub-committee except where all parties agree to proceed in writing. A licence/certificate review will normally take place before a licensing sub-committee. The following table sets out the delegation of functions:

Matters to be dealt with	Full Committee	Sub Committee	Officers
Application for personal licence		If a police objection	If no objection made
Application for premises licence/club premises certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application for provisional statement		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application to vary premises licence/club premises certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application to vary designated premises supervisor		If a police objection	All other cases
Request to be removed as designated premises supervisor			All cases
Application to transfer of premises licence		If a police objection	All other cases
Application for interim authorities		If a police objection	All other cases
Application to review premises licence/club premises certificate		All cases	
Decision on whether a complaint is irrelevant frivolous vexatious etc.			All cases
Decision to object when local authority is a consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application	All cases		
Determination of a police/EHO objection to a temporary event notice		All cases	
Determination of a Minor Variation application			All cases
Removal of the requirement for a designated premises supervisor at community premises		If a police objection	All other cases

### Application forms and process

- 15.4 The application form will be in the prescribed format. The operating schedule will form part of the completed application form for a premises licence and a club premises certificate. The form will need to contain information that describes the style of the venue, the licensable activities to be provided, the operational procedures, hours, nature of the location, needs of the local community, etc. Most importantly, the applicant will have to detail the steps that will be taken to promote the licensing objectives. Applicants should carry out a risk assessment before they apply for a licence.
- 15.5 Applicants are encouraged to fully consult the police and other statutory services well in advance of carrying out their risk assessments and submitting their applications. Application forms and guidance leaflets will be available from the Licensing Team and our website, including contact names for each of the responsible authorities that will be receiving applications. Most applications will require additional documentation and a fee to be included with the form. Incomplete applications will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant.
- 15.6 Where national guidance permits, on line applications will be accepted providing the

necessary documentary attachments are uploaded into the application and the appropriate fee paid. Coventry is currently using the Electronic Licence Management System (GOV.UK) which is supported by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills.

- 15.7 Applicants are encouraged to make themselves aware of any relevant planning and transportation policies, tourism and cultural strategies and local crime, alcohol, drug and disorder strategies in order to take these into account, where appropriate, when formulating their operating schedule. Guidance notes containing contact and website information about these policies will be available from the Licensing Team, Regulatory Services. Contact details are below.

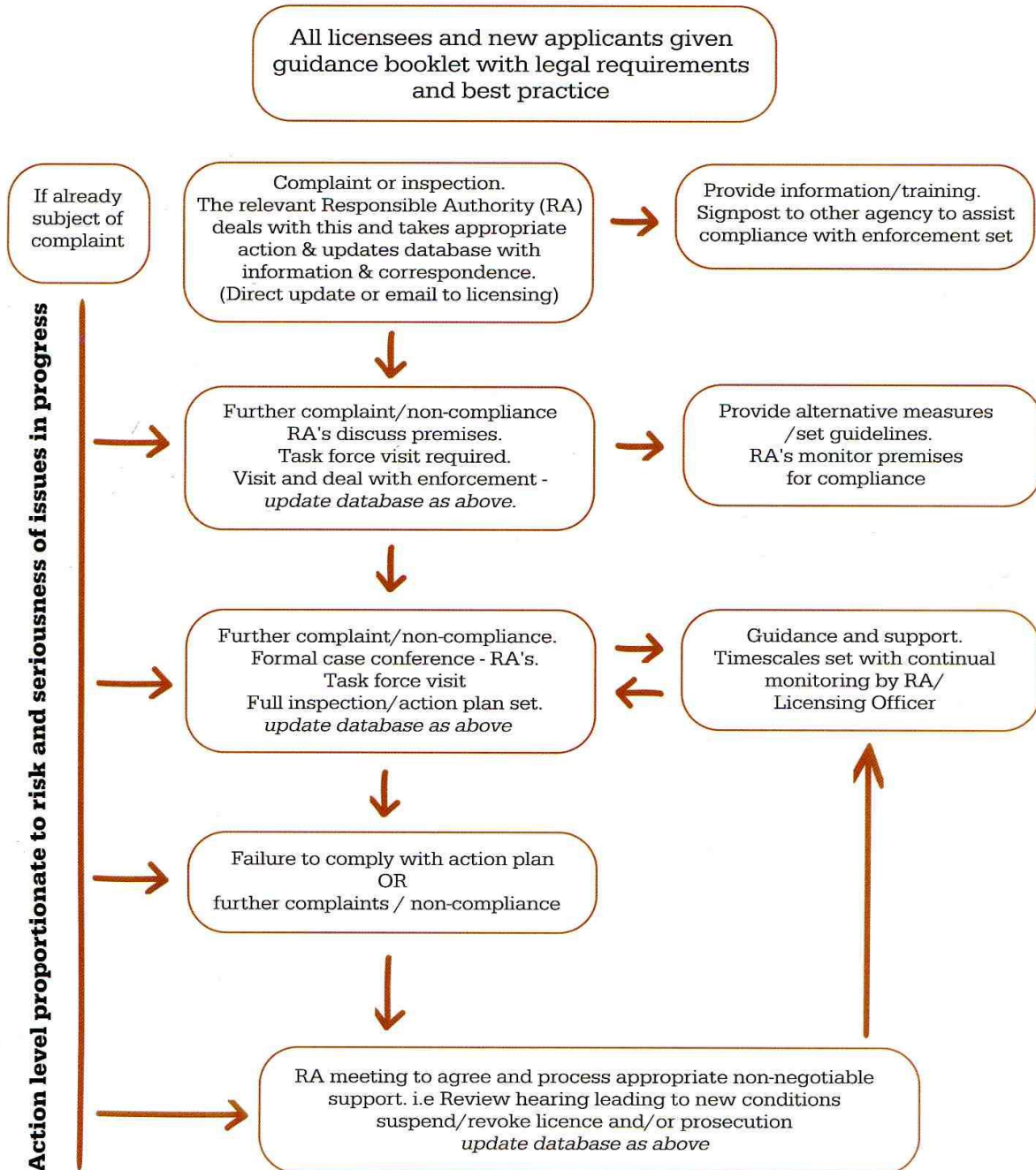
## **16 COMMENTS ON THIS POLICY**

- 16.1 The Statement of Licensing Policy will be reviewed on a regular basis. Individuals and organisations that wish to comment on the policy are invited to send their comments in writing to:

Streetscene and Regulatory Services,  
PO Box 15  
Earl Street Coventry  
CV15RR  
Telephone Number: 024 7697 5496  
Fax Number: 024 7683 2154  
e-mail: [licensing@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@coventry.gov.uk)  
website [www.coventry.gov.uk](http://www.coventry.gov.uk)

# APPENDIX 1

## Ladder of intervention - approach to enforcement issues



## APPENDIX 2

### Licensing Act 2003 – Responsible Authority Contacts

#### **Licensing Authority:**

Coventry City Council  
Licensing Team,  
PO Box 15  
Earl Street  
Coventry CV15RR  
Telephone: 024 7697 5496  
[licensing@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@coventry.gov.uk)

#### **Contact:**

Debbie Cahalin-  
Heath Licensing &  
Business  
Compliance  
Manager  
[debbie.cahalin-heath@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.cahalin-heath@coventry.gov.uk)

#### **Chief Officer of Police:**

West Midlands Police  
Little Park Street  
Coventry  
CV1 2JX  
Telephone: 024 7653 9097

#### **Contacts:**

[cv\\_licensing@west-midland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:cv_licensing@west-midland.pnn.police.uk)

#### **Fire Authority**

Applications  
Fire Service Head Quarters  
99 Vauxhall Road,  
Vauxhall,  
Birmingham,  
B7 4HW

#### **Contact:**

[firesafety.admin@wmfs.net](mailto:firesafety.admin@wmfs.net)

#### **Safeguarding Children Board**

Social Services & Housing  
Chairing and Reviewing Service  
PO Box 15,  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

#### **Contacts:**

[safeguardingchildrenlicensing@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingchildrenlicensing@coventry.gov.uk)

#### **Health & Safety Enforcing Authority**

Coventry City Council  
Regulatory Services  
PO Box 15  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

#### **Contacts:**

Nicola Castledine  
Food and Safety Manager  
[nicola.castledine@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:nicola.castledine@coventry.gov.uk)

#### **Environmental Protection**

Coventry City Council  
Regulatory Services  
PO Box 15  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

#### **Contacts:**

Neil Chaplin  
Senior Environmental Protection Officer  
[Env.protection@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Env.protection@coventry.gov.uk)

#### **Trading Standards**

Coventry City Council  
Regulatory Services  
PO Box 15  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

#### **Contact:**

Debbie Morgan  
Business Compliance Enforcement  
Officer  
[debbie.morgan@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.morgan@coventry.gov.uk)

**Public Health Board**  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 15  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

**Contact:**  
Elley Aiyedofe  
Programme Officer  
Email. [elley.aiyedofe@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:elley.aiyedofe@coventry.gov.uk)

**Planning Authority**  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 15  
Earl Street  
Coventry  
CV1 5RR

**Contact:**  
Marcus Fothergill Planning  
Team Leader  
[planning@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:planning@coventry.gov.uk)

**Secretary Of State (Home Office  
Immigration Enforcement)**

**Contact**  
[alcohol@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:alcohol@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

#### OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS:

**Health & Safety Executive**  
Licensing Applications/Consultation  
No. 1 Hagley Road  
Birmingham B16 8HS  
Telephone: 0300 790 6787

**Coventry City Council Events Team**  
Jon Hogan  
Coventry City Council  
PO Box 15  
Earl Street  
Coventry CV1 5RR

Email: [events@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:events@coventry.gov.uk)

**Police National Computer  
Checks – Obtain a basic  
disclosure DBS for your  
Personal Licence**

[www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record](http://www.gov.uk/request-copy-criminal-record)

**If you need this information in another format please contact:**

**Telephone: 024 7697 9456**

**Fax: 024 7683 2154**

**Minicom: 0500 431143 e-mail:  
[licensing@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@coventry.gov.uk)**