



Equality Impact Assessment

EIA-755461224 - Review of Statement of Licensing Policy - Alcohol & Entertainment

Details

Title	Review of Statement of Licensing Policy - Alcohol & Entertainment
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Cabinet Member	Cllr Abdul Khan (Policing and Equalities)
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Context and background

EIA carried out on	Review of policy or strategy
Background	<p>Licensing Act 2003 states that the Statement of Licensing Policy for alcohol & entertainment must be reviewed every 5 years. The current policy expires in March 2026.</p> <p>The Act specifies licensing objectives which are central to the regulatory regime, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prevention of Crime & DisorderPublic SafetyPrevention of Public NuisanceProtection of Children from Harm
Stakeholders	<p>Any premises that sells alcohol</p> <p>Any premises that provides regulated entertainment</p> <p>Any premises that provides Late Night Refreshment (hot food & drink after 23:00 hours)</p> <p>Coventry residents & visitors</p>
Responsibility	Rekha Masih

Consideration of impact

Baseline data and information

We have approximately 900 licensed premises in Coventry.

In England in 2023, 19% of adults had not drunk alcohol in the last 12 months. This proportion has remained stable, between 17% and 20%, since 2011 (NHS Digital, 2024)

The COVID-19 pandemic polarised drinking patterns, with people previously consuming alcohol at lower levels further decreasing their drinking, and people previously consuming alcohol at higher levels further increasing their drinking (Public Health England, 2021)

Marmot Principles

3. Ensure a healthy standard of living for all

4. Create fair employment and good work

Protected groups - Impact on Coventry Residents and Visitors

Age 0-18

Positive impact - Licensing Act 2003 - One of the four licensing objectives is to Protect Children from Harm. This policy will have a Positive impact on age. Actions and objectives are stated in the policy that will help protect young people. The policy outlines what the licensing authority's duty is in and what the Council expects from licence holders in respect of protecting young people from harm. The policy makes provision for the Safeguarding Children Team to act as the responsible authority for matters relating to the protection of children from harm and enables them to comment on variations/new applications and request reviews of licences.

According to NHS England (2024), in England in 2023: 37% of pupils aged 11-16 said they had ever had an alcoholic drink Prevalence increases with age, from 15% of 11 year olds to 62% of 15 year olds

5% of all pupils said they usually drank alcohol at least once per week, similar to 6% in 2021

The proportion of those drinking alcohol at least once per week also increases with age, from 1% of 11 year olds to 11% of 15 year olds

Age 19-64	<p>Positive impact - Enables the Licensing Team to regulate licensed premises and ensure that they are providing a safe environment for customers to enjoy the night time economy.</p> <p>In England, alcohol consumption among adults aged 19 to 64 varies significantly. According to the NHS England Digital report, 30% of those aged 55 to 74 drank at least 14 units of alcohol per week, compared to 19-24% of other age groups. The AUDIT test indicates that 88% of adults had low risk drinking behaviour or abstained. The health risks associated with drinking alcohol, such as accidents, injuries, cancer, heart disease, and reduced life expectancy, tend to increase with higher consumption. Since 2016, UK guidelines have focused on regular weekly consumption, recommending that men and women should not normally consume more than 14 units of alcohol a week, including some days where no alcohol is drunk.</p>
Age 65+	<p>Positive impact - Enables the Licensing Team to regulate licensed premises and ensure that they are providing a safe environment for customers to enjoy the night time economy.</p> <p>Among adults aged 65 to 74, the proportion who usually drink more than 14 units per week (at increasing or higher risk) varies across age groups, increasing up to the age of 55 to 64 (30% of all adults, 38% and 23% of men and women respectively).</p>
Disability	<p>Positive impact - Research suggests that individuals who live with a disability in the UK are more likely to experience the risk factors associated with alcohol dependency, such as low self-esteem, disempowerment, and living with cognitive limitations. Disabilities have a huge impact on an individual's capacity to live their life as normal.</p> <p>They can restrict physical movement, their ability to use public transport, or their confidence in doing things by themselves. Everyone can suffer differently, and unemployment is common.</p> <p>These kinds of restrictions can force individuals to give up things that they previously enjoyed (if they have developed their disability over time), or miss out on what others do, fuelling feelings of helplessness, anxiousness, or depression.</p> <p>Alcohol can become a way of dealing with this. Individuals can drink to forget that they can't do the things that they used to, or if they have always had their disability, they might drink to forget that they can't do the same things as their friends.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>No impact -</p>

Marriage and civil partnership	No impact -
Pregnancy and maternity	Positive impact - Very few women reported that they drank more than a unit of alcohol a week in pregnancy (2.9% of women for whom alcohol usage was known), although the fact that this is self-reported means that it may be an underestimate. Most women (97.1%) reported that they drank little to no alcohol a week (1 unit or fewer).
Race	Positive impact - Ethnicity plays a significant role in alcohol consumption patterns. While some ethnic groups, such as Bangladeshi and Pakistani men and women, tend to drink less than others, there are also higher rates of higher risk drinking among certain groups, such as older Irish men and men belonging to the Sikh religion. Ethnic minorities may face barriers to accessing alcohol treatment services and often seek help only after experiencing serious health consequences. Understanding these patterns is crucial for addressing alcohol-related issues in a culturally competent and equitable manner.
Religion and belief	No impact -
Sex	Positive impact - Research consistently shows that a higher percentage of alcoholics are male compared to female, with men being roughly twice as likely to struggle with alcohol dependence. This gender gap is attributed to a combination of biological, social, and cultural factors, including differences in metabolism, societal norms around drinking, and varying levels of access to treatment. While men dominate the statistics, it's important to note that women may face unique challenges, such as faster progression from casual drinking to dependency and heightened health risks, making gender-specific data essential for tailored prevention and intervention strategies.
Sexual orientation	No impact -

Additional groups

Care experienced

Positive impact - Looked after children and care leavers aged 11–19 years have a fourfold increased risk of alcohol and drug use compared to their peers and have been found to drink alcohol more frequently and at higher intensity than those who are not care-experienced (Meltzer, 2003). children (aged 11–17 years old) placed in residential units were found to drink alcohol more frequently than those in foster care; 42% drank alcohol at least once a month, compared with 25%, figures considerably higher than the 9% for young people not looked after (Meltzer, 2003). Thus, while it is well established that the child's environment and transient lifestyle can have adverse effects on young people in care, it is also the case that placement type, whether foster, kinship or residential care, can also influence levels of alcohol.

Armed forces

Positive impact - The statistics on alcohol consumption among the armed forces reveal a significant concern regarding alcohol misuse. Between July 2012 and April 2023, 9,676 UK armed forces personnel had at least one Read code for alcohol misuse, with 966 personnel having at least one Read code for alcohol dependence. The breakdowns by service, gender, and calendar year show a pattern of alcohol misuse across various branches and demographics. The Royal Navy had the highest number of personnel with alcohol dependence Read codes, while the Army had the lowest. The data highlights the need for continued monitoring and support for personnel dealing with alcohol misuse.

Socio economic groups

Positive impact - Socioeconomic status (SES) is one of the many factors influencing a person's alcohol use and related outcomes. Findings have indicated that people with higher SES may consume similar or greater amounts of alcohol compared with people with lower SES, although the latter group seems to bear a disproportionate burden of negative alcohol-related consequences. These associations are further complicated by a variety of moderating factors, such as race, ethnicity, and gender. Thus, among individuals with lower SES, members of further marginalized communities, such as racial and ethnic minorities and homeless individuals, experience greater alcohol-related consequences.

Next steps

Inequality**Action****Owner Timescale**

**Monitor and
evaluation**

The Policy must be reviewed every 5 years and the EIA will also be reviewed

Impact on Council staff

**Will there be an
impact?**

No

Completion statement

**Potential equality
impact**

Positive impact has been identified for one or more protected groups