



Have your say on Hackney's proposed Licensing Policy

The Council is consulting on a proposal to revise the Licensing Policy in order to meet its statutory requirement to review the Policy by Jan 2016.

The Licensing Policy generally deals with how the Council will consider new applications for:

- The sale of alcohol
- Live and recorded music
- Theatre dance and film
- Late night sales of hot food and drink

Why do we need a Licensing Policy?

The challenge for the Local Authority is to find a balance between managing the vibrant hospitality economy, managing growth, complementing the regeneration activity in Hackney and mitigating the impacts such activities can have on the lives of residents.

The Licensing Policy will set out the Council's decision making principles for those premises /venues providing alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night licensing. The Licensing Policy is designed to ensure the promotion of the four licensing objectives:

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

What is new in the Licensing Policy?

The proposed policy comprises three key elements:

- Core Policies
- Special Policy Areas
- Borough-wide Hours Policy

What are the Core Policies?

These are the four core policies which will be used to determine applications for licenses under the Licensing Act.

These policies are based on the four Licensing Objectives and link to checklists for each objective checklist to help businesses and applicants consider and assess the risks of their proposed activity and show how they will manage these risks. These will also enable residents to see what applicants for licenses need to take account of.

What changes are proposed to the Special Policy Areas?

There are currently there are two Special Policy Areas (SPA) in Hackney. These SPAs in, Dalston and Shoreditch are in those areas where there are a high concentration of licensed premises.

The purpose of the SPAs is to control the growth in the number of licensed premises and to prevent anti-social behaviour, public disorder public nuisance and crime from increasing.

Data gathered shows that Dalston and Shoreditch are still at saturation point in terms of the number of licensed premises and so the proposal is to retain the two SPAs and also retain the Shoreditch SPA

policy exactly as it is so that the presumption remains that all applications will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the proposal will not add to the cumulative impact in the area.

The Dalston SPA currently has an hour's based policy where the authority will normally grant licenses for certain types of activity within the specified hours. This approach is to remain with a proposed change to some of the acceptable hours to encourage restaurants and cultural activity.

It is proposed to extend the boundary of the Shoreditch Special Policy Area (SPA) south to the borough boundaries with the City, Islington and Tower Hamlets and west to the Old Street roundabout along the southern part of City Road. The proposed extension to the Shoreditch SPA area will align the Shoreditch SPA boundary with the adjacent SPAs in Tower Hamlets and Islington.

Proposed Extension to the Shoreditch Special Policy Area

Analysis of the data available shows that the increase in the number of licensed premises in the wider Shoreditch area is also approaching saturation point and that this is having an impact on local residents, visitors and other businesses.

Evidence shows:

- There is a correlation between concentrations of crime types such as theft and violence and locations of licensed premises in the Borough
- 28 % of all alcohol licensed premises in clustered into just in 0.5 sq km of Hackney's overall 19 sq km of land
- Figures from the London Ambulance Service that show between 2011 and 2014, 15 % of alcohol related ambulance call outs in Hackney were in the Hoxton and Shoreditch ward. This is a trend which is increasing across the Borough
- Noise complaints related to the night time economy
- Increased pressure on waste services to clear up resulting litter and refuse in the wider Shoreditch area

As such the Council is proposing an extension to the Shoreditch Special Policy Area

What area will the proposed extension to the Shoreditch SPA cover?

The proposed extension to the Shoreditch SPA will include the area south east and west of the existing SPA to the borough and up to the City Road roundabout? (Please see enclosed map)

What does the policy mean for new licenses in this wider Shoreditch SPA?

The policy means that any application for a license in this extended Shoreditch Special Policy Area, where a relevant representation is made, will be refused unless there are exceptional circumstances.

What is the Borough Wide Hours Policy?

The Borough-Wide Hours Policy – which sits alongside the Core Policies and SPA policies sets out the normally acceptable hours of operation for specific types of licensable activity in specific character areas.

The Borough is divided into Character Areas and these are defined as:

- Major Town Centres (Dalston) – commercial areas with wide range of uses, employment, retail and leisure and very good public transport
- District Town Centres (Finsbury Park, Hackney Central and Stoke Newington) – predominantly High Street locations providing goods and services for local communities with a range of transport links
- Local Centres* – in residential areas providing local facilities for local people, easily accessible by walking or cycling
- Other Areas
 - * Local centres – Broadway Market, Chatsworth Road, Hackney Wick, Hoxton Street , Kingsland Road, Lauriston Road, Lower Clapton Road, Manor House, Shacklewell Lane, Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington Church Street, Stoke Newington Road, Upper Clapton Road, Well Street, Wick Road

Maps showing the boundaries of each of the character areas are available on the website

Within these character areas the table below identifies the normally acceptable licensing hours for specific types of activity. This does not mean that licenses beyond these hours will not be granted but a case has to be made by the applicant.

Table 1: Borough Wide Hours Policy

Applications within the core hours set out in the table below will generally be granted, subject to compliance with other Licensing Policies.

Applications outside the core hours set out below will be considered on their merits and applicants will need to demonstrate how their proposed activity will not have a negative impact on the licensing objectives and be compliant with other Licensing Policies.

Hours are for licensable activities with the premises closing to the public 30 minutes after the licensable activities cease.

Type of premises	Major town centres (outside the SPA)	District town centres	Local centres	All other areas
Restaurant	Fri & Sat 01.00 Sun – Thur 00.00	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00	Daily 23.00
Pubs/bars and other drinking /dining establishments	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00	Daily 23.00
Music/dance venues, theatres and cinemas	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00	Fri & Sat 00.00 Sun – Thur 23.00
Off licences	Daily 23.00	Daily 23.00	Daily 23.00	Daily 23.00
Take-aways/ fast-food premises	Daily 00.00	Daily 00.00	Daily 00.00	Daily 00.00
Other indoor entertainment venues	Fri & Sat 00.00	Fri & Sat 00.00	Fri & Sat 00.00	Fri & Sat 00.00
Qualifying Clubs	Daily 00.00	Daily 00.00	Daily 00.00	Daily 00.00

Who do we want to hear from?

The consultation is open to all, but we would particularly encourage local people, businesses and licensees within and near the proposed Shoreditch SPA extension to let us know their views.

How can you take part?

You can complete this questionnaire online at www.hackney.gov.uk/licensing

Come along to a public drop in session:

Date	Time	Venue
11 June	12pm to 8pm	Shoreditch Library, 80 Hoxton Street, London N1 6LP
7 July	12pm to 8pm	Stoke Newington Library, Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 0JS
6 August	12pm to 8pm	Dalston C.L.R James Library, Dalston Square, Dalston, London E8 3BQ

Return your completed questionnaire to:

FREEPOST HACKNEY LICENSING SERVICE

For more information



Email: consultation@hackney.gov.uk (please include “Licensing Consultation” in the subject line)

Phone: **020 8356 4942** to request paper copies of the consultation documents

If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

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