



The Licensing Act 2003 - Cumulative Impact Policy Consultation – 2nd July 2021 – 27th August 2021

Introduction

The Council currently has two cumulative impact policies (CIPs) for Fulham (introduced in 2009) and Shepherd's Bush (introduced in 2011).

The policies stated that both of these areas already have too many licensed premises (pubs, bars and restaurants) and that no new licences, or extensions of hours should be granted in these areas except in exceptional circumstances. This is known as cumulative impact - please note that the policy in both areas can only be triggered if an objection is made to a licence application.

Before the policies were introduced the Council collected evidence which showed that Shepherd's Bush and Fulham had higher levels of anti-social behaviour, such as noise and rowdy behaviour, and the policies were introduced to try and reduce these problems by not allowing as many licensed premises.

The evidence to renew both of these policies was due to be collected in the summer of 2020, so that new policies could be ready before the start of 2021. Unfortunately, Covid-19 meant that evidence could not be collected as was planned in 2020, as many licensed premises were closed.

Many pubs, restaurants and bars have now changed the way they work because of Covid-19. We hope that this consultation and any evidence gathered, will help us see if the cumulative impact policies are still needed.

To help you answer the consultation questions we have attached the current policies separately. The maps contained in the policies show the area that was covered.

If you have any questions on this consultation, or require any more information, please contact:

licensing@lbhf.gov.uk

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this consultation.

Questions

1. What are your views on the number of licenced premises in borough at the moment - do you think the Council should look to limit the current numbers or should we be encouraging more licensed premises to open?
2. What are your overall views about how effective the Council's cumulative impact policy has been in Fulham, in reducing anti-social behaviour, since the CIP was introduced in 2009?
3. What are your overall views about how effective the Council's cumulative impact policy has been in Shepherd's Bush, in reducing anti-social behaviour, since the CIP was introduced in 2011?
4. Do you think that the current geographical area covered by the Fulham CIP area should be amended in any way?
5. Do you think that the current geographical areas covered by the Shepherd's Bush CIP area should be amended in any way?
6. Are there any other areas in the borough which you think would benefit from a new CIP area?
7. Do you agree with the proposed removal of the CIP in Fulham, because the Council has no recent evidence that is needed to support a CIP?
8. Do you agree with the proposed removal of the CIP in Shepherds Bush, because the Council has no recent evidence that is needed to support a CIP?
9. Do you agree that any evidence gathered for any potential new or altered CIP area(s) should be delayed until 2022, so that a true picture of how businesses are operating post Covid-19 can be considered?
10. Evidence gathering for any CIP area typically involves Council officers carrying out their own study alongside an independent external agency (at an additional minimum cost of £12,000) to ensure a fair comparison. Once this process has taken place any evidence gathered has a lifespan of 3 years – Taking these factors into account do you agree that this is a worthwhile and effective use of the Council's resources?
11. Do you agree that CIPs should still be used as a way to regulate the night-time economy, given how the hospitality sector is struggling to recover from Covid-19?
12. Are you aware that the Council can still consider the total number of licenced premises in an area (i.e. the cumulative impact) without having a formal cumulative impact policy in place, when making a decision on licence applications?
13. Please provide any other comments on the Council's current CIP areas, or cumulative impact in general, in the comments box below: