

Licensing Policy

Licensing Act 2003

Policy effective from
January 2026 – December 2030



Definitions

Note: In this policy, the following definitions are included to provide an explanation of certain terms included in the Licensing Act and therefore in the policy. In some cases they are an abbreviation of what is stated in the Licensing Act 2003 or an interpretation of those terms.

For a full definition of the terms used, please refer to the Licensing Act 2003.

'the Act' refers to the Licensing Act 2003

'the Council' refers to South Norfolk Council

'the Guidance' refers to the revised guidance issued by the Home Office under s.182 of the Act 'licensed premises' includes premises, club premises and events unless the context otherwise requires 'the Licensing

Authority' refers to South Norfolk Council

'the Licensing Committee' refers to Licensing Committee

Executive Summary

- 1.1 South Norfolk Council is a licensing authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and are responsible for granting premises licences, club premises certificates, temporary event notices and personal licences in the South Norfolk district in respect of the sale and/or supply of alcohol and the provision of regulated entertainment and late night refreshment.
- 1.2 This policy sets out the manner in which applications for licences, which are required by the Licensing Act 2003, will be considered by South Norfolk Council.
- 1.3 The policy will not seek to introduce 'zones' where specific activities are concentrated.
- 1.4 The policy will not be used to fix the hours during which alcohol can be sold or to set quotas for particular closing times and, in general, shops will be permitted to sell alcohol during the hours which they are normally open for trade.
- 1.5 This policy statement will not seek to regulate matters which are provided for in any other legislation e.g. planning, building regulations, health and safety, employment rights, fire safety, etc.
- 1.6 The licensing authority wishes to encourage licensees to provide a wide range of entertainment activities within the district throughout their opening hours and to promote live music, dance, theatre, etc. for the wider cultural benefit of the community.

Who is affected?

- 1.7 The activities which require a licence under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and which this policy statement covers include:
 - Retail sale of alcohol
 - Supply of alcohol to club members
 - Provision of 'regulated entertainment':
 - A performance of a play
 - An exhibition of a film
 - An indoor sporting event
 - Boxing or wrestling entertainment
 - A performance of live music
 - Any playing of recorded music
 - A performance of dance
 - The supply of hot food and/or drink from any premises between 11pm and 5am.
- 1.8 Deregulation exempted certain activities from the scope of licensing. The Live Music Act 2013, the Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014 and the Deregulation Act 2015 have exempted entertainment from needing to be authorised under the Act in certain instances. Therefore reference should be made to current legislation and Home Office Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Act ([Revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003 - GOV.UK](#)).
- 1.9 Please also see [Alcohol licensing - GOV.UK](#) for details of licensable activities.

Purpose and Scope of the Policy

- 2.1 South Norfolk Council is situated in the County of Norfolk. South Norfolk is a rural district covering approximately 90,765 hectares and with a population of over 141, 900 (2021 ONS). The area is an attractive rural area of market towns and villages. The main urban areas are the towns of Wymondham, Diss, Harleston, Loddon, Costessey and Hingham as well as the parish of Cringleford on the Norwich fringe and large villages including Hethersett, Long Stratton, Poringland and Mulbarton. Due to the reasonably rural nature of the district, the majority of licensed premises consist of public houses, village halls, members clubs, convenience stores, online alcohol delivery and hotels.
- 2.2 In accordance with the legislation the licensing authority will prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy every five years. During the five-year period the policy will be kept under review and the licensing authority may make such revisions as considered appropriate.
- 2.3 This 'Statement of Licensing Policy' has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the 2003 Act and the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act.
- 2.4 This licensing authority must seek to promote the four licensing objectives contained in the Licensing Act 2003 when carrying out its licensing functions. These objectives are:
- the prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety
 - the prevention of public nuisance
 - the protection of children from harm
- 2.5 When determining applications for licences the licensing authority must also have regard to this policy statement, to The Guidance and to the secondary legislation.
- 2.6 Each application will be considered on its individual merits in the context of the four licensing objectives stated above.
- 2.7 Conditions may be imposed on a licence following the receipt of relevant representations received from responsible authorities. There is a provision for the licensing authority itself to make representations in its role as a responsible authority.

2.8 Before publishing this policy statement the licensing authority will consult with the following:

- the chief officer of police for the area;
- the fire and rescue authority for the area;
- the Director of Public Health for any area or any part of which is in the South Norfolk area
- persons/bodies representative of local premises licence holders;
- persons/bodies representative of local club premises certificate holders;
- persons/bodies representative of local personal licence holders; and
- persons/bodies representative of businesses and residents in the area.

2.9 A Licensing Authority is not precluded from consulting with other persons or bodies in addition to those it is required to consult with.

2.10 For the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003, the relevant Responsible Authorities are:

- the relevant licensing authority and any other licensing authority in whose area part of the premises is situated;
- the chief officer of police;
- the local fire and rescue authority;
- the relevant enforcing authority under the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974;
- the local authority with responsibility for environmental health;
- the local planning authority;
- a body that represents those who are responsible for, or interested in, matters relating to the protection of children from harm;
- each local authority's Director of Public Health (DPH);
- the local weights and measures authority (Trading Standards); and
- Home Office Immigration Enforcement (on behalf of the Secretary of State)

2.11 In cases where a licensing authority is also acting as responsible authority in relation to the same process, it is important to achieve a separation of responsibilities within the authority to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest. In such cases licensing determinations will be made by the Licensing Committee or Sub-Committee comprising elected members of the authority (although they are advised by a licensing officer). Therefore, a separation is achieved by allocating distinct functions (i.e. those of licensing authority and responsible authority) to different officials within the authority.

Main Principles of the Policy

2.12 Nothing in the 'Statement of Policy' will:

- undermine the rights of any person to apply under the Act for a variety of permissions and have the application considered on its individual merits; and/or
- override the right of any person to make representations on any application or seek a review of a licence or certificate where they are permitted to do so under the 2003 Act.

2.13 Licensing is about the control of licensed premises, qualifying clubs and temporary events within the terms of the Act, and conditions may be attached to licences, certificates and permissions that will cover matters which are within the control of individual licensees.

2.14 When considering these conditions, the licensing authority 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 activity in the area concerned. To this end, Town/Parish Councils will be notified of all applications for new or full variations of premises licences and club premises certificates. The licensing authority recognises that only conditions appropriate to promote the licensing objectives should be attached to licences.

2.15 Conditions on a premises licence or club premises certificate are important in setting the parameters within which premises can lawfully operate. Conditions must be tailored to the individual type, location and characteristics of the premises and events concerned.

2.16 The licensing authority acknowledges that the licensing function cannot be used for the general control of anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are beyond the direct control of the licensee of any premises concerned.

2.17 In this respect, the licensing authority recognises that, apart from the licensing function, there are a number of other mechanisms available for addressing issues of unruly behaviour that can occur away from licensed premises, including:

- planning controls;
- positive measures to create a safe and clean environment in these areas in partnership with local businesses, transport operators and other departments of the Local Authority;
- the provision of CCTV surveillance in town centres, taxi ranks, provision of public conveniences open late at night, street cleaning and litter patrols;
- designation of parts of the district as places where alcohol may not be consumed publicly;
- the confiscation of alcohol from adults and children in designated areas;
- regular liaison with police on law enforcement issues regarding disorder and anti-social behaviour, including the issue of fixed penalty notices, prosecution of those selling alcohol to people who are drunk, confiscation of alcohol from adults and children in designated areas and closing down licensed premises or temporary events on the grounds of disorder, or likelihood of disorder, or excessive noise from the premises;
- Investigation of statutory nuisance complaints under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

2.18 Any petitions made in respect of an application must meet the following minimum requirements:

- It must be clear to which premises/application the petition relates;
- The petition must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives;
- Each page must include information as to the purpose of the petition (so it is clear signatories were aware what they were signing);
- Full names and addresses must be supplied, in a legible manner;
- It should be made clear to all signatories that a copy of the petition, containing their details will be passed to the applicant and contained within the committee papers, which, in the event of a hearing become public documents;
- The first named respondent is taken to be the instigator of the petition, and will be used as the point of contact in terms of any queries about the petition;
- The first named respondent will be expected to represent the signatories at a hearing and to communicate any information to other signatories as appropriate.
- The licensing authority reserves the right to make such checks as to the validity of the petition signatories as it feels appropriate.

2.19 In the absence of any relevant representations or where representations have been made and subsequently withdrawn in respect of an application, the licensing authority is obliged to grant the licence and replicate the proposals contained in the operating schedule to promote the licensing objectives in the form of clear and enforceable conditions.

3 Duplication

- 3.1 There are many stakeholders in the leisure industry, covering a wide range of disciplines. Many are involved, directly or indirectly, in the promotion of the licensing objectives, particularly those relating to the prevention of crime and disorder and public nuisance.
- 3.2 The licensing authority recognises the need to avoid, so far as possible, duplication with other regulatory regimes. Whilst being mindful of the planning and building regulation regimes the licensing authority recognises that there should be a clear separation of the planning and building regulation and licensing regimes. The licensing authority will endeavour to minimise the burden of legislation on small businesses.
- 3.3 However, some regulations do not cover the unique circumstances of some entertainment. Where relevant representations are received the licensing authority will consider attaching conditions to premises licences and club premises certificates and where relevant Temporary Event Notices where these are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and are not already provided for in any other legislation.
- 3.4 This policy recognises that:
The Equality Act 2010 places a legal obligation on public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination; and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership (in employment only), pregnancy and maternity, race religion or belief, sex gender and sexual orientation.
- 3.5 The Council provides an annual report to provide evidence as to how it complies with the Equality Act 2010 and its specific duties. The council is committed to advancing equality of opportunity through its service provision, as an employer and when working in partnership. A copy of the report can be found on our website - [Equalities | Broadland and South Norfolk](#)

4 Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- 4.1 Licensed premises, especially those offering late night/ early morning entertainment, alcohol and refreshment for large numbers of people, can be a source of crime and disorder problems.
- 4.2 The licensing authority will expect operating schedules to satisfactorily address these issues, as appropriate, from the design of the premises through to the daily operation of the business.
- 4.3 Applicants are recommended to seek advice from Council Licensing Officers and the police, as well as taking account, as appropriate, of local planning and transport policies and tourism, cultural and crime prevention strategies, when preparing their plans and schedules.
- 4.4 The licensing authority would encourage applicants and current licence holders to consider the use of toughened or plastic glasses when serving drinks to members of the public, particularly where they are to be consumed in beer gardens, at outside events or in premises where a risk assessment may indicate the use of toughened or plastic glasses would be of benefit in complying with the public safety licensing objective.
- 4.5 In addition to the requirements for the licensing authority to promote the licensing objectives, it also has a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the district. The licensing authority also acknowledges powers contained within the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.
- 4.6 Where relevant representations are received the licensing authority will consider attaching conditions to licences and permissions to deter and prevent crime and disorder both inside and immediately outside the premises. The licensing authority may also consider attaching a condition, where relevant representations are received, requiring a 'safe dispersal policy for customers' which would address:

- Dispersing customers over an extended period;
- Ensuring customers leave the premises in an orderly fashion and without bottles or glasses

The usage of single-use plastic drinking glasses should be carefully considered in accordance with the government initiative to tackle single-use plastic waste.

4.7 The Portman Group operates, on behalf of the alcohol industry, a Code of Practice on the naming, packaging and promotion of Alcoholic Drinks. The licensing authority commends the code and we would encourage retailers to sign up to and abide by the Retailer Alert Bulletins. The Licensing Authority will consider imposing this as a condition where appropriate to do so. Further details of the Portman Group Code of Practice can be found at Annex B.

Sale and use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) at alcohol licensed premises such as off-licences

4.8 The licensing authority fully supports the Council's [Women and Girls Safety Charter](#) and strongly encourages premises to adopt the '[Ask for Angela Scheme](#).' Further details can be found at Annex A of this policy.

Sale and use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) at alcohol licensed premises such as off-licences

4.9 The licensing authority will consider whether there is evidence that it would be appropriate to impose a condition relating to NPS specifically in order to promote one or more of the statutory licensing objectives, including public safety and protecting children from harm. Hospital admissions data or public order or nuisance data may assist or evidence that NPS are being purchased at a premises used by those under 18. Conditions must of course be tailored to the individual type, location and characteristics of the premises and events concerned and should be proportionate, justifiable and be capable of being met.

5 Public Safety

- 5.1 The 2003 Act covers a wide range of premises that require licensing, including, cinemas, concert halls, theatres, nightclubs, public houses, village halls, cafés/restaurants and fast food outlets/takeaways.
- 5.2 Each of these types of premises present a mixture of risks, with many common to most premises and others unique to specific operations. It is essential that premises are constructed or adapted and operated so as to acknowledge and safeguard occupants against these risks.
- 5.3 The licensing authority will expect operating schedules to satisfactorily address these issues, as appropriate, and applicants are advised to seek advice from Environmental Health and Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service before preparing their plans and schedules.
- 5.4 Where relevant representations are received the licensing authority will consider attaching conditions to licences and permissions to promote safety.
- 5.5 Public safety includes the prevention of accidents and injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption such as unconsciousness or alcohol poisoning. Conditions relating to public safety may also promote the crime and disorder objective or nuisance objective.
- 5.6 Whenever security operatives/door supervisors are employed at licensed premises to carry out any security function they must be licensed by the [Security Industry Authority \(SIA\) - Security Industry Authority - GOV.UK](#). Competent and professional door supervisors are key to public safety at licensed premises. If a licensee directly employs security operatives he/she will need to be licensed with at least a 'non frontline licence.'
- The relevant mandatory conditions will be imposed in all such cases.
- 5.7 The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 also referred to as Martyn's Law will improve protective security and organisational preparedness across the UK. It will require the responsible person at certain premises (to include licensed premises) to have public protection procedures in place to be followed by staff working at the premises should an act of Terrorism occur. These are procedures which may be expected to reduce the risk of physical harm being caused to individuals relating to evacuation, invacuation, locking down the premises, and communicating with individuals on the premises. Further details can be found at Annex D of this policy.

6 Prevention of Nuisance

- 6.1 Licensed premises, especially those operating late at night and in the early hours of the morning, can cause a range of nuisances impacting on people living, working or sleeping in the vicinity of the premises.
- 6.2 The Licensing Authority is committed to ensuring that the operation of licensed premises does not unreasonably interfere with the personal comfort or amenity of immediate neighbours or the nearby community.
- 6.3 The following provides a non-exhaustive list of risks associated with the public nuisance objective that applicants may wish to consider when preparing their operating schedule:
- Deliveries - Early morning deliveries and late night clearing up. For example, the emptying of bottle bins.
- Late-night noise - This takes many forms, but the following are of particular concern:**
- Customers queuing to enter or leave the premises
 - Customers loitering outside the premises waiting for taxis or private hire vehicles
 - Alcohol-related drunken behaviour and shouting
 - Customers eating, drinking or smoking in open air areas (for example beer gardens).
 - Car horns/car radios/slamming of car doors.
- Lighting – Excessive artificial lighting to the exterior of the licensed premises
 - Litter/waste - Litter and waste generated by the carrying out of licensable activities. For example, food wrappers and cigarette butts.
 - Noise - Noise break out and noise induced vibration arising from licensable activities at licensed premises.
 - Plant and Machinery - Noise from plant and machinery, including air conditioning units, refrigeration units and kitchen extracts. This may include smell nuisance from ventilation ducting and kitchen extracts.
- This list sets out some examples of the likely or possible causes of public nuisance. However, these matters alone may not be sufficient to warrant the attaching of conditions on a licence. Each application will be determined on its own merits.
- 6.4 Where relevant representations are received the licensing authority will consider attaching conditions to licences and permissions to prevent public nuisance.



Protection of Children from Harm

7.1 The licensing authority considers the Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Board to be the competent authority for matters relating to the protection of children from harm.

Access to Licensed Premises

7.2 The wide range of premises that require licensing means that children can be expected to visit many of these, often on their own, for food and/or entertainment. The licensing authority will not seek to limit the access of children to any premises unless it is necessary for the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm. In all other cases it will be left to the discretion of the licensee.

7.3 The licensing authority has a statutory obligation to ensure robust mechanisms are in place for safeguarding arrangements under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004.

7.4 It is an offence under the 2003 Act to:

- permit children (individuals under the age of 16) who are not accompanied by an adult (an individual aged 18 or over) to be present on premises being used exclusively or primarily for supply of alcohol for consumption on those premises under the authorisation of a premises licence, club premises certificate or where that activity is carried on under the authority of a TEN; and
- to permit the presence of children (individuals under the age of 16) who are not accompanied by an adult between midnight and 5am at premises supplying alcohol for consumption on the premises under the authority of any premises licence, club premises certificate or TEN.

7.5 The licensing authority will judge the merits of each separate application before deciding whether to impose conditions limiting the access of children to individual premises. The following are examples of premises that will raise concern:

- Where the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided at the premises.
- Where there have been convictions for serving alcohol to minors or with a recorded history for underage drinking.
- With a known association with drug taking or dealing.
- Where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises.
- Where entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is commonly provided.

7.6 The licensing authority will consider any of the following options when dealing with a licence application where limiting the access of children is considered necessary to prevent harm to children:

- Limitations on the hours when children may be present.
- Limitations on the parts of premises to which the children might be given access.
- Limitations on ages below 18.
- Limitations or exclusion when certain activities are taking place.
- Requirements for an accompanying adult.
- Full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.

7.7 No conditions will be imposed requiring that children be admitted to any premises and, where no limitation is imposed, this will be left to the discretion of the individual licensee.

7.8 The 2003 Act details a number of offences designed to protect children in licensed premises and the licensing authority will work closely with Norfolk Constabulary and Trading Standards to ensure the appropriate enforcement of the law, especially relating to the sale and supply of alcohol to children.

7.9 Applicants may wish to consider including a statement within their operating schedule detailing how they will prevent underage drinking at their premises. This may be incorporated within the applicant's proof of age policy.

Access to Cinemas

7.10 In the case of premises which are used for film exhibitions, a mandatory condition will apply restricting access to those who meet the required age limit in line with any certificate granted by the British Board of Film Classification or, in specific cases, a certificate given to the film by the licensing authority itself.

7.11 It may also be necessary to impose a condition to restrict the admission of children to theatres which are incorporating adult entertainment in their productions.

Children and Public Entertainment

- 7.12 Many children go to see and/or take part in an entertainment arranged especially for them, for example children's film shows and dance or drama school productions, and additional arrangements are required to safeguard them while at the premises.
- 7.13 Where entertainment requiring a licence is specifically presented for children, the licensing authority may require the presence of an appropriate number of adult staff to ensure public safety and their protection from harm.
- 7.14 The licensing authority will expect the submitted operating schedules to satisfactorily address these issues.
- 7.15 Where relevant representations are received the licensing authority will consider attaching conditions to licences and permissions to prevent harm to children.
- 7.16 As agencies regulated under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, the licensing authority is obliged to have in place safeguarding processes. The licensing authority must also consider the need to protect children from sexual exploitation when undertaking licensing functions.
- 7.17 The authority recognises that vulnerable persons can also include adults.

8 Cultural Strategies

- 8.1 The Council recognises the need to encourage the provision of a broad range of events in South Norfolk to promote live music, dance, theatre and other entertainments for enjoyment by a wide-cross section of the public.
- 8.2 When considering applications for regulated entertainment events, the Council will be conscious of the need for there to be a balance between the promotion of the entertainment, and concerns that are relevant to licensing objectives.
- 8.3 The Council is aware of the need to avoid where possible attaching conditions to a premises licence, or club certificate, that may inadvertently deter live entertainment by imposing indirect costs of a disproportionate nature. For example, a blanket requirement that any pub providing live music entertainment must have door supervisors.
- 8.4 The Live Music Act 2012, the Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014 and the Deregulation Act 2015 have exempted entertainment in certain instances.

9 Live Music, Dancing and Theatre

- 9.1 In its role of implementing local authority cultural strategies, the licensing authority recognises the need to encourage and promote live music, dance and theatre for the wider cultural benefit of the community generally. The introduction of the Live Music Act in 2012, the Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014 and the Deregulation Act 2015 have exempted a range of performances under certain circumstances that may have previously required a licence.
- 9.2 When considering applications for such events and the imposition of conditions on licences or certificates, the licensing authority will take account of cultural needs whilst noting the necessity of promoting the licensing objectives.
- 9.3 The licensing authority is aware of the need to avoid unnecessary or disproportionate measures that could deter live music, dancing and theatre by imposing indirect costs of a substantial nature, save as necessary to promote the licensing objectives.

10 Planning

- 10.1 Planning, building control and licensing regimes will be properly separated to avoid duplication and inefficiency.
- 10.2 Licensing applications will not enable a “re-hearing” of the planning and/or building regulation application and licensing decisions will not override decisions taken by the Planning Committee or permissions granted on appeal. There is no legal basis for the licensing authority to refuse a licence application because it does not have planning permission or building regulation approval.
- 10.3 There are 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 permission would be liable to prosecution under planning law.

11 Temporary Event Notices

- 11.1 Certain temporary events are not required to be licensed but must be notified to the licensing authority by way of a temporary event notice. These can potentially have serious crime and disorder and public nuisance implications. Organisers of these events are encouraged to submit their notification as soon as reasonably practicable to enable Norfolk Constabulary, community protection and the licensing authority to work with them to identify any risks.
- 11.2 Notifications should include a clear description of the location, particularly where an event is to be held in an open space, and when adjacent plots are to be authorised for licensable activities. In these situations, the notice giver should also provide detail as to how the maximum number of persons in each area will not be exceeded.
- 11.3 Temporary Event Notices must be received a minimum of ten clear working days before the event. The ten clear days does not include the date the Notice was received by the Licensing Authority or the date of the event. Therefore, it is advisable to submit Temporary Event Notices in advance of this date wherever possible. In particular circumstances, late Temporary Event Notices can be submitted with at least 5 clear working days' notice.
- 11.4 Applicants are encouraged to use the online facility through [Temporary event notice | Broadland and South Norfolk](#)

12 Personal Licences

- 12.1 The sale or supply of alcohol under a premises licence may not be made unless there is Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) in respect of the premises who holds a personal licence, and every sale must be made or authorised by a personal licence holder. The only exception for this is for community premises that have successfully applied to remove the DPS requirement.
- 12.2 If the Police object to the grant of a personal licence, the matter will be referred to a Licensing Sub-Committee for determination.
- 12.3 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 gives licensing authorities a discretionary power to revoke or suspend personal licences. The process which must be undertaken by the licensing authority is set out in section 132A of the 2003 Act. The decision to revoke or suspend a personal licence will be made by the Licensing Committee or Licensing Sub-Committee.



Cumulative Impact of a Concentration of Licensed Premises

- 13.1 The licensing authority will only adopt a special policy on cumulative impact if there is evidence that a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area is resulting in unacceptable levels of crime and disorder or public nuisance. The Licensing Authority, having regard to the evidence currently available, and being aware of other measures that are available to the Local Authority and police to address such issues, considers that there is no particular part of the district causing a cumulative impact on any of the licensing objectives, at the time of writing this policy.
- 13.2 However, the cumulative impact of licensed premises in a particular area may, at a future time, on representation from residents, businesses or responsible authorities, trigger the consideration of whether any additional licences or substantial variations to existing licences, to increase such aspects as capacity or operating hours, would lead to an unacceptable saturation in an area. In such cases, the licensing authority will follow the procedure set out in the Secretary of State's Guidance to determine whether a special policy covering cumulative impact should be incorporated in this Statement of Licensing Policy.

Late Night Refreshment

- 13.3 The power to exempt premises, in certain circumstances, from the requirement to have a licence to provide late night refreshment has been provided at Paragraph 2A of Schedule 2 of the 2003 Act (as inserted by the Deregulation Act 2015). This enables licensing authorities to choose to apply an exemption specifically where the supply of late night refreshment takes place if it is:
- a) on or from premises which are wholly situated in a designated area;
 - b) on or from premises which are of a designated description; or
 - c) during a designated period (beginning no earlier than 11pm, and ending no later than 5am)
- 13.4 Any decision to implement late night refreshment exemptions would be subject to a separate full consultation process.

Early Morning Restriction Orders

13.5 The ability to implement an Early Morning Restriction Order or 'EMRO' is a power conferred on licensing authorities by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"), which enables licensing authorities to restrict the sale of alcohol in the whole or a part of their areas between midnight and 6am on all or some days. Licensing authorities are able to make an EMRO in relation to problem areas if they have evidence that the order is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

It should be noted that the restriction would only relate to alcohol and will have no effect on regulated entertainment.

13.6 The licensing authority does not have any plans to implement an EMRO at the time of writing this policy.

Public Spaces Protection Order

13.7 The provisions of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the Anti- social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 can be used to restrict the drinking of alcohol in a public space where this has or is likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life on those in the locality, be persistent or continuing in nature, and unreasonable.

13.8 The licensing authority does not have any plans to implement a PSPO at the time of writing this policy.

Late Night Levy

13.9 The power to implement a late-night levy is also within the 2011 Act. This enables licensing authorities to charge a levy to persons who are licensed to sell alcohol late at night in the authority's area, as a means of raising a contribution towards the costs of policing the late-night economy. Any levy would have to apply to the entire Local Authority area.

13.10 The licensing authority does not have any plans to implement a Late-Night Levy at the time of writing this policy. Any decision to implement a late-night levy would require consultation with the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Officer of Police, as well as much broader consultation. Such a decision would be made by the Full Council. Such a decision would be made by the Full Council.

14 Licensing Hours

- 14.1 The licensing authority recognises that in some circumstances, flexible licensing hours for the sale of alcohol can help to ensure that concentrations of customers leaving premises simultaneously are avoided. This in turn could reduce the friction at late-night fast-food outlets, taxi ranks, minicab offices and other sources of transport, which can lead to disorder and disturbance.
- 14.2 Fixed trading hours within designated areas will not be set as this could lead to significant movements of people across boundaries at particular times seeking premises opening later, with the attendant concentration of disturbance and noise. This would treat residents in one area less favourably than those in another, as well as causing the peaks of disorder and disturbance the Act is trying to avoid.
- 14.3 The licensing authority will generally deal with the issue of licensing hours having due regard to the individual merits of each application. However, consideration will be given to imposing stricter conditions in respect of noise control where premises are situated in mainly residential areas, where relevant representations have been received.

Shops, Stores and Supermarkets

- 14.4 The licensing authority will generally consider licensing shops, stores and supermarkets to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises at any times they are open for shopping.
- 14.5 However, this may be reconsidered where objections to those hours are raised by responsible authorities or interested parties on the basis of the licensing objectives.

15 Conditions

- 15.1 Conditions (other than statutory mandatory conditions) may only be attached to a licence or club premises certificate if relevant representations are received (except for conditions drawn from the applicant's operating schedule since these are voluntary propositions).
- 15.2 Conditions attached to licences or certificates will be tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the particular premises and events concerned. The licensing authority cannot impose blanket standard conditions.
- 15.3 However, where considered appropriate, for the promotion of the licensing objectives, the licensing authority will consider attaching conditions to licences as appropriate. The Licensing Authority will avoid attaching conditions that duplicate other regulatory regimes as far as possible.

16 Licence Reviews

- 16.1 At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence, a responsible authority (which includes the licensing authority), may request that the licensing authority reviews the licence because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives. In addition, Norfolk Constabulary may make an application for a summary review on the basis that premises are associated with serious crime and/or disorder.
- 16.2 Responsible authorities will aim to give licensees early warning of any concerns identified at a premises. The licensing authority can only initiate the review process when acting in its capacity as a responsible authority. The authority's role will be to administrate the process and determine its outcome at a hearing where an evidential basis for the allegations made will need to be submitted.
- 16.3 It is expected responsible authorities shall intervene where the basis of the intervention falls within the remit of that authority. For example, the appropriate authorities should take appropriate steps where the basis of the review is crime and disorder or the sexual exploitation of children.
- 16.4 A number of reviews may arise in connection with crime that is not directly linked to licensable activities. For example, reviews may arise because of drug problems at the premises; money laundering by criminal gangs, the sale of contraband or stolen goods, the sale of firearms and the exploitation of children or vulnerable adults.

- 16.5 There is certain criminal activity that may arise in connection with licensed premises which should be treated particularly seriously. These are the use of the licensed premises:
- for the sale and distribution of drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crime;
 - for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms;
 - for the evasion of copyright in respect of pirated or unlicensed films and music, which does considerable damage to the industries affected;
 - for the illegal purchase and consumption of alcohol by minors which impacts on the health, educational attainment, employment prospects and propensity for crime of young people;
 - for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography;
 - by organised groups of paedophiles to groom children;
 - as the base for the organisation of criminal activity, particularly by gangs; Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 I 103
 - for the organisation of racist activity or the promotion of racist attacks;
 - for employing a person who is disqualified from that work by reason of their immigration status in the UK;
 - for unlawful gambling; and
 - for the sale or storage of smuggled tobacco and alcohol

Where reviews arise and the licensing authority determines that the crime prevention objective is being undermined through the premises being used to further crimes, it is expected that revocation of the licence – even in the first instance – should be seriously considered.

17 Enforcement

- 17.1 Once licensed, it is essential premises are maintained and operated so as to ensure the continued promotion of the licensing objectives and compliance with the specific requirements of the 2003 Act. The licensing authority will make arrangements to monitor premises and take appropriate enforcement action to ensure this.
- 17.2 The licensing authority works closely with the police and other enforcing authorities to ensure compliance with the Licensing Act 2003. This provides for the targeting of agreed problems and high-risk premises but with a lighter touch being applied to those premises which are shown to be well managed and maintained.
- 17.3 All enforcement actions taken by the licensing authority will comply with the Council's Enforcement Policy (See Annex C), the Better Regulation Delivery Office Regulator's Code and Primary Authority Partnership Scheme. To this end the key principles of consistency, transparency and proportionality will be maintained.
- 17.4 A closure power is provided for in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This closure power can be used to protect victims and communities by quickly closing premises that are causing nuisance or disorder. Further guidance on this power can be found on the gov.uk website, under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act: Anti-Social Behaviour Guidance.

Licence Fees

- 17.5 The licensing authority will suspend a premises licence or club premises certificate if the annual fee is not paid when it is due. However, this does not apply immediately if the payment was not made before or at the time of the due date because of an administrative error, or because the holder disputed liability for the fee before or at the time of the due date. In either of these cases, there is a grace period of 21 days. This period is intended to allow the licensing authority and the licensee or certificate holder an opportunity to resolve the dispute or error. If the dispute or error is not resolved during this 21-day period, the licence or certificate will be suspended.
- 17.6 Should a licence or certificate be suspended, the licensing authority will notify the holder in writing specifying the date on which the suspension will take effect; this date will be at least five clear working days after the day the authority gives the notice.
- 17.7 A suspension will cease to have effect on the day on which the licensing authority receives payment of the annual fee from the licensee or certificate holder.
- 17.8 Norfolk Constabulary will be informed of the suspension and, where appropriate, lifting of the suspension.

18 Administration, Exercise and Delegation of Functions

- 18.1 The licensing authority will be involved in a wide range of licensing decisions and functions and have established a Licensing Committee to administer them.
- 18.2 Appreciating the need to provide a speedy, efficient and cost-effective service to all parties involved in the licensing process, the Committee has delegated certain decisions and functions and has established a number of Sub- Committees to deal with them.
- 18.3 Further, with many of the decisions and functions being purely administrative in nature, the grant of non-contentious applications, including for example, those licences and certificates where no representations have been made, has been delegated to authorised officers within the Licensing Section of the Council.
- 18.4 The table on the following page sets out the agreed delegation of decisions and functions to the Licensing Committee, Sub-Committees and officers.
- 18.5 This form of delegations is without prejudice to Officers referring an application to a Sub-Committee, or a Sub-Committee referring an application to Full Committee, if considered appropriate in the circumstances of any particular case.

Table of delegations of licensing functions

| Matter to be dealt with | Full committee | Sub-committee | Officers |
|--|----------------|--|---|
| Application for personal licence | | If a Police or Home Immigration Enforcement objection made | If no objection made |
| Application for personal licence, with unspent convictions | | If a Police objection made | 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 for a minor variation | | | All cases but with discretion to refer to the sub-committee |
| Application to vary designated premises supervisor | | If a Police objection made | All other cases |

| Matter to be dealt with | Full committee | Sub-committee | Officers |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|---|
| Application for mandatory alcohol condition to be disapplied in respect of community premises | | If a Police objection | |
| Application for transfer of premises licence | | If a Police objection | All other cases |
| Application for Interim Authority Notice | | If a Police objection | All other cases |
| Application to review premises licence/ club premises certificate | | All cases | |
| Decision on whether a representation is irrelevant, frivolous, vexatious, etc | | | All cases but with discretion to refer to the sub-committee |
| Decision to object when local authority is a consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application | | All cases | |
| Determination of a police representation to a temporary event notice | | All cases | |
| Consideration of Licensing Policy before Full Council | All cases | | |

19 Entitlement to Work in the UK

- 19.1 Following an amendment to the 2003 Act by the Immigration Act 2016, individuals applying for a personal licence, a premises licence or the transfer of a premises licence must be entitled to work in the UK. However, this requirement does not apply to a club premises certificate, or a TEN.
- 19.2 The Council in its role as the licensing authority will require applicants for the relevant licences to provide appropriate documented proof or a Home Office Share Code that they have permission to be in the UK and to undertake work in a licensable activity.

20 Advice

Information and advice on all aspects of licensing can be obtained by:

South Norfolk Council

Website: www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Telephone: 01603 430488

Email: licensing@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

South Norfolk Council
The Horizon Centre
Peachman Way
Broadland Business Park Norwich
NR7 0WF

Annex A

Women and Girls Safety

To create an environment across South Norfolk where women and girls feel confident that their safety is prioritised, the Council is creating a Women's Safety Charter aimed at reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) across the district.

The charter will be developed in collaboration with an external body and focus on highlighting key areas where input is needed to create a culture of safety.

Please see our website for further information - [Women's Safety Charter | Broadland and South Norfolk](#)

Ask for Angela

The licensing authority would strongly encourage business owners of licensed premises and Designated Premises Supervisors to consider adopting the 'Ask for Angela' voluntary scheme - [Home - Ask For Angela](#), as an additional safeguard to help anyone who is feeling vulnerable on a night out to get the support they need.

It is acknowledged that licensees of hospitality venues across South Norfolk, might be able to make the difference between someone getting home safe or being left at risk. We would encourage licensees to take a look at the Ask for Angela website, together with the support and resources that are available for venues.

In a recent press BBC article, a spokesperson for the Home Office commented:

“Our mission is to halve violence against women and girls in a decade and we have introduced a range of measures to make progress towards that goal, including new action to tackle the spiking of drinks, and to protect victims of stalking.”

“We welcome the work of schemes like Ask for Angela in helping venues and businesses to support vulnerable women, and while this scheme is independent of government we strongly share its objectives to ensure that women feel safe in all areas of their lives, including when enjoying a night out.”

Annex B

The Portman Group Code of Practice

The Portman Group operates, on behalf of the alcohol industry, a Code of Practice on the naming, packaging and promotion of alcoholic drinks. The code seeks to ensure that drinks are packaged and promoted in a socially responsible manner and only to those who are 18 years old or over. Complaints about products under the code are considered by an Independent Complaints Panel and the Panel's decisions are published. If a product's packaging or point-of-sale advertising is found to be in breach of the code, the Portman Group may issue a Retailer Alert Bulletin to notify retailers of the decision and ask them not to replenish stocks of any such product or to display such point-of-sale material, until the decision has been complied with. The code is an important weapon in protecting children from harm because it addresses

the naming, marketing and promotion of alcohol products sold in licensed premises in a manner which may appeal to or attract minors. The District Council commends the code - [Home - The Portman Group](#)

Annex C

Enforcement

Please see [Regulatory Enforcement Policies | Broadland and South Norfolk for a copy of the South Norfolk Council enforcement policy.](#)

Annex D


The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

The licensing authority acknowledges the duty that will be placed upon licensed premises as part of the introduction of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 known as Martyn's Law. The new Act will ensure the public are better protected from terrorism by requiring certain public premises and events to be prepared and ready to keep people safe in the event of an attack. Certain larger premises will be required to consider and, where appropriate, take steps to reduce their vulnerability to acts of terrorism. A tiered approach is established under the new Act, with those responsible for premises and events in scope required to fulfil different requirements according to the number of individuals it is reasonable to expect may be present.

Further information is available on the Protect UK Website:

[Martyn's Law overview and what you need to know | ProtectUK](#)

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