

Equality Impact Assessment of the Statement of Licensing Policy

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This form should be completed in conjunction with reading the EIA Guidance.

You can also complete online at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/wbceiaform2021



Equality Act 2010

Section 1 – Details of the service, service change, decommissioning of the service, strategy, function or procedure.

Title of the EIA	Statement of Licensing Policy
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Telephone Number	01925 442590
Directorate	Environment and Transport
Department	Public Protection and Prevention.
Date of Assessment	8 th November 2023 Reviewed 04/06/2024
Details of the service, service change, decommissioning of the service, strategy, function, or procedure.	<p>Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 requires a licensing policy to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy at least every 5 years. The primary purpose of the policy is to set out how the licensing objectives will be promoted. Local aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a safe environment for people to enjoy. • To broaden the appeal of the late night economy • To create an environment that attracts appropriate investment and allows responsible businesses to thrive and grow. • To tackle alcohol related harm and to promote health and wellbeing. • To address any negative perceptions around the town centre and to re-invigorate people to work together to deliver real change. • To give people a voice in decisions that affect them. • To promote equality, diversity, and inclusion. <p>The aims are consistent with the general duties under the Equality Act to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relationships. A safer, welcoming night time economy with a broader appeal should serve to promote equality particularly between those persons with protected characteristics.</p>

	<p>No policy can undermine the right of an individual to have their application determined on its relative merits or to make relevant representations against an application. The policy is subject to further consultation. Any person aggrieved by a decision has the right of appeal. The Licensing Authority has conducted a public voice survey, which included equality, diversity, and inclusion.</p> <p>The Statement of Licensing Policy has been refreshed and includes the following key updates: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated position statement on the local economy. • A review of the Cumulative Impact Areas and a new Cumulative Impact Assessment. • Inclusion of statements on child exploitation • Removal of text which simply restates a statutory requirement, which may be subject to revision during the period of the statement. • A new section on protection against terrorist acts. • A revision of the recommended framework of hours text and summary table. • Additional text on drink and needle spiking. • Additional text on public nuisance, including controlling noise break out and general nuisance. • Inclusion of sexual harassment and gender based violence. • Inclusion of text on litter and maintenance of the street scene. • Inclusion of text on environmental sustainability. <p>These changes have been introduced to promote the Licensing Objectives and to uphold the principles of the Licensing Act 2003 at a local level. The revised policy seeks to reflect changes in the national legislation, and associated guidance, and to more closely reflect the Council’s own vision and values. Other changes are designed to promote a safe and welcoming offer and to create a sense of place, which should help to broaden the appeal of the town centre and other district centres. The Act and local policy do not seek to discriminate against any protected characteristic contained within the Equality Act 2010; the intention of the local policy is to broaden appeal to all.</p>
<p>Who is Affected?</p>	<p>The Policy sets out how the Council in its function as the Licensing Authority will discharge its responsibilities with effect to the Licensing Act 2003. The policy will be of interest to businesses who hold, or are seeking to hold a licence, residents, named responsible authorities, related council departments and elected members.</p> <p>It is a borough wide policy, all interested parties have the right to make representation on a licence application.</p>

Links and impact on other services, strategies, functions, or procedures.	The policy sets out those areas where it will interact with other policy areas, accepting the need to avoid duplication. It is noted that any action must have regard to the Licensing Objectives and must not be ultra vires under the Licensing Act 2003.
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<p>How does the service, service change, strategy, function or procedure help the Council meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p>	<p>The Licensing Authority will comply with the General Equality Duty and advance equal opportunity by working to promote a safe and welcoming night-time economy with a broader appeal for all. We will seek to foster good relationships by promoting the public voice and by working in partnership with the public and businesses. We will work to eliminate unlawful discrimination by working as a Council to fulfil our responsibilities under the Equalities Act 2010. Any application will be considered on its relative merits having regard to the promotion of the Licensing Objectives and other relevant policy considerations, including equality, diversity, and inclusion. The Licensing authority recognises that no policy is absolute and where necessary it may depart from its policy; where it considers it to be necessary and appropriate to do so.</p>
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Section 2 - Information – What do you know?

<p>What information (qualitative and quantitative) and/or research have you used to commission/change/decommission the service, strategy, function, or procedure?</p>	
<p>Information Used</p>	<p>The information used includes: -</p> <p>Warrington Council Public Sector Equality Duty Report “Knowing our Community and our Workforce 2022-2023”. Information about our customers and our workforce 2022-23.pdf (warrington.gov.uk)</p> <p>Warrington Borough Profile: Warrington Borough Profile 2021</p> <p>Disability motivated hate crime data</p>
<p>Gaps in Information</p>	<p>Whilst responses are sought on the Statement of Licensing Policy which includes questions to respondents on inclusion and equality there is no known information on the proportion of actual users of the nighttime economy by people with protected characteristics. Evidence of hate crime is recorded.</p>

Section 3 - What did people tell you?

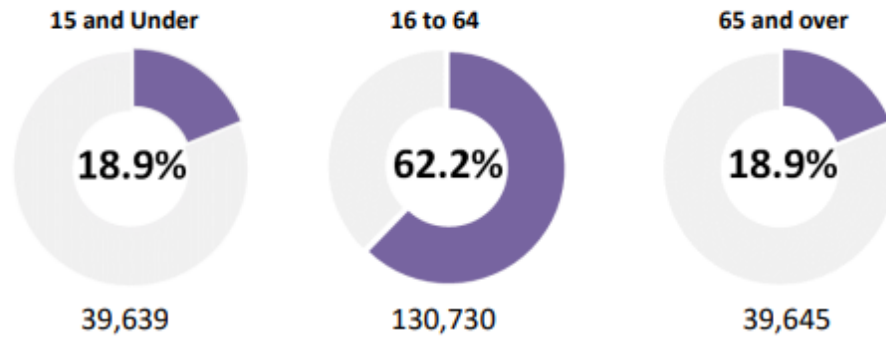
<p>What consultation and engagement activities have you undertaken and what did people tell you? Is there any feedback from other local and/or external regional/national consultations that could be included in your assessment?</p>

Details and date of the consultation/s and/or engagement activities	There is a statutory duty to consult on the Statement of Licensing, the consultation has not identified any changes to the EIA.
Gaps in consultation and engagement feedback	It is not envisaged that the refresh of Statement of Licensing Policy will have a negative impact on persons with protected characteristics, it merely sets out how the Council will discharge its duties with respect to the Licensing Act 2003.

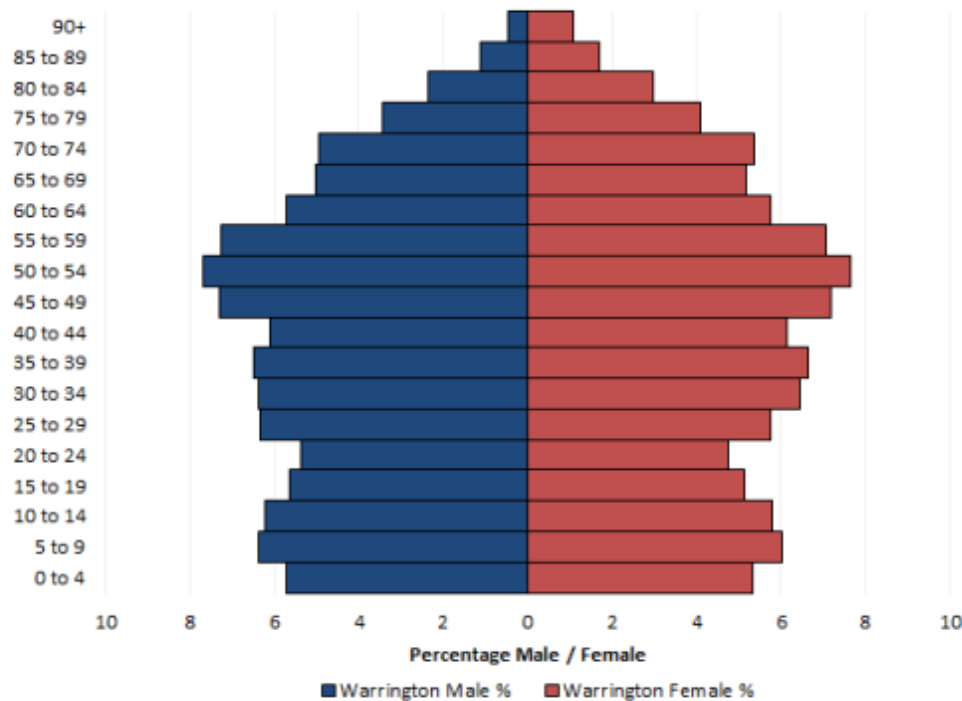
Section 4 - Review of information, consultation feedback and equality analysis

Protected characteristics groups from the Equality Act 2010	What do you know? Summary of information used to inform the proposal including demographic information.	What did people tell you? Summary of customer and/or staff feedback	What does this mean? Impacts identified from the information and feedback (actual and potential). These can be either positive, negative or have no impact.
Age	<i>Excerpt from the borough profile 2021</i>	<i>Data has been taken from the borough profile. Consultation of the Statement of Licensing Policy will include questions of diversity and equality. Users of the night</i>	Positive. The Policy seeks to promote the licensing objectives under the Licensing Act 2003, which includes the Protection of Children

Population by broad age group



Warrington population – Percentage by 5 year age categories (2019)



time economy typically vary by age, and statutory age restrictions apply to protect children from harm.

from Harm. Section 5 of the policy seeks to introduce appropriate measures to promote this objective at a local level and to strengthen links to safeguarding.

The promotion of a safe night time offer will help to protect all users from alcohol related crime and disorder and encourage a wider age range to enjoy a night out in a safe and responsible way.

Whilst the overall effect is positive, some users of the current late night offer may not wish to see significant change.



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	<p>Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly a fifth of the resident population are aged 0 to 15 years. 6 out of every 10 of the resident population are aged 16 to 64 years. Nearly a fifth of residents are aged 65 years or over. Persons aged 50 to 54 years of age make up the largest age group accounting for 7.6% of the total population. The average age is 42 years which is slightly higher than the Northwest and England average (40 years) <p>A significant proportion of people are potential users of premises licensed under the Licensing Act 2003.</p>		
Carers	<p>In Warrington in 2022: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.9% of the population provides 19 hours or less per week of unpaid. 1.9% of the population provided 20 to 49 hours per week of unpaid care. 2.7% of the population provide 50 or more hours per week of unpaid care. <p>There is no specific information on the proportion of users of licensed premises, further information will be sought as part of the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy.</p>		<p>No Impact</p> <p>The Policy must be consistent with the Licensing Act 2003, and it does not override the primary legislation or the Equality Act 2010. Each case must be considered on its</p>

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			<p>relative merits. It does not discriminate on the grounds of disability or caring responsibilities.</p> <p>Licensed premises should comply with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Premises should seek to promote accessibility and inclusion. The Prevention of crime is one of the Licensing Objectives.</p> <p>Licensed premises should make reasonable adjustments.</p>
Disability	<p>Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17.8% of residents are disabled which is the same as England (17.8%) but lower than the North West at 19.8%. 	<i>Data has been taken from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</i>	<p>No Impact</p> <p>The Policy must be consistent with the</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.7% of residents are disabled with their day to day activities limited a lot. 10.1% of residents are disabled with their day to day activities limited a little. 82.2% of the population are not disabled. In 2021/22 the council provided long term support for 1396 men (41.5%) and 1969 women (58.5%). 65.7% (2212) were aged 65 and over and 34.3% (1153) were aged 18-64. Physical support was provided to 1899 (56.4%) of residents. In October 2022 10,389 people were registered to receive personal independence payments, 46.0% were men and 54% were women. 4,781 (14.6%) children and young people with special education needs attended Warrington schools. <p>There is no specific information on the proportion of disabled users of licensed premises, further information will be sought as part of the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy.</p>	<i>Consultation of the Statement of Licensing Policy will include questions of diversity and equality.</i>	<p>Licensing Act 2003, and it does not override the primary legislation or the Equality Act 2010. Each case must be considered on its relative merits. It does not discriminate on the grounds of disability. Licensed premises should comply with the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Premises should seek to promote accessibility and inclusion. The Prevention of crime is one of the Licensing Objectives.</p> <p>Licensed premises should make</p>

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			reasonable adjustments.
Gender reassignment	<p>Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95.13% of residents gender identity is the same as their sex registered at birth which is higher than England (93.5%) and the North West (94.19%) • 0.16% of resident’s gender identity is different to that assigned at birth but no specific identity is given. • Smaller numbers of the population identified as transwomen, transmen, non-binary, and other gender identities. <p>There is no specific intelligence of gender based violence associated with users of the night time economy. There are no known premises advertising as LGBTQ+ venues.</p>		<p>Positive</p> <p>The Policy must be consistent with the Licensing Act 2003, and it does not override the primary legislation or the Equality Act 2010. Each case must be considered on its relative merits. It does not discriminate on the grounds of gender reassignment.</p> <p>The policy seeks to broaden the appeal of the night time economy for all and to promote a safe and welcoming offer</p>

Protected characteristics groups from the Equality Act 2010	What do you know? Summary of information used to inform the proposal including demographic information.	What did people tell you? Summary of customer and/or staff feedback	What does this mean? Impacts identified from the information and feedback (actual and potential). These can be either positive, negative or have no impact.
			The policy has been updated to include a statement on sexual harassment and gender based violence.
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2021 the birth rate in Warrington was 1.48% which is lower than England and Wales (1.55%) and the North West (1.59%). • There were 1,619 live births to UK born mothers (83.8%) which is higher than England and Wales (71.23%) and the North West (78.20%). • There were 313 (16.20%) live births to non UK born mothers which is fewer than England and Wales (28.76%) and the North West (21.80%) 		<p>No Impact.</p> <p>The Policy must be consistent with the Licensing Act 2003, and it does not override the primary legislation or the Equality Act 2010. Each case must be considered on its relative merits. It does not discriminate on the grounds of marriage and civil partnerships. The policy seeks to</p>

Protected characteristics groups from the Equality Act 2010	What do you know? Summary of information used to inform the proposal including demographic information.	What did people tell you? Summary of customer and/or staff feedback	What does this mean? Impacts identified from the information and feedback (actual and potential). These can be either positive, negative or have no impact.
			broaden the appeal and to promote more family friendly venues
Race/ethnicity	<p>Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.3% of people identified their ethnic group within the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" category, up from 2.4% in 2011. This is lower than the North West (8.4%) and England (9.6%). • 0.7% of people identified their ethnic group as Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African • 1.6% identified their ethnic group as Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups. • 93.5% of people identified their ethnic group within the "White" category (compared with 95.9% in 2011) • 0.9% of people identified in another ethnic group. • In Warrington 105 different languages are spoken. The most spoken languages are: - English (94.6%), Polish (1.5%), Romanian (0.7%) and South Asian (0.6%). • The Traveller caravan count showed that there were 37 traveller caravans in Warrington. <p>There is no specific information on the proportion of users of licensed premises, further information will be sought as part of the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy.</p>		<p>No Impact</p> <p>The Policy must be consistent with the Licensing Act 2003, and it does not override the primary legislation or the Equality Act 2010. Each case must be considered on its relative merits. It does not discriminate on the grounds of Race</p>

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Religion or belief	<p>Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34.6% of the population have no religion. This is similar to England (36.7%) and the North West (32.6%) • 56.7% of the population are Christian. • 1.7% of the population are Muslim. • Smaller numbers of the population are Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Sikh or identity with other religions. <p>There is no specific information on the proportion of users of licensed premises, further information will be sought as part of the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy.</p>		<p>No Impact</p> <p>The Policy must be consistent with the Licensing Act 2003, and it does not override the primary legislation or the Equality Act 2010. Each case must be considered on its relative merits. It does not discriminate on the grounds of religion, although some religions or faiths may not support the sale of alcohol as a licensable activity.</p>
Sex/Gender	<p>Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91.8% of the population are Straight or Heterosexual which is higher than England at 89.37% and the North West 90.12% • 1.3% of the population are Gay or Lesbian 		<p>No Impact</p> <p>The Policy must be consistent with the Licensing Act 2003, and it does not</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.0% of the population are Bisexual. • Smaller numbers of the population are Pansexual, Asexual, Queer, or identified with another sexual orientation. <p>There is no specific information on the proportion of users of licensed premises, further information will be sought as part of the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy.</p>		<p>override the primary legislation or the Equality Act 2010. Each case must be considered on its relative merits. It does not discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation.</p> <p>The policy seeks to broaden the appeal of the night time economy for all and to promote a safe and welcoming offer.</p> <p>A new statement is included in the refresh on gender based violence.</p>
Sexual orientation	Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.		No Impact

Protected characteristics groups from the Equality Act 2010	What do you know? Summary of information used to inform the proposal including demographic information.	What did people tell you? Summary of customer and/or staff feedback	What does this mean? Impacts identified from the information and feedback (actual and potential). These can be either positive, negative or have no impact.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91.8% of the population are Straight or Heterosexual which is higher than England at 89.37% and the North West 90.12% 1.3% of the population are Gay or Lesbian 1.0% of the population are Bisexual. Smaller numbers of the population are Pansexual, Asexual, Queer, or identified with another sexual orientation. <p>There is no specific information on the proportion of users of licensed premises, further information will be sought as part of the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy. There are no known premises advertising as LGBT+ venues.</p>		
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>Excerpt from the Customer Public Sector Equality Duty Information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34.9% of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership which is lower than England (37.9%) and the North West (39.4%) 46.8% are married and 0.1 % are in a registered civil partnership. 2.0% are separated and 9.6% are divorced or a civil partnership has been dissolved. 6.6% are widowed or surviving a civil partnership partner. <p>There is no specific information on the proportion of users of licensed premises, further information will be sought as part of the consultation on the Statement of Licensing Policy.</p>		No Impact.

Section 5 - Justification, Mitigation and Actions

Mitigation	What can you do? Actions to mitigate any negative impacts or further enhance positive impacts
<p>No negative impacts have been identified.</p> <p>The Statement of Licensing Act must not require any action, which is not in accordance with the Licensing Act, or relevant legislation. Positive Impacts could be enhanced by inviting PubWatch chairs to an annual meeting, at which inclusion and equality could form part of the agenda.</p> <p>Cultural planning and events seek to promote access for all and to promote a safe and welcoming environment.</p>	<p>Invite PubWatch chairs to an annual meeting to promote inclusion and equality.</p>

Section 6 - Monitoring and Review

How will the impact of the service, service change, decommissioning of the service, strategy, function, or procedure be monitored? How will actions to mitigate negative impacts be monitored? Date for review of the EIA	
Details of monitoring activities	<p>No negative impacts have been identified. The Licensing Operational Group of responsible authorities' meetings on a regular basis to review any specific issues as they relate to the Licensing Objectives. Wider policies and systems are in place regarding safeguarding and community Safety. There is a statutory requirement to keep Statements of Licensing Policy under review and to consult interested parties.</p>

Date and responsible officer for the review of the EIA	David Watson Head of Public Protection and Prevention Environment and Transport.

Section 7 - Sign Off

When you have completed your EIA, it should be signed off by a senior manager within your Department (Assistant Director or above). **Please forward a copy of the EIA to the Business Intelligence Team at equalities@warrington.gov.uk.** EIA's will be published on the Council intranet and website.

Name	Signature	Date
D Boyer		18/07/2024

Section 8 - Help and Support

Help and support and advice please contact the Business Intelligence Team at equalities@warrington.gov.uk