

This update covers the implementation of

- the Licensing Policy 2013-2017
- the Late Night Levy

### **Licensing Policy – Background**

In February 2013 the Council adopted a new Licensing Policy for Islington. The policy introduced two significant changes:

- designating cumulative impact areas where the presumption would be to refuse licence applications unless the applicant could demonstrate that the application would not undermine the licensing objectives
- introducing framework closing times

The new policy built on the partnership work between the Police, Licenced Trade and Local Authority over the previous years and many of the principles contained in the police lead ‘Reclaim the Night’ strategy were adapted for inclusion in the policy.

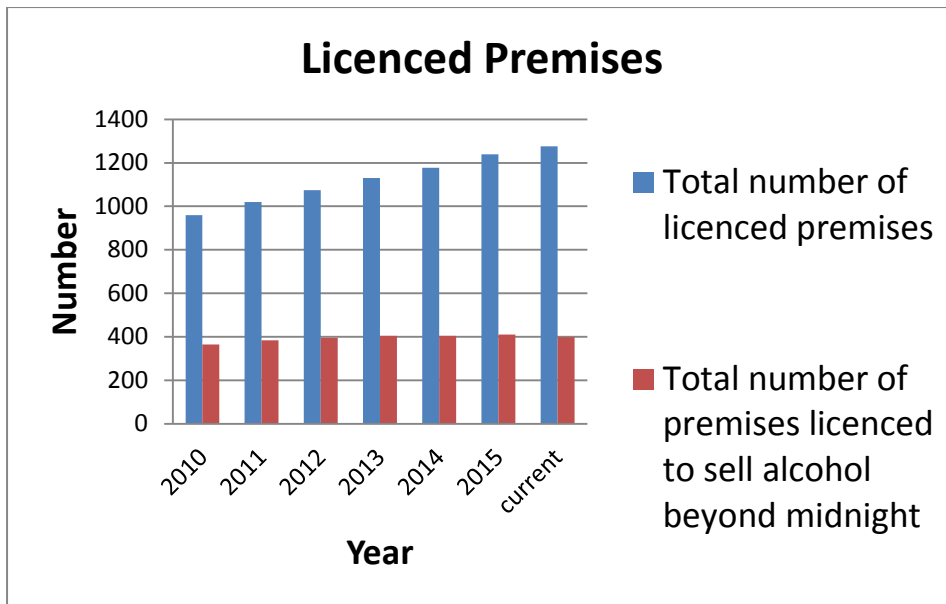
### **Licensing Policy Objectives**

The objectives of the Licensing Policy are to:

- Carefully manage the number of late night premises supplying alcohol, imposing restrictions where appropriate
- Encourage and support businesses that are unlikely to add to the cumulative impact in terms of crime, disorder and public nuisance
- Continue to promote high standards of management

### **Profile of Licenced Premises 2010-2015**

The chart below shows how the profile of licenced premises has changed over the last 5 years:



**Chart 1- Licenced Premises 2010-2015**

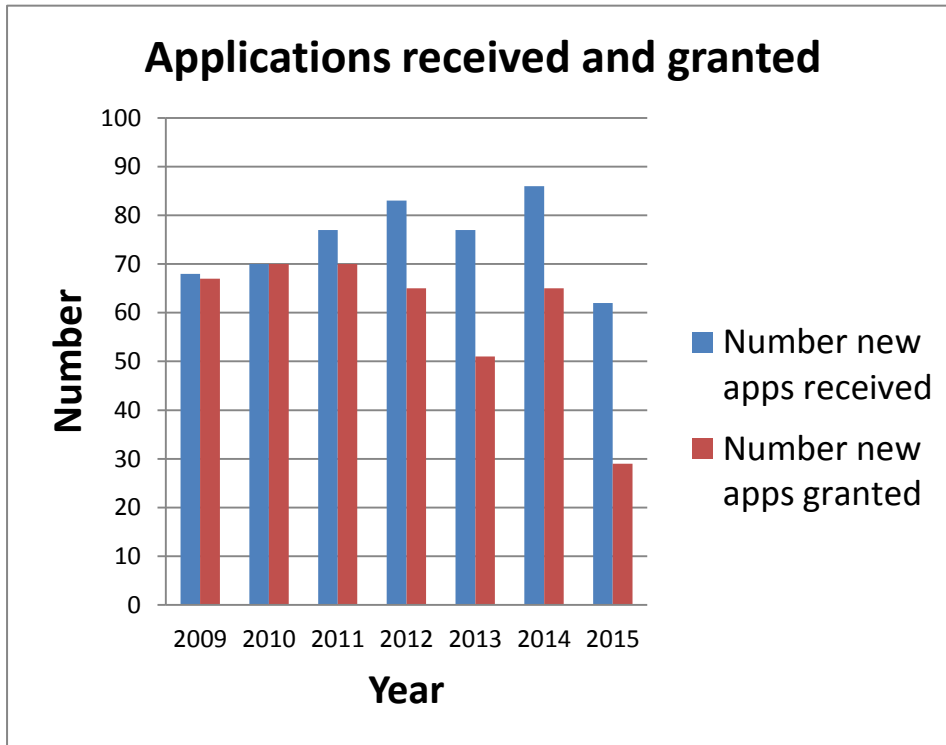
Chart 1 shows that

- There has been gradual increase in the number of licenced premise since 2010
- The number of applications continued to rise after the introduction of the Licensing Policy in 2013
- Over 5.5 years there has been a 38% increase in the number of licenced premises
- The number of premises supplying alcohol after midnight peaked in Jan 2015 and has now reduced due to robust enforcement and decisions on review and appeal over the last 6-12 months

Although not shown on this graph the number of late night shops and takeaways has remained static since 2013

## Licensing applications received and granted

The chart below shows the data on applications received and granted over the last 5.5 years.



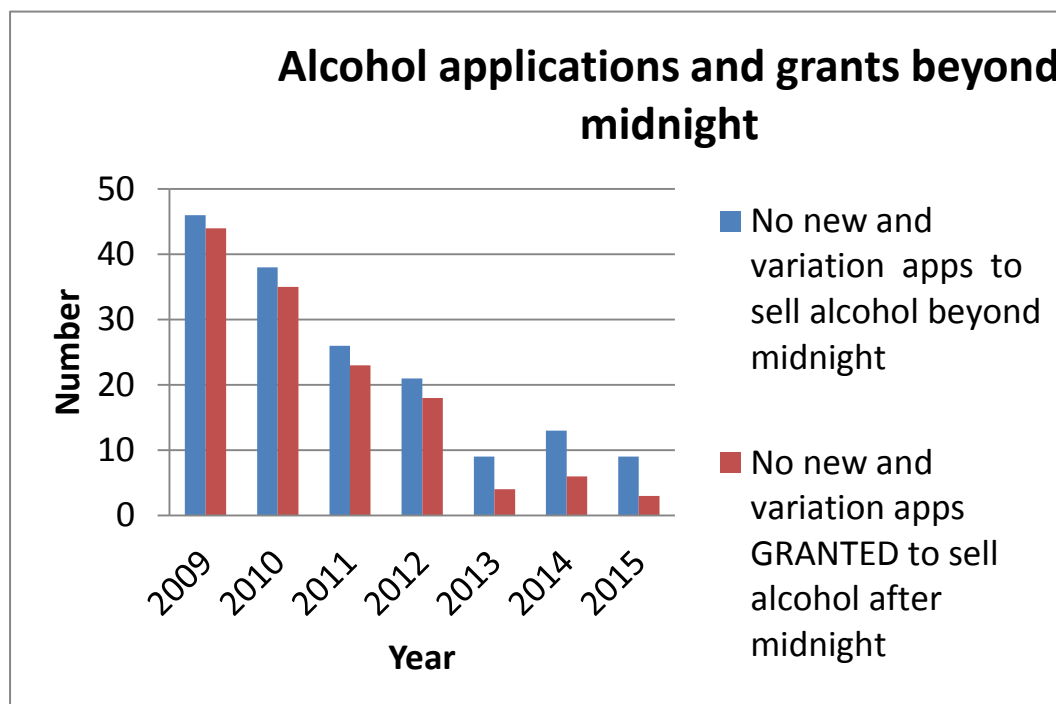
**Chart 2 – Licence application received and granted**

Chart 2 shows that:

- In 2009 and 2010 most application were granted, often with additional conditions
- From 2011- 2015 there has been a significant difference between the number of application received and granted
- Although there was slight reduction in the number of applications in 2013, which may be attributed to the introduction of the new policy, this trend did not continue through to 2014 and the number of applications received in 2015 is likely to exceed 2014.

## Late Night Alcohol Applications

Late night applications and approvals have gradually declined since 2010 but the speed of change accelerated with the new Licensing Policy in 2013, despite the increasing number of applications received.



**Chart 3 – Late Night Alcohol applications submitted and granted**

Chart 3 shows that:

- The number of late night applications for the sale of alcohol has reduced since 2009
- There was a significant reduction in late night alcohol licences in 2013 which coincided with the introduction of the new Licensing Policy
- Since 2013 there has been a significant difference between the number of applications submitted and granted

## High Standards of Management

We use a staged approach to dealing with problems premises:

1. Verbal or written warning issued to the licence holder
2. Licence holder invited to attend an Officer Panel to agree and action plan for improvement

### 3. Application to Review a Premises Licence

Since January 2013 we have dealt with 39 review applications resulting in

20 revocations

10 premises licences amended (reduced hours/additional conditions)

6 licences suspended for up to 3month

1 licence surrendered

#### **Appeals**

Anyone who is aggrieved by the Licensing Authorities decision has the ability to appeal the decision in the Magistrates Court. Since January 2013, 22 appeals have been lodged against the Licensing Authority's decisions with respect to new, variation and review applications. Of the 22 appeals:

15 appeals have heard in court

2 upheld – licence granted

11 dismissed – 9 revocations, 2 refusals

2 granted with additional conditions/reduced hours

7 appeals settled outside court

2 withdrawn

5 settled additional conditions/reduced hours.

The Licensing Authority has have been satisfied by all but one Magistrates Court decision and this decision was appealed by way of a Judicial but before the case could be considered in the High Court the premises changed hands and the new licence holder adopted the original decision made by the Licensing Committee.

#### **Conclusion**

The above data indicates that

- the Licensing Policy objectives have been implemented
- although there has been an expansion of the licenced sector there has been no corresponding growth in the late night economy

- applicants who have considered the policy and ensured that their operating schedules are consistent with the policy have been successful in obtaining a premises licence
- High level engagement between applicants, Local Authority and Police at pre application, application and Licensing Committee stages have contributed to implementation of the policy.

## **Late Night Levy**

### **Background**

The Late Night Levy, which came into effect in Islington in November 2014, is paid by licence holders that sell alcohol after midnight and income raised by the levy has to be used to fund activities that will benefit the late night economy.

There are currently 370 premises paying the levy and our expected income this year is £375K.

From the very outset our intension has been to use the levy to fund additional uniformed night time patrols and this has been achieved through funding:

- a dedicated police sergeant to act as a Night Time Economy Coordinator
- a dedicated police constable to lead on operational night time activities, including visits and day time follow up
- Parkguard to provide a 4 person street based patrol service Thursdays to Sundays

All these activities contribute to the Islington Police lead Operation Nightsafe

Governance is provided by the Late Night Levy Board, comprising LA, Police and Levy payer representatives. The Board meets 4 times per year and is chaired jointly by the Police Borough Commander and LBI Chair of Licensing.

### **Operation Nightsafe – Police**

Funding a Night Time Economy Coordinator has resulted in

- Additional police resources being deployed onto the streets at night
- Improved targeting of night time resources
- Capacity building through comprehensive pre deployment briefings and enhanced support for problem solving

- Optimising the best use of police and Parkguard resources at night through the development of operational protocols

### **Operation Nightsafe- Parkguard**

The role of Parkguard Nightsafe team is to:

- Provide a high visibility street patrolling service
- Respond to late Night Levy payers requests for assistance ( via a dedicated mobile number)
- Support existing night time services, in particular LBI Antisocial Behaviour Team and the Police

As well as providing a street based presence the team has filled 2 significant gaps in the services provided at night:

- Helping vulnerable people
- Early intervention

Engagement with vulnerable people (mostly as a result of alcohol consumption) has ranged from welfare checks, to calling for taxis, providing temporary safe haven to first aid. One officer per shift is trained in first aid to 'first on the scene level' and their skills have been utilised on many occasions to assist a casualty until the ambulance service arrives.

The team provides an early intervention style of approach as they have the ability to deal with low level or potential problems before they escalate to such an extent that the emergency services assistance is required. They do this through engagement with people on the street, supporting door staff dealing with difficult customers and providing a rapid response to licence holder requests for assistance.

### **Parkguard Achievements:**

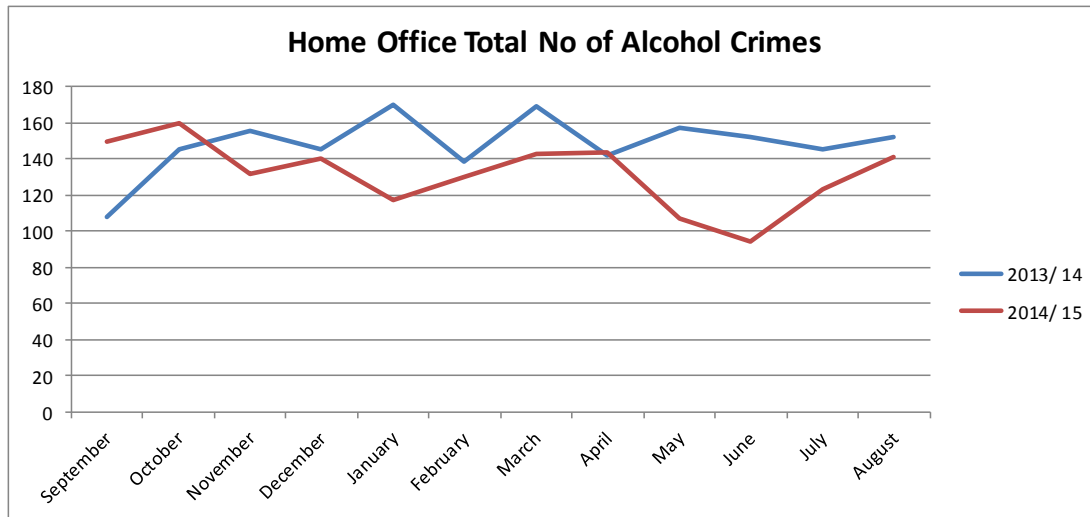
An evaluation of the first year of operation is due to take place during December 2015 however, the quarterly returns for Parkguard for April to June 2015 showed that the team conducted 1465 visits and 834 actions that included:

- 111 incidents related to violence and disorder
- 554 incidents related to nuisance
- 144 members public requiring assistance

- 77 welfare checks
- 46 medical support
- 61 crime prevention advice
- 24 patrol generated arrests

### Alcohol Crime Statistics

Chart 4 below shows the total number of crimes in Islington categorised by the Home Office as alcohol crime from September 2013 to August 2015.



Source: Islington Alcohol Crime Profile Sept 2014 to Aug 2015, LBI Community Safety Unit

The total for September 2013 to August 2013 was 1,780. The total for September 2014 to August 2015 was 1,581. Therefore, there was an overall reduction in alcohol crime of 11% during September 2014 to August 2015 compared to the same period twelve months ago.

Chart 4 shows

- Since October 2014 alcohol crime levels have consistently been below the previous year's monthly figures
- The usual seasonal peak in December/January alcohol crime levels that the borough usually experiences did not occur in 2014
- Reduction in alcohol crime during 2014/5 coincided with the full deployment LNL funded patrols, which commenced on 4 December 2014.

### Appendix

Map showing distribution of premises licenced for the sale of alcohol Oct 2015

Janice Gibbons

Service Manager (Commercial)

[Janice.gibbons@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Janice.gibbons@islington.gov.uk)