

8SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**REPORT BY THE CLERK
TO THE LICENSING BOARD
OF 26 OCTOBER 2023**

Subject: STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2023

1. Purpose

To ask Members to approve the updated Statement of Licensing Policy following the statutory consultation, and to request that the new Policy is published on the Council's website.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To approve the updated Statement of Licensing Policy (Appendix 1)

2.2 To request that the Depute Clerk to the Licensing Board arranges for publication of the Statement of Licensing Policy on the Council's website.

3. Background

3.1 In terms of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act"), the Licensing Board is required to publish a Statement of their Policy with regard to the exercise of their functions under the 2005 Act, within a period of 18 months following a local government election. The most recent local government election was held in May 2022, and the Board is required to review the current Statement of Licensing Policy and thereafter to consult on the proposed new statement and to have the final statement published by November 2023.

3.2 As part of the statutory requirements, the Licensing Board must ensure that the Policy seeks to promote the Licensing Objectives set out in the 2005 Act, and must consult with the Local Licensing Forum, the relevant Health Board, and such other persons as the Licensing Board thinks appropriate.

3.3 At its meeting of 18th May 2023, Members of the Licensing Board approved a draft Policy, which was then advertised and published for consultation for a period of two months, seeking formal responses from members of the public and bodies such as NHS Ayrshire and Arran, the Local Licensing Forum, community councils, Police Scotland and the licensed trade. Five formal responses were received during the consultation period, from NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Alcohol Focus Scotland, the Local Licensing Forum and two members of the local licensed trade. Members also had the benefit of a presentation from NHS colleagues.

4. Proposals

4.1 The draft Policy has now been reviewed and updated, having regard to the information received and the views of the Members of the Licensing Board. Section 10.2 and Appendix 2 have also been finalised, on the issue of Overprovision.

4.2 It is proposed that Members approve the updated Statement of Licensing Policy, and instruct officers that it be published on the South Ayrshire Council website.

5. Resource Implications

5.1 *Financial*

None as a result of this report

5.2 *Legal*

The Licensing Board is provided with legal advice on the preparation and approval of its Statement of Licensing Policy.

5.3 *Human Resources*

None

6. Risk

6.1 Risk Implications of adopting the recommendations.

There are no associated risks of adopting the recommendations.

6.2 Risk Implications of rejecting the recommendations.

The Board is under a statutory obligation to review its policy within 18 months of local government elections.

7. Equalities

7.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as Appendix 2.

8. Options Appraisal

- 9.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

Background papers – Report to South Ayrshire Licensing Board 18th May 2023

[Agenda Item 7 - Statement of Licensing Policy.pdf \(south-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](#)

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Date: 17 October 2023



Foreword to South Ayrshire Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy

Since our appointment in May 2022, the members of South Ayrshire Licensing Board and I have been acutely aware that we have come to post following a very challenging 2 years for the hospitality trade, unlike anything that has been experienced previously.

As local Councillors we have seen the impact of Covid-19 and the changing rules and guidelines on communities and on the hospitality trade.

We are aware that for many people, the hospitality trade continues to provide somewhere to socialise, meet up with friends and family, and enjoy the variety of food, drink and entertainment that South Ayrshire has to offer. Information and statistics provided by our partners in NHS Ayrshire & Arran remind us of the increased risks of home drinking and the many projects over the years that have been set up to encourage people to drink socially and responsibly in a supervised and managed environment. However, we have also seen a change in drinking habits and behaviour, with many now favouring the option of drinking at home instead of visiting on sales premises.

We are also aware of the increase in people choosing to shop on the internet and receive home deliveries as opposed to visiting shops themselves, which has also reduced the amount of 'passing trade' that premises may have received from families out for a day shopping. Additionally, many people have become more reliant on local shops and choose not to travel further afield or use public transport, all of which has changed the role of the local off sales in the community.

In developing our new Policy Statement, the Board has sought a clear promotion of the Licensing Objectives, and as with previous Board policies, our priorities have been informed by our engagement with a range of organisations throughout the previous policy period, including Police Scotland, NHS, the Local Licensing Forum, representatives of the licensed trade, alcohol and drug partnerships and community councils. Our discussions on the current review of Policy started with an event for the licensed trade in November 2022, when attendees were asked to provide comments on areas of the existing Policy which might be reviewed. Responses included areas such as CCTV and access for children and young persons.

The draft Statement of Policy was approved for statutory consultation at our meeting on 18th May 2023, and was published for consultation for a period of two months. Initial amendments included areas such as access for children and young persons, door supervision, CCTV, adult entertainment, extended and occasional hours. We received consultation responses from NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Alcohol Focus Scotland, the Local Licensing Forum in South Ayrshire, and from 2 local members of the licensed trade. We are extremely grateful for the time and effort put into the preparation of all consultation responses.

The Board have a particular interest in the Licensing Objective of Protecting Children and Young People from Harm. Whilst keen to ensure that family friendly premises and events are encouraged, the Board is also mindful that staff working in licensed venues are not there to look after under 18's and therefore are keen to ensure any activities are suitable for that age group and younger children are not simply being permitted to allow adults to attend the event without seeking care for their child in their absence. With this in mind we have agreed amendments to the Policy to clarify further the requirements for Premises Licences and Occasional Licences where children and young persons will have access,

We have further updated the Policy in relation to outside drinking areas, which have become more prevalent since the Covid pandemic, and on adult entertainment on licensed premises, and we have added clarity to timescales within which applications must be received for Extended Hours and Occasional Licences.

As part of the consultation responses received, it was requested that the Board considered amending the Policy to recognise a distinct type of licensed premises, as bona fide nightclub premises. The Board had regard to the information provided, however we are of the view that the current approach does not need to be amended at this time. We have also considered the question of alcohol deliveries, which were raised in the consultation response from NHS Public Health, but we are not satisfied that arrangements for deliveries can be regulated through the Board, without further review of legislation.

Finally, we considered the possibility of adopting a policy on overprovision following receipt of consultation responses and further discussions with NHS Public Health. We continue to recognise the concerns from a public health point of view about the availability of alcohol, and our consideration of overprovision is set out at Appendix 2 of the Policy.

Cllr William Grant
Chair, South Ayrshire Licensing Board

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SOUTH AYRSHIRE LICENSING BOARD

STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

OCTOBER 2023

1. Introduction

The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the Act") requires every Licensing Board to prepare and publish a statement of its licensing policy within 18 months after an ordinary election of councillors for local government areas having taken place under section 5 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 and to keep the policy under review. The Board is required to ensure that its policies promote the licensing objectives set out in the Act namely: -

- Preventing crime and disorder
- Securing public safety
- Preventing public nuisance
- Protecting and improving public health
- Protecting children and young persons from harm

The pursuit of these objectives is a principal feature of the Board's policy. The objectives provide a basis for refusal of an application, for the grant of a premises licence, or occasional licence: their breach may lead to the imposition of sanctions on a personal licence holder or provide grounds for the review of a premises licence. The attachment of conditions to a premises licence or occasional licence may be based on any of the objectives.

In implementing its policy statement, the Board is obliged to consult with: -

- The Local Licensing Forum which has been established by South Ayrshire Council
- Such other persons who appear to the Board to be representative of holders of licences
- The Chief Constable of Police Scotland
- Persons having functions relating to health, education, social work, and young people
- Person's resident within the Board's area
- Such other people as the Board thinks appropriate

It must be recognised that this policy covers a wide variety of activities and premises. It cannot provide for every eventuality but seeks to detail those factors and the Board's policies which will influence the achievement of the licensing objectives. The Board recognises and supports the contribution which licensed premises make to the economy of the area, to employment, tourism and the vitality of the area. **Each application will be considered on its own merits based on the information provided at the time.**

2. General measures to promote the Licensing Objectives

2.1 Preventing crime and disorder

The Board supports a strategy aimed at making the area a safe place to live and visit. It will expect operating plans to include information as to how applicants will address the problems of underage drinking, drunkenness on premises, public drunkenness, illegal possession and/or use of drugs, violent behaviour, antisocial behaviour, and litter. However, the Board acknowledges that the licensing function cannot be used for the general control of the antisocial behaviour of individuals once they are beyond the direct control of the licence holder of any premises.

2.2 Securing public safety

The Board is committed to ensuring that the safety of any person visiting, or working on, or in the vicinity of, licensed premises is not compromised. In the operating plan the Board expects details of precautions taken such as installation of CCTV, membership of local trade forums etc.

2.3 Preventing public nuisance

The Board wishes to protect and maintain the amenity of residents and occupiers of other businesses from any adverse consequences of the operation of licensed premises whilst at the same time recognising the valuable social, cultural and business contribution that such premises provide. The operating plan should demonstrate how the premises will be good neighbours both to residents and other local businesses.

2.4 Protecting and improving public health

The Board is concerned about the link between the consumption of alcohol and public health. While the Board wishes to see premises thriving, this cannot be at the expense of patrons' health and wellbeing. Operating plans will be expected to detail suitable measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to protect patrons' health. These might include making available information regarding sensible drinking, the effects of excessive alcohol consumption and contact points where assistance can be obtained for problem drinking. The Board supports participation in designated drivers schemes and alcohol awareness campaigns.

2.5 Protecting children and young persons from harm

The Board wishes to see family friendly premises thriving in the area. However, premises which sell alcohol for consumption on the premises and which do not offer the option of meals are unlikely to be considered a suitable environment for children and young persons. Operating plans should give detail of the measures which have been identified to protect children and young persons from harm. These may include limitations on the hours during which children and young persons may be in all or part of the premises, limitations or exclusions by age when certain activities are taking place, imposition of requirement for children and young persons to be accompanied by an adult, and measures to ensure that children do not purchase, acquire or consume alcohol.

3. Byelaws

3.1 South Ayrshire Council has byelaws in place in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in designated places. The effect of the byelaws is that any person who consumes alcohol in a designated place or is found to be in possession of an open container containing alcohol in a designated place shall be guilty of an offence. Licensed premises are exempt from the byelaws. The byelaws also state that they shall not have effect on 31 December from 6.00pm until the end of that day and on 1 January until 6.00am.

4. Applications for licences and disposal of business

4.1 When considering applications for premises licenses, the Board must be satisfied that the measures proposed in the operating plan will meet the five licensing objectives. The Board may include undertakings given by the applicants as conditions in the licence to ensure compliance with the licensing objective.

4.2 The Board will not accept any premises licence applications which fail to satisfy the requirements of section 20 of the Act and any regulations made under the Act.

4.3 The Board will dispose of its business in an open and transparent manner. Information will be made available to those persons who wish to apply for a licence, make representations or to lodge objections. While office staff will give advice, it must be understood that staff will not complete applications or operating plans for applicants or frame objections.

4.4 The Board will meet in public although members may retire into private session to consider their decision.

4.5 Details of all Board meetings will be advertised on the website <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/licensing/> and minutes of meetings will be available at <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/committees/agendas.aspx>

4.6 It should be noted that all Board meetings are now available by live stream and the subsequent recording of the meeting is available to view on the South Ayrshire Council website.

5. Delegation of licensing functions

5.1 The Board will provide an efficient and cost-effective service to all those who are involved in the licensing process. Therefore, the Board has adopted a scheme of delegation to ensure that decisions can be made in a way which is consistent with this aim.

5.2 The Board will receive regular reports regarding licences determined under delegated powers.

5.3 The Scheme of Delegation is attached as Appendix 1.

6 Premises Licences

6.1 Premises wishing to sell alcohol for consumption on or off the premises will require to have a premises licence. This will govern, amongst others, what activities are allowed

on the premises and what hours the premises can be open for business. Each licence will be tailored to the type of premises in question. There must be a description of the premises, an operating plan, a layout plan of the premises and a disabled access and facilities statement. **If an activity is not mentioned in the Operating Plan, then it cannot take place in the premises.**

6.2 Notification of application, objections and representations

The Board will give notice of a premises licence application to:

- Each person having a notifiable interest in any land 4 metres in any direction of any boundary of the property to which the application relates
- Any community council within whose area the premises are situated
- South Ayrshire Council
- Chief Constable of Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Ayrshire & Arran Health Board

Additionally, the Board will list all applications received on South Ayrshire Council's Website:

<http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/licensing>

Any person may submit an objection or representation to the Board. The objection must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives. Details of how to make an objection are given on the website <https://gis.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/licensing/prlrObjection.asp> Additionally Alcohol Focus Scotland has developed a resource to assist anyone wishing to make an objection or representation which is available at <https://www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk/media/133477/Community-licensing-toolkit.pdf>

6.3 Consideration of premises licence applications

The Board will assess each application on its own merits. The Board will have particular regard to:

- The nature of the premises, the style and type of use and the potential number and profile of the customers likely to attend the premises
- The proposed hours of operation
- The means of access to the premises including the location of customer entrances and exits
- Whether children /young persons are to have access to the premises or parts of the premises and upon what terms
- The need for door supervisors.
- Areas or activities which may have potential for crime and disorder, or public nuisance and any measures proposed to mitigate those issues. For new premises or premises planning to have live entertainment (either inside or outside the premises) for the first time the Board will expect a noise consultant to provide a report on the suitability of the premises and any action required to ensure no nuisance occurs. When considering any application for premises which have been previously licensed, or in any review of

an existing licence, the Board will take into account any relevant evidence, especially of the impact on local residents and businesses and will also look at the measures proposed by the applicant to mitigate any adverse impact. This may lead to additional conditions being placed on licences.

6.4 Conditions

There are mandatory conditions set out both in the Act and in Regulations. The Board will consider on an individual basis whether it is necessary or expedient to impose additional conditions, to promote one or more of the licensing objectives.

6.5 Duplication

The Board will seek to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes and will not use its powers under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 to arrive at outcomes that can be achieved under other legislation or by other enforcement agencies.

7. Management of premises

The Board considers that licensees and their staff should operate their premises in a manner which is consistent with the licensing objectives. In particular the Board has determined the following policies:

7.1 Personal licence holders

The Board expects a personal licence holder to be on the premises at all times in order to ensure compliance with all the licensing objectives. **Officers from Police Scotland and the Licensing Standards Officer may record details of the personal licence holder in charge on each visit and if it becomes apparent that no personal licence holder is on duty at key times, this may be reported to the Licensing Board.**

7.2 Noise Nuisance

There are various potential sources of noise relating to licensed premises. These include entertainment noise, noise from mechanical services equipment and noise from deliveries to the venue. It is expected that licensed premises are good neighbours and do not cause “nuisance”.

Nuisance may be simply defined as an adverse impact on a persons’ ability to enjoy their amenity, either inside or outside their residence. (Scottish Government)¹

Entertainment noise is one of the principal causes of complaint regarding licensed premises. Entertainment noise levels should not give rise to nuisance within nearby noise sensitive properties or gardens

Good location, design and layout of the premises is essential to ensure that excessive noise breakout does not occur. Consideration should be given with respect to the type and volume of music or other entertainment likely to be provided. In particular, sufficient sound insulation and ventilation must be provided (to prevent the need to open external doors and windows).

Robust management controls are fundamental to ensure that suitable internal and external noise levels are not exceeded.

Noise complaints may result in an adverse report being sent to the Licensing Board leading to a premises licence review.

The Board may request that the licence holder or applicant provides a report from a noise consultant in relation to any cases when noise nuisance is a persistent cause of complaints.

¹ ¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/waste-and-pollution/Pollution-1/Noise-Nuisance>

7.3 Outdoor drinking facilities

(Please also see paragraph 10.2)

To ensure that the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance is met, the Board will normally impose a local condition that no alcohol is consumed outside after 10pm, **This will be added as a local condition to any premises licence granted by the Board.** The Board will consider varying this condition only if it is satisfied that there is no likelihood of nuisance being caused to neighbours. Although patrons may still use the external area for smoking, staff should ensure that noise is kept to a minimum.

The Board does not expect amplified music, live entertainment or television screens in outdoor drinking areas unless this has been specifically agreed by the Board. All applicants seeking outdoor drinking areas will be expected to address noise nuisance in their operating plans. This may include a noise consultant's report.

The Board expects outdoor drinking areas to be supervised and may require such areas to be monitored from inside the premises by CCTV as well as by staff working in the premises.

7.4 Children and young persons on licensed premises

In order to meet the licensing objective of protecting children and young persons from harm the operating plan should give details of control measures which will be implemented. These may include:

- Provision of a sufficient number of people employed to secure the protection of children from harm
- Appropriate instruction, training and supervision of those employed to secure the protection of children and young persons from harm
- Limitations on the hours children and young persons may be present, in part or all of the premises
- Limitations or exclusions by age when certain activities are taking place
- Imposition of requirements for children and young persons to be accompanied by an adult
- Implementation of age verification policy
- Measures to ensure children and young persons do not purchase acquire or consume alcohol
- Measures to ensure children and young persons are not exposed to incidences of violence or disorder

The Board wishes to see family friendly premises thrive in the area both for local residents and for the tourist trade. In some circumstances children and young persons may be adequately protected from harm by the action taken to protect adults but they may also need particular measures to be taken; no policy can anticipate every situation. When addressing the issue of protecting children and young persons from harm, the applicant must demonstrate that those factors, which may particularly impact on harm to children and young persons, have been considered.

Access for children and young persons is usually only permitted where food is served and for the purpose of having a meal, accompanied by an adult. The Board will not normally permit children and young persons to be on premises where food is

not served unless the applicant can make a compelling case for why children and young persons should be permitted and how they will be protected from harm.

The Board is aware that some premises which permit children have their own policies which include restricting the number of alcoholic drinks an adult in charge of children may have and the Board regards this as good practice.

Premises which permit children and young persons are expected to have family seating areas, where possible, away from any bar counter

Children and young persons should not be permitted in the vicinity of any gaming machines **nor sit at a bar counter.**

The Board does not expect a child or young person to be in a licensed premises for the purpose of watching a sporting event, participating in a quiz or playing darts or pool if the operating plan states they are permitted for the purpose of a meal.

7.5 Door supervision

In order to meet the licensing objectives of preventing public nuisance, securing public safety and preventing crime and disorder, the application should address whether door supervision is required and if so, the number of supervisors required, the occasions they must be present, and the hours they must be present on.

Applicants are reminded that the requirement for Door Supervisors is one of the mandatory conditions of late night opening premises post 1am. The Board are aware that the recruitment of Stewards can be challenging, however premises with permission to open beyond 1am must not do so on any night that door supervisors are not available.

The Board may impose conditions requiring the presence of door supervisors and each case will be assessed according to the merits of the individual application.

For full details of all SIA requirements please refer to <http://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/home.aspx>

8. Trading Hours

In order to address all the licensing objectives, the Board will have regard to its general policy on licensed hours, however each application will be dealt with on its merits and with regard to the following factors, although this list is not exhaustive: -

- The prevalence of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the applicant premises as disclosed by any Police report provided in terms of section 21(3)(b) of the Act.
- The location of the premises and the general character of the area in which the premises are situated.
- The activities and hours proposed in the operating plan accompanying either a premises licence application or an application for variation
- The availability of public transport in the locality of the premises late at night and in particular whether or not the use of the premises for the sale of alcohol in the absence of adequate public transport facilities may cause nuisance
- The impact additional licensing hours may have on police demands in conjunction with resources available to deal with such needs.

8.1 Off-Sales

The maximum hours set by the Act are 10am – 10pm and the Board has no discretion to permit sales out with these hours. However, the Board may further restrict these hours, in applications where it is thought necessary to curb the occurrence of anti-social behaviour and in order to ensure compliance with all of the licensing objectives.

8.2 On-Sales

The Board considers that the maximum trading hours to be enjoyed by any premises shall not exceed fourteen and a half continuous hours. The earliest opening time normally permitted will be 10am **but the Board may consider cases for earlier hours, provided the fourteen and a half hours maximum trading is maintained.**

The Board will not normally permit a terminal hour of later than 02:30 except during the festive period (1st December – 2nd January) when an additional hour may be

granted, or for an individual special event for which an extended hours application has been granted (see paragraph 12).

Any premises which open beyond 1 am will have mandatory and/or local conditions detailed in Appendix 3 imposed.

The terminal hour granted by the Board may be reconsidered at a review hearing if it is felt that any of the licensing objectives are being adversely affected.

As ever with matters of policy the determination of the standard to be applied must allow for exceptions if good cause can be shown for making an exception to the general approach.

9. Adult Entertainment

Premises managers should ensure that no forms of entertainment offered on the premises conflict with any of the licensing objectives.

Following consultation carried out in May 2009, the Board will not normally permit adult entertainment in any premises. **However, cases may be made by individual premises who can satisfy the Board that they have put in place appropriate measures to keep the entertainment confined in an area that can only be viewed by those in attendance.**

The Board are unlikely to permit a premises to have adult entertainment as a regular feature but may consider applications which would allow a private function with invitations or a themed evening where tickets were purchased in advance.

Adult entertainment means any form of entertainment which:

- (a) Involves a person performing an act of an erotic or sexually explicit nature.
- (b) Is provided wholly or mainly for the sexual gratification or titillation of the audience.

Where licence holders are unsure if their intended entertainment would be considered by the Board as 'adult entertainment' they are encouraged to seek advice from the Licensing Standards Officer.

10. Consideration of applications

All applications will be considered with reference to the five licensing objectives and in addition the following matters will be considered.

10.1 Overprovision

Having carefully reviewed all the evidence presented to it, and having regard to the Board's own knowledge, the Board has decided that there is no over provision either of (a) licensed premises or (b) licensed premises of a particular description, in any locality within South Ayrshire. Any new applications will continue to be determined on their own merits. Further details of the Board's consideration of the overprovision policy are provided in Appendix 2.

10.2 Occupancy Capacity

The occupancy capacity of premises will be recommended by the Council's Building Standards service and is one factor in the assessment of overprovision. However all premises should have a risk assessment as required by the Fire (Scotland) Act 2005 which should detail the safe occupancy level for specific areas within the premises to ensure the safety of persons in the premises and safe escape in the case of emergency. If there are additional concerns about crime and disorder or public nuisance, the Board may consider setting a lower maximum occupancy limit than that recommended by Building Standards.

South Ayrshire may set a separate occupancy capacity for the external drinking areas, especially if the premises has sought permission for outside entertainment and the provision of food and drink provision in the outside area. The Board feels this is necessary to consider the toilet provision, additional numbers who may enter the premises due to sudden inclement weather and safe escape in an emergency.

11. Review of Premises Licences.

Any person may apply for the review of a licence on the grounds specified in section 36 of the Act. A review will include consideration being given to the suspension, revocation or variation of a licence or alternatively to the issue of a written warning.

In the event that a licence is suspended by the Board for any reason, the Board would expect that all alcohol is removed from the premises during the period of suspension.

The Licensing Standards Officer may request a review of the premises licence if the conditions of the licence are not being met and any resulting notice is not complied with to the satisfaction of the Licensing Standards Officer.

12. Extended hours applications

The Board may extend the licensed hours in respect of premises by such period as it considers appropriate. However, the Board can only do so in connection with:

- A special event or occasion to be catered for exclusively on the premises or in a dedicated function suite.
- A special event of local or national significance.

The grant of an extension of licensed hours can last no longer than one month.

The applicant will be required to demonstrate the hours requested are appropriate in the circumstances. The applicant should provide sufficient information to the Board to enable a decision to be made. This will include:

- The hours sought.
- The description of the special event or occasion, including the name and contact details of the person who has booked the special event.
- The activities proposed.
- The hours those activities will take place.
- Why the event or occasion is considered to be special.
- Why the event cannot take place within the existing on-sales hours.

- Any applications for more than an hour beyond the core hours granted to premises and all applications beyond 2.30 will require to be considered at a Board hearing.

If the Board receives a number of applications from the same premises to extend licensed hours, it will expect the applicant to consider whether an application should be made to vary the premises licence.

Where an application is made for extended hours in relation to a festival or event of local or national significance, the Board will expect the applicant to demonstrate that there will be a substantial form of entertainment taking place on the premises which is related to the particular festival or event. In such cases, the applicant will be required to submit a programme of events along with the application form. For the avoidance of doubt, mere sponsorship of the festival or event will not generally be considered sufficient to warrant the granting of extended hours. Every application which seeks extended hours for any associated activities will be treated on an individual basis, based on the nature of the activities to be made available.

The Licensing Board will tend to look favourably on applications for extended hours which are designed to cater for increased numbers of visitors to the area arising from particular events.

Where a festival or event is localised, such as Live@Troon or Girvan Folk Festival extended hours will generally only be granted to premises in the locality of the festival or event.

The minimum notice period required for an Extended Hours application is 14 days prior to the date required and applications that do not meet this timescale will not be accepted. However, Applicants should bear in mind that in certain circumstances, applications cannot be dealt with under delegated powers by the Clerk, and therefore it is the Applicant's responsibility to ensure that any application is submitted in plenty of time to allow consideration at a meeting of the Licensing Board, should this prove necessary.

13. Occasional licences

An occasional licence authorises the temporary sale or supply of alcohol which is not authorised by a premises licence. The application may be made by:

- The holder of a premises licence.
- The holder of a personal licence.
- A representative of any voluntary organisation (restricted to an event in connection with the voluntary organisation's activities).

While premises and personal licence holders can make unlimited applications, voluntary organisations will be limited, in any 12-month period, (beginning on 1st January each year) to not more than 4 licences for a period of 4 days or more, and not more than 12, each having effect for less than 4 days.

The Board will consult with the Chief Constable and the Licensing Standards Officer on all applications and applications will require to be lodged a minimum of 28 days before the proposed event. **Applications will not be accepted with less than 28 days' notice unless for a funeral or in exceptional circumstances, which would**

have to be explained in writing to the Clerk for approval prior to lodging the application.

The Board will not normally grant occasional licences with a terminal hour later than midnight as it recognises the need to protect the amenity of the surrounding neighbourhood. **Any application requesting hours beyond midnight will therefore be required to be considered at a Licensing Board meeting with an accompanying report from the Licensing Standards Officer.**

The Board recognises that there are some venues which operate events such as weddings, on a regular basis with the benefit of Occasional Licences, and there are therefore applicants who appear before the Board throughout the year with applications for a terminal hour beyond 12 midnight. Where the applicant and venue are known to the Board and the application is for the type of event and hours that have previously been granted to the premises with no negative feedback from Police Scotland, the Licensing Standards Officer and the local community, the Board may grant the Clerk delegated powers for future similar applications. This decision would be taken at a Board meeting in relation to applications for a period of 12 months, subject to agreement with the consultees.

Occasional licences are often sought for events in marquees. Marquees provide little sound insulation and therefore in some cases may be unsuitable for live/amplified music. Each situation will be dealt with on its own merits and advice can be sought from Environmental Health at the event planning stage. The Board may require applicants to produce a noise consultant's report on sound mitigation when considering the application.

Any event that includes the use of a marquee must clearly state this on the Occasional licence application.

While the Board is aware that the Act does not refer to the holding of an "event" in the provisions dealing with occasional licences, given their short-term nature and that they are not subject to any requirements for certification, neighbourhood notification, nor public site notices, it will generally look for the applicant to demonstrate that the occasional licence is required for a special event to be catered for on unlicensed premises,

The Board believes that this policy approach is necessary so as to avoid the occasional licence process being used as a mechanism to circumvent the full licensing process which would more readily identify any issues of concern in relation to one or more of the licensing objectives, and in particular that relating to securing public safety. **However, the Board is sympathetic to the lengthy application process to gain a full premises licence and may in individual circumstances grant Occasional Licences to premises to allow them to trade whilst completing the full application process.**

The Board encourages applicants to contact the Licensing Standards Officer at the planning stage of an event to discuss their proposals

While the Board wishes to encourage family friendly events, it expects all applicants to give detailed consideration as to whether or not it is appropriate for children and young persons to have access to the licensed area and for applicants to be clear in their applications as to how children and young persons will be protected from harm. In particular, if there are no other activities available other than the sale of alcohol, or if the event is aimed primarily at children and young persons, it is unlikely that a licence

will be granted. **Applicants are also asked to consider the reason for an occasional licence for an event to which children and young persons will have access, as adults are expected to supervise those under 18 years of age and not invite them so that the adult may socialise.**

The Board considers that if alcohol is to be available at events **such as gala days or family activities**, it would be preferable to have the sale of alcohol situated in an area where food and seating is also available so that families may sit together in a relaxed atmosphere.

The Board will consider on a case-by-case basis whether it is necessary or expedient to impose conditions to give effect to the licensing objectives

Delegated powers have been given to impose conditions on Occasional Licences as set out in Appendix 4

It should also be noted that some events may require a public entertainment licence in addition to an occasional licence to sell alcohol and that the public entertainment licence is dealt with under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and is not regulated by the Board.

14. Licensing Standards Officer

The Board has appointed a Licensing Standards Officer, who will investigate allegations relating to licensed premises to ensure that licensing conditions are being complied with and to provide information, guidance and a mediation service. The LSO can be contacted by phone 01292 617686, by email at catrina.andrew@south-ayrshire.gov.uk and Licensing@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or by letter to County Buildings Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1DR.

15. Local Licensing Forum

Under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005, every local authority must establish a Local Licensing Forum for their area. The Forum's role is to keep under review the operation of the new Licensing Act and to give advice and make recommendations to the Licensing Board in relation to any matters that the forum considers appropriate. A Forum is to consist of between 5 and 21 members as the Council may determine. At least one of the members must be a Licensing Standards Officer for the Council's area and one must be a representative of the Health Board for the area.

16. Personal Licences

Any individual may seek a personal licence whether or not they have current employment or business interests associated with the use of the licence.

The Board will grant a personal licence if it is satisfied that the applicant:

- Is over 18 years of age.
- Possesses a relevant licensing qualification.
- Has not held a previous personal licence which has been revoked in the previous five years, ending on the day on which the application was received (except where the revocation was for a failure to comply with the refresher training requirements).
- Has not been convicted of any relevant offence or foreign offence and the application has not attracted any comment from Police Scotland or the Licensing Standards Officer.

All applications are forwarded to Police Scotland and the Licensing Standards Officer. If Police Scotland or the Licensing Standards Officer give notice of any relevant offences or draw any other information to the attention of the Board in respect of the application, the application will be heard at a Board meeting. The Board will consider the seriousness of and relevance of any conviction, the period which has elapsed since the offence was committed, any other relevant information and any mitigating circumstances. The licence will be refused if the Board considers (a) that, having regard to the licensing objectives, the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be the holder of a personal licence or (b) that it is otherwise necessary to refuse the application for the purposes of any of the licensing objectives.

Personal licence holders are also statutorily required to undergo refresher training within five years after the grant of their licence. Licence holders should be aware that the Board will only send one reminder regarding the need to undertake refresher training and if the licence holder does not complete the training and produce evidence of completion to the Board within the statutory time limit then the Board must revoke the personal licence.

Personal licence holders are also required to renew their personal licences every ten years. Applications for renewal must be lodged a minimum of three months before the expiry date of the personal licence. It should be noted that there is no provision for a licence remaining in force while a renewal application is being processed. This is particularly important for personal licence holders who are premises managers. If the premises manager has no valid personal licence the premises cannot operate.

17. Off Sales

Applications for licences for premises which are to be used for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises will be expected to address the five licensing objectives

The Board considers that there should be no displays located at the entrance/exit of the premises and, where possible would prefer that the alcohol display area is not in the centre of the premises so that anyone not wishing to buy alcohol is not forced to enter the alcohol display area to carry out their shopping.

The Board considers that that a refusal book should be maintained in the premises detailing all incidences of refused sales, including the date and time, the reason for refusal and the member of staff refusing the sale. Any such refusal book should be checked and signed by the Premises Manager at least on a weekly basis. The refusal book should be made available for inspection by the Police and Licensing Standards Officers on request.

Whilst the Board understands that not all off sales purchases are for consumption that day, the provision of chilled drinks does cater to that theory.

With this in mind the Board will be interested in the amount of alcohol display space that is dedicated to the 'ready to drink' market when considering the grant of any premises licence or variation.

18. Non Trading Premises

The Board has in the past suspended the premises licence of any premises which have breached their licence conditions by failing to pay the annual fee. The Board accepts that the annual fee may not have been paid because the premises have not been trading and may be for sale. **However, it should be noted that the Licensing Standards Officer will make a report to the Licensing Board at the November meeting each year regarding any unpaid annual fees and request that any relevant premises licence is suspended prior to the festive period.**

Further, if the premises licence annual fee remains unpaid for more than two years, the Board may hold a review to consider revoking the premises licence unless the licence holder can show good reason why the licence should not be revoked.

Scheme of Delegation – Licensing Board

As approved by the Licensing Board on **XXX**

Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

1. Reserved to the Licensing Board

Decisions on the following matters shall be made by the Licensing Board at a meeting arranged by the Clerk:-

- 1.1 Determining the Licensing Board's policy for the purposes of a Licensing Policy Statement or any Supplementary Licensing Policy Statement.
- 1.2 Determining, for the purposes of any such statement, whether there is overprovision of licensed premises, or licensed premises of any particular description, in any locality.
- 1.3 Determining a premises licence application.
- 1.4 Determining a premises licence variation application where the variation sought is not a minor variation.
- 1.5 Determining an application for the transfer of a premises licence where the applicant has been convicted of a relevant or foreign offence.
- 1.6 Determining a personal licence application, or personal licence renewal application where the applicant has been convicted of a relevant or foreign offence.
- 1.7 Conducting a hearing under the Act, including taking any of the following steps:-
 - 1.7.1 At a review hearing in respect of a premises licence.
 - (i) Issuing a written warning to the licence holder.
 - (ii) Revoking or suspending the licence, or
 - (iii) Making a variation of the licence.
 - 1.7.2 Making an order revoking, suspending or endorsing a personal licence.
- 1.8 Making a closure order.
- 1.9 Refusing an application for confirmation of a provisional licence.

2. **Delegation to the Clerk or Depute Clerk of the Licensing Board**

Decisions on the following matters are delegated to the Clerk or Depute Clerk:-

- 2.1 Any application for a minor variation of premises licences (section 29)
- 2.2 Any application for variation to substitute a new premises manager – where the applicant has *not* been convicted of any relevant or foreign offence (sections 31 and 54)
- 2.3 Any application to transfer a premises licence – where the transferee has *not* been convicted of any relevant or foreign offence (sections 33 to 35)
- 2.4 Any application for confirmation of a provisional premises licence – where no variation (other than a minor variation) has been made to the operating plan or layout plan for the premises to which the licence relates since the provisional licence was issued or since a variation of the provisional premises licence was granted (section 46)
- 2.5 Any application for an occasional licence – where no objections or representations have been received, nor a notice recommending refusal from the Chief Constable or any report from the Licensing Standards Officer recommending refusal (sections 56 to 61)
- 2.6 Any applications for extended hours – where no objections or representations have been received, nor a notice recommending refusal from the Chief Constable or any report from the Licensing Standards Officer recommending refusal (sections 68 to 70)
- 2.7 The determination in terms of section 70 (2) of the Act as to whether or not the Licensing Board will hold a hearing to determine an application for extended hours where an objection, representation or a notice recommending refusal from the Chief Constable or a report from the Licensing Standards Officer recommending refusal has been received.
- 2.8 Where a decision has been taken not to hold a hearing in terms of section 70 (s) of the Act, the determination of the application.
- 2.9 Any application for a personal licence or renewal of a personal licence where the applicant has *not* been convicted of a relevant or foreign offence (section 74).

3. **Other Matters**

Any matters which are not the subject of a specific delegation in terms of this Scheme of Delegation and are not prescribed by the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 shall be determined by the Licensing Board at a meeting arranged by the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Board.

Overprovision

The Board has carefully considered the matter of overprovision for both on sales and off sales premises.

The Board considered the data provided by NHS Public Health and discussed it during a presentation provided by them. They noted the shift in alcohol sales and drinking from on sales to off sales post pandemic, which was also referred to in the consultation response from Alcohol Focus Scotland, and that from NHS information, there was general evidence in Scotland that neighbourhood areas with larger numbers of alcohol outlets have higher alcohol-related deaths, hospital admissions and crime rates than those with fewer outlets. However, the Board from its own knowledge also felt that while customers bought alcohol from outlets in the community in which they lived, they also travelled to other communities in South Ayrshire or outwith that area to purchase alcohol, and it was noted from the statistics provided that some areas with higher levels of alcohol-related admissions or deaths in fact had very low numbers of alcohol outlets.

The Board considered the Public Health data which looked at the 25 communities in South Ayrshire and noted that in 2021-22, 6 communities were worse than the national average for alcohol-related admissions, 6 were better than the national average, and 13 were not significantly different. They noted that of the 25 communities, the trend in alcohol-related hospital admissions since the last Statement of Licensing Policy in 2018, showed that for most communities the rates had remained in the same bracket, although in 4 there had been a decrease in rates, and in 5 an increase.

From the Licensing Service's own information, summarised in monthly reports to the Board, the Board are aware that during the period 1st November 2018 to 30th September 2023, 26 new premises licences were granted, but in the same period, 39 either lapsed or were surrendered, making a net loss in the South Ayrshire area of 13 licensed premises over approximately 5 years. This was likely to be, in part, a reflection of the economic challenges created by the Covid pandemic, but nevertheless was an important factor to consider in the context of overprovision in the South Ayrshire area.

Taking all matters before them into account, the Board decided that they were not satisfied that there was a reasonable basis of evidence to warrant a finding of overprovision.

Conditions for premises opening beyond 1.00am

1. A person trained to the satisfaction of the Licensing Board in administering first aid must be present on the premises from 1:00 am (on any day when the premises are open at that time) until whichever is the earlier of:
 - (a) the time at which the premises next close; and (b) 5:00 am.

2. A designated person who is the holder of a personal licence must be present on the premises from 1:00 am (on any day when the premises are open at that time) until whichever is the earlier of:
 - (a) the time at which the premises next close; and
 - (b) 5:00 am or such other time as the Licensing Board may specify.

3. There must be written policies in existence concerning:-
 - (a) the evacuation of the premises; and
 - (b) the prevention of the misuse of drugs on the premises.

4. A CCTV system must be installed on the premises to the satisfaction of the appropriate Chief Constable and must be kept in good working order (**see further information in relation to CCTV conditions below ****).

5. There must be persons responsible for checking on the safety and wellbeing of persons using any toilet facilities on the premises.

6. A person who holds a licence granted under section 8 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001 must be positioned at every entrance to the premises from 1:00 am (on any day when the premises are open at that time) until whichever is the earlier of:-
 - (a) the time at which the premises next close; and
 - (b) 5:00 am or such other time as the Licensing Board may specify.

CCTV Conditions

****In relation to CCTV on licensed premises, Police Scotland advised in 2022 that they would expect any CCTV system to cover any entrance and exit to the premises and any corridor areas on the way to the toilet areas. Best practice would be full premises coverage and may be requested in relation to individual premises if required to meet the licensing objectives. There should be a staff member on duty at all times who can operate the system (or one who can be contacted) and a representative from the**

premises must have the knowledge and ability to copy footage onto an appropriate source for production of evidence.

The CCTV system should ideally operate round the clock and be capable of holding images for a minimum of 21 days with best practice being 28 days.

If the CCTV system is found not to be working correctly on any late-night opening premises and cannot be fixed immediately, the premises manager should contact the LSO and Police Scotland to make them aware of this, and to ascertain if it is appropriate for the premises to operate with a reduced system in the meantime.

If the CCTV is not working at all, the premises MUST NOT open beyond 1am.

The use of bodycams by staff and Stewards is recognised but is not a substitute for a permanent CCTV system.

Occasional Licences

Conditions which may be imposed

Condition	Objective
1. The main bar to be situated in a suitable place separate from dance floor or to be partitioned off from the dance floor area	PCD SPS
2. No under 18's to be allowed in the main bar area.	PCD, PCFH
3. The licence holder or their nominee and sufficient responsible persons are to be present throughout the event to ensure its safe conduct and compliance with the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005	SPS PPN
(a) The licence holder must ensure that sufficient staff/volunteers are on duty to ensure a safe and responsible event. Such persons must be easily identifiable as such to persons present and should be made aware of their duties, policies and practices by the licence holder. They must be responsible, capable and not drink alcoholic liquor for the duration of the event. Their duties are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm that persons who seek access to the event have paid for admission or have appropriate passes/invitations • Supervise entrance doors/access points at all times to ensure that no fire or other exits are blocked • Be aware of the fire safety precautions and procedures and all other policies and practices appropriate to the event • Provide assistance to patrons, including customer care, directions to facilities and health and safety. • Remain on the premises until the end of permitted hours and all patrons have vacated the premises. • Be aware of the provisions of the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 which impact on the event 	PCD SPS PPN
4. A sufficient number of Security Industry Authority licensed stewards must be present to address the identified needs/risks of the event. They will be responsible for controlling the licensed area of the event during licensed hours and until attendees have dispersed from this area at the end of the event. SIA stewards must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively police the premises including fenced area if applicable, to perform all "manned guarding" activity as directed by the event organiser which are in line with their role under the Private Security Act 2001. • Supervise entrance doors/access points at all times. • Identify and refuse entry to drunken persons. • Be aware of the fire safety precautions and procedures. • Be made aware of the drug prevention policy. • Ensure that no fire or other exits are blocked. • Be easily identifiable to those present at the event as an SIA registered steward and display the appropriate identification. 	PCD SPS PPN

Condition	Objective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not drink alcoholic liquor for the duration of the event. • Ensure that no patron removes glasses, or open or closed vessels from the premises when exiting for any reason. • Be responsible, capable and aware of their duties. • Remain on the premises until the end of permitted hours and all patrons have vacated the premises. 	
5. An adequate number of staff/volunteers/stewards should have knowledge of first aid procedure.	SPS PIPH
6(a) All stewards/staff/volunteers should be aware of their responsibilities under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005.	PCD
6(b) Bar staff must be able to identify and refuse service of alcoholic beverages to drunken persons	PCD
7. An accurate and appropriate counting method must be in place to enable the provision of attendee numbers within the event at any particular time	SPS
8. All refreshments to be decanted into containers at the point of sale, and not served in glassware, bottles or cans	SPS
9. Entry to the event must be by ticket only purchase prior to the date of the event/or by ----- hours on the day of the event (delete whichever inappropriate)	SPS
10. A system must be employed to identify and distinguish between those attending the event that are under or over 18 years of age. Identification by way of a passport or driving licence must be seen as proof of age.	PCD
11. There can be no re-entry to the event if ejected	PCD SPS PPN
12. A separate under 18's bar to be provided where soft drinks only are sold.	PIPH PCD PCFH
13. No glass, cans or other containers allowed to be taken into, licensed area of the event by attendees. Suitable receptacles for these items must be provided at the entrance to the licensed area.	PCFH PCD SPS

Key to Licensing Objectives

PCD:	Prevention of Crime and Disorder
SPS:	Securing Public Safety
PPN:	Preventing Public Nuisance
PIPH:	Preventing and improving public health
PCFH:	Protecting Children from Harm

Information and guidance on the Security Industry Authority can be viewed by following this link:-

<https://www.sia.homeoffice.gov.uk/Pages/licensing-events.aspx>

**South Ayrshire Council
Equality Impact Assessment
Scoping Template**

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. FSD Guidance for Public Bodies in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

1. Policy details

Policy Title	Statement of Licensing Policy
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Karen Briggs, Service Lead - Legal and Licensing Karen.briggs@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-

Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-
Sexual Orientation – person’s sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children’s Rights	-	-

3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent’s education, employment and income	-	-

4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the ‘Three Key Needs’ of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	low
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	low
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	low

Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	low

5. Summary Assessment

<p>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as Medium and/or High)</p>	<p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO x <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Rationale for decision: The proposal does not have a significant negative or positive impact on any particular group, although overall the Policy provides regulation on the sale of alcohol, which is a positive effect for the community. Statutory consultation under Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 undertaken as part of the Policy review and updating. Members have had regard to views expressed in consultation responses as part of this process.</p>	
<p>Signed :Karen Briggs.....Service Lead</p> <p>Date:17.10.23.....</p>	