

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



Bridgend County Borough Council

Cumulative Impact Assessment:

Bridgend Town Centre

2025 - 2028

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Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA): Bridgend Town Centre

1. Background

The Council area contains a mix of urban and rural communities and has a population of approximately 145,000. The main towns are Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl.

The immediate population of Bridgend Town is approximately 15,000 distributed over three wards of Morfa, Newcastle and Oldcastle which is all within a two-mile distance of the centre. Some of the town centre streets are pedestrianised.

Since the inception of the Licensing Act 2003 in November 2005, Derwen Road, Market Street, Wyndham Street and Nolton Street have been the subject of a special policy to mitigate the negative cumulative impact of licensed premises.

2. Aims of the Cumulative Impact Policy

The policy aims to reduce incidents of alcohol related problems, crime, disorder, public nuisance, and risks to public safety particularly late at night. It aims to discourage an increase in the number of late opening, vertical drinking establishments with the intention of ensuring that the Town Centre is a safe environment for people visiting, working and living in the area.

The Licensing Authority recognises that a problem area can be improved by the introduction of new styles of business types such as food led premises, or high quality/speciality enterprises, rather than vertical drinking establishments.

Key Message

The Policy aims to encourage diverse, well-run licensed premises (to an exceptional standard), where the main focus of the premises is not high-volume consumption of alcohol.

Family friendly premises are encouraged together with cafes and restaurants.

3. Reasons for the CIA

There are a number of problems in the area caused by the cumulative impact of large numbers of licensed premises. These problems undermine the licensing objectives:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Public safety
- The protection of children from harm

The Cumulative Impact Assessment is in place to minimise these problems further and promote these objectives.

4. Evidence

South Wales Police (SWP) have submitted a detailed analysis of licensed premises that authorise the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises within Bridgend town centre. The Police are acknowledged by the Home Office as the lead Responsible Authority for crime and disorder.

The evidence submitted shows that there has been an 8% increase in incidents relating to licensed premises within the town centre from 2023 to 2024. The largest types of incidents logged were Violence Against the Person offences, this was followed by Concern for Safety incidents which were largely in relation to heavily intoxicated individuals.

The report details an area where 70% of the incidents linked to licensed premises in the town centre have been logged. This area includes Wyndham Street and Market Street. These areas are currently part of the Cumulative Impact Assessment alongside Derwen Road and part of Nolton road; these areas do not feature in this highlighted area of concern.

Although the Police have pinpointed this area where the highest number of incidents are logged their analysis of the problem profile covers the whole town centre which includes Brewery Fields and to Cowbridge Road licensed premises. The total number of incidents logged which related to licensed premises in 2024 for the town centre was 313.

In accordance with the report, the types of premises which cause the most police incidents of crime and disorder are pubs, bars and nightclubs.

A copy of the report submitted by South Wales Police which includes the map of the area analysed is details in **Appendix A**.

5. Other evidence considered

Other evidence considered included noise complaints relating to licensed premises which were made to the Council's Pollution team within Shared Regulatory Services between 2018 and 2024. The complaints relate to licensed premises within the Bridgend town centre.

Year Received	Number of complaints
2018	11
2019	8
2020	3
2021	37
2022	19
2023	17
2024	13

6. Consideration of other initiatives and partnership working

There are a number of measures in place in Bridgend Town Centre that are aimed at providing a safe environment and minimising problems of crime, disorder and nuisance. These measures have been taken into account when determining the Cumulative Impact Assessment. They include:

- Pubwatch Schemes.
- Provision of CCTV in public areas.
- Taxi Marshalls are employed to aid dispersal of customers from late night premises.
- Enforcement powers available to the Police, Licensing Officers and Trading Standards Officers under the Licensing Act 2003.
- Restrictions through planning controls.

7. Conclusion

The Licensing Authority is satisfied that there is evidence to support the adoption and publication of a Cumulative Impact Assessment for Grants and Full Variation applications of a Premises Licence which relate to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises in the following named streets for Bridgend town centre:

- Wyndham Street
- Market Street

Having taken into consideration other existing initiatives, it believes that it is proportionate and the most effective measure to address the problems identified.

8. Application of the policy

Having regard to the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Bridgend County Borough Council has consulted upon the issue of cumulative impact in Bridgend town centre. It has taken into account the views of the South Wales Police and other respondents and has adopted a CIA for Grants and Full Variations of Premises Licences for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises in respect of those premises situated on Derwen Road, Market Street and Wyndham Street.

Regard will also be given that where relevant representations are received for a premises adjoining or in close proximity to the CIA area, and where those representations raise a material impact on the area then the CIA will apply if the licensing authority reasonably judges that to grant the particular application would be inconsistent with its inconsistent with its duty to promote the licensing objectives.

This CIA should be read in conjunction with Bridgend County Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

The CIA applies to applications for the grant and full variation of Premises Licence relating to the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises. It does not apply to off sales of alcohol, Club Premises Certificates or Temporary Event Notices.

When the policy applies it creates a rebuttable presumption that where relevant representations have been received the application will be refused or subject to certain limitations unless the applicant can successfully demonstrate that the premises will not add to the negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives.

Applicants are expected to address the effects of cumulative impact within the Operating Schedule. They are expected to clearly demonstrate how the operation of the premises would not add to the negative cumulative impact being experienced in the area.

9. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Police Evidence