

Additional Evidence presented by Middlesbrough Council, Responsible Authority for health, against the application for a premises licence in respect of premises named Go Local situated at 136 Marton Road, Middlesbrough the Licensing Act 2003

The application made is for the grant of a new premises licence from 07:00 – 23:00 hours seven days a week for the supply of alcohol. The application is made by Miss Lisa Enderwick, the proposed Premises Licence holder and originally the Designated Premises Supervisor for the business prior to the proposal for Mr Azeem Sarwar being received.

There are a number of concerns regarding the current application made to Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Authority and it is our opinion that the granting of these premises off licence will have a negative impact on the Crime and Disorder and Public Safety licensing objectives.

In Middlesbrough there are high levels of alcohol related crime and disorder and wholly attributable hospital admissions recorded. This, together with the high density of licensed premises evidenced the need for Cumulative Impact Policies.

Middlesbrough Council have two Cumulative Impact Policies (CIP). CIP 1 covers on licensed premises in a designated area of Middlesbrough Town Centre. CIP 2 covers off licence premises across 5 ward areas including Central, Newport, North Ormesby, Park and Longlands and Beechwood.

The premises are situated in Central Ward, just outside of the boundary for the CIP 1 area (Town Centre). The premises sits within CIP 2 policy area as the Central ward is covered in the off licence policy. Central ward borders with Newport, North Ormesby and Longland and Beechwoods wards all of which are covered within the CIP 2 policy. The premises are also situated in close proximity of Middlesbrough Council's commissioned alcohol recovery services.

The Licensing Act 2003 states that where a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) is in place, there is a presumption that applications for new premises licences or variations to existing premises licenses will be refused. This is unless it can be demonstrated that the granting of the licence will not negatively impact on the licensing objectives.

It is our opinion that the granting of this licence will negatively impact on the licensing objectives

The impact of alcohol misuse is broad, often hidden and adversely affects individuals, families and communities in many ways, with the harm being disproportionately greater for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. It impacts upon a number of Council services as well as the NHS, Police, Criminal Justice System, Education, Voluntary and Community sector.

In 2017 the cost of alcohol misuse was estimated to cost the economy in England up to £25 billion per year and for Middlesbrough a total of £56.5 million which included costs relating to health, social care, crime and licensing.

Middlesbrough ranks 2nd across the North East region for alcohol related mortality. It also has one of the highest rates of hospital admissions in the North East which relate to the following alcohol related disorders -: cardio vascular disease, mental and behavioural disorders, self-poisoning and exposure and unintentional injuries. Such alcohol related illnesses/disorders have a huge impact on the National Health Service.

Alcohol misuse continues to present an area of concern in Middlesbrough affecting the lives of many individuals, families and communities.

Throughout 2020 and to date there has been an alarming rise in the numbers of people choosing to drink at home during the Covid-19 pandemic with an estimated half a million people across the region drinking above the Chief Medical Officers guidelines. It is believed that the rise in consumption is due to the pressures and anxiety brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, including, financial pressures, unemployment, social isolation and daily routines being disrupted. For whatever reason, it is believed that alcohol in many cases is being used as a coping mechanism.

Deaths caused by alcohol have hit a new record high in England and Wales and high-risk drinking increased by almost 90% between February and September last year. It was estimated there were 8million people drinking at higher risk levels, with alcohol treatment services struggling to cope.

The table below shows some of the most recent deaths recorded in Middlesbrough between May and December 2020 where alcohol had been a contributing factor:

Date	Gender	Age	Ward	Local Authority	Substances linked	Number of arrests
01/05/2020	Male	20 - 24	Park End & Beckfield	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, cannabis	0
01/05/2020	Male	60+	Marton East	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, cocaine	14

25/05/2020	Male	40 - 44	Hemlington	Middlesbrough	Alcohol	7
09/08/2020	Female	60+	Berwick Hills & Pallister	Middlesbrough	Zopiclone, alcohol	20
18/08/2020	Male	45 - 49	Stainton & Thornton	Middlesbrough	Alcohol	83
23/09/2020	Male	50 - 54	Newport	Middlesbrough	Alcohol	24
22/10/2020	Male	30 - 34	Newport	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, other drugs	21
29/10/2020	Male	45 - 49	Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, tablets	1
18/11/2020	Male	45 - 49	Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, pregabalin, zopiclone	22

Some additional information relating to these statistics include:

- A proportion of individuals were alone in a property at time of death
- These deaths occurred during a period where pubs have been closed.
- The number of arrests of some individuals also indicate a potentially different user group/cohort.
- Cocaine or prescription medicines were often quoted alongside alcohol use. It's rare that a drug related death has a single substance detected so it is likely alcohol has been taken alongside other drugs.

Middlesbrough Council's Alcohol and Substance Misuse treatment services are currently working with approximately 1,360 clients. During 2020 there has been a steady increase in the numbers accessing services for the following reasons:

- Those that have been abstinent for a number of years have relapsed
- Those using opioids/non opioids where alcohol has also become a problem
- Those processed through the Criminal Justice System for alcohol related crime and issued an Alcohol Treatment Referral (ATR).

Middlesbrough experiences a number of issues including incidents of alcohol related crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour that impact on many lives. Such issues also impact negatively on our local NHS services including James Cook Accident & Emergency departments, Police and ambulance services.

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and over the past three years, there has been an increase in Domestic Abuse. Such incidents often result in violence being used against another and injuries being sustained that require a clinical intervention.

A review of alcohol treatment and recovery services in Middlesbrough has been completed and plans are underway for a new integrated service that includes specialist treatment and aftercare for those suffering with alcohol dependency whilst focusing around the hidden harms often associated with alcohol consumption including domestic abuse and homelessness.

Middlesbrough Council are also working with the South Tees CCG who have recently re-commissioned the hospital's intervention liaison team in James Cook University Hospital due to the levels of harm caused by alcohol related A&E attendances and hospital stays experienced in local departments.

It is fair to say that whilst we have seen increases in certain alcohol related issues in Middlesbrough over the last 12 months that on licensed premises/businesses have remained closed for a large part of 2020 and to date.

There are a number of concerns regarding this application

On Thursday 25 February 2021 and due to a number of concerns that were not addressed by the applicant in the application, a meeting was held. Mr Lester, a licensing consultant from D&B licensing was present to act on behalf of the applicant and her business partner, Mr Ishaq. Representatives from the Council's Licensing and Public Health Authority and Cleveland Police were also present

During the meeting, Mr Lester advised of the applicant's intentions to operate a local convenience store, serving local residents by offering groceries and other items including alcohol from the premises. During the meeting the following information was provided:

- Miss Enderwick is aware of the local issues and existing problems in the area and had received information from her licensing consultant around the Council's off licence Cumulative Impact Policy that covers 5 ward areas of Middlesbrough.
- She has limited experience of being in control and working in licensed premises however advised that a PLH and DPS of a nearby Go Local store will act as a mentor, advising and guiding Miss Enderwick in her duties.
- Miss Enderwick is yet to complete a personal licence holder's course and acknowledged that her licensing knowledge was limited.
- Miss Enderwick and Mr Ishaq are joint business partners of a local printing company that is also situated on Marton Road (same building). The printing business has operated for the past 20 years, originally situated in Linthorpe Road prior to moving to Marton Road in 2020.

- There will be three full time members of staff and four part time members of staff working alongside Miss Enderwick.
- There is a willingness to work with the Responsible Authorities and to consider any conditions suggested to her that will assist in the promotion of the licensing objectives including a reduction in times in which licensable activity can take place.

Alcohol is readily available in Middlesbrough and can be purchased from a number of different alcohol premises including off licences, supermarkets and premises offering alcohol delivery services making it easy for those who are vulnerable and suffering with alcohol addiction to access.

Responsibility in the operation of a licensed premises and the sale of alcohol are paramount in Middlesbrough. It is imperative that staff in control of any licensed premises act responsibly to ensure that their premises manage the sale of alcohol, their customers and any vulnerability issues accordingly.

The expectation of those wishing to operate a licensed premises is that they will have robust measures and procedures in place to ensure that the law is complied with and to prevent alcohol sales being made to those that are underage, drunk or who are vulnerable.

In our opinion the applicant has failed to demonstrate within the operating schedule and at the meeting held on 22 December 2020 of how they would not further undermine the licensing objectives.

It is also our opinion that the granting of this licence would further undermine the Crime and Disorder and Public Safety licensing objectives, exacerbating some of the alcohol related issues already experienced in Middlesbrough. This will undoubtedly add unnecessary pressures to our emergency services including NHS Accident and Emergency and Hospital departments, Ambulance Services and Police and impact on those already suffering the impact and harms caused by alcohol.

Signature: 

Dated: 16.03.2021