



Local Alcohol Policy Amendment

Statement of Proposal Adoption – Council 10 Dec 2025

BACKGROUND

- A Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) is a set of decisions made by a local authority, in consultation with its community, about the sale and supply of alcohol in its geographical area.
- A LAP's objective is to ensure:
 - The sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol occurs safely and responsibly, and
 - Alcohol harm is minimised
- Should reflect community preferences and will influence DLC decisions on licensing applications.

BACKGROUND

- Consultation was held between 28 February to 31 March 2025
- 144 submissions received
- 15 submitters wanted to speak at a hearing

Consultation topics

Off-licences

- Density
- Trading hours
- Discretionary conditions

On-licences

- Trading hours
- Discretionary conditions

Club-licences

- Discretionary conditions

Special-licences

- Discretionary conditions

Off-licence Trading Hours

- **Option 1: Status quo**

Off-licence trading hours remain 7.00am to 10.15pm, except in the period 11 to 24 December, when hours shall be Monday-Sunday 7.00am to 11.00pm.

- **Option 2 (preferred option) – Earlier closing times**

Bringing forward off-licence closing times to reduce alcohol-related harm at night. Trading hours will be reduced to 7.00am to 9.00pm.

- **Option 3 – Earlier closing times and later opening times**

Off-licence trading hours will be reduced to 9.00am to 9.00pm.

CURRENT CHALLENGE - IMPLEMENTATION

- The adopted LAP 2025 reduced maximum off-licence trading hours from 22:15 to 21:00.
- Due to a technicality on how this policy should legally be applied, the 21:00 change only applies to premises that are having their alcohol licence renewed not all off-licence holders.
- As a licence to sell alcohol last for three years, we have a situation where potentially some off-licences will be able to trade until 22:15 until their licence is renewed.

CURRENT CHALLENGE - IMPLEMENTATION

- Request to re-consult to rectify this situation.
- Proposal will ensure the 21:00 change applies to ALL off-licences immediately (3 month notice period) ,and not during the renewals process.
- Consultation: 6 Jan – 13 Feb 2026 – Digital with direct targeted engagement with off-licence holders
- *Note: this is not a consultation on the 9pm close but rather on how this decision, that has already been made, is implemented.*

QUESTIONS?