

Cumulative Impact Assessment

1. Cumulative Impact is defined as the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a number of licenced premises concentrated in one area. In some areas where the number, type or density of licensed premises is high, or exceptional, serious problems of nuisance, crime or disorder may occur within or some distance away from the area.
2. A Cumulative Impact Assessment may be published by a Licensing Authority to help it to limit the number or type of applications granted in areas where there is evidence to show that the number or density of licensed premises in the area is having a cumulative impact and leading to problems which are undermining the licensing objectives.
3. The Licensing Act sets out what a licensing authority must do in order to publish a cumulative impact assessment (CIA). This includes publishing the evidential basis for its opinion and consulting on this evidence. A cumulative Impact Assessment must be published, and consulted upon, every three years. The evidence underpinning the publication of the CIA must be suitable as a basis for a decision to refuse an application or impose conditions.
4. The evidence of cumulative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives needs to relate to the particular problems identified in the specific area to be covered by the CIA. The Secretary of State's Guidance provides a list of Information which licensing authorities may be able to draw on when considering whether to publish a CIA including
 - local crime and disorder statistics, including statistics on specific types of crime and crime hotspots;
 - statistics on local anti-social behaviour offences;
 - health-related statistics such as alcohol-related emergency attendances and hospital admissions;
 - environmental health complaints, particularly in relation to litter and noise;
 - complaints recorded by the local authority, which may include complaints raised by local residents or residents' associations;
 - residents' questionnaires;
 - evidence from local councillors;
 - evidence obtained through local consultation;
 - Underage drinking statistics.

The steps taken to develop the Special Policy on Cumulative Impact

5. Whilst the Statement of Licensing Policy has incorporated a Special Policy on Cumulative Impact since 2006, a full review across the whole borough was carried out in 2020 to take into account the changes brought about by the Policing and Crime Act 2017.

6. A report was compiled that plotted the density of licensed premises in the borough against police, ambulance and noise data obtained between April 2019 and March 2020. This was mapped and analysed and together with the outcome of a residents survey carried out in 2019 was presented to the Licensing Committee on the 9 June 2020. Of the three existing areas where a special policy was in place, the Committee were of the view that there was strong evidence to indicate that two should remain in place. A full consultation was then carried out with residents and business in the borough, or their representatives, as well as with the responsible authorities. A copy of the evidence considered by this Committee is available in the report of the Licensing Committee of the 9 June, available on request or on the Council's website www.merton.gov.uk
7. A further meeting of the Licensing Committee was held on the 15 October 2020 when the results of the consultation were fully considered and the areas where a special policy on Cumulative Impact will apply were agreed. A copy of the evidence considered by this Committee and minutes of the discussion are available on request or on the Council's website www.merton.gov.uk

Cumulative Impact Assessments (CIA)

8. A Special Policy on Cumulative Impact will apply to the following areas

9. Wimbledon Town Centre

The area included in the Wimbledon Town Centre CIA is shown in Figure 1 of Appendix 4

The special policy relates to all applications for new licences or variations that increase the hours or capacity or add licensable activities.

Wimbledon Town Centre falls within four Wards, Hillside Trinity, Abbey and Dundonald. It is a vibrant area with a diverse offering of entertainment venues. It has the highest concentrations of licensed premises in the borough.

The Cumulative Impact Assessment identified that residents of Trinity and Abbey Wards register high levels of concern regarding people being drunk and rowdy in public spaces and general anti-social behaviour. These Wards have high levels of complaints to the police about anti-social behaviour, as well as high levels of ambulance call outs for alcohol and assaults and police call outs for violence – non domestic. Although relatively low in numbers, the area also attracts a number of complaints to the Council's licensing and noise teams

The Authority recognises that it must balance the needs of business with those of local residents. However, currently the number and type of premises are impacting negatively on the licensing objectives. In adopting the special policy, the authority is setting down a strong statement of approach to considering applications for the grant or variation of premises licences in the Wimbledon Town Centre CIA. However, the Authority recognises that the impact of premises can be different for premises with different styles and characteristics. For example large nightclubs or late night bars

and public houses might add to the problems of cumulative impact, a small restaurant or theatre may not. For this reason, applications with comprehensive operating schedules that meet the following criteria may be able to demonstrate that there will be no negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives:

Premises that are not alcohol led and

- i. support the people visiting the area during the day;
and/or
- ii. support the wider cultural offering in the area

10. Mitcham Town Centre

The area included in the Mitcham Town Centre CIA is shown in Figure 2 of Appendix 4

The special policy relates to all applications for new off licence or variation applications that increase the hours or capacity of the premises.

The Mitcham Town Centre Cumulative Impact Zone mainly falls within four Wards, Graveney, Figges Marsh, Lavender Fields and Cricket Green

Residents of the four Wards in which the Mitcham Town Centre cumulative impact area lies express high levels of concern about anti-social behaviour, people being drunk and rowdy in public places and people hanging around the streets. The area also records high levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and ambulance call outs. In September 2019, a report the Head of Community Safety presented a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel which included information on street drinking delivery and Public Place Protection Order Enforcement. The report stated that the majority of enforcement action on street drinking was taking place in and around the wards of Figges Marsh and Cricket Green, with proactive enforcement around Mitcham Town Centre which had resulted in a reduction in visible street drinking in Mitcham Town Centre but with an element of displacement. In addition data from the Director of Public Health shows high levels of hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions in the wards which fall into the CIA, for example, Cricket Green has the highest standardised admission ratio (SAR) for alcohol attributable conditions in Merton (102.0) and is higher than the average for England (100.0).

In view of the continuing problem with street drinking around Mitcham Town Centre and having regard to the data on levels of crime, anti-social behaviour, ambulance call outs and hospital admissions for alcohol related conditions the Authority approved the special policy on cumulative impact in Mitcham Town Centre as it relates to applications for off-sales of alcohol.

In publishing this cumulative impact assessment the authority is setting down a strong statement of approach to considering applications or the grant or variation of "off-sales" premises licences in the Mitcham Town Centre CIZ. The authority considers that the number of "off-sales" premises licences in the Mitcham Town Centre CIZ is such that is likely that granting further licences would be inconsistent with the authority's duty to the licensing objectives.

APPENDIX 4
Fig 1 Wimbledon Town Centre Cumulative Impact Zone

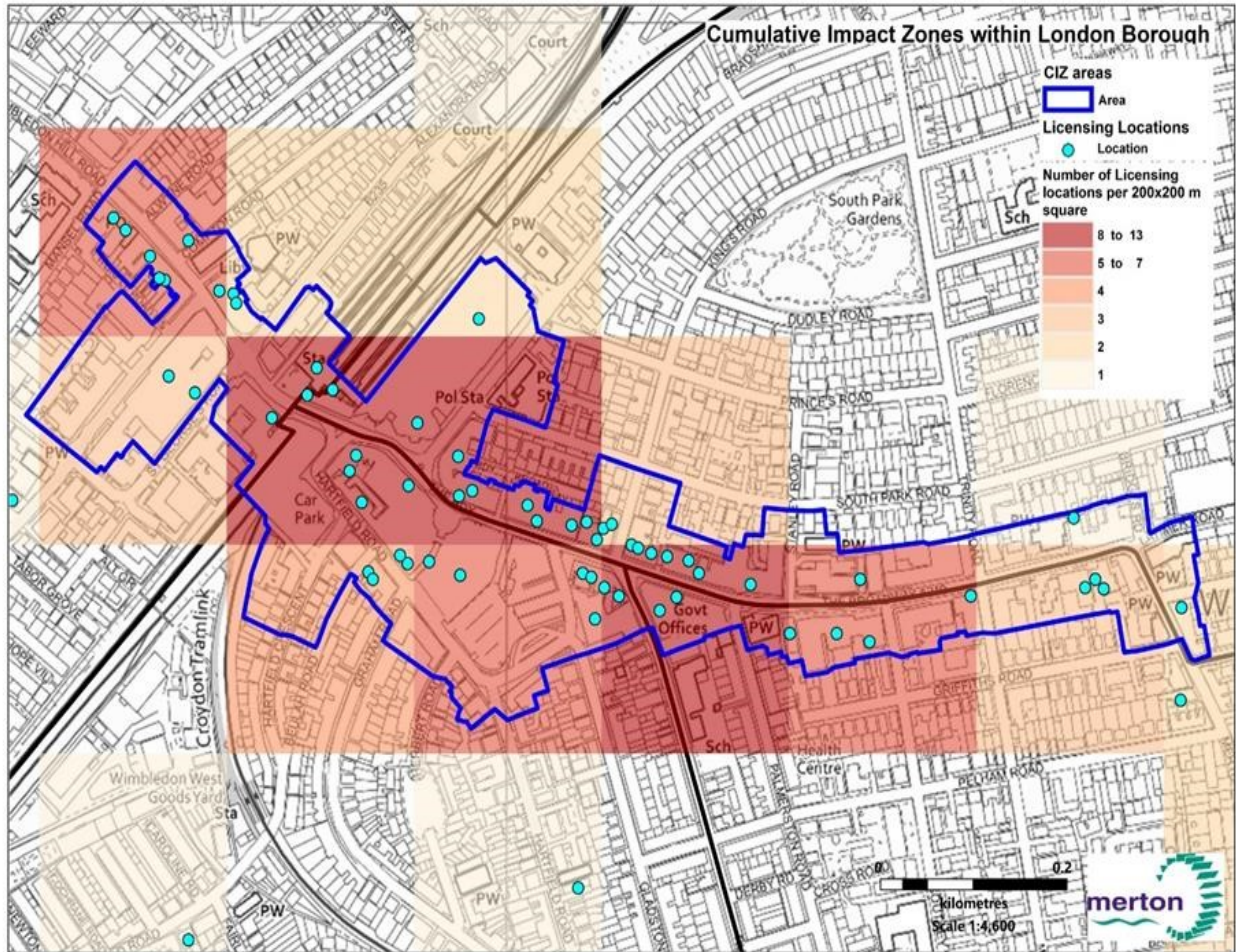
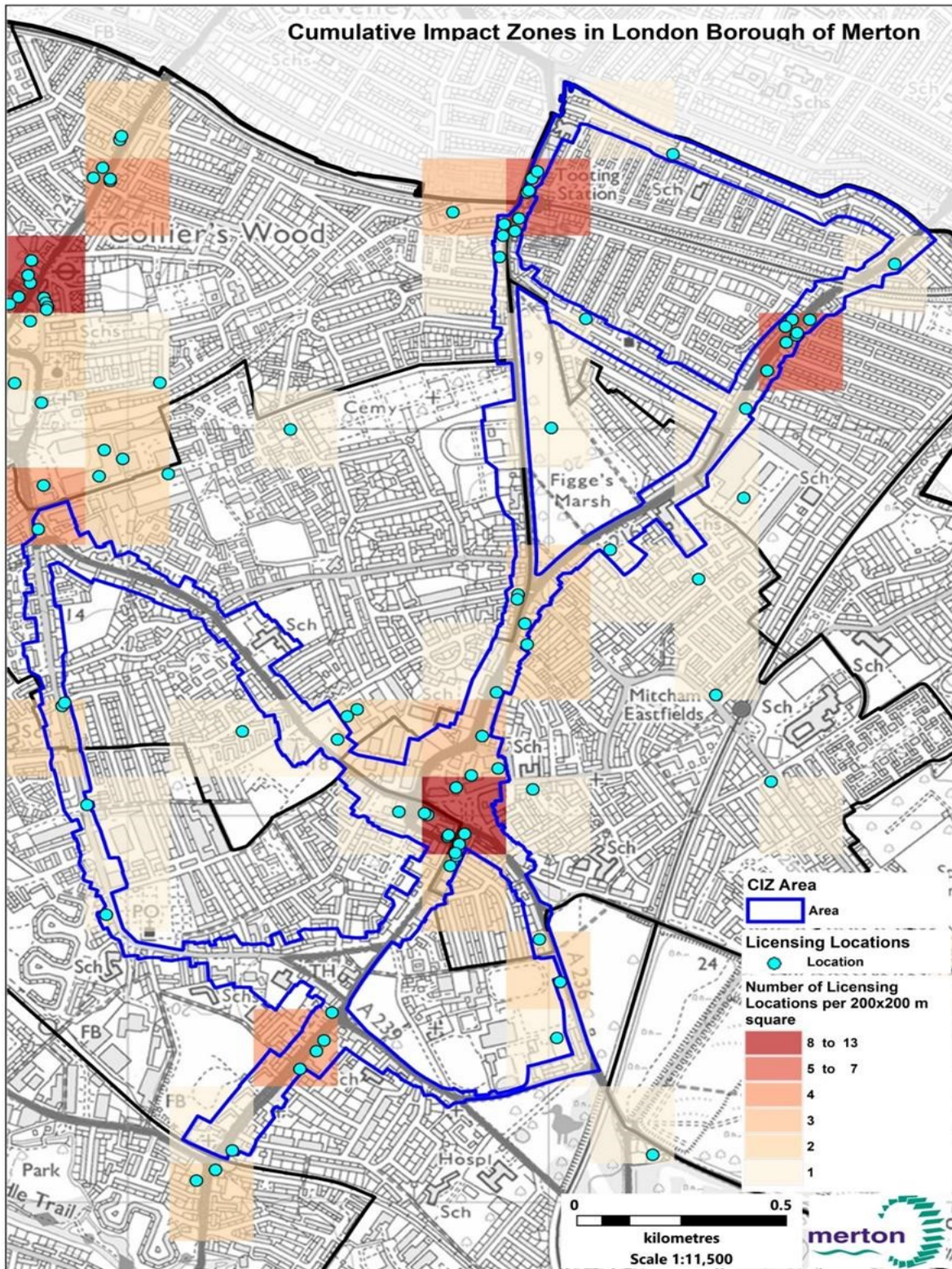


Fig 2. Mitcham Town Centre Cumulative Impact Zone



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