

Appendix 4

<u>Responses to Consultation - Councillors</u>	<u>Comments/Response</u>
<p><u>Response 1</u> A number of questions that you are asked to consider within your feedback alongside any of your other comments are:</p> <p>1. Should there be a condition attached to the sexual entertainment venue licence which requires that “performers at all times shall wear a non-transparent g-string or similar on the appropriate part of the body, and at o time will it reveal any part of their genitalia or anus” or should there not be a condition requiring the performers to wear a g-string at all times? Response. No</p> <p>2. Should there be a limit on the number of sexual entertainment venues within Calderdale. Response. No</p> <p>3. Are there any locations that you consider it inappropriate to grant or renew a sexual entertainment licence? Response. No</p>	<p>The response is noted.</p>
<p><u>Response 2</u> 1. Should there be a condition attached to the sexual entertainment venue licences which requires that “performers at all times shall wear a non-transparent g-string or similar on the appropriate part of the body, and at no time will it reveal any part of their genitalia or anus”, or should there not be a condition requiring the performers to wear a g-string at all times? Response. No, wouldn't have an issue with full nudity in such as establishment... but this is a personal view. Couldn't begin to second guess a public view on this one! I would like to think entertainers may get the option to wear a g-string, but don't see how we could realistically 'police' that.</p> <p>2. Should there be a limit on the number of sexual entertainment venues within Calderdale? Response. Yes definitely, but unsure what this needs to be. I would consider most residents would want them to be at the very minimum... it at all. Not sure if any</p>	<p>The response is noted</p>

<p>guidance exists on this?</p> <p>3. Are there any locations that you consider it inappropriate to grant or renew a sexual entertainment licence?</p> <p>Response. Yes, not located near anywhere young people might frequent or where it may cause particular offence such as schools, nurseries or places of worship. I would also hope they'd come under similar rules to sex shops i.e. be obliged to have a very discreet exterior whether in a very public place e.g. a town centre, or anywhere more remote. I think most people would prefer to think of them in 'out of the way' areas e industrial estates or remote areas, if we need to have them.</p>	
<p><u>Other General Responses to Consultation</u></p>	
<p><u>Response 1</u></p> <p>Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this policy.</p> <p>I would like to begin by saying I hope the Council will seriously consider whether there is any justification at all for granting licenses for any kind of Sex Establishments in Calderdale.</p> <p>I hope it is clear from the current scandals enveloping Hollywood, Parliament and other work environments that the danger of objectifying women in this way as objects for sexual gratification must enable the climate of casual sexual assault and belittling of women which is currently at the forefront of the news, and to be deplored.</p> <p>The Council states that it must have regard to its public sector equality duty. An establishment of this kind disadvantages all women in their access to equality, respect, safety, non-harassment and employment opportunities by virtue of the climate it reinforces of female inferiority and sexual availability.</p> <p>I was horrified to hear, at a meeting of the Licensing sub committee, to hear an applicant applying for a variation to his licence to allow the "dancers" to work without even a g-string that his bank manager had complained that he could see more at the swimming baths. A very sad and depressing statement.</p> <p>I know that Calderdale is a White Ribbon Authority, which is very pleasing. However, I do not think it is appropriate for a White Ribbon Authority to licence Sex Establishments in the area.</p> <p>As a local resident and board member of Womenscentre –where we see daily the effects</p>	<p>The response to the consultation does not address any amendments to the draft policy.</p> <p>However, it does comment that the policy does not address suitability for applicants to hold a licence. This will be looked at in the final draft.</p> <p>In response to the questions posed:</p> <p>How often would these be carried out and by whom? How often have these been carried out in the past either by Council staff or by the police? What liaison is there with the police and the PCC? It seems poor based on the fact that the Council didn't know that an applicant had had proceeds of crime confiscated by the PCC and passed out to voluntary groups.</p> <p>Inspections are carried out by licensing Enforcement Officers both alone and with West Yorkshire Police. The premise</p>

<p>of objectification, belittling and assault of women in this area, it alarms me that such establishments are seen as appropriate.</p> <p>Halifax is a beautiful town, making great and successful efforts to attract business and visitors via the Piece Hall and Square Chapel developments. This kind of squalid business sits very badly in that context.</p> <p>Further to the discretionary grounds for refusal of a licence, the policy mentions the suitability of applicants to hold a licence. There does not seem to be a section in the document where a process for determining this is outlined. Experience has been quite the reverse. When attending Licensing Committee to object to an application, I was prevented from raising points about the applicant's previous history. I have raised this with senior Council Members.</p> <p>If applications are to be taken, which I hope they will not be, it is essential that there is a clear and transparent process for assessing applicants' suitability.</p> <p>Unannounced inspections are mentioned as a check on underage and illegal employment. How often would these be carried out and by whom? How often have these been carried out in the past either by Council staff or by the police? What liaison is there with the police and the PCC? It seems poor based on the fact that the Council didn't know that an applicant had had proceeds of crime confiscated by the PCC and passed out to voluntary groups.</p> <p>I am extremely concerned that if the Council does agree that such establishments can potentially be licensed they will become a focus for possibly illegal and trafficked young women and criminal activity, as happened with a Huddersfield lap dancing club. I do not see anywhere in the policy sufficient safeguards against this.</p> <p>It goes without saying that if they are to exist, which I hope will not be the case, they must not be near any premises where young people, women and children are based, clearly including womencentre where women who have already suffered violence and assault are attending for help.</p>	<p>was visited by licensing officers twice in 2017. The numbers of visits by West Yorkshire Police cannot be answered nor can the question regarding liaison between the police and the PCC.</p>
<p><u>Response 2</u></p> <p>Would like to object to the renewal of licences for all sex establishments on the following grounds.</p> <p>Derogatory, dehumanising and Abusive treatment towards women in the lap dancing industry is extremely common "if a customer tried to grope us or verbally attack us</p>	<p>This consultation response does not address the contents of the draft policy.</p>

<p>during a lap dance, which they often did, we would have to diffuse the situation ourselves” Stripped, the Reality of Lap Dancing, 2011.</p> <p>Clubs marketing materials often display women as merely sexualised body parts. Websites offer a “range” of women – “a beautiful selection of girls” Object Interview 2011.</p> <p>It is dehumanising “Paying for a woman to take off her clothes is an act of power” interview 2011.</p> <p>The presence of existing venues in an area close to residential areas, and close to churches St Ebenezer where vulnerable people go for the drop in centre, is inappropriate.</p> <p>“I was frightened of the men who came out of that pub, especially the men who leered at the women walking past”</p> <p>Paying for lapdancing normalises the practice of men paying for sexual services, which has an impact on demand for other aspects of the sex industry.</p> <p>“The staff work in exploitative conditions – It is the only place I have worked where some nights I have paid for being there” The equality illusion, 2010.</p> <p>As a White Ribbon Authority, Calderdale should be seeking to respect women and seek to have a zero cap on the number of sex encounter venues.</p> <p>Authorities like Swansea, Slough, Bedford, Enfield, Hounslow, Merton have all set zero caps on lap dancing clubs we would urge the authority to take social concerns like gender equality into account. Lap dancing may contravene the Council’s own equality Policy.</p> <p>The idea of placing conditions on the renewal licensed becomes irrelevant when we are suggesting they should not be granted a licence under any circumstances.</p>	
<p><u>Response 3</u></p> <p>Is pleased to be involved in the consultation process re the draft policy.</p> <p>As an organisation that has had a sex establishment on our doorstep for 12+ years we feel that thorough this new policy there are real opportunities to ensure that a licence would not be granted again anywhere in the vicinity of an organisation like ours.</p> <p>In short we believe it has been, and should always be totally inappropriate for any establishment of this nature it to be placed across the road from a charity, let alone one that supports women and children. This must be taken into account in the policy.</p>	<p>The comments have been noted and 1.7 Cannot be changed as it was agreed by full Council that this be the delegated function.</p> <p>5.1 Cannot be amended as these are Mandatory Grounds for Refusal.</p> <p>5.2 Relevant Locality is a decision for members.</p>

<p>Please also consider the following points in respect of the policy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given the current concerns nationally and more widely in relation to women being the subject of sexual harassment and indeed wider forms of sexual abuse it is timely that Calderdale are consulting about this re licensing process and will hopefully be tightening up the ways in which licences are being granted. There needs to be a much clearer understanding and appreciation of the dangers facing women as objects for sexual gratification. 2. In the draft policy the council states that it must have regard to its public sector equality duty. Establishments of this kind disadvantage not only the women who work in them but all other women too by reinforcing stereotypically views and female inferiority. 3. As a council also signed up to the White Ribbon Campaign Calderdale needs to ensure that it is actively embracing this important status and not paying lip service to it. 4. Further to the discretionary grounds for refusal, it mentions the suitability of the applicant to hold a licence. There does not appear to be a section in the document where a process for determining this is outlined. Experience from past Calderdale licensing application has been quite the reverse. When attending the Licensing Committee to object to the renewal of a licence, an applicant's previous history was deemed to be irrelevant and could not be mentioned. If applications are to be taken, it is essential that there is a clear and transparent process for assessing the applicant's suitability. <p>Other comments</p> <p>1.7 b We feel there should always be a discussion, so we would not want (b) to be included.</p> <p>5.1 This needs to be more explicit and perhaps a discussion, statement about robust checking in other areas about a person's suitability. For example checks on the person's previous employment history, licensing applications.</p> <p>5.2 Relevant locality – inappropriate to be bases opposite a charity that supports women. Also not appropriate to be in the BID (Business Improvement Area of Halifax). There are I feel no suitable localities for the reasons stated above especially if you want Calderdale to be the best borough in the north (2.2). This should not just be about location as stated above.</p> <p>6.2 7 –Please consider seductive images on windows here.</p>	<p>6.2 These are current standard conditions and any changes requested in the consultation responses will be addressed in a second report.</p> <p>6.3 This has been amended to state entrance and exit in order to make it clearer.</p>
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<p>6.2 – 9 This is correct, but does this happen and how can it be tested out. Mystery shopper type approach would not work in this type of establishment. There is a need to guarantee very regular inspections by council staff working with police etc.</p> <p>What has been the Councils previous position on making checks in Calderdale and who and what level of person is charged to undertake this role? We feel, that this needs to be built in.</p> <p>Could there be a stipulation about how often checks will be made?</p> <p>Is there a WY view on this?</p> <p>6.3, 21 This wording needs to be clearer so that it is understood by what you mean by ingress and egress?</p>	
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<u>Responses from Current Licence Holders</u>	
<p><u>Response 1</u></p> <p>The only concern I have is regarding the 30cm policy that could get the performers into trouble unwillingly during the dance they may touch someone's hand or knee.</p>	<p>This is a request to amend the existing standard conditions. Therefore, will be addressed in a separate report.</p>

Results of the On Street Survey

In total 70 people completed the survey throughout the borough

Questions Posed to members of the public:-

1. Do you think there should be a limit on the number of sexual entertainment venues within Calderdale?

Yes or No

If yes how many and why?

Todmorden – 9 Responses	Hebden Bridge – 11 Responses	Halifax – 14 Responses	Sowerby Bridge – 24 Responses	Brighouse – 10 Responses	Elland – 2 Responses
8 Yes	9 Yes	9 Yes	16 Yes	6 Yes	2 Yes
1 No	2 No	5 No	7 No	4 No	
			1 Not Bothered		

2. Are there any locations that you consider it inappropriate to grant or renew a sexual entertainment licence within Calderdale?

Yes or No

If yes please specify

Todmorden – 9 Responses	Hebden Bridge – 11 Responses	Halifax – 14 Responses	Sowerby Bridge – 24 Responses	Brighouse – 10 Responses	Elland – 2 Responses
9 Yes	11 Yes	12 Yes	17 Yes	7 Yes	2 Yes
		2 No	7 No	2 No	
				1 No answer	

3. Do you think the Council should set a maximum number for any locality in Calderdale?

Yes or No

If yes what number and why?

Todmorden – 9 Responses	Hebden Bridge – 11 Responses	Halifax – 14 Responses	Sowerby Bridge – 24 Responses	Brighouse – 10 Responses	Elland – 2 Responses
9 Yes	10 Yes	8 Yes	12 Yes	8 Yes	2 Yes
	1 No	6 No	12 No	2 No	

4. What number should be set for certain localities (please see table below)? (The results of this will be put into a table's at the end)

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+
A Residential area									
A deprived area									
A rural area									
An industrial area									
A busy late night economy area									
A built up area i.e. town centre									

Results from Question 4 – Please note 70 people completed the survey and 20 of these **did not** answer this section of the survey

Residential Area:

45 people said 0
2 people said 1
2 people said 2
1 person said 8+
Total 50 responses

Deprived Area:

47 people said 0
1 person said 2
1 person said 3
1 person said 8+
Total 50 responses

Rural Area:

40 people said 0
4 people said 1
4 people said 2
1 person said 4
1 person said 8+
Total 50 responses

Industrial Area:

33 people said 0
5 people said 1
7 people said 2
2 people said 3
1 person said 4
2 people said 8+
Total 50 responses

Busy Late Night Economy:

21 people said 0
15 people said 1
4 people said 2
1 person said 3
3 people said 4
1 person said 5
2 people said 6
3 people said 8+
Total 50 responses

Built Up Area such as a Town Centre:

19 people said 0
14 people said 1
7 people said 2
1 person said 3
2 people said 4
2 people said 5
1 person said 6
4 people said 8+
Total 50 responses

5. Should there be a condition attached to the sexual entertainment venue licence which requires that “performers at all times shall wear a non-transparent g-string or similar on the appropriate part of the body, and at no time will it reveal any part of their genitalia or anus”, or should there not be a condition requesting the performers to wear a g-string at all times.

Todmorden – 9 responses	Hebden Bridge – 11 Responses	Halifax – 14 Responses	Sowerby Bridge - 24 Responses	Brighouse – 10 Responses	Elland – 2 Responses
7 Keep condition	8 Keep Condition	9 Keep Condition	16 Keep Condition	4 Keep Condition	2 Keep Condition
1 Remove Condition	2 Remove Condition	2 Remove Condition	3 Remove Condition	6 Remove Condition	
1 Should be personal choice for dancer	1 Should be personal choice for dancer	3 Should be personal choice for dancer	4 Should be personal choice for dancer		
			1 Not sure		

The Main Locations that people thought should not have a sexual entertainment licence granted were:-

- Near Schools
- Near Old People's homes
- Some said Town Centres should not have sexual entertainment venues others said Town Centres should be the only place a Sexual Entertainment Venue should be granted a licence.
- Should not be granted anywhere
- Residential Areas
- Near Churches
- Areas where there are more children
- More cultured places such as Hebden Bridge
- Small Market Towns
- Near Library's
- Near Parks
- Near Toy Shops