

# Licensing Act 2003

## What Residents need to Know

### Background Information:

- The Licensing Act has been in place since 2005.
- The Council are responsible for issuing licences to a wide variety of premises including pubs, night clubs, off licences, restaurants, cinemas and late night takeaways (open after 11 o'clock at night)
- Where premises sell alcohol the premises owner or manager requires a separate licence which allows the sale of alcohol
- The licences are issued following consideration of any representations by the Council's Licensing Committee

### What does this mean for local residents?

- The rules allow businesses to apply to the Council to open their businesses for longer hours, i.e. pubs may no longer have to close at 11pm and off licences and supermarkets can also apply to sell alcohol during longer opening hours
- The opportunity for longer trading hours give businesses and their customers more freedom and choice on how they wish to spend their leisure time
- The opportunity for longer trading hours may also bring increased opportunity for local residents to be adversely affected by nuisance and anti social behaviour from some people visiting licensed premises
- The new rules encourage family friendly premises where younger children can go with their family

### How can local residents influence these changes?

- If a business e.g. pub, off licence or late night takeaway want to change the way it runs its business e.g. by increasing its opening hours or by starting to provide live entertainment it has to apply to Tameside Council's Licensing Section to "vary its licence". At this stage notices will be placed on the business premises and residents can forward their views to the Council's Licensing Section. The Council is obliged to consider those views together with any views from other agencies such as the Police and Environmental Health. As a local resident you can also ask ward Councillors to make representations on your behalf.
- If you have concerns about the way a licensed premises is currently operating you can forward these concerns to the Council and these will be investigated. Where these concerns are found to be of a serious nature and have not been resolved by informal means, the Council can review the licence to resolve the problem.

### What types of concerns can be raised?

The controls within the Licensing Act fall into four key areas

- 1 Preventing Crime and Disorder
- 2 Public Safety
- 3 Prevention of Public Nuisance
- 4 Protection of Children from Harm

Concerns about noise nuisance from Licensed premises, underage sale of alcohol, inappropriate entertainment, general drunkenness, overcrowding are all examples of issues which fall within the 4 areas listed above.

#### YOUR DIARY:

**Please fill in each box against the calendar month dates giving a general view of the social behaviour in your area.**