



The Sustainable Communities Act proposal form

Using this form

This form should be used to submit proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act to the LGA for short listing. Please complete all sections and then **email a copy to selector@lga.gov.uk**. These must be received by **July 31st 2009**, and you will receive confirmation that the form has been received.

Once submitted, information within this form may be made publicly available, unless you request for it to be kept private. We will treat information submitted sensitively. If you wish to attach any relevant presentations or graphs etc. please attach them separately in the email.

For questions regarding the act or the role of the Selector, please see our [FAQs](#). Any further questions can be directed to selector@lga.gov.uk.

Section 1: Proposal Summary

Proposing Authority

Under the terms of the Sustainable Communities Act, all proposals must be submitted by a local authority, or group of authorities, in England. Any group, organisation or individual may originate or develop a proposal. However all proposals will require Local Authority endorsement and submission to the Selector.

Parish councils and other organisations and agencies must seek support and formal endorsement from a proposing local authority (defined in the Act as county councils, district councils (including metropolitan, non metropolitan and unitary authorities), the common council of the city of London or the Council of the Isles of Scilly).

1.1 Lead Authority name

London Borough of Islington (LBI)

1.2 Is this proposal submitted by this authority alone, or is it a joint proposal with other local authorities? (If joint please list authorities)

Submitted by LBI.

1.3 Who is the lead contact (s) in the authority for this proposal? Please provide email address and telephone number - *The LGA will direct any enquiries to this contact.*

Alanna Coombes, Senior Policy Manager
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0207 527 3405

Supporting Organisations

Whilst proposals may only be submitted by a local authority, we acknowledge that local partners and outside organisations may wish to register support for the proposal. This is entirely voluntary.

1.4 Please provide details below of supporting organisations to your proposal. Please explain if the organisation is a charity, company, unincorporated association or other body. If a charity or company please provide registration numbers. If a local partnership please explain the relationship to the Local Strategic Partnership for the area.

Not applicable.

Summary of your proposal

Please summarise your proposal. You may wish to include:

- The main elements of your proposal
- What issues your proposal is addressing and how it will promote the sustainability of the local community
- Who is affected by this proposal and how?
- Which public bodies might be affected?
- What are the main actions needed from Government?
- What do you expect this proposal to achieve?

1.5 Please enter your summary below (*word limit 1000 words*)

The proposal would give the council the power to decide if an area is saturated with gambling and/or off license premises so that it can then restrict new licences being granted (or existing licences being extended).

The current licensing regime means that commercial streets can become dominated by particular types of business. Concentrations of businesses such as off licenses or gambling outlets can stifle other businesses with a negative impact on the local economy and the area more generally.

Gambling premises and off licenses are often at the centre of anti-social behaviour, particularly at night and can put extra strain on local services such as the police and health.

This proposal will affect anyone who lives, works and uses services within the borough, especially in terms of the night time economy. Most particularly, however, people living in the neighbourhoods affected are often highly concerned about the impact on their quality of life and on the area in terms of nuisance, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. The council believes that their views should carry weight and that it should be able to respond to a greater extent than is currently possible to restrict the number of such premises, particularly where there are known concentrations of people with problem debts and gambling addictions.

The Government would need to:

- i) amend the Licensing Act 2003 to allow a cap to be set for the number of premises with off-licences within the area of a local authority
- ii) amend the Gambling Act 2005 to allow a cap to be set for the number of premises within each category of gambling premises within the area of a local authority.

Section 2: About your proposal

The form asks a set of questions to gather as much information as possible to allow for assessment and short-listing by the Selector. A word-limit is stated for each part of the form.

We appreciate that SCA proposals will vary in range and scope, and some questions will be more relevant than others for any one proposal. Please do not feel that answers are required for every questions or that the full word limit need be used in respect of each and every question box. If you are submitting a joint proposal, please include evidence for all areas.

Impact on sustainability (*word limit 2000 words*)

2.1 Please explain how your proposal promotes sustainability as defined locally (for example in your Sustainable Communities Strategy or LAA)

The Community Strategy places considerable emphasis on people feeling proud of where they live. This proposal will contribute strongly to that aim.

The Strategy also aims to improve people's health including by working on our drug prevention initiatives and support for those who have drug/alcohol dependencies. The underlying approach is a preventative approach to promoting good physical and mental health, providing accessible and tailored health information.

This proposal would work towards achieving both of these aims by limiting the amount of access people (who have alcohol dependencies) have to buy alcohol.

The Community Strategy also stresses the importance both of reducing actual levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.

2.2 Over which geographic area will your proposal impact? (e.g. neighbourhood, town, city, sub-region)?

The impact will have greatest effect at neighbourhood level.

2.3 Who would benefit from your proposal?

All residents in the areas affected and visitors to the area will benefit from this proposal.

2.4 What steps will you take to mitigate any adverse affects on sustainability from your proposal (if relevant)?

N/A

2.5 What project, activities and changes would take place in your area if your proposal was successful?

We would expect fewer noise problems, anti-social behaviour and associated health and well-being problems.

2.6 Does your proposal involve transfers of responsibilities between public bodies in the area? If so what are these? What budgetary implications might be involved?

No

Local authorities are required to 'have regard' to a set of specific issues when deciding whether to support SCA proposals. These are matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act, as passed by Parliament¹. It is worth noting that the issues listed in the Act are not supposed to be exhaustive and that ideas can cover anything that promotes the sustainability of the local area.

Many of these matters may not be relevant to any one proposal. If you are submitting a joint proposal please include evidence for all areas.

2.7 Please identify which, if any, of the issues authorities are required to have regard to, are relevant to this proposal and include any data and information which you feel would be helpful in the assessment process.

a) the provision of local services

Yes – be reducing the amount of gambling and licensed premises there will be less of a strain on essential local services such as the police force and health services.

b) the extent to which the volume and value of goods and services that are- i) offered for sale, ii) procured by public bodies, and are produced within 30 miles (or any lesser distance as may be specified by a local authority in respect of its area) of their place of sale of the boundary of the public body.

N/A

¹ The Sustainable Communities Act is available here :
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga_20070023_en_1

c) the rate of increase in the growth and marketing of organic forms of food production and the local economy

N/A

d) measures to promote reasonable access by all local people to a supply of food is adequate in terms of both amount and nutritional value

N/A

e) the number of local jobs

N/A

f) measures to conserve energy and increase the quantity of energy supplies which are produced from sustainable sources within a 30 mile radius of the region in which they are consumed

N/A

g) measure taken to reduce the level of road traffic including, but not restricted to, local public transport provision, measures to promote walking and cycling and measures to decrease the amount of product miles

N/A

h) the increase in social inclusion, including an increase in involvement in local democracy

N/A

i) measures to increase mutual aid and other community projects

N/A

j) measures designed to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases

N/A

k) measures designed to increase community health and wellbeing

Yes, the aim is for the council to be able to respond to community concerns about the impact of these sorts of premises in particular areas. Over time, the proposal is also intended to contribute to restricting the availability of alcohol to problem drinkers and to reduce the opportunities for gambling both of which have significant impacts on the health and well being of individuals. The proposal would improve the look and feel of our town centres too – we have invested a great deal of resources into improving our town centres and this work is threatened by an excess of such premises (as was a concern at Nag's Head, Holloway).

l) planning policies which would assist with the purposes of this Act, including new arrangements for the provision of affordable housing

N/A

m) measures to increase the use of local waste materials for the benefit of the community

N/A

Existing Barriers

(Please do not write more than 1000 words for 2.8 and 2.9)

2.8 What are the existing barriers to implementing your proposal?

The Gambling and Licensing Act 2003 - the cumulative impact of concentrations of licensed premises is not specifically mentioned in the Act. It is, however, flagged up in the Guidance as a proper matter for a licensing authority to consider in developing its licensing policy.

The Guidance makes provision for a licensing authority to include in its Statement of Policy a cumulative impact policy. The effect of this is the creation of a rebuttable presumption that applications for new premises licences or applications for variations that are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally be refused – unless the applicant can demonstrate that negative effect will not arise. However, the presumption only operates if there are relevant representations, and if none are received, the authority must grant the application.

The Guidance also states that a cumulative impact policy should never be absolute - each application needs to be considered properly.

Crucially, these provisions do not apply to all premises licensed to sell alcohol – the Guidance states that a cumulative impact policy should normally only be adopted in respect of on-licensed premises.

2.9 What actions are needed by Government to make your proposal possible?

To amend the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005:

- i) an amendment to the Licensing Act 2003 to allow for a cap to be set for the number of premises with off-licenses within the Borough.
- ii) an amendment to the Gambling Act 2005 to allow for a cap to be set for the number of premises within each category of gambling premises within the Borough

Part 3: Local Authority Endorsement

This section should be completed by the proposing local authority. (Under the terms of the act this means a county council in England, a district council (including metropolitan, non metropolitan and unitary authorities), a London borough council, the Common Council of the City of London or the Council of the isles of Scilly)

3.1 Have consultation requirements been met? (500 words max)

Please confirm that your authority has met the statutory requirements for consultation on this proposal, via one or more panels of local representatives and persons from under-represented groups constituted in accordance with the Act and statutory guidance as set out in [*Strong Safe and Prosperous Communities*](#).

You may wish to describe who has been involved in discussions and development of the proposal (*e.g. council, local community organisations and residents groups, parish or town*

councils, local partnership bodies, local or national organisations, political parties, church and faith organisations, local businesses or chambers of commerce and others.

If you have not done so already please give brief details of relevant panel meetings.

Please note if you are submitting a joint application please provide details of consultation and local support across all areas.

We told our local communities about the SCA through the Council website, our borough-wide resident magazine; residents' eBulletin; the Members' Bulletin; and directly to a range of community and third sector groups. This generated over 100 ideas to be put forward by residents, community groups as well as some staff members and councillors.

Council officers examined all the original proposals to sift out ones that appeared to go against existing council policy; where the council already has powers to take the action proposed; or where the proposal does not fall within the scope of the SCA for some other reason.

These proposals then went to a newly formed SCA panel to consider. This panel included residents from groups that councils have traditionally struggled to engage or forum members of such groups, including a blind resident, a resident with learning disabilities, and a resident (with an interpreter) who spoke English as a second language. The panel held its meeting on Monday 29 June and members looked in detail at a number of proposals each in some detail. Their comments and indications of interest or enthusiasm enabled us to sift further the proposals which were considered by, and agreed by, our Council's Executive.

3.2 What are the views from this consultation? You may wish to provide evidence of local support for your proposal? This might include petitions or letters of support from the public, local councillors, Members of Parliament, businesses, public bodies and agencies? Please describe this evidence below. *(The local authority submitting the proposal is likely to wish to review such material and to summarise its content. Onward submission to the Selector of all original documentation will not normally be required).*

This proposal was supported by the SCA panel and has strong support from our borough's Town Centre managers. The Executive has approved these proposals.

Proposals may include a change/transfer of functions from one person to another. If this is relevant to your proposal please confirm that the duties under clause 2, subsection 3 of the act (consulting with organisations affected by a change in location of a function) have been carried out.

3.3 Please give brief details of consultation with any affected organisations

Not relevant.

3.4 Confirmation of council support

The process for formal endorsement is a matter for local discretion; however we anticipate that authorities will wish to gain political endorsement and clearance for the proposal through the relevant processes at local level. Please give details of how formal approval has been attained.

The proposals were agreed at the Council's Executive meeting on 9 July 2009.

3.5 General comments

This is an opportunity for the local authority to express any additional comments or views on the proposal: This may include: *(1500 words max)*

- the council's view of levels of local support for the proposal
- any local opposition or objections that the Selector should be aware of
- relevance of the proposal to the area's Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- outcome of any local authority discussions with agencies or public bodies affected
- potential regional/national significance of the proposal, if replicated elsewhere
- any major resource implications for the council or its local partners
- any other factors influencing viability and achievability of the proposal

Part 4: Assessment by the Selector

SCA proposals will be assessed by the LGA as Selector. This will include consideration, short listing and negotiation with the Secretary of State via the LGA Selector panel made up of councillors from the four parties represented on the LGA

The LGA Selector Panel is committed to undertaking the role in a transparent manner; as such reasons for decisions on proposals will be made available.

There will be no appeals process in relation to decisions of the Selector Panel.

4.1 Do you confirm your agreement to abide by the outcome of the Selector's assessment and decision-making processes?

Yes.

4.2 Would your council, accompanied by the originators of the proposal, wish to make a short verbal presentation to the Selector Panel, should this opportunity be available?

Yes.

Thank you for completing this form.

Please email it to selector@lga.gov.uk by 31 July 2009.