



Local Alcohol Policy Review – Update 11 March 2026



Introduction

- Purpose and scope of a LAP
- Work undertaken in 2024
- Summary of 2026 first stage engagement
- Identified issues and possible options
- Next steps and timeline





What is a Local Alcohol Policy (LAP)?

- The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act) allows councils to develop a LAP that alcohol licensing bodies must consider when granting/declining an alcohol licence.
- LAPs offer an opportunity to minimise alcohol harm to the community.
- LAPs are developed by Councils, in consultation with communities, to guide where and how alcohol is sold.
- Alcohol/Litter Bylaws may be other ways of addressing issues, e.g. glass.





Purpose of a Local Alcohol Policy

LAPs must follow the object of the Act:

- Safe and responsible sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol
- Minimisation of alcohol-related harm caused by excessive or inappropriate consumption

Recent changes to the Act (2023) mean that:

- there is no longer a requirement for provisional LAPs,
- the right of appeal against a LAP is removed, and
- judicial review is more limited to procedural grounds.





What Council must consider

Under the Act, Council must have regard to the following when producing a draft LAP:

1. the District Plan,
2. numbers of licences in the district, their location, opening hours,
3. the extent of any bylaw prohibiting alcohol in public places,
4. the demography of the district's residents and visitors,
5. the overall health indicators of the district's residents, and
6. the nature and severity of alcohol-related problems in the district.

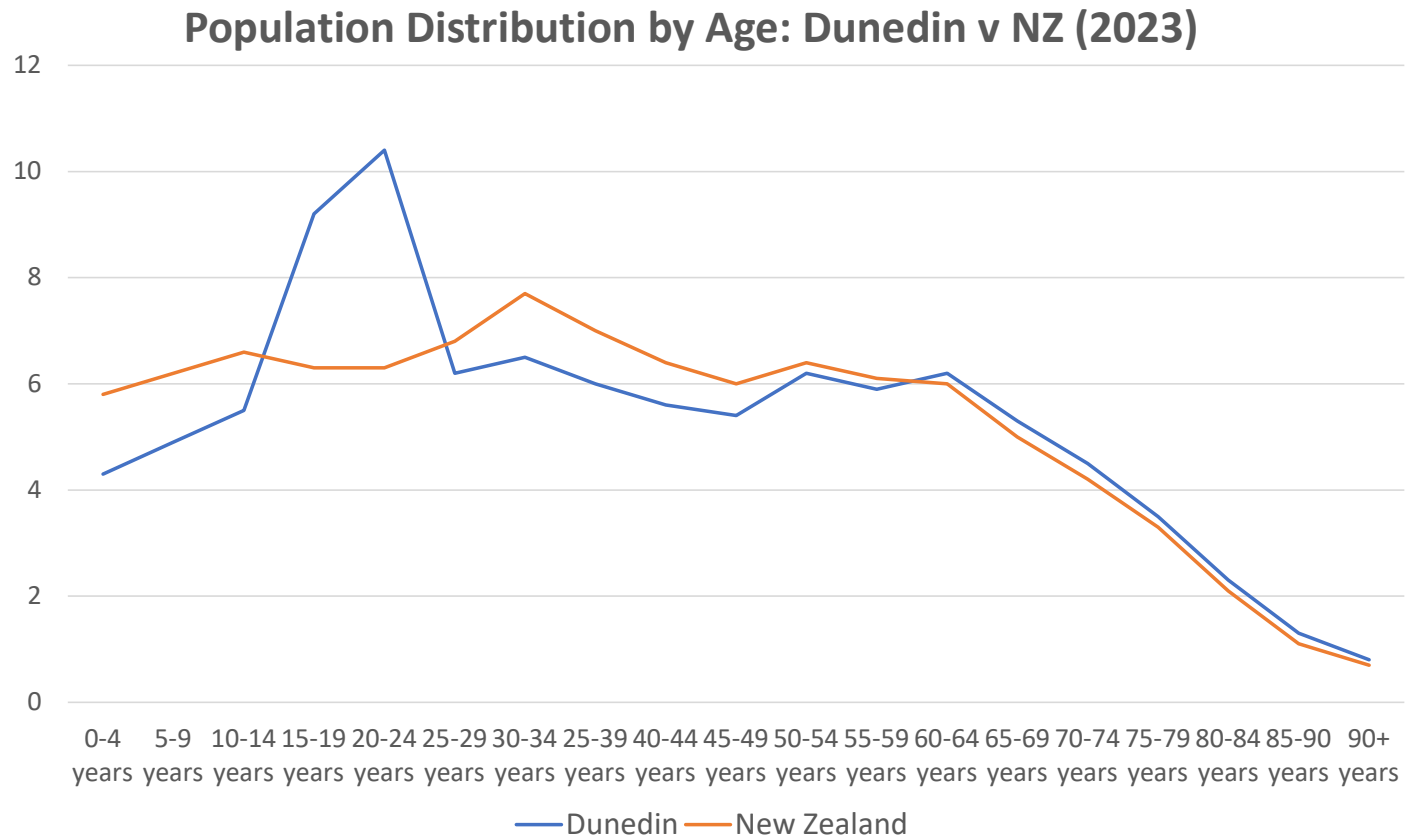
Police, the Medical Officer of Health, and Licencing Inspectors (the 'tri-agencies') must also be consulted before producing a draft policy.



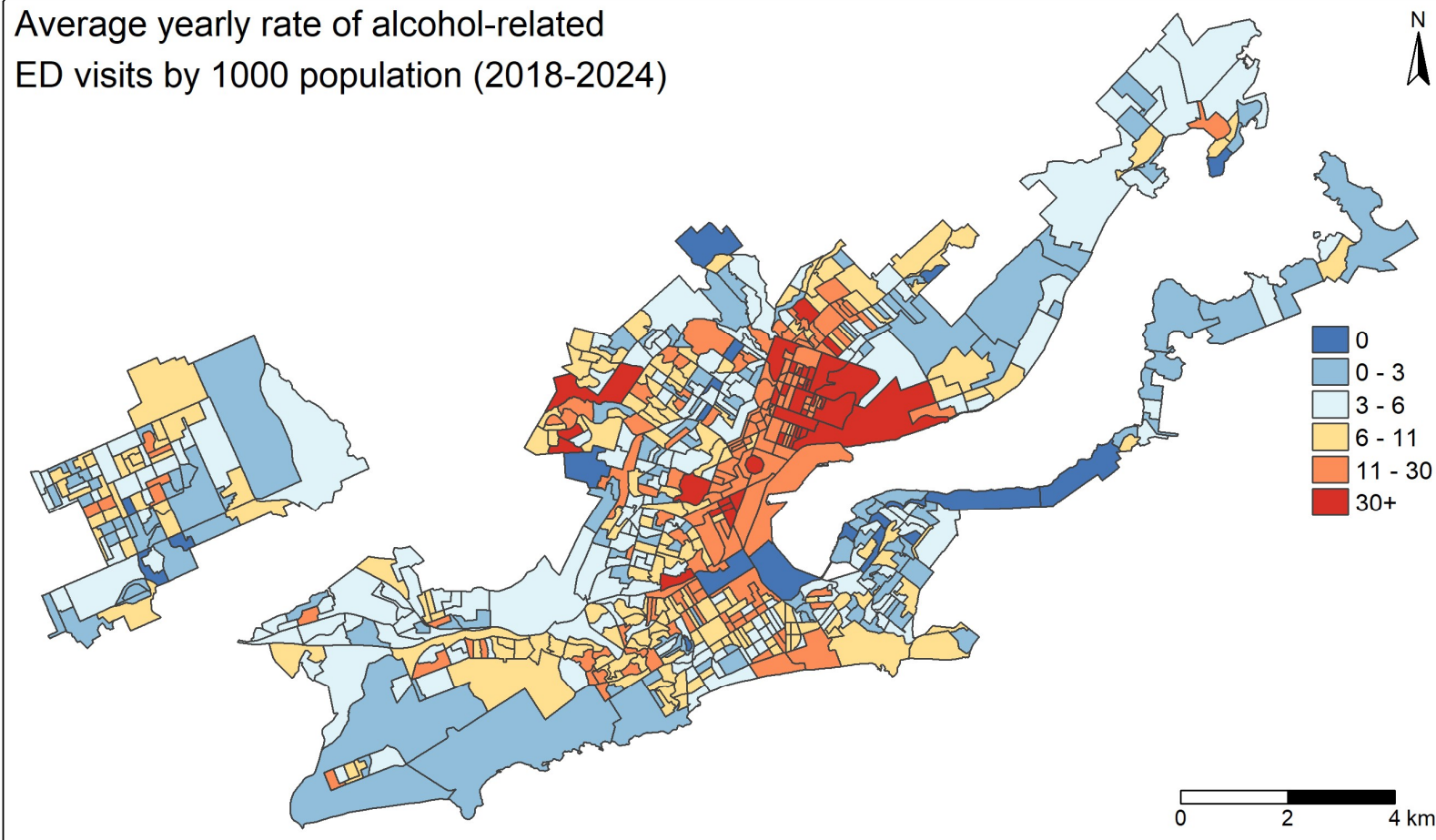


Example of what Council must consider when developing a LAP

Demography of the district's residents and visitors to the district



Example of what Council must consider when developing a LAP





National context

- 76% of territorial authorities have LAPs.
- General move towards reducing off-licence opening hours and location, more explicit discretionary conditions (an evolving area).

2024 Supreme Court interpretations of the Act:

- Objects of the Act pull in the same direction, do not need to be ‘balanced’
- Reasonableness of a LAP = consistency with the object of the Act
- Precautionary approach to restrictions is acceptable if there is a reasonable likelihood of reducing alcohol-related harm





Policy scope - what a LAP can include:

LAPs can only contain matters relating to licensing, in any or all of the following:

- Location of a premises in relation to areas or proximity to other premises or facilities
- Whether new licences should be issued for new premises in any part of the district
- Maximum trading hours
- Whether they should be subject to discretionary conditions
- One-way door restrictions





Policy scope – Discretionary conditions

Discretionary conditions are any *reasonable conditions that are not inconsistent with the objects of the Act*. Examples of discretionary conditions from other LAPs are:

- Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, e.g. CCTV
- Designated areas to which minors must not be admitted
- Restrictions on alcohol-related signage or advertising
- Staffing (training, security, duty managers, queue management)
- Host responsibility (serving times, types, size and price of drinks)
- Management of incidents
- The kind of alcohol that may be sold from off-licences
- Restrictions on the sale of single alcoholic beverages from off-licences
- Restrictions on “buy now pay later” arrangements from off-licences





The current LAP – introduced in April 2019

- Sets the maximum licence hours for the various types of premises/locations.
- Provides guidelines for where alcohol can be sold.
- Provides guidelines for special licences.
- Provides guidelines on discretionary conditions for any licence type.





Work on the 2024 LAP Review

Draft LAP developed and consulted on in late 2024, via a perceived urgent timeframe.

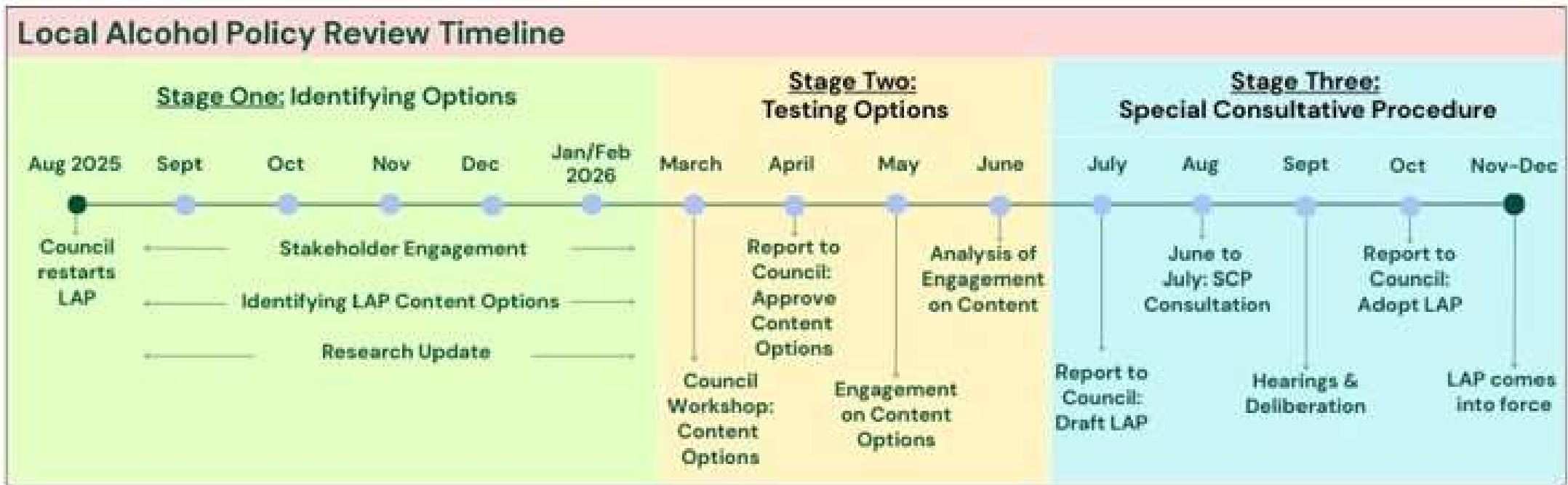
Submissions received, hearings held:

- Concerns raised over extent of engagement developing draft, consultation timeframes.
- Council resolved for a revised draft LAP, more engagement with tri-agencies and others.





Current LAP Review Process and Timeframes





Stage One engagement to date

Stage one engagement has included talking to:

- Alcohol Licensing Inspector
- Medical Officer of Health
- Police
- Alcohol Healthwatch
- Hospitality NZ
- Otago Polytech + Otago University Student Union
- Otago Rugby Football Union
- Safe and Well Ōtepoti (which includes the University's proctor)
- Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou
- Two Foodstuffs supermarkets

We've also drawn from 2024 submissions, other research/information surrounding alcohol harm





Issues identified through engagement and 2024 work

Issue

Alcohol harm in Ōtepoti Dunedin is likely higher than other areas of the country

The impacts of alcohol harm on both Māori and low-income communities/those living in areas of high-deprivation are disproportionate

Alcohol harms are wide ranging, and impact wider families and communities

Alcohol advertising contributes to further consumption and harm

Alcohol harm occurs in and around on-licences

There is harm associated with off-license purchases

Alcohol harm causes a strain on emergency services

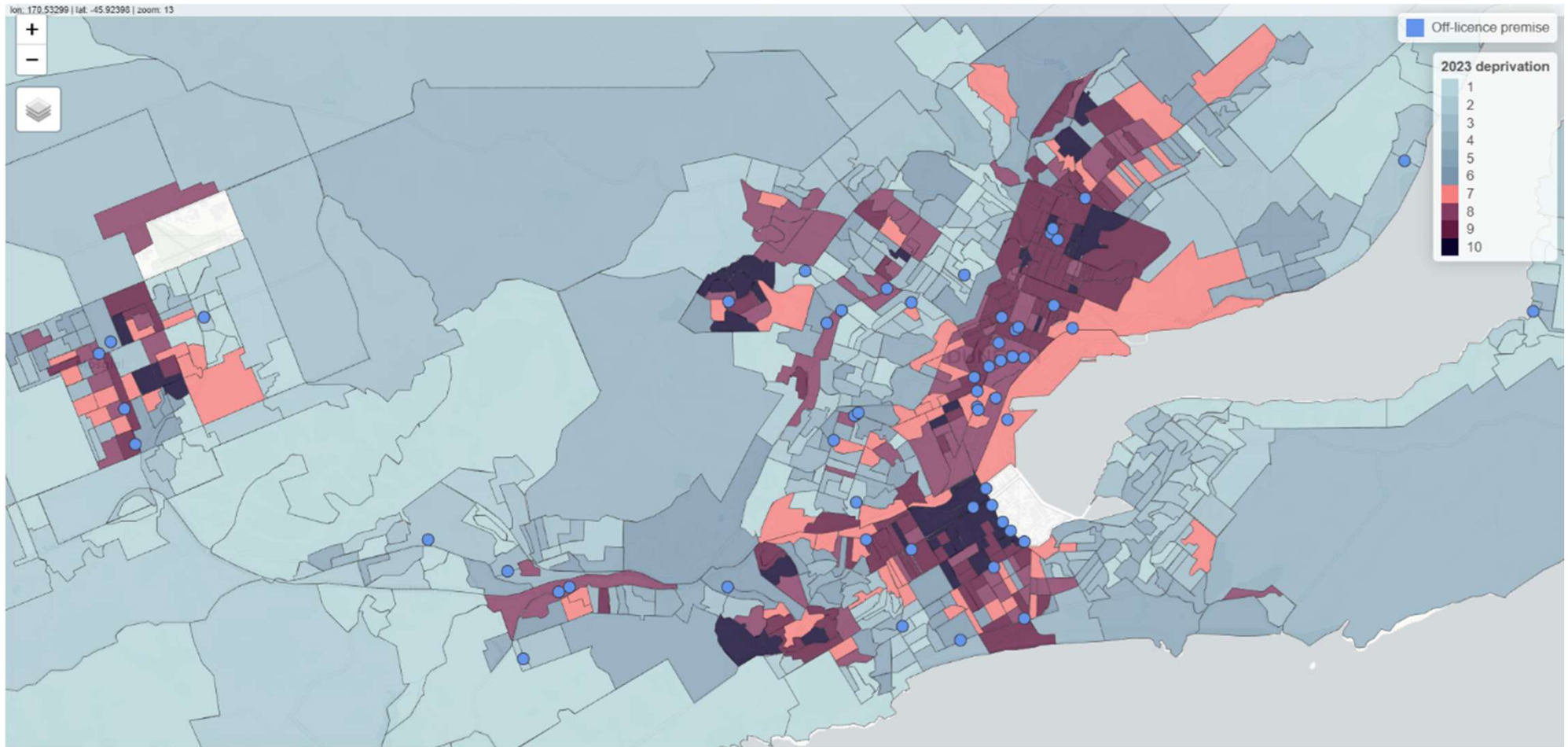
There is a city-and-country-wide cost of alcohol harm

Accessibility and access to alcohol can increase the likelihood of harm

Special licence terms can go further to minimising alcohol harm at events



Density of off-licenses across Ōtepoti Dunedin





Possible LAP Content Options – Location/Hours/OWD

- On-licence opening moved from 8am to 9am
- Entertainment venue closing moved from 4am to 3am
- *Move one-way-door time from 2.30am to 1.30am in the CBD*
- No new off-licences in North Dunedin
- Off-licence hours moved from 7am-10pm to *9am-9pm*
- *200m distance restriction of new off-licence to an existing one*
- *No new off-licences in low-income areas and a 'sinking lid' (NZ Deprivation 7-10)*
- *200m distance restriction on new off-licences opening near sensitive areas:*
 - *Education and community facilities (libraries and pools), marae, places of worship, addiction services*





Possible LAP Content Options – Discretionary Conditions

DLCs should include in licences unless good reason not to:

- Requirements around staffing (including training, security, duty managers)
- Host responsibility requirements (serving times, types, size, and price of drinks)
- Management of incidents (*incident register*)
- No external off-licence advertising/promotion of alcohol
- Limit children's on-licence exposure to advertising and promotions
- *Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, e.g. CCTV*
- *Restrictions on the sale of single alcoholic beverages from off-licences*
- *Banning of buy-now-pay-later*





Possible LAP Content Options – Discretionary Conditions

DLCs may include in on/off/club licences:

- Clubs: certified manager present after 5pm or when >50 patrons (risk assessment)
- *Queue management plans*
- *No sales of rapid intoxication drinks after 12am*
- *No marketing/promotion of products likely to encourage dangerous drinking*
- *Limits on alcohol delivery order times, e.g. in line with off-licences*

DLCs may include in special licences:

- *All special licences have midnight cut-off time*
- *Limit of two drinks per serve for events >1000 people*
- *Applicant has consulted with a drug checking service*
- *Alcohol and event management plan for events >400 people*
- *No sale of alcohol where significant proportion of attendees are <18 yrs old*





Next Steps

Date	Activity
23 April 2026	Report to Council to engage more widely on LAP content options
May – June 2026	Engagement on/analysis of possible LAP content options
22 July 2026	Report to Council seeking approval for Draft LAP for consultation
August 2026	Consultation on Draft LAP
September 2026	Hearings and deliberations
15 October 2026	Report to Council to approve new LAP



