



Local Area Profile – Sex Establishments

Purpose

This area profile has been developed to enhance the Statement of Policy in respect of Sex Establishments and provide guidance to applicants, operators and the public about the types of venues, both licensed and unlicensed, within the Council's administrative area.

Bristol Profile

Geographical facts

- The population of Bristol is estimated to be **463,400** people.
- At **42** square miles, Bristol is the largest city in the south west and one of the ten 'core cities' in Great Britain.
- The city is divided into **34** Wards.

In June 2017, Bristol City Council developed an extensive dataset of profiles containing statistical information by Ward. These were updated in December 2021. Each document contains statistical information in relation to population, deprivation, quality of life, health and wellbeing, life expectancy, child poverty, crime, education, social care, housing and ethnicity, and can be viewed on the Councils website at <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/statistics-census-information/new-wards-data-profiles>

Information is also available by different themes such as geography and areas, environment, and business and economy, amongst others on the Open Data Bristol webpage.

Defined Localities

There are currently three localities which have been defined for the purpose of determining applications for sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas. Localities are generally defined on application for a new venue, and are subject to change depending on the nature of the application and consideration of its location within the city.

The current localities are:

City Centre area – the area from Welshback and Castle Park at the South to Colston Street at the North, and including the Harbourside area at the West to Temple Way Underpass at the East.

The area is a mixed use area, with a range of daytime and nighttime activities. It is the primary location for nighttime economy within Bristol, and incorporates many of the late night dance venues within the city. It is also increasingly residential, with development taking place in areas which were historically retail, hospitality or industrial premises. It incorporates

the Harbourside area where there is a significant hospitality offer, as well as the Central Promenade and Old City which includes three theatres, a transport hub, and significant levels of footfall on weekends and evenings. There are also the Broadmead and Cabot Circus shopping areas, which are primarily given over to retail, hospitality, and activity premises. There are also a number of LGBTQ+ venues within this area.

Old Market/West Street – the area of Old Market Street and West Street approximately bounded by New Street and Lawfords Gate to the north, Trinity Road and Trinity Street to the east, Unity Street and Waterloo Road to the south and Temple Way Underpass to the west

The Old Market/West Street area is mixed use, with residential and office accommodation generally above and behind retail and hospitality uses. The area has historically been host to a cluster of LGBTQ+ venues.

Bishopston / Redland / Cotham /Ashley Locality – the area including Cheltenham Road and Gloucester Road, and the residential areas directly abutting these roads.

This area is primarily residential, with a primary road which is mainly retail and hospitality running through the centre.

Sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas

Sexual entertainment venues (SEVs), sex shops and sex cinemas are regulated under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982.

There are currently two licensed SEVs in Bristol in the City Centre area, along with one licensed sex shop.

There is one licensed sex shop in the Old Market/West Street area. There are no licensed sex cinemas in the Bristol administrative area.

Sexual entertainment venues are premises where there is a performance to an audience, that may or may not include nudity, and where the performance is intended to sexually stimulate.

Any premises which has a licence to sell alcohol on the premises may provide this type of entertainment up to 11 times in a 12 month period, no more than once a month without the need for a licence under this regime. Some premises have a condition stating that this type of entertainment can't take place, and therefore they wouldn't be able to use this exemption.

Sex shops are any shop which mainly sells sex articles, including items for sexual stimulation, or films intended to sexually stimulate, commonly known as R-Rated films.

Sex cinemas are any premises which shows films intended to sexually stimulate, commonly known as R-Rated films. Cinemas which only show films rated U, PG, 12A, 15 or 18 do not require a licence under this regime.

Other sex related premises

The Council recognises that in a large and diverse city there will be a wide range of other sex related premises which may but do not necessarily fall into a licensing regime or may be dealt with by other agencies. An outline of some of these types of venues are included below.

Entertainment or performance premises – some premises may have performances which include elements of nudity but do not fall into the category of a sexual entertainment venue. Examples of this are burlesque, where the primary purpose of the performance is not sexual stimulation. Whilst there may be some nudity the focus is on the performance. We are aware of a number of entertainment venues who have performances of this nature on a regular basis. It is generally considered that these types of performance do not require licensing under this regime.

Sex on sex premises – premises where sex between consenting adults takes place. This may be in individual rooms or within shared spaces. It is reasonable to assume that some of these events also take place within private residences or short-term rented accommodation. Examples of this are swingers' clubs, or BDSM clubs. We are aware of several clubs of this nature within the city. Clubs where performances take place for an audience with an intention to sexually stimulate are likely to require licensing, but cases would be considered on their individual circumstances and nature of the venue.

Sex for payment premises – premises where sex is available for payment are not licensable by the local authority. If they are being run as a brothel then they are unlawful and would be dealt with by the police. They are commonly identified as massage parlours on advertising. We are aware that there are a number of premises within the city which match these criteria. The council have no powers in respect of the sex element of these premises.

Other events or occasions with a potential sex-related element – Life drawing classes, nude or partially nude butler services, nude dining events and other events of a similar nature are unlikely to require licensing.