

STREET DRINKING CONTROL AREA

- Following the successful introduction of a control on street drinking in and around Westminster Cathedral Piazza, Westminster Council has brought forward proposals to extend the scheme to cover the whole of central and north Westminster.
- The proposal is principally designed to tackle problems associated with street drinkers and rough sleepers. It is not designed to affect the licensed trade as such.

The Proposal

- If introduced, the proposals would see an area stretching from St James Park in the south, Regent's Park in the north East and Hyde Park in the West designated as a controlled drinking area. The area would cover the whole of the West End, Bayswater and the Edgware Road.
- The Council acknowledges that the area is large, but this is designed to encompass all the current known hot spots where excessive drinking takes place and also adjoining areas where it could be displaced to if more restricted controls were introduced.
- It will not be an offence to drink alcohol within the designated area, but the police will have discretionary powers to ask people to stop drinking and to confiscate alcohol.

Next Steps

- The ability to introduce such a scheme is granted to the local authority under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, which imposes an obligation on the local authority to engage in consultation with local businesses and residents. The council has therefore written to all licensees.
- The consultation period closes in early March and the WLA has made representations to ensure that legitimate drinking on licensed public forecourts or outside traditional pubs is not affected by the proposed scheme.