

Request for Decision



To: Regular Meeting

From: **Development, Engineering & Planning**

Date: June 15, 2020

Subject: Local Government Approval for Temporary Expanded Liquor Service Areas (File PD20-13)

Recommendation: **THAT Council direct staff to inform the Liquor and Cannabis Control Branch (LCRB) that Council wishes to pre-approve all liquor primary, food primary and manufacturer establishments within the City's jurisdiction, that may apply for an expanded service area under LCRB Policy Directive 20-13 Temporary Expanded Service Area Authorization,**

THAT Council direct staff to work with all liquor primary, food primary and manufacturer establishments currently regulated by the LCRB within the City's jurisdiction on the new Provincial directive; AND THAT, while the LCRB Policy Directive 20-13 is in effect, Council delegate the authority to the CAO to approve temporary expanded service areas onto City property provided they meet the guidelines contained in this report

Background

The Liquor Control and Regulation Branch (LCRB) has issued a new Policy Directive 20-13 (see Appendix 1) to support B.C.'s licensed establishments in safely reopening for business while respecting the Provincial Health Officer's orders and recommendations related to the Covid-19 pandemic. This directive authorizes food primary, liquor primary and manufacturer licensees to temporarily expand their service area footprint until October 31, 2020. It is noted that these temporary approvals will be focused on expanding licensee service areas only and will not increase currently approved person/patron capacities or occupant loads.

Under this Policy Directive, local governments have two options for approval of temporary expansions for liquor primary and manufacturer licensees:

- 1) Pre-approval to cover all liquor primary and manufacturer establishments within their jurisdiction who may apply for an expanded service area; or
- 2) Review/approval of all individual applications for all liquor primary and manufacturer expansions prior to licensees submitting their completed application package to the LCRB.

Currently, the City reviews all new and amended LCRB licence applications and provides a Council resolution in relation to land use and safety regulations as well as potential impacts to the surrounding neighbourhood and the community at large. The City also regulates the use of city property, sidewalks, roads and boulevards through its sidewalk patio and road closure policy and approval process.

Recommended Option

Staff is recommending that Option 1 (pre-approval of all licensees in the City that apply for an expanded service area) be approved by Council for the following reasons:

- a) This will allow for faster processing of applications and enable businesses to open as soon as possible in accordance with new Covid-19 protocols.
- b) Applicants will still be required to disclose that they meet all local government requirements (but the City will not see individual applications in advance of approval).
- c) This option involves less City staff time and resources.
- d) Measures are already in place for staff to regulate the use of city sidewalks and public property (see Appendix 2: Policy No. 111 Sidewalk Patios on City Property, Policy No. 114 Temporary Commercial Use on Public Property and Policy No. 1207 Use of City Properties or Facilities).
- e) The City will receive notice when the expanded service area is authorized by the LCRB.
- f) Staff will work with businesses to ensure that the following guidelines are considered in their expansion plans:
 - Avoid or limit the removal of required on-site parking stalls.
 - No change to entrance and exit routes from the building without City approval.
 - Ensure safe and accessible pedestrian traffic at all times.
 - Provide safe and accessible travel paths for persons with disabilities.
 - Limit any negative effects (noise) the expanded area could have on neighbouring properties.
 - Implement COVID 19 protocols as required by Interior Health and WorkSafe BC.

Benefits or Impacts

Community Engagement
n/a

Community Livability

- Expanded areas and outdoor seating will help enliven the downtown and create a more accessible pedestrian environment.

Economic Impact

- This strategy allows businesses to optimize their business operations faster and safer and reduces approval times.

Fiscal Responsibility

- The recommended option has no financial impact on the City.

Policy/Legislation

Policy Directive 20-13 (Appendix 1), and City Policy No.'s 111, 114 and 1207.

Attachments

Appendix 1 - Policy Directive 20-13

Appendix 2 - City of Grand Forks Policy No.'s 111, 114 and 1207

Recommendation

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THAT Council direct staff to work with all liquor primary, food primary and manufacturer establishments currently regulated by the LCRB within the City's jurisdiction on the new Provincial directive; AND THAT, while the LCRB Policy Directive 20-13 is in effect, Council delegate the authority to the CAO to approve temporary expanded service areas onto City property provided they meet the guidelines contained in this report

Options

1. THAT Council accepts the report.
2. THAT Council does not accept the report.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	20200615 RFD RMC LCRB Policy Directive 20-13.docx
Attachments:	- 20200615 Appendix 1 Policy Directive 20-13.pdf - 20200615 Appendix 2 Policies.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jun 10, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Duncan Redfearn was completed by assistant Daniel Drexler

Duncan Redfearn - Jun 10, 2020 - 8:34 AM