

Christchurch City Council
**Local Alcohol Policy
2025**



ccc.govt.nz/localalcoholpolicy

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Purpose.....	3
3. Policy Scope	3
4. Policy Statement	4
5. Maximum trading hours for off-licences	4
6. Freeze on the issue of new off-licences.....	4
7. Restriction on the location of new bottle stores.....	5
8. Review of Policy	5
9. Definitions	6
10. Administrative information	7
Appendix 1: Areas where the freeze on the issue of new off-licences applies – District	8
Appendix 1A: Areas where the freeze on the issue of new off-licences applies – Northwest	9
Appendix 1B: Areas where the freeze on the issue of new off-licences applies – East.....	10
Appendix 1C: Areas where the freeze on the issue of new off-licences applies – Southwest.....	11

Local Alcohol Policy 2025

Christchurch City Council Local Alcohol Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (**'the Act'**) provides a system of control for the sale and supply of alcohol in New Zealand.
- 1.2. The object of the Act (section 4) is that: the sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly; and the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.
- 1.3. The Act also allows councils to develop policies on how alcohol should be sold and supplied in their districts in order to meet the objectives of the Act.
- 1.4. The Christchurch City Council (**'the Council'**) finalised the Local Alcohol Policy on 30 June 2025 in a session of an adjourned 11 June 2025 Council Meeting (CNCL/2025/00250). This Local Alcohol Policy (**'the Policy'**) has been produced pursuant to that resolution.
- 1.5. The Council developed the Policy having regard to the information stated under s78(2) of the Act, which the Council published in a [Research Report](#) dated January 2025. The Council also consulted the New Zealand Police, Medical Officers of Health, and Licensing Inspectors as required by s78(4) of the Act. The Council undertook a Special Consultative Procedure, as required by s79 of the Act, and produced a [Submissions Report](#).
- 1.6. This document constitutes the Council's Local Alcohol Policy for the Christchurch and Banks Peninsula District (**'the district'**).

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The purpose of the Policy is to set out the Council's policy positions on the following licensing matters, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Act:
 - maximum trading hours;
 - location of licensed premises by reference to proximity to premises or facilities of a particular kind or kinds; and
 - whether further licences (or licences of a particular kind or kinds) should be issued for premises in the district or any stated part of the district.

3. Policy Scope

- 3.1. The Policy cannot and does not contain policy positions on matters that are:
 - not related to licensing; or,
 - are outside the scope of section 77(1) of the Act.
- 3.2. In accordance with the Act, the District Licensing Committee (**'DLC'**) and the Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority (**'ARLA'**) must have regard to the Policy when issuing or renewing licences in the district.

4. Policy Statement

- 4.1. The principal objectives of the Policy are to provide policy direction so that alcohol licensing decisions:
 - are consistent with the object of the Act;
 - are proportionate; and,
 - reflect the views of local communities.
- 4.2. The Policy enters into force on 25 August 2025, except for clause 5.2 (trading hours policy), which enters into force on 25 October 2025.

5. Maximum trading hours for off-licences

- 5.1. Research suggests that reducing trading hours can be an effective way of reducing alcohol-related harm. Focusing on the night trading hours of off-licences recognises that most alcohol-related harm occurs at night or in the early hours of the morning. This policy provision restricts people's ability to make late-night decisions to purchase additional alcohol to be consumed in an unsupervised environment when they may have already been drinking.
- 5.2. Pursuant to sections 77(1)(e) and 45 of the Act, the maximum trading hours for off-licences in the district are 7.00am to 9.00pm, Monday to Sunday. This policy provision applies to new and existing off-licences.
- 5.3. No off-licences should be issued with longer trading hours than those specified in clause 5.2.
- 5.4. The Council's policy position on maximum trading hours is not intended to set an expectation that the DLC or ARLA should issue every off-licence with the maximum hours. The DLC and ARLA may issue licences with more restrictive hours than the maximum trading hours specified in clause 5.2.

6. Freeze on the issue of new off-licences

- 6.1. This policy provision aims to address the disproportionate level of alcohol-related harm experienced by higher-deprivation communities by preventing further concentration of off-licensed premises in these areas.
- 6.2. The Council's policy position is that:
 - 6.2.1. there should be a freeze on the issuing of new off-licences in the areas of high deprivation specified and shown in **Appendix 1**; and
 - 6.2.2. where the freeze applies, the DLC and ARLA should refuse to issue any new off-licences.
- 6.3. An applicant can apply for an exemption to this policy provision if they can show in their application that the primary purpose of their business is not the sale and supply of alcohol.
- 6.4. The presumption of a freeze does not apply to applications for new off-licence premises located outside of the areas specified and shown in **Appendix 1**. However, the DLC and ARLA may consider whether issuing the licence would, in its opinion, contribute to the further concentration of off-licensed premises servicing high deprivation areas.

- 6.5. This policy provision does not apply to:
- 6.5.1. renewals of existing off-licences;
 - 6.5.2. a change of business ownership for premises where an off-licence exists prior to the commencement of the Policy.

7. Restriction on the location of new bottle stores

- 7.1. This policy provision responds to community preferences that bottle stores are not located close to sites where exposure to alcohol should be minimised, or certain parts of the population may be vulnerable. These sites are considered 'sensitive sites'.
- 7.2. The Council's policy position is that, subject to the requirements of any resource consent or District Plan rule, licences will not be issued for new bottle stores that are proposed to be located:
- 7.2.1. within 200 metres of the University of Canterbury and primary or secondary education facilities or addiction treatment / rehabilitation facilities outside of the Central City
 - 7.2.2. within 50 metres of the Christchurch Bus Interchange and primary or secondary education facilities within the Central City
 - 7.2.3. within 100 metres of addiction treatment / rehabilitation facilities within the Central City
 - 7.2.4. within 50 metres of primary or secondary education facilities or addiction treatment / rehabilitation facilities in Banks Peninsula.
- 7.3. An applicant can apply for an exemption to this policy provision if they can show they have engaged with the affected community and can demonstrate in their application that they can manage the premises in a way that addresses any concerns.
- 7.4. This policy provision does not apply to:
- 7.4.1. renewals of existing licences;
 - 7.4.2. a change of business ownership for premises where a licence exists prior to the commencement of the Policy.

8. Review of Policy

- 8.1. The Policy will be reviewed by the Council no later than six years from the commencement of the Policy, as required by section 97 of the Act.

9. Definitions

9.1. For the purpose of the Policy, the table below defines certain terms.

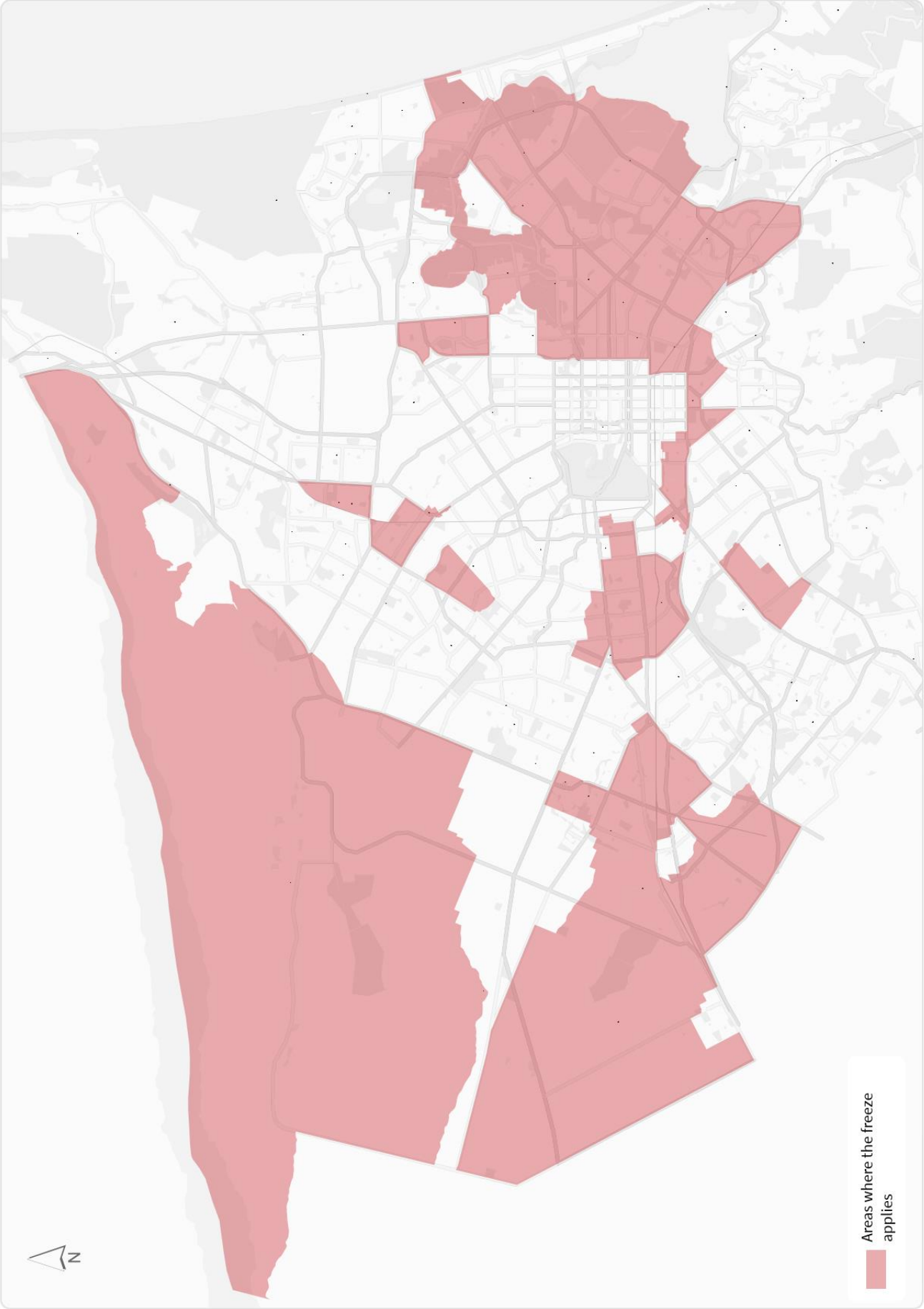
9.2. Unless the context requires another meaning, terms and expressions used but not defined in the Policy that are defined in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, have the same meaning as in that Act.

TERM	DEFINITION
Act	means the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012
Addiction treatment/rehabilitation facilities	means premises where people are receiving residential or day treatment for addiction and/or are undertaking rehabilitation.
Area of high deprivation	means areas measured at a deprivation level of 8-10 using the New Zealand Index of Socioeconomic Deprivation (NZDep). <i>Note: NZDep uses a scale between 1 (being low deprivation) and 10 (being high deprivation) and measures deprivation based on census data across eight dimensions: communication, income, employment, qualifications, home ownership, support, living space, and dwelling condition.</i>
Banks Peninsula	means the area defined as within the boundaries of the Banks Peninsula Community Board Ward.
Bottle store	means retail premises where at least 85% of the annual sales revenue is expected to be earned from the sale of alcohol for consumption somewhere else. (See section 32(1) of the Act).
Central City	means that part of city contained within Bealey, Fitzgerald, Moorhouse, Deans and Harper Avenues. <i>Note: This is based on the definition of 'Central City' in the Christchurch District Plan as of 7 April 2025.</i>
Christchurch Bus Interchange	means the bus interchange located on the corner of Lichfield and Colombo Streets.
New licence (or application for a new licence)	means an application for a licence for a premises that has not traded pursuant to licence prior to the commencement of the Policy.
Primary education facilities	means a facility for the provision of 'primary education' as defined in section 10 of the Education and Training Act 2020.
Secondary education facilities	means a facility for the provision of 'secondary education' as defined in section 10 of the Education and Training Act 2020.
Sensitive sites	means facilities and places where the community has indicated exposure to alcohol should be minimised. For the purposes of the Policy, these are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary and secondary education facilities • Addiction treatment / rehabilitation facilities • The Christchurch Bus Interchange • The University of Canterbury.
University of Canterbury	means the Ilam and Dovedale campuses only.

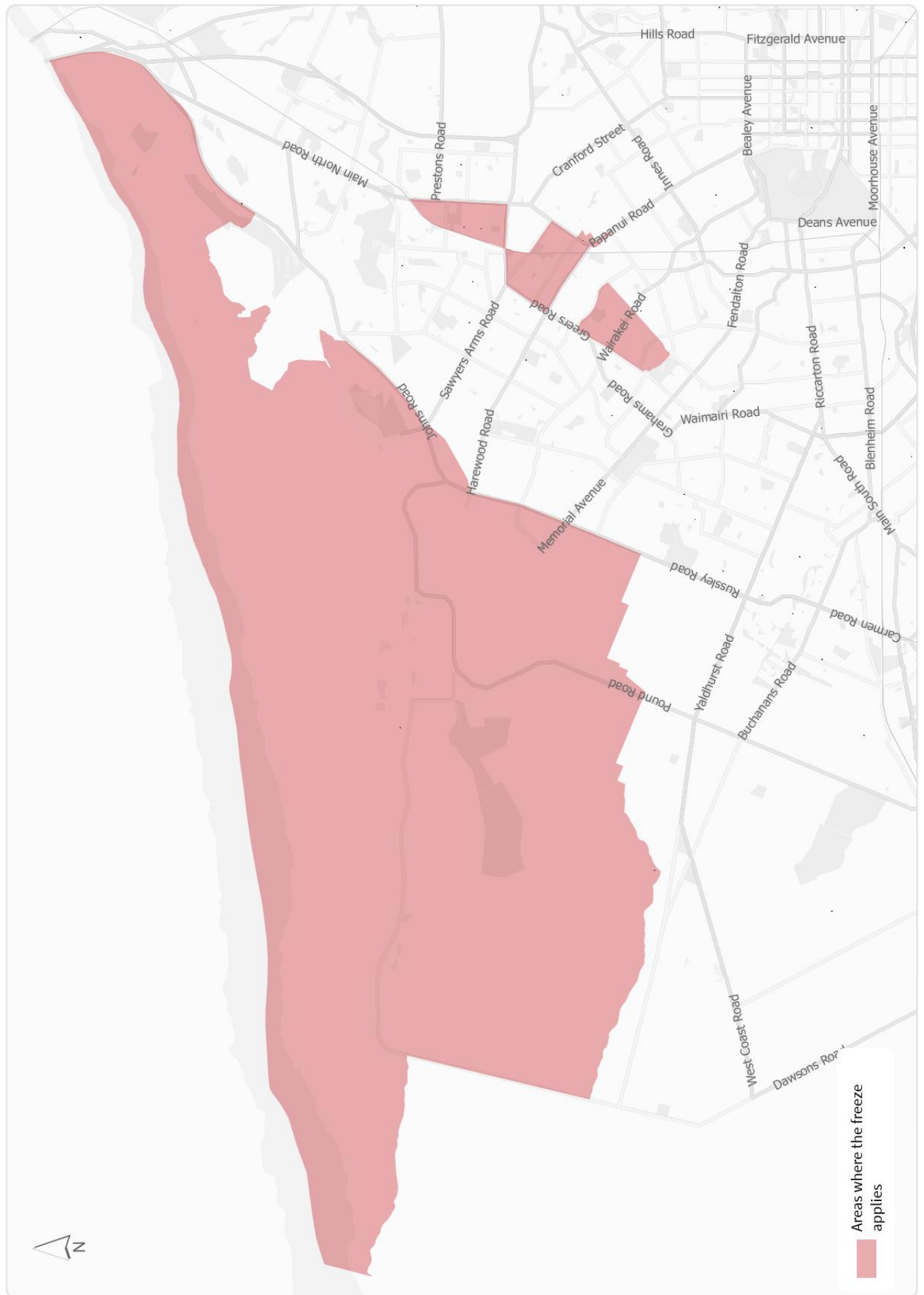
10. Administrative information

Policy name	Local Alcohol Policy 2025
Commencement date	25 August 2025, except for clause 5.2, which will enter into force on 25 October 2025.
Date of most recent review	n/a
Resolution number	CNCL/2025/00250 and CNCL/2025/00274.
Review date	To be reviewed by August 2031.
Owning group/unit	Strategic Policy and Resilience
Team responsible / role	Strategic Policy

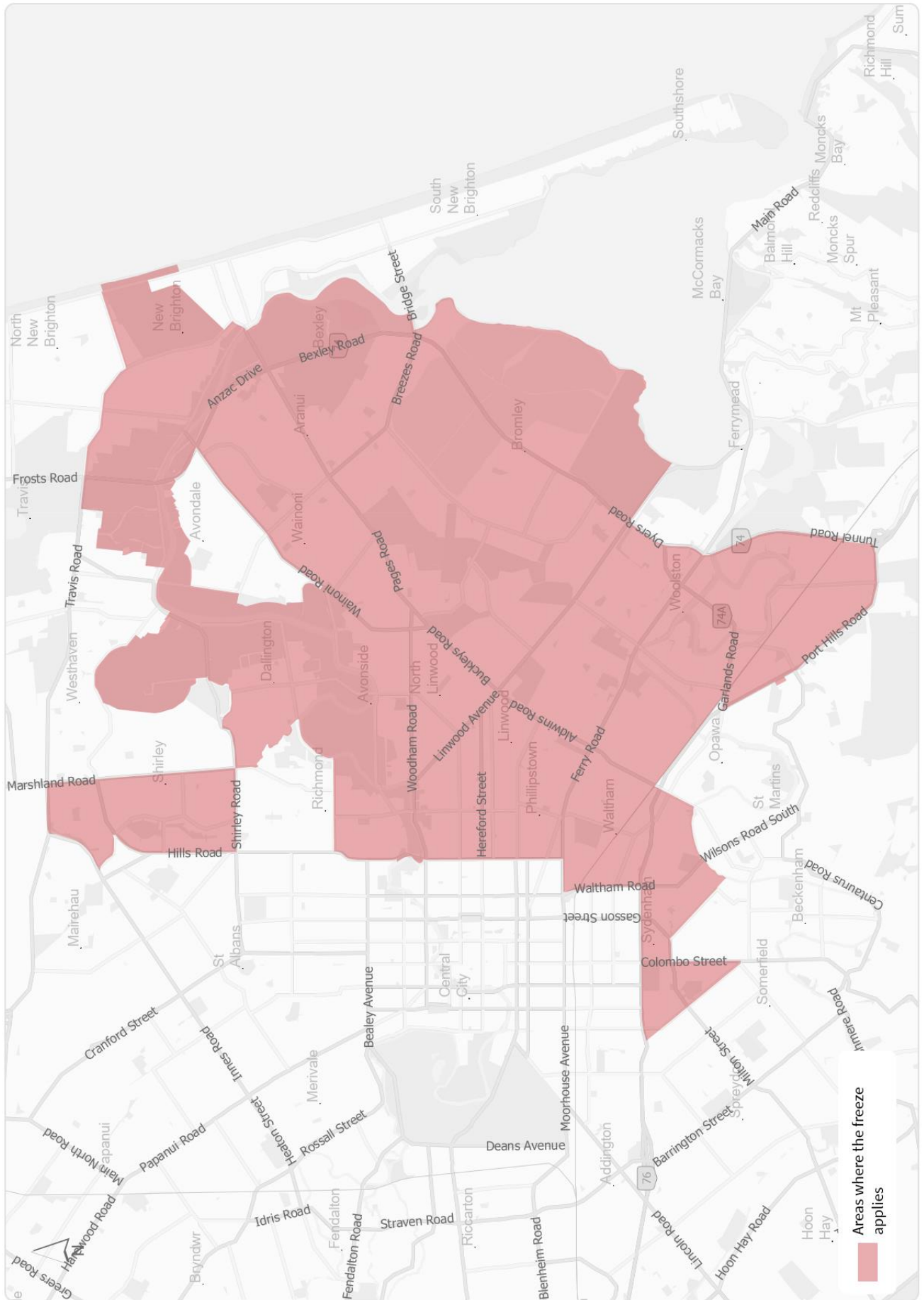
Appendix 1: Areas where the freeze on the issue of new off-licences applies – District



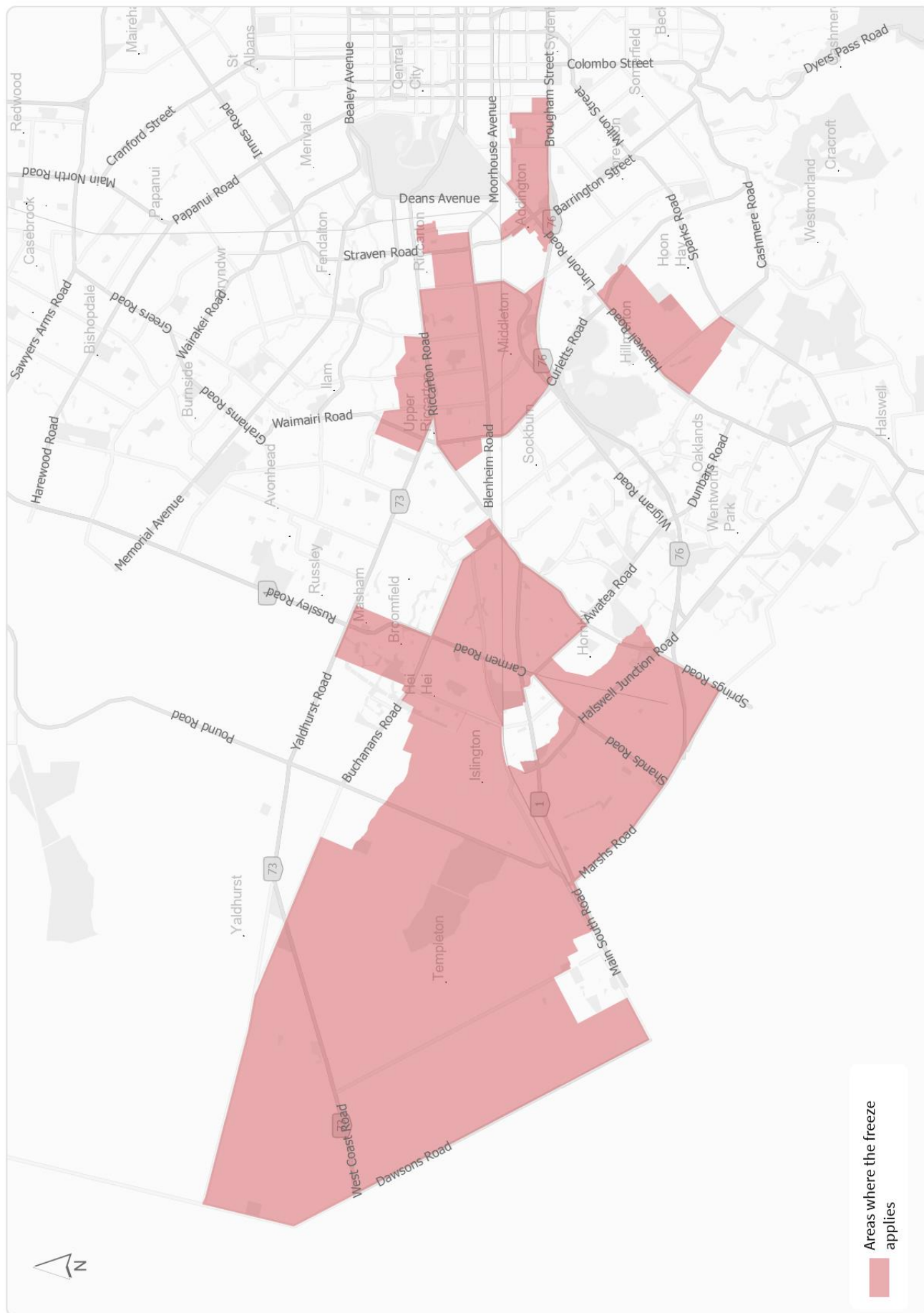
Appendix 1A: Areas where the freeze on the issue of new off-licences applies – Northwest



Appendix 1B: Areas where the freeze on the issue of new off-licences applies – East



Appendix 1C: Areas where the freeze on the issue of new off-licences applies – Southwest



Christchurch City Council
**Local Alcohol Policy
2025**

ccc.govt.nz/localalcoholpolicy