

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 2 February 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 2 February 2023 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Sophie Anne Fernandes (Deputy
Chairman)
Brendan Barns
James Bromiley-Davis
Deputy Peter Dunphy
Mary Durcan
Anthony David Fitzpatrick

Deputy John Fletcher
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Deputy Shравan Joshi
Jason Pritchard
David Sales

In Attendance

James Tumbridge (Chair)

Officers:

Chloe Ainsworth	- Town Clerk's Department
Andrew Buckingham	- Town Clerk's Department
Joanne Hill	- Environment Department
Frank Marchione	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Aggie Minas	- Environment Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Rachel Pye	- Environment Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Graham Packham, James Tumbridge (the Chair) and Ceri Wilkins.

The Chair was unable to attend the meeting in person and joined the meeting virtually. In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair chaired the meeting under Standing Order 30.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 12 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

4. **MINUTES OF LICENSING (HEARING) SUB-COMMITTEES**

4.1 **Sisi's - 4 November 2022**

The Committee received the public minutes of the licensing hearing in respect of the premises of Sisi's, 7-9 Saint Bride Street, London, EC4A 4AS held on 4 November 2022.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be noted.

4.2 **Sisi's - 22 November 2022**

The Committee received the public minutes of the licensing hearing in respect of the premises Sisi's, 7-9 Saint Bride Street, London, EC4A 4AS held on 22 November 2022.

The Chair of the Licensing (Hearing) Sub-Committee outlined two factors which complicated this licensing hearing. First, the presentation of the application by the applicant's representative. Secondly, that the complaints of the objectors were of private nuisance rather than public nuisance.

The Chair of the Licensing Committee informed the Committee that Officers would be reviewing the model conditions and that this would provide an opportunity for Members to refresh their knowledge.

A Member stated that the model conditions should reflect the City Corporation's leisure programme, Destination City.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be noted.

4.3 **The University of Chicago Booth School of Business - 4 January 2023**

The Committee received the public minutes of the adjourned licensing hearing in respect of the premises the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, One Bartholomew Close, Barts Square, City of London, EC1A 7BL held on 4 January 2023.

The Licensing (Hearing) Sub-Committee informed the Committee that the end times initially proposed for licensable activities were not appropriate for the area of the business and that it was unfortunate that the applicant did not utilise the pre-application process, which would have highlighted this.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be noted.

5. **APPEALS AGAINST LICENSING (HEARING) SUB-COMMITTEE DECISIONS**

The Comptroller & City Solicitor advised the Committee that there had been no appeals against Licensing (Hearing) Sub-Committee decisions.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

6. DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT PERTAINING TO PREMISES LICENCES

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment detailing the premises licences, and variations to premises licences, granted under the Licensing Act 2003 and administered by the Licensing Service from 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2023/24

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Executive Director Environment presenting for approval the revenue budgets for the Licensing Committee for 2023/24.

Members noted that the Executive Director Environment was still identifying savings and were concerned that the Committee was being asked to approve an incomplete report. The Committee was informed that it was not unusual for committees to receive financial reports with savings yet to be identified. It was noted that Members could approve the report and request updates at future committee meetings to scrutinise any additional savings proposals.

The Committee remained concerned that Officers were not able to provide assurances that future savings would not be sourced from licensing services. As such, the Committee decided not to approve the recommendations in the report due to a lack of information about the savings proposals.

RESOLVED – That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Licensing Committee, to consider the report when further clarity on the unidentified savings was provided.

8. DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment setting out the high-level business plan for the Environment Department for 2023/24.

The Committee expressed its discomfort at approving the business plan for areas of the Environment Department outside of licensing.

Members discussed the importance of striking the right balance between providing too much or too little licensing information within the high-level business plan. A Member stated that the plan was useful in ensuring that the disparate areas of the Environment Department were working towards the same goals. Members agreed that the plan in its current form did not contain enough information about how licensing contributes to the overall Environment Department strategy.

The Committee requested that an annex or sub-section focusing on licensing be added to the report and brought to a future meeting.

The Chair informed the Committee that he, the Deputy Chair and Officers in the Environment Department would explore how the Licensing Committee could be more involved in setting the licensing strategy in the future.

RESOLVED, that Members –

- Note the factors taken into consideration in compiling the Environment Department Business Plan; and
- Approve, subject to the incorporation of any changes sought by this Committee, the elements of the departmental high-level Business Plan 2023/24 which fall within the remit of the Licensing Committee.

9. **LATE NIGHT LEVY - 12 MONTH REPORT (1 OCT 2021 - 30 SEPT 2022)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment examining the eighth year of operation of the late-night levy.

The Chair informed the Committee that Officers would explore how to utilise any underspend from the late-night levy.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. **GAMBLING ACT ANNUAL REVIEW OF FEES 2023-24**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment proposing the annual fees for premises requiring a licence under the Gambling Act 2005 for the period of 2023 to 24.

Members were informed that the incorrect appendix to the report had been included within the agenda pack. As Members had therefore not had adequate opportunity to review the proposed fees, it was decided that the report would be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Committee would consider the report at the next Licensing Committee meeting.

11. **SEX ESTABLISHMENTS - ANNUAL REVIEW OF FEES 2023/24**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment proposing the annual fees for those premises requiring a licence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as a sex establishment for the period of 2023 to 24.

The Deputy Chair reminded the Committee that there was a 0 number limit of sexual entertainment venues within the City. It was confirmed that there were no applications in progress.

RESOLVED - That Members agree the proposed fees for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

12. QUARTERLY LICENSING REPORT Q4 2022

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of the City of London Police providing the Quarter 4 update for 2022.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

13. OPERATION REFRAME UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of the City of London Police providing an update on the Operation Reframe event, which took place on 3 December.

Members were informed that the next Operation Reframe was planned for 24 February and that the City of London Police were working with Transport for London (TfL) on the theme of getting home safely after a night out.

In response to a query from a Member, the Committee was informed that drink spiking has been witnessed on CCTV.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

14. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

18. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

One questions was raised.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 2.51 pm

Chairman

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