

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 16 July 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 16 July 2024 at 1.45 pm

### Present

#### Members:

James Tumbridge (Chairman)	Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Deputy John Fletcher (Deputy Chairman)	Graham Packham
Brendan Barns	David Sales
Deputy Peter Dunphy	Deputy Ceri Wilkins
Mary Durcan	Joanna Tufuo Abeyie
Anthony David Fitzpatrick	

#### Officers:

Andrew Buckingham	- Town Clerk's Department
Aggie Minas	- Environment Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Rachel Pye	- Environment Department
Gavin Stedman	- Environment Department
Raquel Pinto	- Town Clerk's Department
Nikki Gander	- City of London Police
Paul Holmes	- City of London Police
Emma Anckorn	- City of London Police

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received Sophie Fernandes, Michael Hudson and Jason Pritchard.

#### 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 13 June 2024, be approved as correct record.

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

The Committee received the minutes from the Licensing (Hearing) Sub-Committee in respect of the premises Tokyo Hit, Ground Floor & Basement, 165 Fleet Street, EC4A 2AE, on the 10th of April 2024.

#### 5. APPEALS AGAINST LICENSING (HEARING) SUB COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The Comptroller & City Solicitor provided an update from the previous committee in relation to one appeal logged in relation to the Sub-Committee decision regarding the hearing on the premise license for Tokyo Hit, Ground

Floor & Basement, 165 Fleet Street, EC4A 2AE, held on the 10th of April 2024. A summons from the Court had yet to be received, therefore the Comptroller and City Solicitor would contact the Court for an update and keep the Committee apprised.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of obtaining information as to the status of this, as there was a clear deadline for the submission of an appeal, which would have since lapsed. It was unclear whether a complaint or appeal had been lodged and accepted by the Court, and therefore Officers were given a steer to make further enquiries and report back to the Committee.

RECEIVED

6. **LICENSING SERVICE BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24: PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Port Health and Public Protection Director, Environment Department, with a summary of the progress made by the Licensing Team in the delivery of its priority objectives during 2023/24.

In response to a question about the 'Al Fresco' policy, the Committee noted that the pavement licensing regime was now permanent and that a decision report would go to the Planning and Transportation Committee on July 23. The Government was consulting on unifying the pavement and alcohol licensing regimes due to overlapping jurisdictions. The Committee also noted the lack of a statutory right of appeal under the Business and Planning Act 2020, with government guidance suggesting local authorities create an internal review process. At the proposal of the Chairman, a report was commissioned to the Planning and Transportation Committee to explore creating a sub-committee with members from both the Planning and Licensing Committees to handle appeals.

The Chairman assured the Committee that the proposal was in its exploration phase and would undergo formal approval, with a paper to be presented to the Committee soon. The proposal aimed to address challenges in coordinating the Planning and Transportation Committee and the Licensing Committee. Discussions among officers and the Chairmen of the Policy and Resources, Planning and Transportation, and Licensing Committees led to commissioning a paper to establish a Sub-Committee with Members from both committees to handle relevant inter-linked issues and appeals.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. **CITY OF LONDON MAPPING: LICENSING INTERACTIVE MAP**

The Committee received a report of the Port Health and Public Protection Director, Environment Department, which detailed the outcome of the project work carried out collaboratively by the City of London Licensing and Corporate GIS Teams to investigate whether there may be potential to map streets, spaces or areas of the City that could be suitable for markets, activations, alternative licensing hours or prospective hospitality premises as an interface for City of London stakeholders including residents, members, officers and potential investors.

The Chairman asked for the link to be circulated so that Members could view the information that had been gathered.

Following the scoping of the mapping exercise in February, the licensing interactive map was now live and available for use. Officers offered one-on-one guided sessions to Members if these would be of use. The project had produced a digital platform hosting layers of useful data, which mostly existed previously but had now been consolidated in one place to provide insights into the City of London's licensing landscape.

The Committee noted that the map was beneficial for various stakeholders, including prospective businesses, residents looking at applications, and officers. There were additional layers still under examination for future inclusion as outlined in paragraph 11 of the report.

This initiative was intended to complement the existing regime, including pre-application advice, access to officers, and local knowledge. Work to promote this would soon be underway. The team would be working with the media team for dissemination to stakeholders, potentially through a press release, communication with trade bodies, and focused communication via existing email networks and face-to-face contacts with the licensed trade.

A Member encouraged the Committee to use this tool as it provided useful information like terminal hours for licensed premises. The Member found that the symbols for licensed premises were difficult to see on the map despite suppressing layers and asked that this symbol be made more prominent. Members also asked for the following to be included, locations of public toilets and ranks, accessible entrances to assist those with accessibility requirements, that restaurants and bars were shown separately to encourage visitors and families in the city, and that venues with late operating hours from 11pm onwards were also shown separately.

The Committee noted that this map sat in the city maps page, and that information regarding licensed premises could be found in a drop-down menu. The aim was to get this map up and running, however this remained a work in progress and officers would look to up-keep and maintain the information on this.

The Chairman added that before considering adding more layers, that a conversation was had to look into what can be made available and that this can be brought back to Committee for a further discussion. The aim was to get this tool up and running, and once the concept was proved and the map was reliable, the team can continue to explore and see what can be made available.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2023-2024**

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Port Health & Public Protection Director which compared the revenue outturn for the

services overseen by the Licensing Committee in 2023/24 with the final budget for the year.

In response to a question regarding funds from City Bridge, the Committee noted that this was correct with the team having entered into a Section 101 agreement which extended their enforcement district into parts of Southwark and Tower Hamlets. This expansion meant they now covered Tower Bridge, Millennium Bridge, Southside, and City Bridge Foundation funds. Two licensing officers were assigned to undertake enforcement work every day of the year. Their primary function was to combat illegal street trading. Additionally, these officers served as capable guardians, trained in suicide prevention, and handling pickpockets and other undesirable activities on the bridges.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Interim) Environment, the premises licences, and variations to premises licences, granted under the Licensing Act 2003 and administered by the Licensing Service from 1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024.

The Chairman explained that he had asked Officers to look carefully into future reports of this nature. Specifically, regarding Appendix 3, which contained various numbers about inspections and warning letters. The Chairman reminded Members that the organisation managed 1,000 venues in a relatively small area, significantly more than many other local authorities. It was also explained that as the City of London Corporation paid closer attention to their venues, in comparison to other local authorities, this contributed to a better-managed area and system. Therefore, Officers were asked to contextualise the numbers in future reports. It was also noted that a high or low number was not automatically indicative of a negative or positive situation. Given the number of premises monitored and the regular inspections conducted, this was to be read as a positive outcome.

In response to a question regarding application fees, the committee noted the fee was set in statute. This application fee was the same across the board and when premises requested a time limited license, these expired at the end date and therefore premise were not invoiced for a renewal fee.

A Member queried what the outcome was regarding Proud City following a complaint about a fight. It was noted that this issue originally came as a noise complaint. City of London Police had since engaged and dealt with the issue, which resulted in no further action. The Chairman added that officers were asked to look at the classification of the complaints to make these more obvious to members in future reports. Another Member added that although it was pleasing to see that the time in which complaints had been logged, were now incorporated into the report, no other complaint had outcomes, which provided Members with useful context. It was therefore asked that this was

added to future reports. The Police also added that with regards to the disturbance at Proud City, this resulted in an arrest.

In response to a query regarding complainants receiving a response, it was noted that the complainant received a report in 15 minutes if this was logged in the night, a visit within 45 minutes and the following day, an environmental health officer follows up on any enforcement action or investigation that's required and then feeds back fully the outcome to the to the complainant.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

**10. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

**12. 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 Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

**13. CITY OF LONDON POLICE QUARTERLY UPDATE QUARTER 2**

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of Police containing data from Quarter 2024, relating to the nighttime economy, offences recorded by police, and police operations.

**14. APPENDIX 4: DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT PERTAINING TO PREMISES LICENCES**

The Committee received a non-public appendix relating to item 9 on the Delegated decisions of the Executive Director Environment pertaining to premises licences.

**15. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

One question on drink spiking was asked.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

**The meeting ended at 2.45 pm**

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Chairman

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