

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

Thursday, 10 July 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 10 July 2025 at 1.45 pm

### Present

#### Members:

Deputy Marianne Fredericks (Chairman)	Jason Pritchard
Joanna Tufuo Abeyie	Sushil Saluja
Brendan Barns	Matthew Waters
Deputy Peter Dunphy MBE	

### In Attendance

Deputy Ceri Wilkins (online)

#### Officers:

Joanne Hill	- Environment Department
Aggie Minas	- Environment Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Rachel Pye	- Environment Department
Raquel Pinto	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Anckorn	- City of London Police
Joshua Gauci	- City of London Police

*It was proposed by Deputy Peter Dunphy, seconded by Jason Pritchard and unanimously agreed by Members of the Committee, that Deputy Marianne Fredericks take the Chair for this meeting.*

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy John Fletcher, James Tumbridge, Alderman Prem Goyal, Deputy Ceri Wilkins, Anthony Fitzpatrick and David Sales.

#### 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 of the meeting held on 13 May 2025 were approved as a correct record.

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

The Committee received the minutes from the Licensing (Hearing) Sub-Committee in respect of Bulbul, Part Ground & Lower Ground Floor, Victoria House, 25 Tudor Street, EC4Y 0DD.

The Chair of the Sub-Committee explained that the hearing was well attended, with many residents and legal representatives present. It concerned an alcohol licence for an Indian restaurant in a residential basement. The Sub-Committee focused on licensing issues and removed off-sales to address concerns about outdoor drinking. Measures like door supervision, smoking restrictions, and a dispersal policy were introduced to balance resident concerns with licensing objectives.

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

The Comptroller and City Solicitor provided an update 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.

An appeal hearing was scheduled for the 25 July 2025, with respondent witness statements due on 11 and 18 July. There were ongoing without prejudice discussions, but the matter is still expected to proceed to court.

**6. REVENUE OUTTURN 2024/25**

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Executive Director Environment, which presented the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2024/25 with the budget for the year.

A Member raised a concern about the Gambling Act and Licensing Act fees, which were capped or fixed and have not been updated since 2005 and 2003 respectively which meant some application now cost more to administer than the fees allowed. Officers explained that they have been lobbying government for years to allow cost recovery. It was also noted that declining numbers of betting shops (from 50 to 11) have worsened the budget impact. Despite these challenges, The Chairman praised officers for managing costs within legal limits.

**RESOLVED** – that the report be noted.

**7. ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25: YEAR-END PROGRESS REPORT (LICENSING TEAM)**

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**RESOLVED** – that the report be noted.

**8. PLANNED LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER CHANGES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE LICENSING SERVICE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment, providing an overview of details of upcoming new legislation, expected changes to statutory guidance, the introduction of new licensing regimes, pilot programmes and amendments to existing Acts, all of which will be required to be implemented and administered by the Licensing Service.

Officers highlighted that some changes, like those related to the Tobacco and Vapes Bill were pending parliamentary approval or guidance. A report would be presented to the Committee from the Remembrancer which would provide further detail as well as implications. Members were assured that once there were substantive updates on these policies, this would be brought back to the relevant committees.

In response to a question with regards to how businesses would be kept informed of any changes, Officers explained that they would be informed through their usual engagement methods (letters, visits, etc.).

**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, Environment, which detailed the premises licences, and variations to premises licences, granted under the Licensing Act 2003 and administered by the Licensing Service from 1 March 2025 to 31 May 2025.

A Member asked what concerns or uncertainties officers foresee. Officers explained that while some inspections were proactive, much of the team's work was reactive due to the fast-changing nature of daytime and nighttime activities in the City. The main concern was the rise in unauthorised street money collections, especially near busy tube stations.

Members praised the team's successful prosecution efforts. A Member asked whether the City could ban certain collectors ("chuggers") and raised concerns about a venue operating without CCTV for 18 months. Officers clarified that chuggers (prospectors) aren't banned by law but can be regulated if obstructive or aggressive. The team monitors them closely, using surveillance and working with police. On the issue of CCTV, Officers confirmed most venues comply quickly, and prosecution is a last resort.

A Member questioned why collectors kept moving locations. Officers noted that the outdated legislation (Police and Factories Act 1916) imposed only a £200 fine, which was not a deterrent. The team was considering lobbying for reform.

The Chairman suggested providing a public update on charitable collections and ensuring guidance was available online.

**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**

The Chairman reminded Members of the Committee as follows:

**Training:**

Members were reminded about upcoming training opportunities (particularly new Members of the Committee). Interim materials have been shared with new Members, and in-person training by the Institute of Licensing was being arranged for new and existing committee members.

**Licensing Forum**

Members were reminded that the Licensing Forum would take place on Wednesday 16 July at The Forge, Cornhill.

Members interested in attending or joining licensing patrols with the police or environmental health officers were encouraged to contact the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk confirmed an email would be circulated to Members of the Committee with this information.

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. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2025, be approved as correct record.

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

The Committee received a report of the Commissioner of Police containing data from Quarter 2 2025.

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

The Committee received a non-public appendix of the Executive Director Environment, in relation to item 9 of the agenda.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

**The meeting ended at 2.49 pm**

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Chairman

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