

Licensing Panel (Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

Agenda Item 118
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Review of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003		
Premises:	Food and Beverage 4U Ltd 165-167 Hangleton Way Hove East Sussex BN3 8EY		
Licence Holder:	Food & Beverage 4U Ltd		
Date of Meeting:	19 January 2012		
Report of:	Head of Planning and Public Protection		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Tom Roberts	Tel: 294434
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Wards Affected:	Hangleton And Knoll		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To review a Premises Licence for Food & Beverage 4U Ltd under the Licensing Act 2003

2. Summary of review process

- 2.1 Existing licence attached at Appendix A
- 2.2 Brighton & Hove City Council is both the relevant licensing authority and a responsible authority in respect of any premises, and may in its capacity apply under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 for a review of any premises licence in respect of the premises.
- 2.3 An application was received by the Licensing Authority from Trading Standards, to review the licence granted to the premises known as Food & Beverage 4U Ltd, 165-167 Hangleton Way, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 8EY
- 2.4 The grounds for the review relates to the following Licensing objectives:
- Prevention of Crime and Disorder
 - Protection of Children from Harm

Full details of the grounds for the review and a copy of the supporting evidence are attached in Appendix B.

- 2.5 This review hearing is a re-hearing of the review held on the 11th August 2011 which was held in the absence of the licence holder. Following an appeal to the Magistrates Court by the premises licence holder, this matter was remitted back to the licensing authority by the Magistrates Court by consent with a direction for re-hearing before a differently constituted licensing panel
- 2.6 At this hearing the licensing authority must:
- Consider the application made in accordance with Section 51
 - Consider any relevant representations
 - Take such steps (if any) as are considered necessary for the promotion of the Licensing objectives. These steps are
 - to modify the conditions of the licence
 - to exclude a licensable activity
 - to remove the designated premises supervisor from the licence
 - to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months, or
 - to revoke the licence.

And for this purpose the conditions of a premises licence are modified if any of them is altered or omitted or any new condition is added. It may provide that the modification or exclusion have effect for a specified period not exceeding 3 months. The determination, if not completed at the hearing, shall be within 5 working days of the hearing. Such determinations do not have effect until after the appeal period or, if an appeal is lodged, until after the appeal is disposed of.

3 Representations received

- 3.1 Details of the representations made are notified to applicants on receipt by the Licensing Authority using a pro-forma. A summary appears below:
- 3.2 One representation has been received from Police on the grounds of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder supporting the application submitted by Trading Standards seeking the revocation of the licence.
- 3.3 Full details of the representations are attached at Appendix C. A map detailing the location of the premises is attached at Appendix D.

4. Commentary on licensing policy

- 4.1 The following extracts from Brighton & Hove Licensing Policy are considered relevant to this application and numbered as they appear in the policy:

General

- 1.2 The licensing objectives are:-
- (a) Prevention of crime and disorder;
 - (b) Public safety;
 - (c) Prevention of public nuisance;
 - (d) Protection of children from harm.
- 1.3 Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on licensed premises, by qualifying clubs and at temporary events. Any conditions attached to various authorisations will be focussed on matters which are in the control of individual licensees and others with relevant authorisations, i.e. the premises and its vicinity.
- 1.5 Each application will be given individual consideration on its merit. Nothing in this policy shall undermine the right of any individual to apply under the terms of the Act for a variety of permissions and to have any such application considered on its individual merits. Similarly, nothing in this policy shall override the right of any person to make representations on an application or seek a review of a licence or certificate where provision has been made for them to do so in the Act

In respect of the prevention of crime and disorder

- 2.1 The licensing authority acknowledges that training and good management play a key part in preventing alcohol and drug related crime. The authority recommends that all licensees of on-licensed premises attend training programmes which will raise their awareness of the issues relating to drugs and violence in licensed premises, and that suitable training be extended to all bar staff and door staff so that drug dealers and users will be deterred from using licensed premises for illegal purposes and that incidents of violence in licensed premises will be reduced. Licensees are also encouraged to attend training programmes to help identify children at risk and issues of basic child protection.
- 2.2 It is expected that the designated premises supervisor (DPS) will spend a significant amount of time on the premises. When not on the premises it will be essential that the DPS is contactable, particularly should problems arise with the premises.
- 2.7.1 Diversity of premises
This attempts to ensure that there is a mix of the different types of licensed premises, particularly in areas where there is a high density of such premises. It will provide resilience against changing trends and attract a more diverse range of customers from different age groups, different communities of interest and with different attitudes to alcohol consumption. It gives potential for positively changing the ambience of the city or an area of it. This in turn may have a positive effect in reducing people's fear of crime and in increasing the number of

evening visitors to the city centre. The Community Safety Strategy recognises that too many single uses in a confined area and patrons turning out onto the streets at the same time, may create opportunities for violent crime and public disorder and therefore encourages mixed use venues, varying hours of business and a wider age balance.

2.7.6 Care, control and supervision of premises

The effective management and supervision of a venue is a key factor in reducing crime and disorder, both within it and outside. The Police will consider the applicants, objecting to the application where appropriate. The Police will suggest crime prevention measures in relation to, for example, the internal layout of the premises, close circuit television, help points, lighting and security staff. The Police may ask for conditions which support such measures to be imposed when planning or licensing applications are granted, e.g. type of licence, capacity, opening time restrictions.

2.7.7 The effective management and supervision of a venue is a key factor in reducing crime and disorder, both within it and outside. The police will consider the applicants, objecting to the application where appropriate. The police may suggest crime prevention measures in relation to, for example, the internal layout of the premises, closed-circuit television, help points, lighting and security staff. The police may ask for conditions which support such measures to be imposed when licensing applications are granted, e.g. type of licence, capacity, operating hours restrictions.

2.7.12 Enforcement will be achieved by the enforcement policy.

In respect of the protection of children from harm

5.1 Licensees should note the concern of the authority that drink related disorder frequently involves under 18's. To prevent illegal purchases of alcohol by such persons, the committee recommend that all licensees should work with a suitable 'proof of age' scheme and ensure that appropriate identification is requested prior to entry and when requesting alcohol, where appropriate. Appropriate forms of identification are currently considered to be those recommended by police, trading standards officers and their partners in the licensing strategy group.

5.2 It is the licensing authority's expectation that all staff responsible for the sale of intoxicating liquor receive information and advice on the licensing laws relating to children and young persons in licensed premises. Licensed premises staff are required to take reasonable steps to prevent under age sales. The licensing authority will not seek to limit the access of children to any premises unless it is necessary for the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm to them.

5.3 To reduce alcohol-induced problematic behaviour by under 18 year olds, to enforce underage purchase and drinking laws and to assist in the protection of children from harm, the licensing authority supports the following measures:-

- (a) Police should exercise powers (Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act 1997) to remove alcohol from young people on the street
- (b) Police and trading standards should implement test purchasing to reduce sales to under 18s in on and off sales licensed premises
- (c) Further take-up of proof of age schemes will be promoted
- (d) In-house, mystery shopper type schemes operated by local businesses will be supported
- (e) Providers of events specifically catering for unaccompanied children should consider whether all staff at such events need to be CRB checked.

5.4 The licensing authority will not seek to require that access to any premises is given to children at all times – under normal circumstances this will be left to the discretion of the licensee. The following areas give rise to concern in respect of children, who will normally be excluded from premises:-

- where there have been convictions for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for underage drinking;
- with a known association with drug taking or dealing;
- where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises;
- where entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is commonly provided.
- where premises are used primarily or exclusively for the sale and consumption of alcohol and there is little or no seating for patrons

Options may include:-

- limitations on the hours when children may be present;
- age limitations (below 18);
- limitations or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;
- requirements for an accompanying adult;
- full exclusion of people under 18.

5.7 Children and Young Persons Overview and Scrutiny Council reported on Reducing Alcohol Related Harm to Children and Young People to Licensing Committee who agreed:

5.7.1 Trading standards and the police undertake ongoing enforcement operations around under-age sales and test purchasing. Sussex

Police, BCRP and RUOK undertake work concerning proxy purchases and counterfeit ID as part of the partnership support work with Community Safety and Trading standards.

5.7.2 Trading standards have a programme of business support including training for local businesses to avoid under-age sales.

5.7.3 In determining applications and reviews, applications can only be dealt with on their individual merit. Use of schemes like Think 21 and Challenge 25 are appropriate on a case by case basis. Normally a Challenge 25 condition will be appropriate.

5.7.4 A clear causal link between price discounting and disorder will normally lead to the imposition of conditions prohibiting irresponsible promotions. This is now reflected in the new mandatory conditions which can be found on the licensing pages of the council's website.

5.8 Best Practice to protect children from harm

The Council passed a Notice of Motion that licensing committee recommend best practice for both on and off premises to take on board on a voluntary basis, in order to promote responsible licensing.

- Staff must be aware of the risk of the problem of proxy sales and offer assistance to responsible authorities to deter offences
- Signage on premises should set out legal duties
- Voluntary restriction of high strength alcohol – operating schedules may be used to limit high ABV beers and ciders
- Staff training – in addition to personal licence holders training, staff must be adequately trained for duties
- Challenge 25 would be the norm, particularly in the off licence trade
- Signage – proxy sale – deterrence

The council will support accreditation schemes, such as Best Bar None and Purple Flag, where appropriate and subject to resources.

5.9 Health Impact Assessment

The licensing authority's response to this public consultation process is as follows:

- Enforcement decisions of under-age sales from licensed premises will be taken with regard to enforcement policy appended
- Sage Space and refuges for potentially vulnerable people is supported
- The council will make a telephone number available for reporting licensing offences and concerns.

Strategic Integration

6.5 Specific conditions may be attached to premises licences to reflect local crime prevention strategies. Such conditions may include the use of closed circuit television cameras, use of the NightSafe radio system or

accredited scheme, the provision and use of shatterproof drinking receptacles, drugs and weapons search policy, the use of registered door supervisors, specialised lighting requirements, hours of opening.

6.7 This policy avoids duplication with other regulatory regimes wherever possible.

6.8 Enforcement – the enforcement of licensing law and inspection of licensed premises is detailed in the Protocol between Sussex Police, the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and Brighton & Hove City Council. This protocol reflects the need for more efficient deployment of Police and Local Authority staff commonly engaged in licensing enforcement and can be found at appendix H. In addition the Licensing Authority will have regard to its publishing Licensing Enforcement Policy in making enforcement decisions.

In order to better target enforcement resources, inspections will be undertaken outside of normal office hours and the sharing of information between all enforcement agencies will be encouraged through joint meetings or similar arrangements. Joint Intelligence Meetings are organised and include officers from responsible authorities.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The Licensing Act 2003 provides for fees to be payable to the licensing authority in respect of the discharge of their functions. The fee levels are set centrally at a level to allow licensing authorities to fully recover the costs of administration, inspection and enforcement of the new regime

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 05.01.2012

5.2 Legal Implications:

The licensing authority must act to promote the four licensing objectives which are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

The licensing authority must have regard to its statement of licensing policy and the guidance issued by the Secretary of State in carrying out its functions.

Lawyer Consulted: Rebecca Sidell

Date: 05.01.2012

5.3 Equalities Implications:

Diversity is valued and strong, safe communities are vital to future prosperity. Licensing policy aims to protect children from harm including sale and supply of alcohol to children.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

Licensing policy aims to prevent public nuisance and develop culture of live music, dancing and theatre.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Licensing policy aims to prevent crime and disorder and protect public safety.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

Licensing is a crucial business and employment opportunity and unnecessary regulation might lead to legal challenge.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The success of the city's tourism strategy requires a safe, attractive city centre to improve competitiveness. The Act may significantly change night time economy

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix A – Part A of Premises Licence
2. Appendix B – Review Application
3. Appendix C – Representation
4. Appendix D – Map of area
5. Appendix E – Supplementary Documentation

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Environmental Health & Licensing Service, Brighton & Hove City Council (2008): The Licensing Act 2003 – Brighton & Hove City Council: Statement of Licensing Policy

Background Documents

1. Environmental Health & Licensing Service, Brighton & Hove City Council (2008): The Licensing Act 2003 – Brighton & Hove City Council Statement on Licensing Policy.

