
Report of the Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration

Report to the Licensing Sub Committee

Date: 1st September 2015

Subject: Application for the Renewal of a Sex Establishment Licence for Silks, 2 Sovereign Place, Leeds, LS1 4SP

Are specific electoral Wards affected? City and Hunslet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: 10.4 (1, 2 & 3)		
Appendix number: B		

Summary of Main Issues

Members are requested to consider the renewal of a sex establishment licence for the provision of sexual entertainment in the form of lap dancing.

The renewal application is made for 'Silks', which operates from 2 Sovereign Place, Leeds LS1 4SP. The current licence was issued for a period of nine months, expiring on 31st May 2015, pending the commencement of redevelopment works to the area.

The applicant is now seeking to further renew the licence.

Details of the application and the relevant appendices are provided within the report.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and determine the application.

Should Members be minded to approve this application, Members are also asked to approve the external appearance of the premises and all advertising material used to promote the business as set out at appendix D.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of an application made under Section 2 and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (the Act) for the renewal of a sex establishment licence for the premises known as Silks, 2 Sovereign Place, Leeds, LS1 4SP.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 In 2010 the Government introduced a new category of sex establishment called a “sexual entertainment venue”. This reclassified lap dancing clubs as sexual entertainment venues and gave local authorities the power to regulate such venues. The intention was to give local people greater say over the number and location of lap dancing clubs in their area.
- 2.2 In January 2011 the Council made a resolution to adopt the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009, effective from 1st October 2011. The Council adopted its first Statement of Licensing Policy for Sex Establishments in September 2011.
- 2.3 All seven premises that provided sexual entertainment in the form of lap dancing which existed at that time were granted licences that came into effect on 1st October 2012 and expired 30th September 2013.
- 2.4 Following the issue of these licences a review of the Statement of Licensing Policy took place. A working group was set up and a new policy was approved before Executive Board on 17th July 2013, coming into effect on 1st September 2013.
- 2.5 The Policy set that the appropriate number of sexual entertainment venues in the city centre is a maximum of four providing these premises are not near properties with sensitive uses or in sensitive locations.
- 2.6 The renewal hearings for all seven Sexual Entertainment Venues took place in November 2013 and the determinations were delivered in December 2013. Members refused to renew the licences of three venues in accordance with the new Statement of Licensing Policy.
- 2.7 The renewal hearing for Silks took place on 19 November 2013. The determination of that hearing was that Silks had their licence approved for a further six months, expiring at 4.00am on 30th June 2014.
- 2.8 In May 2014 the renewal application was received for Silks, and on that occasion it attracted objections from the Council's Development Department. The grounds for that objection were that the area was subject to a redevelopment program which included the provision of an open green space.

- 2.9 At the meeting of the Licensing Sub Committee on 4th August 2014 to consider the renewal application Members heard that the redevelopment program was not set to commence imminently and therefore the licence for Silks was approved for a further 9 month period, expiring 31st May 2015.

3.0 History of these Premises

- 3.1 These premises have held a licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for the provision of regulated entertainment and sale of alcohol since 13th March 2009. It is understood that lap dancing has been held at the premises since that time.

4.0 The Application

- 4.1 Members are required to consider this application for the renewal of a sex establishment licence to authorise the activity of sexual entertainment in the form of lap dancing.
- 4.2 The application is made by Red Carpet Leisure (Leeds) Limited, Unit 7, Sheepscar Court, Northside Business Park, Leeds, LS7 2BB.
- 4.3 The application is for the premises known as `Silks', 2 Sovereign Place, Leeds, LS1 4SP. The ground and first floor are to be covered under the provisions of the licence.
- 4.4 The hours of operation are:
22:00hrs until 04:00hrs Sunday to Thursday
22:00hrs until 05:00hrs Friday and Saturday.
- 4.5 A partial copy of the application together with a full copy of the licence as effective from 1 October 2013 may be found at appendix A to this report.
- 4.6 It should be noted that certain information submitted within the application is potentially exempt information under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4 (1, 2 and 3) as it includes information which relates to individuals, is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and/or relates to the business affairs of any particular person. As a consequence Members are provided with a full copy of the application contained within a separate appendix B and will be asked to consider exclusion of the press and public from the hearing if those matters are to be discussed.
- 4.7 Members will also find attached to this report at appendix C additional documents supplied with the application, which includes:
- Dancers Welfare Policy
 - Dancers Code of Conduct
 - Customers Code of Conduct
 - Pricing Policy
 - Trade Union Details

- 4.8 A consideration for Members is the external appearance and all methods of advertising (written, visual or auditory) which must not be of a sexually explicit or suggestive nature, will not contain images or text of a sexually explicit, obscene or offensive nature. Attached at appendix D Members will find the information supplied in this respect. Due to printing quality, original samples will be available at the meeting.
- 4.8 It is confirmed that the business does not intend to provide vehicles to transport customers or performers to and from the premises and therefore information relating to the licensing of such vehicles is not provided.
- 4.9 A map of the location of the premises can be found at appendix E.
- 4.10 A plan showing the layout of the premises including stage, bars, cloakroom, WCs, performance area, dressing rooms and CCTV will be available at the meeting.
- 4.11 The West Yorkshire Police and all ward members have been notified of this application.
- 4.12 A public notice advertising the application has been displayed at the premises for a period of 21 days and published in the local press as required by the legislation.

5.0 Objections

- 5.1 In considering any application for the grant of a licence the authority shall have regard to any observations submitted by the chief officer of police and any other objections received.
- 5.2 Any objections must be provided in writing to the authority, stating in general terms the grounds, and this should be provided no later than 28 days after the date of the application.
- 5.3 Members should note that objections may be accepted following the 28 day notice period. This is as a result of a case (Miss Behavin' Ltd v Belfast City Council) where the House of Lords held that while the Act required an authority to take account of objections lodged in time, it did have discretion to take into account late objections if these brought significant relevant information. At the time of writing this report all objections had been received within the notice period.
- 5.4 Parties will not be permitted to raise new matters in evidence at the hearing without the consent of all other parties.
- 5.5 The Act imposes no pre-qualifications on who may object to an application nor is there any constraint on the grounds upon which objections can be made.
- 5.6 An objection has been received to this application from the Council's Development Department. The primary concerns are in relation to the re-development of the surrounding area such as Sovereign Square. Further information is contained within the objection at appendix F of this report.

5.7 A further two objections have been received from businesses operating close to Silks premises, these objections refer to litter. Further information is contained with the objections at appendix G of this report.

5.8 No further representations have been received to this application.

5.8 No observations have been received from West Yorkshire Police concerning this application.

6.0 Licence compliance

6.1 On Friday 10th April 2105 the licensing authority's Liaison & Enforcement Team, along with British Transport Police conducted a compliance visit to these premises.

6.2 At that time officers were unable to check previous CCTV footage covering the ground floor of the premises (conditions 21, 34 & 36 of LA03 licence and conditions 37, 39 & 40 of SEV licence). The Manager was issued with a Section 19 closure notice by PS Jackson with instructions to rectify the matter. PS Jackson returned on Tuesday 12th May 2015 to recheck the CCTV. He found it compliant with the licence and withdrew the closure notice.

6.3 Since this time there have been no further contraventions of the licence or other matters to report.

7.0 Statement of Licensing Policy

7.1 The current Statement of Licensing Policy for Sex Establishments ("the Policy") was approved by Executive Board on the 17th July 2013 and came in to force on the 1st September 2013.

7.2 The Policy states that the appropriate number of sexual entertainment venues in the city centre is a maximum of four providing these premises are not near properties with sensitive uses or in sensitive locations.

The Policy states that sensitive uses are:

- Schools and other areas of education
- Play area/parks
- Youth facilities
- Residential area
- Women's refuge facilities
- Family leisure facilities such as cinemas, theatres and concert halls
- Places of worship
- Places used for celebration or commemoration
- Cultural leisure facilities such as libraries and museums
- Retail shopping areas
- Historic buildings

The Policy provides a list of sensitive locations:

- Millennium Square, Calverley Street
- City Square
- The area around the Combined Courts
- The Headrow, Eastgate
- East Parade, Park Row
- New Briggate, Briggate
- Albion Street, Woodhouse Lane
- Merrion Centre, Merrion Street
- Boar Lane
- New Station Street, Wellington Street

7.3 The Policy includes standard conditions to be applied to all licences. Members may decide on a case by case basis whether any of the conditions may be dispensed with, added to or modified.

7.4 The standard conditions as set out in the current Policy may be found at appendix H.

8.0 Other Matters Relevant to the Application

8.1 A sex establishment licence will remain in force for up to one year, or for a shorter period should the licensing authority think fit.

8.2 Where, before the date of expiry of a licence, an application has been made for its renewal, it shall be deemed to remain in force notwithstanding that the date has passed until the withdrawal of the application or its determination by the appropriate authority.

9.0 Options Available to Members

9.1 The licensing sub-committee in considering the application under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 may take any of the following steps it considers necessary:

- Grant the application as requested attaching the standard conditions.
- Grant the application whilst imposing additional conditions and/or altering the standard conditions (or altering in any way the proposed application).
- Refuse the application on the following mandatory grounds;
 - if the applicant is under the age of 18,
 - if the applicant has a disqualification following the revocation of their licence
 - if the applicant is not-resident in an EEA state,
 - if the applicant is a company not incorporated in an EEA state,
 - if the applicant has, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused the grant or

renewal of a licence for the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the applicant is made, unless the refusal has been reversed on appeal.

- Refuse the application on one or more of the following discretionary grounds:
 - That the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reasons;
 - That if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself;
 - That the number or sex establishments or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality;
 - That the grant of renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard:
 - To the character of the relevant locality; or
 - To the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - To the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made

9.2 In paragraph 9.1 “the relevant locality” means:

- In relation to premises, the locality where they are situated; and
- In relation to a vehicle, vessel or stall, any locality where it is desirable to use it as a sex establishment

10.0 Recommendation

10.1 Members are asked to consider and determine the application.

10.2 Furthermore Members are asked to approve the external appearance of the premises and all advertising material used to promote the business as set out at Appendix D.

11.0 Appendices

Appendix A	Copy of the Application
Appendix B	Exempt Information
Appendix C	Additional documents supplied with the application
Appendix D	External appearance/advertising information
Appendix E	Location map
Appendix F	Development Objection
Appendix G	Public Objections
Appendix H	Standard Conditions

12.0 Background Papers

None