

Licensing Committee

Re: Joint objection to the re-licensing of 8 lap dancing clubs in Leeds

We the undersigned are concerned about the collective damage done to society by the continued proliferation of the lap dancing industry.

We welcome the new powers available to Leeds City Council under the Policing and Crime Act 2009 and we note that other cities have used this to set a cap on the number of lap dancing clubs or imposed strict restrictions on the character of the area that they can operate within.

Given that the eight licenses are being considered together we ask that the licensing committee use their discretionary powers under the new Act to:

- Significantly reduce the number of clubs (by at least half) in operation in Leeds and set a low limit on the number allowed in the city.

OR

- Refuse all applications and set a nil limit for the future.

AND

Where they do exist they should not be:

1. Located on or be visible from main thoroughfares, main shopping streets or community spaces.
2. Located near civic buildings or places of worship.
3. Able to tout, offer lifts to or advertise their clubs using cars or women as promotional tools.

This is so that:

1. Leeds can be experienced during the day by residents and visitors without encountering a lap dancing club.
2. Civic celebrations and memorial services can take place without lap dancing clubs in the vicinity.
3. At night the sex industry does not dominate the character of the city.
4. People in Leeds are safeguarded from the effects of the sex industry.
5. People can easily avoid the sex industry if they wish to.
6. The licensed sex industry where it operates does so in a discreet manner.

We call upon Leeds City Council to use their new powers to further improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Leeds.

Yours faithfully

The Rt Hon. Ed Balls MP
The Rt Hon. Hilary Benn MP
Hon. Rachel Reeves MP
Hon. Alec Shelbrooke MP
Hon. Stuart Andrew MP
Hon. George Mudie MP
Hon. Fabian Hamilton MP
Hon. Greg Mulholland MP

Linda McAvan MEP

Bishop John Packer - C of E
Bishop Arthur Roche - Catholic
Imam Qari Asim - Makkah Masjid Mosque
Mgr Philip Moger - Dean of Catholic Cathedral

Cllr Peter Gruen
Cllr Judith Blake
Cllr Stewart Golton
Cllr Rebecca Charlwood
Cllr Kamila Maqsood
Cllr Ann Blackburn
Cllr Bernard Atha
Cllr Alison Lowe
Cllr Mohammed Iqbal
Cllr Neil Walshaw
Cllr Christine Macniven
Cllr Patrick Davey
Cllr Alan Lamb
Cllr Penny Ewens
Cllr Ann Castle
Cllr Neil Dawson
Cllr Kim Groves
Cllr Katherine Mitchell
Cllr Geoff Driver
Cllr John Illingworth