

Report of the Head of Licensing and Registration

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: 10th September 2013

Subject: Specialist Subcommittee – Sexual Entertainment Venue Renewals

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): City and Hunslet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. During October 2013 the Council will be processing the licence renewals for the Sex Establishment Licences for the city's sexual entertainment venues.
2. In May 2012, as part of a report detailing the annual governance arrangements, Licensing Committee formed specialist sub committees to deal with the initial grant of the sexual entertainment venue licences.
3. In May 2013, the decision to form a specialist subcommittee to deal with the renewal applications was deferred to September's meeting.

Recommendations

4. Members of the Licensing Committee are asked to establish a specialist subcommittee to deal with any applications for sex establishment licence for sexual entertainment venues.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report is presented to Licensing Committee to appoint a specialist licensing sub-committee to determine applications for sex establishments, specifically for sexual entertainment venues.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 The Council adopted the ability to licence lap dancing clubs and other premises which provide sexual entertainment in the same regime as sex shops and sex cinemas in January 2011. At the same time the council adopted a Statement of Licensing Policy to guide applicants.
- 2.2 Following the initial licensing of seven lap dancing clubs as sex establishments in June 2012, the council undertook to review the policy to ensure it still met the needs of the people of Leeds. The reviewed policy was approved by Executive Board in July 2013 and came into effect on the 1st September 2013.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 In May 2012, Licensing Committee considered a report of the City Solicitor regarding the annual governance arrangements for that year. The Licensing Committee established a specialist licensing subcommittee to deal with the new licence applications for sexual entertainment venues. The purpose behind a specialist sub-committee was to ensure consistency across all seven decisions, with special consideration to be given to the decision regarding location and the number the council think are appropriate for the area.
- 3.2 In July 2012 the specialist licensing sub-committee dealt with the matter of seven applications for sex establishment licences which authorised the provision of sexual entertainment. These premises, called lap dancing clubs, were issued with licences that will expire on the 30th September 2013.
- 3.3 It is expected that the council will receive the renewal applications for these licences during September. Taking into consideration the consultation/notice period it is likely that these applications will be dealt with at the end of November.
- 3.3 In addition the council is in receipt of an application for a new sex establishment licence. This application has been submitted by new owners at an existing lap dancing club called Black Diamond. The current licence, due to expire at the end of September, authorised sexual entertainment on the first and second floors. The new application is seeking sexual entertainment on all four floors of the building. This application is due to be heard at the end of September.
- 3.4 Therefore, this report recommends that Licensing Committee consider forming a specialist sub-group to deal with all applications for sex establishment licences with regard to the sexual entertainment venues. Specialist training will be provided for members volunteering for the specialist subcommittee.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 There are no implications for consultation and engagement arising from this report.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 There are no implications from equality and diversity or cohesion and integration arising from this report.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Government, through the Home Office, has devised a licensing regime that all licensing authorities must follow when licensing sex establishments.

4.3.2 The licensing regime contributes to the following Best Council Plan 2013-17 outcomes:

- Improve the quality of life for our residents, particularly for those who are vulnerable or in poverty;
- Make it easier for people to do business with us.

4.3.3 The licensing regime contributes to our best council objective:

- Ensuring high quality public services – improving quality, efficiency and involving people in shaping their city.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 Adopting the recommendation of this report will ensure efficient decision making and reduce legal challenges.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 A clear delegation framework will minimise the risk of legal challenge.

4.5.2 There are no matters contained in this report which are potentially exempt from the press and public.

4.5.3 The matters in this report are not eligible for call in as they relate to council functions.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 The appointment of sub-committees to carry out the licensing functions is consistent with good corporate governance arrangements.

5 Conclusions

5.1 That the Licensing Committee consider the arrangements set out in this report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members of the Licensing Committee are asked to establish a specialist subcommittee to deal with any applications for sex establishment licence for sexual entertainment venues.

7 Background documents¹ None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.