

**Report of:** Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory

**Report to:** Licensing Sub Committee

**Date:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Subject:** Certification of Films – Leeds Young Film Festival

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Little London & Woodhouse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## Executive Summary

To advise Members of an application for the certification of 39 films in respect of the Leeds Young Film Festival. Screenings are scheduled to take place between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020, at The Carriageworks Theatre, 3 Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD.

Of the 39 films to be certified, a total of 11 films are not viewable or no longer require consideration at the applicant's request. The Licensing Authority has made attempts to seek working links from the applicant and further information on the validity of those links are contained at point 3.0 of this report.

### 1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 This report informs Members with the background, history and issues of an application made under the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act") for the certification of a film that does not currently have a BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) certification. Finally, this report informs Members of the options available to them when considering an application for the certification of films.

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Licensing Act 2003 applies to premises which provide film exhibitions. At present there are a total of 8 cinemas licensed in the Leeds district.

2.2 The majority of films shown in cinemas will carry a certificate from the BBFC, the categories of which are as follows:



### **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 An application has been received on behalf of Leeds Young Film Festival for the certification of 39 films, now reduced to 28 films, scheduled for screening between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The screenings intend to take place at The Carriageworks Theatre, 3 Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD.
- 3.2 The document provided by the applicant which provides the title, synopsis, recommended classification, link to the screener and passwords where applicable, can be found at **Appendix B**.
- 3.3 The Licensing Authority on receipt of the request to certify the films has progressively worked through each one to provide a summary of the contents. In doing so, the Licensing Authority has experienced problems viewing some of the screeners provided, and attempts have been made to request new links/details from the applicant.
- 3.4 It should be noted that the Licensing Authority are still experiencing issues with some of the new links provided, and the applicant has withdrawn some films from being considered. Information on the content summary and the problems being experienced are contained within the document at Appendix B of this report.
- 3.5 Members should note that any film without a working and viewable screener cannot be certified.
- 3.6 A representative is due to attend the hearing and provide additional details of each film.

### **4.0 Screener**

- 4.1 The screeners for the available films are not for public viewing at this stage. Members will therefore be provided with the screener link and access details in advance of the hearing to view the films. The option for Members to view the film at the hearing will also be available.

### **5.0 Content Summary**

- 5.1 To assist members with their deliberation, officers of the Licensing Authority have viewed each available film and added their contents in the document provided by the applicant at Appendix B. This depicts any scenes the officers have viewed which may be of concern.

### **6.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

- 6.1 There are no implications for Council policy and governance in respect of determining this application.

## **7.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

7.1 The applicant can appeal any decision made by committee. Any appeal would be to the Magistrates' Court.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 Members are requested to consider this request for the certification of the films as attached hereto.

8.2 Members are recommended to view films prior to the issue of a Certificate.

## **9.0 Options Available to Members**

9.1 The Licensing Authority has the authority to categories a film which is absent of a Certificate from the BBFC.