

Report of: Chief Officer, Elections and Regulatory

Report to: Licensing Sub Committee

Date: Tuesday 12th October 2021

Subject: Certification of Films – The Pyramid Theatre, Leeds University Union

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

Executive Summary

To advise Licensing Sub Committee Members of an application for the certification of a number of films to be screened in Leeds University Union. All screenings are scheduled to take place on Monday 25th October 2021.

One feature length film and 6 shorts have been submitted requiring classification, however the shorts are part of a late submission giving Members of the Licensing Sub Committee limited time to view them.

The applicant has indicated that they are satisfied for the shorts to be certified category 18 rating and further information on instances where a Licensing Sub Committee are unable to view a film/short in advance of the hearing is detailed at 3.2 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.

2.4 A copy of the current BBFC Classification Guidelines are attached at **Appendix A** for Member's consideration.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 An application has been received from Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House Ltd., to request a number of films certified. The films are scheduled for screening on Monday, 25th October 2021, at The Pyramid Theatre, Leeds University Union

3.2 In response to a briefing by the BBFC and advice sought from the council's Legal Department, it is essential the Licensing Sub-Committee can view each film in order to rate it appropriately. In instances where films are unavailable or insufficient opportunity is provided to view the films, Members are advised to certify them 18 rating subject to a written declaration from the applicant confirming that each film does not contain any content which would more likely than not, render the film liable to be classified as R18 if considered in accordance with the BBFC Classification Guidelines. A copy of the declaration applicable to the 6 shorts only can be found at **Appendix B**.

3.3 A copy of the request in respect of the feature length film only, 'Ninjababy', which includes a synopsis and the applicant's suggested rating can be found at **Appendix C** of this report.

3.4 A copy of the request relating to 6 film shorts is available at **Appendix D**.

3.5 A representative from Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House Ltd. is due to attend the hearing and provide additional details of each film.

3.6 Details of each film requiring classification, including links to view the online screeners, have been provided to Members of the Licensing Sub Committee in advance of the hearing.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

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

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

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

6.0 Recommendations

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

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

7.0 Options Available to Members

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