

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



LICENSING COMMITTEE - SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING

Ali's Meze Bar & Charcoal Grill
120 Norfolk Street, King's Lynn

Agenda

Friday 21st December 2012
10am

VENUE:
Committee Suite
King's Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn
Norfolk, PE30 1EX



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Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX.
Telephone: 01553 616275
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My Ref: RAE/LC
Please ask for: Rachael Edwards
Direct Dial: (01553) 616275
Email: rachael.edwards@west-norfolk.gov.uk

13th December 2012

Dear Member

Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing – Friday 21st December 2012

You are invited to attend a meeting of a Licensing Sub-Committee to commence at **10am** on **Friday 21st December** in the **Committee Suite**, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn to consider the business shown below.

Yours sincerely,
Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. To consider a review application in respect of Ali's Meze Bar & Charcoal Grill.

Papers attached as follows:-

- (a) Procedure that will be followed at the hearing – (pages 1-3)
- (b) Report of the Licensing Manager under the Licensing Act 2003 (pages 4-15)
- (c) Copy of the Current Premises Licence (Appendix One – pages 16-21)
- (d) Copy of the Application for the Review (Appendix Two – pages 22-76)
- (e) Copy of Norfolk Constabulary letter dated 22 November 2012 (Appendix Three – pages 77-98)

(f) Copy of Norfolk Constabulary letter dated 28 November 2012 (Appendix Four – pages 99-107)

(g) Location Plan – Norfolk Street, King’s Lynn (Appendix five – pages 108)

To: Panel Members – Councillors G Sandell, C Crofts and Mrs S Smeaton

Appropriate Officers – Rachael Edwards and John Gilbraith

Legal Advisor

All relevant parties

Procedure for Determining Licensing Act 2003 Cases

The hearings will be held in public. The hearing is not adversarial but an examination of the facts by the Members of the Committee. All participants must be courteous at all times. All parties will be given equal maximum time i.e. normally 15 minutes each, in total. Any person may apply for longer time if they immediately notify the licensing authority upon receipt of the Notice of the Hearing and in exceptional circumstances, the licensing authority may extend the maximum time allowed to all parties if the complexity of the application demands. In the event that there are a large number of objections to a particular application, the licensing authority may ask an appropriate number of representatives or a single representative to put forward their views.

Introductions

1. The **Chairman** of the Committee should read out a statement declaring under which capacity the Committee is sitting.

This Committee is sitting to consider matters under the Licensing Act 2003.

2. The **Chairman** will introduce himself and the Members of the Committee.
3. The **Chairman** will then introduce and explain the respective roles of
 - (i) the Legal Advisor to the Committee
 - (ii) the Officer representing the Licensing Authority (i.e. Licensing Manager)
 - (iii) the Democratic Services Officer
4. **The Chairman** should invite all those present to introduce themselves and ask them to indicate if they wish to speak during the hearing.
5. Each party will be asked by the **Chairman** for a time estimate for the presentation of his/her/body's case. (Agreement on the length of time given for each speaker is at the discretion on the Chairman).

The Application for Review of a Premises License

6. The **Licensing Manager** explains the procedure that will be followed at the meeting.
7. The **Licensing Manager** outlines the review application to the Committee by presenting the report referring to any relevancy to Licensing Policy and Statutory Guidance.
8. The **Licensing Manager** will invite questions from all parties to clarify the content of the Licensing Officer's report.

The Applicant's Case

9. The **Licensing Manager** then invites the Applicant or their representative to make their case. Witnesses may be called but each will be subject to separate questioning (see below).

Questions

10. Once the Applicant has presented their case, the **Licensing Manager** invites questions to the Applicant or his representative from
 - (i) the respondent (or their representative)
 - (ii) other persons (or their representatives)
 - (iii) Members of the Committee.

11. The **Licensing Manager** will invite questions to the witnesses from the

- (i) the respondent (or their representative)
- (ii) other persons (or their representatives)
- (iii) Members of the Committee.

Questions should be relevant to the application and repetition will be discouraged.

The Respondent's Case

12. The **Licensing Manager** then invites the respondent or their representative to make their case. Witnesses may be called but each will be subject to separate questioning (see below).

Questions

13. Once the respondent has presented their case, the **Licensing Manager** invites questions to the respondent or their representative from the

- (i) the applicant (or their representative)
- (ii) other persons (or their representatives)
- (iii) Members of the Committee.

14. The **Licensing Manager** will invite questions to the witnesses from the

- (i) the applicant (or their representative)
- (ii) other persons (or their representatives)
- (iii) Members of the Committee.

Other Persons

15. Each of the other persons or their representatives wishing to address the Committee may do so in an order determined by the **Licensing Manager**. They too must be willing to be questioned by other parties in the same order. Local Objectors may not however question each other. Questions should be relevant to the application and repetition will be discouraged.

This will operate as follows:

- each party will present his/her/body's case
- each party's witnesses (if any) will give evidence in support of the party's case
- firstly, each party and, secondly, their witnesses may be questioned by other parties, prior to questioning by Members of the Committee.

16. The applicant (or their representative) and the respondent will be invited to ask relevant questions of those parties (or the parties' representatives).

Summing Up

17. The **Licensing Manager** then invites the respondent and other parties (or their representative) to sum up their case. They may comment upon what has been said but no new evidence should be introduced. Each party will be allowed 5 minutes to sum up.

18. The **Licensing Manager** then invites the applicant (or their representative) to sum up their case. They may comment upon what has been said but no new evidence should be introduced. They also will be allowed 5 minutes to sum up.

Reaching and Making a Decision

19. The **Chairman** will then thank all those who have spoken and invite the Committee to retire to consider the application, accompanied by the Legal Advisor and Democratic Services Officer (who will take no part in the decision).
20. The Committee will then debate the case presented to them at the hearing and will seek to reach a decision and reasons for their decision.
21. Once a decision has been made, the Committee (and relevant officers) will return back in to the room and the **Legal Advisor** will announce in public any legal advice he/she has given in private.
22. **The Chairman** will read out the decision and the reasons for the decision (unless the Committee is unable to reach a determination at the conclusion of the hearing).
23. **The Chairman** will explain that all parties will be notified of the outcome of the decision and reasons for the decision in writing.
24. If the Committee is unable to reach a decision, the **Chairman** will explain that all parties will be notified as soon as possible (but within 5 working days) of the decision and the reasons for such.

NOTE

A decision may be deferred to:-

1. Receive further documentation referred to in the meeting
 2. Enable a site visit to take place
 3. Invite the Applicant or his representative to appear if they had not done so at the meeting (only once)
- No further debate may be heard on further documentation or at a site visit
 - Adjournments should generally be granted if to refuse would deny applicant a fair hearing.

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

Report to Licensing Sub-Committee under the Licensing Act 2003

Date of Hearing: 21st December 2012

Application for Review of a Premises Licence

- **Ali's Meze Bar & Charcoal Grill, 120 Norfolk Street, King's Lynn, PE30 1AP**
- **Licence Holder: Mr Ali Keceli.**
- **Premises Licence Number WNPL005085**

Introduction

1. At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence, a 'responsible authority' or any 'other person' may apply to the licensing authority to review the premises licence because of matters arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives. These four licensing objectives are:

- the prevention of crime & disorder,
- public safety,
- the prevention of public nuisance, and
- the protection of children from harm

Background

2. 120 Norfolk Street has held a premises licence since the 2003 Act commenced in November 2005. Prior to this it held a Justices' Restaurant Licence under the Licensing Act 1964. Since 2005 it has been known as 'Top Grill', 'Silver Grill', 'Ali's Meze Bar Top Grill', 'The Black Orange' and 'Ali's Meze Bar & Charcoal Grill'. Mr Ali Keceli is the current premises licence and has been since October 2009. A copy of the current premises licence is attached at Appendix 1.

The Application

3. The Norfolk Constabulary, as a responsible authority has made an application to review the premises licence for Ali's Meze & Charcoal Grill under all four licensing objectives. A copy of the review application is attached at Appendix 2 and a copy of the additional statements which the Police provided on the 22nd November 2012 is attached at Appendix 3. Further statements which the Police provided on the 28th November 2012 are attached at Appendix 4.

Representation from Responsible Authorities

Section 13(4) of the Act defines the 'Responsible Authorities' as the statutory bodies that must be sent copies of an application. Representations made must relate to the licensing objectives.

4. Norfolk Constabulary, as a responsible authority has made the review application and comments from the other responsible authorities are as follows:

<u>Responsible Authority</u>	<u>Comments Received</u>
Norfolk Fire Service	None
Norfolk Trading Standards	None
Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Board	None
Public Health	None
Planning (BCKLWN)	None
Health & Safety (BCKLWN)	None
Community Safety & Neighbourhood Nuisance (BCKLWN)	None
Licensing Authority (BCKLWN)	None

Representations from 'Other Persons'

As well as responsible authorities, any other person can play a role in a number of licensing processes under the 2003 Act. This includes any individual, body or business that are entitled to make representations to applications. Representations made must relate to the licensing objectives.

5. There are no representations from 'other persons' to consider.

Notices

6. The Borough Council is responsible for advertising the application by way of a notice in the specified form at the premises for not less than 28 consecutive days and on the Council's website. The Public Notice should have been displayed on the premises until the 10th December 2012.

Plans

7. A location plan is attached at Appendix 5 showing other licensed premises on Norfolk Street, King's Lynn.

Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk's Licensing Policy

8. The current Statement of Licensing Policy was approved by full Council on the 25th November 2010 and the following extracts may be relevant to this application:

3.0 Fundamental principles

3.1 The 2003 Act requires that the Council carries out its various licensing functions so as to promote the following four licensing objectives:

- (a) the prevention of crime and disorder,
- (b) public safety,
- (c) the prevention of public nuisance, and
- (d) the protection of children from harm.

3.2 Nothing in this 'Statement of Policy' will:

- (a) undermine the right of any individual to apply under the terms of the 2003 Act for a variety of permissions and to have any such application considered on its own merits;
- (b) override the right of any person to make representations or to seek a review of a licence.

Guidance Issued Under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

Under Section 4 of the Act, Licensing Authorities must have regard to guidance issued under Section 182. The current Guidance was issued by the Home Office in October 2012 and offers advice to Licensing authorities on the discharge of their functions under the Act.

9. The following extracts may be relevant to this application and assist the sub-committee:

Licence Conditions – General Principles

- 1.16 Conditions on a premises licence or club premises certificate are important in setting the parameters within which premises can lawfully operate. The use of wording such as “must”, “shall” and “will”, is encouraged. Licence conditions:
- must be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives;
 - must be precise and enforceable;
 - must be unambiguous and clear in what they intend to achieve;
 - should not duplicate other statutory requirements or other duties or responsibilities placed on the employer by other legislation;
 - must be tailored to the individual type, location and characteristics of the premises and events concerned;
 - should not be standardised and may be unlawful when it cannot be demonstrated that they are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in an individual case;
 - should not replicate offences set out in the 2003 Act or other legislation;
 - should be proportionate, justifiable and be capable of being met, (for example, whilst beer glasses may be available in toughened glass, wine glasses may not);
 - cannot seek to manage the behaviour of customers once they are beyond the direct management of the licence holder and their staff, but may impact on the behaviour of customers in the immediate vicinity of the premises or as they enter or leave; and
 - should be written in a prescriptive format.

Crime and Disorder

- 2.1 Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder.
- 2.2 In the exercise of their functions, licensing authorities should seek to co-operate with the Security Industry Authority (“SIA”) as far as possible and consider adding relevant conditions to licences where appropriate. The SIA also plays an important role in preventing crime and disorder by ensuring that door supervisors are properly licensed and, in

partnership with police and other agencies, that security companies are not being used as fronts for serious and organised criminal activity. This may include making specific enquiries or visiting premises through intelligence led operations in conjunction with the police, local authorities and other partner agencies. Similarly, the provision of requirements for door supervision may be appropriate to ensure that people who are drunk, drug dealers or people carrying firearms do not enter the premises and ensuring that the police are kept informed.

- 2.3 Conditions should be targeted on deterrence and preventing crime and disorder. For example, where there is good reason to suppose that disorder may take place, the presence of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras both inside and immediately outside the premises can actively deter disorder, nuisance, anti-social behaviour and crime generally. Some licence holders may wish to have cameras on their premises for the prevention of crime directed against the business itself, its staff, or its customers. But any condition may require a broader approach, and it may be appropriate to ensure that the precise location of cameras is set out on plans to ensure that certain areas are properly covered and there is no subsequent dispute over the terms of the condition.
- 2.4 The inclusion of radio links and ring-round phone systems should be considered an appropriate condition for public houses, bars and nightclubs operating in city and town centre leisure areas with a high density of licensed premises. These systems allow managers of licensed premises to communicate instantly with the police and facilitate a rapid response to any disorder which may be endangering the customers and staff on the premises.
- 2.5 In the context of crime and disorder and public safety, the preservation of order on premises may give rise to genuine concerns about the ability of the management team with responsibility for the maintenance of order. This may occur, for example, on premises where there are very large numbers of people and alcohol is supplied for consumption, or in premises where there are public order problems.
- 2.6 Conditions relating to the management competency of designated premises supervisors should not normally be attached to premises licences. The designated premises supervisor is the key person who will usually be responsible for the day to day management of the premises by the premises licence holder, including the prevention of disorder. A condition of this kind may only be justified as appropriate in rare circumstances where it can be demonstrated that, in the circumstances associated with particular premises, poor management competency could give rise to issues of crime and disorder and public safety.

Public Safety

- 2.8 Licence holders have a responsibility to ensure the safety of those using their premises, as a part of their duties under the 2003 Act. This

concerns the safety of people using the relevant premises rather than public health which is addressed in other legislation. Physical safety includes the prevention of accidents and injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption such as unconsciousness or alcohol poisoning. Conditions relating to public safety may also promote the crime and disorder objective as noted above. There will of course be occasions when a public safety condition could incidentally benefit a person's health more generally, but it should not be the purpose of the condition as this would be outside the licensing authority's powers (be ultra vires) under the 2003 Act. Conditions should not be imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate which relate to cleanliness or hygiene.

2.9 A number of matters should be considered in relation to public safety. These may include:

- Fire safety;
- Ensuring appropriate access for emergency services such as ambulances;
- Good communication with local authorities and emergency services, for example communications networks with the police and signing up for local incident alerts (see paragraph 2.4 above);
- Ensuring the presence of trained first aiders on the premises and appropriate first aid kits;
- Ensuring the safety of people when leaving the premises (for example, through the provision of information on late-night transportation);
- Ensuring appropriate and frequent waste disposal, particularly of glass bottles;
- Ensuring appropriate limits on the maximum capacity of the premises (see paragraphs 2.13-2.15, and Chapter 10; and
- Considering the use of CCTV in and around the premises (as noted in paragraph 2.3 above, this may also assist with promoting the crime and disorder objective).

Safe Capacities

2.13 "Safe capacities" should only be imposed where appropriate for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder on the relevant premises. For example, if a capacity has been imposed through other legislation, it would be inappropriate to reproduce it in a premises licence. Indeed, it would also be wrong to lay down conditions which conflict with other legal requirements. However, if no safe capacity has been imposed through other legislation, a responsible authority may consider it appropriate for a new capacity to be attached to the premises which would apply at any material time when the licensable activities are taking place and make representations to that effect. For example, in certain circumstances, capacity limits may be appropriate in preventing disorder, as overcrowded venues can increase the risks of crowds becoming frustrated and hostile.

- 2.14 It should also be noted in this context that it remains an offence under the 2003 Act to sell or supply alcohol to a person who is drunk. This is particularly important because of the nuisance and anti-social behaviour which can be provoked after leaving licensed premises.

Public Nuisance

- 2.18 The 2003 Act enables licensing authorities and responsible authorities, through representations, to consider what constitutes public nuisance and what is appropriate to prevent it in terms of conditions attached to specific premises licences and club premises certificates. It is therefore important that in considering the promotion of this licensing objective, licensing authorities and responsible authorities focus on the effect of the licensable activities at the specific premises on persons living and working (including those carrying on business) in the area around the premises which may be disproportionate and unreasonable. The issues will mainly concern noise nuisance, light pollution, noxious smells and litter.
- 2.19 Public nuisance is given a statutory meaning in many pieces of legislation. It is however not narrowly defined in the 2003 Act and retains its broad common law meaning. It is important to remember that the prevention of public nuisance could therefore include low-level nuisance, perhaps affecting a few people living locally, as well as major disturbance affecting the whole community. It may also include in appropriate circumstances the reduction of the living and working amenity and environment of other persons living and working in the area of the licensed premises. Public nuisance may also arise as a result of the adverse effects of artificial light, dust, odour and insects or where its effect is prejudicial to health.
- 2.20 Conditions relating to noise nuisance will usually concern steps appropriate to control the levels of noise emanating from premises. This might be achieved by a simple measure such as ensuring that doors and windows are kept closed after a particular time, or more sophisticated measures like the installation of acoustic curtains or rubber speaker mounts. Any conditions appropriate to promote the prevention of public nuisance should be tailored to the type, nature and characteristics of the specific premises. Licensing authorities should be aware of the need to avoid inappropriate or disproportionate measures that could deter events that are valuable to the community, such as live music. Noise limiters, for example, are very expensive to purchase and install and are likely to be a considerable burden for smaller venues.
- 2.21 As with all conditions, those relating to noise nuisance may not be appropriate in certain circumstances where provisions in other legislation adequately protect those living in the area of the premises. But as stated earlier in this Guidance, the approach of licensing authorities and responsible authorities should be one of prevention and when their powers are engaged, licensing authorities should be aware of the fact that other legislation may not adequately cover concerns

raised in relevant representations and additional conditions may be appropriate.

2.22 Where applications have given rise to representations, any appropriate conditions should normally focus on the most sensitive periods. For example, music noise from premises usually occurs from mid-evening until either late-evening or early-morning when residents in adjacent properties may be attempting to go to sleep or are sleeping. In certain circumstances, conditions relating to noise immediately surrounding the premises may also prove appropriate to address any disturbance anticipated as customers enter and leave.

2.24 Beyond the immediate area surrounding the premises, these are matters for the personal responsibility of individuals under the law. An individual who engages in anti-social behaviour is accountable in their own right. However, it would be perfectly reasonable for a licensing authority to impose a condition, following relevant representations, that requires the licence holder or club to place signs at the exits from the building encouraging patrons to be quiet until they leave the area and to respect the rights of people living nearby to a peaceful night.

Protection of Children from Harm

2.25 The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated with alcohol but also wider harms such as exposure to strong language and sexual expletives (for example, in the context of exposure to certain films or adult entertainment).

2.26 The Government believes that it is completely unacceptable to sell alcohol to children. Conditions relating to the access of children where alcohol is sold and which are appropriate to protect them from harm should be carefully considered. Moreover, conditions restricting the access of children to premises should be strongly considered in circumstances where:

- adult entertainment is provided;
- a member or members of the current management have been convicted for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for allowing underage drinking (other than in the context of the exemption in the 2003 Act relating to 16 and 17 year olds consuming beer, wine and cider when accompanied by an adult during a table meal);
- it is known that unaccompanied children have been allowed access;
- there is a known association with drug taking or dealing; or
- in some cases, the premises are used exclusively or primarily for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises.

2.30 Conditions, where they are appropriate, should reflect the licensable activities taking place on the premises. In addition to the mandatory

condition regarding age verification, other conditions relating to the protection of children from harm can include:

- restrictions on the hours when children may be present;
- restrictions or exclusions on the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place;
- restrictions on the parts of the premises to which children may have access;
- age restrictions (below 18);
- restrictions or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;
- requirements for an accompanying adult (including for example, a combination of requirements which provide that children under a particular age must be accompanied by an adult); and
- full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.

Representations from the Police

- 9.12 In their role as a responsible authority, the police are an essential source of advice and information on the impact and potential impact of licensable activities, particularly on the crime and disorder objective. The police have a key role in managing the night-time economy and should have good working relationships with those operating in their local area. The police should be the licensing authority's main source of advice on matters relating to the promotion of the crime and disorder licensing objective, but may also be able to make relevant representations with regards to the other licensing objectives if they have evidence to support such representations. The licensing authority should accept all reasonable and proportionate representations made by the police unless the authority has evidence that to do so would not be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, it remains incumbent on the police to ensure that their representations can withstand the scrutiny to which they would be subject at a hearing.

Hearings

- 9.29 Regulations made under the 2003 Act require that representations must be withdrawn 24 hours before the first day of any hearing. If they are withdrawn after this time, the hearing must proceed and the representations may be withdrawn orally at that hearing. However, where discussions between an applicant and those making representations are taking place and it is likely that all parties are on the point of reaching agreement, the licensing authority may wish to use the power given within the hearings regulations to extend time limits, if it considers this to be in the public interest.
- 9.33 As a matter of practice, licensing authorities should seek to focus the hearing on the steps considered appropriate to promote the particular licensing objective or objectives that have given rise to the specific representation and avoid straying into undisputed areas. A responsible authority or other person may choose to rely on their written representation. They may not add further representations to those

disclosed to the applicant prior to the hearing, but they may expand on their existing representation.

- 9.34 In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the licensing authority must give appropriate weight to:
- the steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives;
 - the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;
 - this Guidance;
 - its own statement of licensing policy.
- 9.35 The licensing authority should give its decision within five working days of the conclusion of the hearing (or immediately in certain specified cases) and provide reasons to support it. This will be important if there is an appeal by any of the parties. Notification of a decision must be accompanied by information on the right of the party to appeal. After considering all the relevant issues, the licensing authority may grant the application subject to such conditions that are consistent with the operating schedule. Any conditions imposed must be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives; there is no power for the licensing authority to attach a condition that is merely aspirational. For example, conditions may not be attached which relate solely to the health of customers rather than their direct physical safety.
- 9.36 Alternatively, the licensing authority may refuse the application on the grounds that this is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. It may also refuse to specify a designated premises supervisor and/or only allow certain requested licensable activities. In the interests of transparency, the licensing authority should publish hearings procedures in full on its website to ensure that those involved have the most current information.

Determining Actions that are Appropriate for the Promotion of the Licensing Objectives

- 9.38 Licensing authorities are best placed to determine what actions are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in their areas. All licensing determinations should be considered on a case-by-case basis. They should take into account any representations or objections that have been received from responsible authorities or other persons, and representations made by the applicant or premises user as the case may be.
- 9.39 The authority's determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve.
- 9.40 Determination of whether an action or step is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives requires an assessment of what action or step would be suitable to achieve that end. Whilst this does not therefore require a licensing authority to decide that no lesser step

will achieve the aim, the authority should aim to consider the potential burden that the condition would impose on the premises licence holder (such as the financial burden due to restrictions on licensable activities) as well as the potential benefit in terms of the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, it is imperative that the authority ensures that the factors which form the basis of its determination are limited to consideration of the promotion of the objectives and nothing outside those parameters. As with the consideration of licence variations, the licensing authority should consider wider issues such as other conditions already in place to mitigate potential negative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives and the track record of the business. Further advice on determining what is appropriate when imposing conditions on a licence or certificate is provided in Chapter 10. The licensing authority is expected to come to its determination based on an assessment of the evidence on both the risks and benefits either for or against making the determination.

Proportionality

- 10.10 The 2003 Act requires that licensing conditions should be tailored to the size, type, location and characteristics and activities taking place at the premises concerned. Conditions should be determined on a case by case basis and standardised conditions which ignore these individual aspects should be avoided. Licensing authorities and other responsible authorities should be alive to the indirect costs that can arise because of conditions. These could be a deterrent to holding events that are valuable to the community or for the funding of good and important causes. Licensing authorities should therefore ensure that any conditions they impose are only those which are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Powers of a Licensing Authority on the Determination of a Review

- 11.16 The 2003 Act provides a range of powers for the licensing authority which it may exercise on determining a review where it considers them appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 11.17 The licensing authority may decide that the review does not require it to take any further steps appropriate to promote the licensing objectives. In addition, there is nothing to prevent a licensing authority issuing an informal warning to the licence holder and/or to recommend improvement within a particular period of time. It is expected that licensing authorities will regard such informal warnings as an important mechanism for ensuring that the licensing objectives are effectively promoted and that warnings should be issued in writing to the licence holder.
- 11.18 However, where responsible authorities such as the police or environmental health officers have already issued warnings requiring improvement – either orally or in writing – that have failed as part of their own stepped approach to address concerns, licensing authorities should not merely repeat that approach and should take this into account when considering what further action is appropriate.

- 11.19 Where the licensing authority considers that action under its statutory powers is appropriate, it may take any of the following steps:
- to modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition), for example, by reducing the hours of opening or by requiring door supervisors at particular times;
 - to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, for example, to exclude the performance of live music or playing of recorded music (where it is not within the incidental live and recorded music exemption);
 - to remove the designated premises supervisor, for example, because they consider that the problems are the result of poor management;
 - to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
 - to revoke the licence.
- 11.20 In deciding which of these powers to invoke, it is expected that licensing authorities should so far as possible seek to establish the cause or causes of the concerns that the representations identify. The remedial action taken should generally be directed at these causes and should always be no more than an appropriate and proportionate response.
- 11.21 For example, licensing authorities should be alive to the possibility that the removal and replacement of the designated premises supervisor may be sufficient to remedy a problem where the cause of the identified problem directly relates to poor management decisions made by that individual.
- 11.22 Equally, it may emerge that poor management is a direct reflection of poor company practice or policy and the mere removal of the designated premises supervisor may be an inadequate response to the problems presented. Indeed, where subsequent review hearings are generated by representations, it should be rare merely to remove a succession of designated premises supervisors as this would be a clear indication of deeper problems that impact upon the licensing objectives.
- 11.23 Licensing authorities should also note that modifications of conditions and exclusions of licensable activities may be imposed either permanently or for a temporary period of up to three months. Temporary changes or suspension of the licence for up to three months could impact on the business holding the licence financially and would only be expected to be pursued as an appropriate means of promoting the licensing objectives. So, for instance, a licence could be suspended for a weekend as a means of deterring the holder from allowing the problems that gave rise to the review to happen again. However, it will always be important that any detrimental financial impact that may result from a licensing authority's decision is appropriate and proportionate to the promotion of the licensing objectives. But where

premises are found to be trading irresponsibly, the licensing authority should not hesitate, where appropriate to do so, to take tough action to tackle the problems at the premises and, where other measures are deemed insufficient, to revoke the licence.

Spontaneous Music, Singing and Dancing

15.33 The spontaneous performance of music, singing or dancing does not amount to the provision of regulated entertainment and is not a licensable activity because the premises at which these spontaneous activities occur would not have been made available to those taking part for that purpose.

Determination

10. Having regard to the review application, the Licensing Sub-Committee are requested to consider the application, this report and take such steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. These steps are:

- (a) To do nothing;
- (b) To modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition), for example, by reducing the hours of opening or by requiring door supervisors at particular times;
- (c) To exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, for example, to exclude the sale of alcohol or provision of late night refreshment;
- (d) To remove the designated premises supervisor, for example, because they consider that the problems are the result of poor management;
- (e) To suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
- (f) To revoke the licence.

11. The Sub-Committee are reminded that full reasons for its decision must be given as both the police and licence holder have a right of appeal against that decision to the Magistrates' Court.

John Gilbraith

Licensing Manager
Environmental Health & Housing
11th December 2012

Appendixes:

- 1. Copy of Current Premises Licence.
- 2. Copy of Review Application.
- 3. Copy of Police Letter dated 22 November 2012 (Statements).
- 4. Copy of Police Letter dated 28 November 2012 (additional Statements).
- 5. Location Plan.

Background Papers:

- 1. The Licensing Act 2003
- 2. Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (25 November 2010)
- 3. Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (October 2012)