

Licensing Committee - Terms of Reference

- (1) The full Committee shall comprise 15 Councillors appointed by the Council at its annual meeting, including a Chairman and Vice-Chairman.
- (2) For the functions set out in Appendix 1, and the legislation listed in Appendix 2, a sub-committee consisting of no more than any three Councillors drawn from the members of the full Committee shall be formed. Any such sub-committee shall include, by rota, one of the six Licensing Sub-Committee Chairmen appointed at each Annual Council meeting.
- (3) The Quorum for the Committee is set out in the Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution save that no business shall be transacted unless either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee is present.
- (4) The Committee and sub-committees shall have full authority to hear and determine licensing applications.
- (5) The Committee and sub-committees shall be further empowered to determine appeals made against the decisions of the Service Director (Commercial and Regulatory Services) taken under delegated authority on licensing applications. (See Council delegation schedule for more details)
- (6) The Committee shall at all times carry out its duties solely within the policy from time to time determined by the Council and shall conduct its proceedings in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 3 (Conduct of Business by Licensing Committee and Sub-Committees).
- (7) The Licensing Committee shall take no part in the production or revision of the statement of licensing policy made under Section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003, however, they may determine policy under the legislation listed in Appendix 2 to this Article.
- (8) To be responsible for the consideration and approval of Designation Orders under Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 (Exercise of Controls over the consumption of alcohol in Public Places).

LICENSING ACT 2003 – LIST OF FUNCTIONS AND DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Matter to be dealt with	Full Committee	Sub-Committee	Officers
Application for personal licence		If a police objection	If no objection made
Application for personal licence with unspent convictions		All cases	
Application for premises licence/club premises certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application for provisional statement		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application to vary premises licence/club premises certificate		If a relevant representation made	If no relevant representation made
Application to vary designated premises supervisor		If a police objection	All other cases
Request to be removed as designated premises supervisor			All cases
Application for transfer of premises licence		If a police objection	All other cases
Applications for interim Authorities		If a police objection	All other cases
Application to review premises licence/club premises certificate		All cases	
Decision on whether a complaint is irrelevant frivolous vexatious etc			All cases
Decision to object when local authority is a consultee and not the relevant authority considering the application		All cases	
Determination of a police objection to a temporary event notice		All cases	
All policy matters except the formulation of the statement of licensing policy	All cases		

LIST OF STATUTORY POWERS

Those functions pertaining to licensing and registration and permits and consents contained in the following legislation and any regulations, orders, byelaws or other subsidiary legislation made under the above Acts:

Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963
Breeding & Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999
Breeding of Dogs Act 1973
Breeding of Dogs Act 1991
Caravan Sites & Control of Development Act 1960
Caravan Sites Act 1968
Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
Gambling Act 2005
Guard Dogs Act 1975
House to House Collections Act 1939
Licensing Act 2003
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
Pet Animals Act 1951
Pet Animals Act 1951 (Amendment) Act 1983
Riding Establishments Acts 1964 & 1970
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964
Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013
The Game Act 1831
Town Police Clauses Act 1847
Town Police Clauses Act 1889
Zoo Licensing Act 1981

PART A – CONDUCT OF BUSINESS BY LICENSING COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEES

All references to committee in this annex shall be taken to infer a reference to the associated subcommittees.

1. General Conduct

- 1.1 All hearings of the Licensing Committee under the Licensing Act 2003, are to be held in accordance with the Personal Licences, Hearings, Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates, and Licensing Register Regulations, made under the Licensing Act 2003.
- 1.2 The Council's Constitution shall regulate the conduct of and debate at meetings.
- 1.3 In the case of hearings under the Licensing Act 2003, the Committee shall only consider those matters relevant to the licensing objectives as set out in the Licensing Act 2003 and the statement of licensing policy adopted by the Council.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Members of the Committee are subject to the Council's Code of Conduct.

3. Participation in the Hearing

- 3.1 Debate shall be restricted to members of the Licensing Committee. Where a local ward member, not being a member of the Committee, wishes to participate in the hearing, they may do so only with the permission of the Chairman and their participation shall be subject to the same rules as are applied to any other witnesses to the application.
- 3.2 In hearings other than those under the Licensing Act 2003, where a ward member is a member of the Committee, and wishes to object to the application, the member shall give 14 days' notice of their intention, and shall play no part in the decision-making process of the Committee. In hearings under the Licensing Act 2003, those named as responsible authorities and interested parties in the Act may only make representations within the time limits set out in the relevant statutory provisions.
- 3.3 All persons participating in the hearing shall be made aware of the limitations or scope of statements that will be acceptable and, in particular, that statements should be factual or a fair statement on a matter of public interest.
- 3.4 In the case of any hearing pursuant to the summary review procedure under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, the membership of any Subcommittee adjudicating on such a review shall comprise any three members drawn from the Licensing Committee subject to the proviso that no member should serve more than one hearing.

4. Attendance of the Public

- 4.1 The Council's Constitution and relevant statutory provisions relating to the admission or exclusion of the public shall apply to all meetings of the Licensing Committee.

5. Natural Justice

- 5.1 There are two elements to natural justice:

(a) Fairness

- (i) All persons affected by the decision or in the case of matters associated with the Licensing Act 2003, those named as responsible authorities and interested parties in the Act, will be allowed a hearing before a decision is made.
- (ii) Only objectors who can show clearly that they are affected by a decision shall be afforded the right to be heard or, in the case of hearings under the Licensing Act 2003, only those named in the Act as responsible authorities or interested parties.
- (iii) All information shall be made available, where possible in advance, to the applicant and the Committee.
- (iv) All members of the Committee shall be present throughout the hearing of a particular application. Where a member arrives late or leaves during a hearing of a particular application, that member shall play no part in the decision-making process. Where an application is adjourned it shall be continued by the same members only, and no others.
- (v) The Committee shall have discretion in respect of 'late' objections. Such objections shall be clearly marked on the agenda as such and the Committee shall decide on their acceptability. The applicant shall be advised of any late objections. In the case of representations made in relation to the Licensing Act 2003 applications, these shall only be accepted in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions.

(b) Prevention of Bias

- (i) The rules on the declarations of interest shall be firmly applied.
- (ii) If the Committee moves into private session to consider its decision, it shall be accompanied only by its advising officers, none of whom shall have taken a substantive part in the hearing, and shall play no substantive part in the decision-making process.

6. General Procedures for Hearings

- 6.1 The following procedural requirements shall be followed at all times:

- (a) There shall be no recommendation from officers on the agenda;
- (b) The Committee shall be supplied with copies of all relevant documentation and the process and order of procedure shall be as follows:

- (i) The Chairman will open the meeting and introduce persons as appropriate asking applicants and representatives to identify themselves.
- (ii) The Chairman will outline the procedure to be followed.
- (iii) The Lead Officer will outline the matter in hand.
- (iv) The applicant or representative will present his/her case, with or without witnesses, and be questioned by members or any objectors/persons making representations present.
- (v) Any objectors/persons making representations may then present their objections/representation, with or without witnesses, and be questioned by members or the applicant/s or their representative.
- (vi) The objectors/persons making representations may make a final statement (without introducing new issues).
- (vii) Finally, the applicant has the right to make a final statement (without introducing new issues).
- (viii) All evidence/disclosures are to be made in the presence of all persons, unless someone voluntarily excuses themselves from the proceedings.
- (ix) Committee members shall restrict themselves to questions and not discussion or comment.
- (x) The applicant, objectors/persons making representations shall be allowed to ask officers questions of a technical/factual nature at any time during the proceedings.
- (xi) An adjournment should be granted where to do otherwise would deny a fair hearing.
- (xii) The Committee may resolve to decide upon the application in private session, however, if it becomes necessary to recall anyone for additional information, everyone shall be invited to return to the Hearing.
- (xiii) The decision shall be given in the presence of all parties that wish to be present and confirmed in writing as soon as possible thereafter. If legal advice is given to members this advice will be repeated in summary form.