

# Licensing Panel (Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

## Agenda Item 6

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003</b>		
<b>Premises:</b>	<b>Hove SF Connect 373 Kingsway Hove BN3 4QD</b>		
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>BP Oil UK Limited</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>23 March 2020</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Interim Executive Director Housing, Neighbourhoods and Communities</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Becky Pratley</b>	<b>Tel: (01273) 292143</b>
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<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>Wish</b>		

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 To determine an application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Hove SF Connect.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Panel determine an application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Hove SF Connect.

#### 3. CONTEXT/BACKGROUND INFORMATION & CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The application is for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003. The application proposes:
1. Extension of the hours for the sale of alcohol to 24 hours daily.
  2. To remove the embedded restrictions attached to the licence.
  3. To remove the conditions listed under Annex 2.
  4. To include in Annex 2 the conditions in boxes b to e of Section 16 of the application.
- 3.2 Section 16 (operating schedule) of the application is detailed at Appendix A.

### 3.3 Summary table of existing and proposed activities

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Late Night Refreshment</b>	Every Day 23:00 to 05:00 Indoors and Outdoors	No change
<b>Supply of Alcohol</b>	Every Day 08:00 to 23:00 Off the premises	Every Day 00:00 to 00:00 Off the premises
<b>Hours premises are open to public</b>	Every Day 00:00 to 00:00	No change
<b>Conditions removed as a consequence of the proposed Variation</b>	1. To remove the embedded restrictions attached to the licence. 2. To remove the conditions listed under Annex 2. 3. To include in Annex 2 the conditions in boxes b to e of Section 16 of the application. (See Appendix A)	

3.4 Existing licence attached at Appendix B.

3.5 The premises does not fall in the Cumulative Impact Area or the Special Stress Area.

#### **Representations received**

3.6 Details of the representations made are notified to applicants on receipt by the Licensing Authority using a pro-forma. A summary appears below:

3.7 3 representations were received. They were received from The Environmental Protection Team, The Licensing Authority and a local resident.

3.8 Representations received had concerns relating to Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Prevention of Public Nuisance

3.9 Full details of the representations are attached at Appendix C. A map detailing the location of the premises is attached at Appendix D.

#### **4. COMMENTARY ON THE LICENSING POLICY**

4.1 The following extracts from Brighton & Hove City Council Statement of Licensing Policy are considered relevant to this application and **are numbered as they appear in the policy**:

##### **1. Introduction**

1.1 This Statement of Licensing Policy has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) and having regard to Guidance issued by the Home Office under Section 182 of the act. The licensing authority is Brighton & Hove City Council. The purpose of this statement is to promote the licensing objectives and set out a general approach to making licensing

decisions. The discretion of the licensing authority in relation to applications under the act is only engaged if 'relevant representations' are made by other persons or responsible authorities. This policy will inform the approach to be taken when deciding applications and imposing conditions when relevant representations are received. It is also intended as a guide for applicants as to what to include in their operating schedules, always recognising that if no representations are received, the application must be granted. The licensing authority must carry out its functions with a view to promoting the licensing objectives and this policy is framed around those objectives. Each application will be given individual consideration on its merit. The scope of this policy covers the following:

- Retail sales of alcohol;
- The supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club, or to the order of, a member of the club;
- The provision of regulated entertainment;
- The provision of late night refreshment.

## **1.2 The licensing objectives are: -**

- (a) Prevention of crime and disorder;
- (b) Public safety;
- (c) Prevention of public nuisance;
- (d) Protection of children from harm.

## **1.3 Scope**

Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on licensed premises, by qualifying clubs and at temporary events. Any conditions attached to various authorisations will be focused on matters which are within the control of individual licensees and others with relevant authorisations; i.e. the premises and its vicinity. Each application will be given individual consideration on its merit. Nothing in this policy shall undermine the right of any individual to apply under the terms of the act for a variety of permissions and to have any such application considered on its individual merits. Similarly, nothing in this policy shall override the right of any person to make representations on an application or seek a review of a licence or certificate where provision has been made for them to do so in the act.

## **3.3 The Matrix Approach**

### **The Licensing Authority will support:**

- 3.3.1 Diversity of premises: ensures that there is a mix of the different types of licensed premises and attracts a more diverse range of customers from different age groups, different communities and with different attitudes to alcohol consumption. It gives potential for positively changing the ambience of the city or an area of it. This will have a positive effect in reducing people's fear of crime and in increasing the number of evening visitors to the city centre. The Community Safety Strategy recognises that too many single uses in a confined area and patrons turning out onto the streets at the same time may create opportunities for

violent crime and public disorder and therefore supports: mixed use venues encouraging a wider age balance.

3.3.2 A “matrix” approach to licensing decisions has been adopted and is set out below. It provides a framework of what the licensing authority would like to see within its area and gives an indication of the likelihood of success or otherwise to investor and businesses making applications.

Matrix approach for licensing decisions in a Statement of Licensing Policy (times relates to licensable activities)

	<b>Cumulative Impact Area</b>	<b>Special Stress Area</b>	<b>Marina</b>	<b>Other Areas</b>
<b>Restaurant</b>	Yes (midnight)	Yes (midnight)	Yes	Yes (midnight)
<b>Café</b>	Yes (10pm)	Yes (midnight)	Yes	Yes (midnight)
<b>Late Night Takeaways</b>	No	Yes (midnight)	Yes	Yes (midnight)
<b>Night Club</b>	No	No	Yes	No
<b>Pub</b>	No	Yes (11pm)	Yes	Yes (midnight)
<b>Non-alcohol lead (e.g. Theatre)</b>	Yes (favourable)	Yes (favourable)	Yes	Yes (favourable)
<b>Off-licence</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes (Up to 11pm but if in densely residential area may be earlier – see note 7 below)
<b>Members Club (club premises certificate)</b>	Yes (<100 capacity) (11pm)	Yes (<100 capacity) (11pm)	Yes	Yes

Notes on matrix

Subject to the following notes, the policy, as represented in the matrix, will be strictly adhered to

- 1) Each application will be considered on individual merit

- 2) Applications within the CIZ are subject to the special policy on cumulative impact at para 3.1, and those within the special stress area to the special stress policy considerations at para 3.2.
- 3) Departure from the matrix policy is expected only in exceptional circumstances
- 4) Exceptional circumstances will not include quality of management or size of venue except where explicitly stated in policy matrix.
- 5) Exceptional circumstances may include: consultation with and meeting requirements of responsible authorities, an appropriate corporate social responsibility policy, community contribution to off set impact (such as financial contribution to infrastructure), community support, alcohol sale ancillary to business activity (demonstrable to responsible authorities and licensing authority, for instance by licence condition allowing authorised officers access to sales accounts).
- 6) The following licensing activities are encouraged and valued by the licensing authority: outdoor regulated entertainment, community based street parties, member's clubs, traditional pubs outside the city centre and non-alcohol led licensable activities, particularly within city centre.
- 7) Other Areas; consideration will be given to the nature of the area and location in relation to any application. In a residential area for example the concerns of local residents will be relevant when considering applications for off-licences, pubs or cafés, especially if there is evidence of anti-social behaviour, street drinking or underage drinking. Earlier closing times may be appropriate. Regard will be had to the Public Health Framework for assessing alcohol licensing and the Street Community and Drug Activity Profile. These documents are available on the following page of our website [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/licensingact](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/licensingact).
- 8) In an area where there are already several existing off-licences and where representations are received about negative cumulative impact on the licensing objectives of a further premises, the application may be refused on these grounds.
- 9) Outdoor events will be supported where arranged through the council's event planning process. Generally, regulated entertainment in the open air including tents and marquees should have a maximum closure hour of 2300. Earlier hours may be imposed in sensitive open spaces or near residential areas. The Licensing Authority will have regard to Noise Council guidance.

### **3.5 Off licences**

- 3.5.1 In recent years there has been a noticeable shift towards more people buying alcohol from shops and drinking at home before going out prior to going into premises such as pubs and clubs. The council is concerned that alcohol loading from off-licence sales is a significant problem in the city and adversely affects the licensing objectives as it gives rise to problems of drunkenness, disorderly behaviour and a higher risk of alcohol sales to children. Representations from the police, local residents and the director of public health at licensing panel hearings have testified to these problems and Information published in the Public Health Framework for assessing alcohol licensing presents a ward by ward analysis of crime and disorder and health data which is relevant in this respect.
- 3.5.2 The special policy on cumulative impact and the special stress areas apply to off-licences as explained in the matrix approach at 3.3. But in general where applications are made for new premises or variations to existing licences, and where the police or others make representations against the grant of a further

licence for off sales, the council will give specific consideration to restricting the number, type, and the hours of premises selling alcohol exclusively for consumption off the premises. Decisions will be grounded in the Public Health Framework for assessing alcohol licensing. The council will want to be assured that the operating schedule of premises, and their overall management, training and levels of staffing, are appropriate to ensure that the licensing objectives are promoted in what may be challenging circumstances. Retail outlets and stores where the provision of fresh produce is the principle product sold maybe considered more favourably.

3.5.3 The Licensing Authority encourage off licences to join the Council led “Sensible on Strength” scheme to reduce the availability of cheap super strength beers and ciders. Off licences voluntarily sign up not to sell cheap super-strength beers and ciders over 6% ABV and operate good practice measures (see 3.5.4), for which they receive an accreditation as a responsible retailer.

3.5.4 Areas of best practice that may be included in an Operating Schedule include;

- the installation of a digital CCTV system by liaison with, and to a standard approved by Sussex Police
- Challenge 25 policy
- Refusals system
- Documented staff training including underage sales, drunkenness and proxy sales
- Voluntary restriction of high strength alcohol - operating schedules may be used to limit high ABV beers and ciders
- BCRP membership (or other accredited scheme)
- No sale of single cans
- Displays should not be located at the entrance/exit points or near checks out

## **4 Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

4.1.1 The following details and measures are intended to address the need for the prevention of crime and disorder which may be associated with licensed premises and certificated club premises. Conditions attached to licences and certificates will, as far as possible, reflect local crime reduction strategies.

4.1.2 The licensing authority acknowledges that training and good management play a key part in preventing alcohol and drug related crime. The authority expects that all licensees of on-licensed premises attend training programmes which will raise their awareness of the issues relating to drugs and violence in licensed premises, and that suitable training be extended to all bar staff and door supervisors so that drug dealers and users will be deterred from using licensed premises for illegal purposes and that incidents of violence in licensed premises will be reduced. Licensees are also encouraged to attend training programmes to help identify children at risk and issues of basic child protection. It is the duty of the designated premises supervisor (DPS) to train staff on induction concerning conditions on their premises licence.

- 4.1.3 It is expected that the DPS will spend a significant amount of time on the premises. When not on the premises it will be essential that the DPS is contactable, particularly should problems arise with the premises and that staff are authorised by the DPS.
- 4.1.4 The location of violent attacks, anti-social behaviour and hate crime or related incidents may be used to justify closing times.

## **6 Prevention of Public Nuisance**

- 6.1 The following details and measures are intended to address the need for the prevention of public nuisance which may be associated with licensed premises and certificated club premises.
- 6.1.1 In determining applications for new and varied licences, regard will be had to the location of premises, the type and construction of the building and the likelihood of nuisance and disturbance to the amenity of nearby residents by reason of noise from within the premises, as a result of people entering or leaving the premises or from individuals or groups of customers gathered outside (e.g. in order to smoke).
- 6.1.5 In determining applications for new licences or extensions in hours or terminal hours of licensed premises, regard will be had to late night public transport availability and location of taxi ranks to aid dispersal of customers.
- 6.1.6 Reasonable controls are available to all premises operators to minimise the impact of noise from customers outside. The council's Environmental Health Department has issued guidance on a number of steps that can be taken in this respect which are endorsed by this policy (see 6.2 below).

### **6.2 Smoking Advice**

- 6.2.1 Premises licence holders will be expected to:
- Develop a management plan on how to manage smoking on your premises and ensure that all staff are aware of the contents of this plan, and that it is effectively implemented. Noise from people smoking and talking can be intermittent, vary in character and volume and be intrusive. An effective smoking management plan will help prevent neighbours being disturbed.
  - Comply with any planning conditions restricting the use of outdoor areas.
  - Ensure that any structures used by smokers comply with the design criteria detailed in the Heath Act 2006 and that any structures, awnings, retractable canopies, etc. have the relevant planning permission.
  - Ensure any new lighting to outdoor areas must be designed so as not to cause a light nuisance to neighbours and again have the relevant planning permission and building control consent.
  - Ensure that the conditions on the premises licence are complied with. There may be conditions restricting the hours of use of gardens and

outdoor areas. Having reviewed the contents of the premises licence you may find it necessary to request a variation of your licence.

- Licence tables and chairs on the Public Highway under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980. These licences may have conditions restricting the times that the area can be used.
- Ensure drinks, glasses and bottles are not taken onto the highway unless there is a tables and chairs licence permitting use. A system should be adopted to prevent theft and 'spiking' of drinks, and reminding customers not to leave unattended items.
- Discourage smokers remaining in gardens and outdoor areas and determine terminal hours.
- Discourage smokers remaining outside by removing/disabling tables and chairs or prohibiting their use after a certain time. Lights and heaters will also be turned off.
- Introduce a system that after a certain time the number of smokers outside are restricted to a maximum number. Staff will be needed to manage this restriction.
- Employ staff and/or SIA registered door supervisors to manage doors and control customers and smokers entering and leaving the premises. Staff positioned on the doors can help to encourage customers not to cause a noise problem. It may be that staff are required to manage doors after a certain time, particularly during the hours when neighbouring residents are trying to sleep.
- Ensure door supervisors maintain order outside venues and protect customer safety. BCRP supports the use of Night Safe. Radio net and other pager systems and pub watch schemes can be used to provide for rapid police response and alert other venues where customers and staff are endangered.
- Position signs to remind customers that the premises is in an area where people live. It is not always obvious in busy commercial streets with flats above. By changing the design and wording of signs customers do not forget. Signs can be located in and outside the premises and on tables.
- Use CCTV to manage outside areas.

6.2.2 Licensed premises should normally display prominent, legible signs at exits reminding customers to leave in a quiet, peaceful, orderly manner.



## **8 Integration of Strategies**

- 8.1 The licensing authority shall secure the proper integration of this policy with local crime prevention, planning policy, transport, tourism and cultural strategies by: -
- Liaising and consulting with the Sussex Police, Community Safety Forum, Sustainability Commission representatives and following the guidance in community safety and crime and disorder strategy
  - Liaising and consulting with Public and Alcohol Programme Board
  - Liaising and consulting with the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
  - Liaising and consulting with the Local Strategic Partnership, Safety Advisory Group (Emergency Planning) and Equalities and Social Justice Consultation Forum
  - Liaising and consulting with the Planning authority
  - Liaising and consulting with the Highways authority
  - Liaising and consulting with local business and business associations. Having regard to any future documents issued relating to the Private Security Industry Act 2001, for example liaison or information sharing protocols
  - Liaising and consulting with the Trading Standards Team, for example with regard to test purchasing codes of practice
- 8.2 In line with statutory requirements and the Council's Inclusion Policy, the Licensing Authority shall have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, and to promote equality of opportunity and positive relations between persons of diverse backgrounds, for example communities of interest such as: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; disabled people; racial and ethnic groups; religious and faith groups.
- 8.3 This policy supports the aims of the tourism strategy, recognising the benefits for the tourism economy of creating a safer and more attractive city centre and improving competitiveness with other European cities. The Licensing Committee should receive any reports relevant to the needs of the local tourist economy and the cultural strategy for the area to ensure that it considers these matters.
- 8.4 The Licensing Committee should receive relevant information relating to the employment situation of the area and the need for new investment and employment where appropriate.
- 8.5 Specific conditions may be attached to premises licences to reflect local crime prevention strategies. Such conditions may include the use of closed circuit television cameras, use of the NightSafe radio system or accredited scheme, the provision and use of shatterproof drinking receptacles, drugs and weapons search policy, the use of registered door supervisors, specialised lighting requirements, hours of opening. Certificates issued to club premises shall reflect local crime prevention strategies and may include any or all of the requirements listed above.

- 8.6 The licensing authority will have regard to the need to disperse people quickly and safely from the city centre to avoid concentrations which may produce disorder and disturbance.

## **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Licensing Act 2003 provides for fees to be payable to the licensing authority in respect of the discharge of their functions. The fee levels are set centrally at a level to allow licensing authorities to fully recover the costs of administration, inspection and enforcement of the regime.

*Finance Officer Consulted Michael Bentley*

*Date: 03/03/2020*

### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The licensing authority must act to promote the four licensing objectives which are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

The licensing authority must have regard to its statement of licensing policy and the guidance issued by the Secretary of State in carrying out its functions.

*Lawyer Consulted: Rebecca Sidell*

*Date: 05/03/2020*

### Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Diversity is valued and strong, safe communities are vital to future prosperity. Licensing policy aims to protect children from harm including sale and supply of alcohol to children.

### Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Licensing policy aims to prevent public nuisance and develop culture of live music, dancing and theatre.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

### **Appendices:**

1. Appendix A – Section 16 (operating schedule) of the Application
2. Appendix B – Part A of Premises Licence

3. Appendix C – Representations
4. Appendix D – Map of area

### **Documents in Members' Rooms**

Brighton & Hove City Council, Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy 2016, revised January 2019.

Home Office, Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, April 2018.

Public Health Framework for assessing Alcohol Licensing. Annual Report – Ward. 5th edition. Public Health Intelligence. January 2019

### **Background Documents**

Brighton & Hove City Council, Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy 2016, revised January 2019.

