

<b>Report to</b>	Licensing sub committee 28 November 2012	<b>Item</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of citywide services	<b>3</b>
<b>Subject</b>	Licensing Act 2003: Application for review of a premises licence: The Marlborough Arms, 43 Spencer Street Norwich NR3 4PB	

## **Purpose**

Members are asked, in accordance with the delegation of licensing functions contained in the Norwich city council statement of licensing policy (Licensing Act 2003), to consider an application by Councillor Brociek-Coulton and Councillor Barker to review the premises licence in respect of The Marlborough Arms 43 Spencer Street Norwich NR3 4PB.

## **Recommendation**

That members determine the review application in respect of The Marlborough Arms 43 Spencer Street Norwich NR3 4PB in accordance with the:

- Licensing Act 2003;
- Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003; and
- Norwich City Council Statement of Licensing Policy.

## **Corporate and service priorities**

The report helps to meet the corporate priority of a safe and clean city and the service plan priority of protecting the interests of the public through the administration of the licensing function.

## **Financial implications**

None.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Driver – Environment and neighbourhoods

## **Contact officers**

Ian Streeter, licensing manager

01603 212439

## **Background documents**

None

# Report

## Licensing Act 2003 (The Act): Review Applications

1. The Act provides a mechanism by which, following the grant of a premises licence, a responsible authority (e.g. the police) or any other person (e.g. a resident living in the vicinity of the premises) may ask the licensing authority to 'review' the licence because of a matter(s) arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives (the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm).
2. The licensing authority must advertise the review by displaying a notice at, on or near the site of the premises to which the application relates and at the main offices of the licensing authority. Notification of an application is also sent to properties within the vicinity of the application premises, in accordance with the policy previously agreed by the city council's Licensing committee.
3. The Act provides the licensing authority with a range of powers that it may exercise on determining a review, where it considers them appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, the licensing authority may decide that no action is necessary if it finds that the review does not require it to take any steps appropriate to promote the licensing objectives.
4. Where a 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;
  - 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; and
  - To revoke the licence.
5. It should be noted that modifications of conditions and exclusions of licensable activities may be imposed either permanently or for a temporary period of up to three months.
6. The following parties have a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court if they are aggrieved by the licensing authority's decision:
  - the applicant for the review;
  - the holder of the premises licence; and
  - any other person who made relevant representations in relation to the application.

## **Application for Review**

7. An application to review the Premises Licence in respect of The Marlborough Arms 43 Spencer Street Norwich NR3 4PB has been received from Councillor Brociek-Coulton and Councillor Barker. A copy of the application and accompanying information is attached at Appendix A to the report.
8. The grounds for review fall under the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance. No previous application for review has been received in respect of these premises.

9. The current premises licence allows the following licensable activities:

Sale by retail of alcohol	Every day	00:00 - 00:00
Recorded music	Every day	00:00 - 00:00
Late Night Refreshment	Every day	23:00 - 05:00

10. The opening hours of the premises are:

Monday	00:00 - 00:00
Tuesday	00:00 - 00:00
Wednesday	00:00 - 00:00
Thursday	00:00 - 00:00
Friday	00:00 - 00:00
Saturday	00:00 - 00:00
Sunday	00:00 - 00:00

11. The current Premises Licence holders are Mr John Linford and Mrs Deborah Linford of Hill House 47 Buxton Road Frettenham Norfolk.
12. A copy of the current premises licence in respect of The Marlborough Arms is attached at Appendix B to the report.

## **Relevant Representations**

13. The responses from the Responsible Authorities are as follows:

- Licensing authority – no representations.
- Police – response attached at Appendix C.
- Environmental health – response attached at Appendix D.
- Fire Officer – no representations.
- Health & safety – no representations.
- Planning Officer – no representations.
- Area Child Protection Committee – no representations.

- Trading Standards – no representations.
- Primary Care Trust – no representations

14. There have been seven representations supporting the review application. These are attached to the report at Appendix E.

15. A site map of the area identifying the premises to which the application relates and detailing the addresses of the applicants and those parties supporting the application will be available at your meeting.

### **Norwich City Council Statement of Licensing Policy**

16. Attached at Appendix F are the elements of the City Council's local Licensing Policy which are considered to have a bearing upon the application.

### **National Guidance (issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003)**

17. Attached at Appendix G are the elements of the National Guidance issued by the Secretary of State that are considered to have a bearing upon the application.

### **Summary**

18. The Sub-Committee is obliged to determine this application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives which are:

- the prevention of crime and disorder;
- public safety;
- the prevention of public nuisance;
- the protection of children from harm.

19. In making its decision, the Sub-Committee is also obliged to have regard to guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (National Guidance) and the Council's own local licensing policy. The Sub-Committee must also have regard to all of the representations made and the evidence it hears.

20. If, after considering the application and relevant evidence, action is considered necessary, the Sub-Committee must take such of the following steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- To modify the conditions of the Premises Licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition);
- To exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
- To suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months; and
- To revoke the licence.

21. The Sub-Committee is asked to note that it may not modify the conditions or reject the whole or part of the application merely because it considers it desirable to do so. It must actually be appropriate in order to promote the licensing objectives.

# APPENDIX F

## Local Policy considerations

### 1.0 Introduction

1.4 The 2003 Act requires the Council to carry out its various licensing functions so as to promote the four licensing objectives. These are:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

1.5 The 2003 Act also requires that the Council publishes a 'Statement of Licensing Policy' that sets out the policies the Council will generally apply to promote the Licensing Objectives when making decisions on applications made under the Act.

4.1 "Responsible Authorities" will be asked to consider all applications and to make representations to the Council, if they relate to the promotion of the four licensing objectives and particularly in respect of applications which, might be regarded as contentious. Representations must be evidentially based and the organisation should attend any hearing when the application is being considered.

4.2 The Council will consider all representations from any "Interested Party" (see Appendix 7), or their representative, which should preferably be evidentially based and supported by attendance at any hearing at which the application is being considered.

4.3 A representation, will only be accepted by the Council if it is 'relevant', in that it must relate to the likely effect of granting the licence on the promotion of at least one of the four licensing objectives. Representation's, which are regarded as being frivolous or vexatious, will not be considered, and in the case of a review of a licence, any representation which is regarded as repetitious, will also not be considered. A decision as to whether a representation is frivolous, vexatious or repetitive will be made by an officer of the Council.

### 5.0 Conditions attaching to Licences

5.1 Where relevant representations are made, the Council will make objective judgments as to whether conditions may need to be attached to the premises licence to secure achievement of the licensing objectives. Any conditions arising as a result of representations will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at licensed premises, on those attending the premises, and

members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned, and will cover matters that are within the control of individual licensees.

- 5.2 All applications will be considered on an individual basis and any condition attached to such a licence, will be tailored to each individual premises, in order to avoid the imposition of disproportionate or burdensome conditions on those premises. Therefore, mandatory conditions, will only be imposed where they are necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

## 11.0 Reviews of Licences and Certificates

- 11.1 A Licence or Certificate will be reviewed if, valid representations are received by the Council. Where practicable, the Council will mediate between applicants, relevant statutory agencies and occupiers of nearby premises, local residents groups, community or interested groups where significant issues have arisen relating to a premises licence. Where possible, the Council will mediate by:

- Identifying potential issues for other relevant statutory agencies particularly regarding the safety and amenity of local residents.
- Negotiating, if possible, potential conditions to reflect resolutions of this mediation.

This process will not override the right of any interested party to ask that the Council consider their valid objections, or for any licence holder to decline to participate in a mediation meeting.

Where mediation is not practicable or fails, the Council will advise the parties of the provisions of the Act concerning a formal review of the licence.

- 11.2 Should Responsible Authorities and Interested Parties give early notice to licence holders of any concerns about problems identified at premises and of the need for improvement, requests for a review of any licence will only be sought if such notice has failed to resolve the matter or problem.
- 11.3 The Council expects that any Responsible Authority or Interested Party will provide an evidentiary basis to support their application for a review of a premises licence.

# **APPENDIX G**

## **National Guidance**

### **(issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003)**

#### **THE REVIEW PROCESS**

- 11.1 The proceedings set out in the 2003 Act for reviewing premises licences and club premises certificates represent a key protection for the community where problems associated with the licensing objectives occur after the grant or variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate.
- 11.2 At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate, a responsible authority, or any other person, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence or certificate because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.
- 11.3 An application for review may be made electronically, provided the licensing authority agrees and the applicant submits a subsequent written application. The licensing authority may also agree in advance that the application need not be given in writing. However, these applications are outside the formal electronic application process and may not be submitted via Business Link or the licensing authority's electronic facility.
- 11.4 In addition, the licensing authority must review a licence if the premises to which it relates was made the subject of a closure order by the police based on nuisance or disorder and the magistrates' court has sent the authority the relevant notice of its determination, or if the police have made an application for summary review on the basis that premises are associated with serious crime and/or disorder.
- 11.5 Any responsible authority under the 2003 Act may apply for a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate. Therefore, the relevant licensing authority may apply for a review if it is concerned about licensed activities at a premises and wants to intervene early without waiting for representations from other parties. However, it is not expected that licensing authorities should normally act as responsible authorities in applying for reviews on behalf of other persons, such as local residents or community groups. These individuals or groups are entitled to apply for a review for a licence or certificate in their own right if they have grounds to do so. It is also reasonable for licensing authorities to expect other responsible authorities to intervene where the basis for the intervention falls within the remit of that other authority. For example, the police should take appropriate steps where the basis for the review is concern about crime and

disorder. Likewise, where there are concerns about noise nuisance, it is reasonable to expect the local authority exercising environmental health functions for the area in which the premises are situated to make the application for review.

- 11.6 Where the relevant licensing authority does act as a responsible authority and applies for a review, it is important that a separation of responsibilities is still achieved in this process to ensure procedural fairness and eliminate conflicts of interest. As outlined previously in Chapter 9 of this Guidance, the distinct functions of acting as licensing authority and responsible authority should be exercised by different officials to ensure a separation of responsibilities. Further information on how licensing authorities should achieve this separation of responsibilities can be found in Chapter 9, paragraphs 9.13 to 9.19 of this Guidance.
- 11.7 In every case, any application for a review must relate to particular premises in respect of which there is a premises licence or club premises certificate and must be relevant to the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives. Following the grant or variation of a licence or certificate, a complaint regarding a general issue in the local area relating to the licensing objectives, such as a general (crime and disorder) situation in a town centre, should generally not be regarded as a relevant representation unless it can be positively tied or linked by a causal connection to particular premises, which would allow for a proper review of the licence or certificate. For instance, a geographic cluster of complaints, including along transport routes related to an individual public house and its closing time, could give grounds for a review of an existing licence as well as direct incidents of crime and disorder around a particular public house.
- 11.8 Where a licensing authority receives a geographic cluster of complaints, the authority may consider whether these issues are the result of the cumulative impact of licensed premises within the area concerned. In such circumstances, the authority may also consider whether it would be appropriate to include a special policy relating to cumulative impact within its licensing policy statement. Further guidance on cumulative impact policies can be found in Chapter 13 of this Guidance.
- 11.9 Representations must be made in writing and may be amplified at the subsequent hearing or may stand in their own right. Additional representations which do not amount to an amplification of the original representation may not be made at the hearing. Representations may be made electronically, provided the licensing authority agrees and the applicant submits a subsequent written representation. The licensing authority may also agree in advance that the representation need not be given in writing.
- 11.10 Where authorised persons and responsible authorities have concerns about problems identified at premises, it is good practice for them to give licence holders early warning of their concerns and the need for improvement, and where possible they should advise the licence or certificate holder of the steps they need to take to address those concerns. A failure by the holder to respond to such warnings is expected to lead to a decision to apply for a review. Co-operation at a local level in promoting the licensing objectives should be encouraged and reviews should not be used to undermine this co-operation.
- 11.11 If the application for a review has been made by a person other than a responsible authority (for example, a local resident, residents' association, local business or



trade association), before taking action the licensing authority must first consider whether the complaint being made is relevant, frivolous, vexatious or repetitious. Further guidance on determining whether a representation is frivolous or vexatious can be found in Chapter 9 of this Guidance (paragraphs 9.4 to 9.10).

## **REPETITIOUS GROUNDS OF REVIEW**

11.12 A repetitious ground is one that is identical or substantially similar to:

- a ground for review specified in an earlier application for review made in relation to the same premises licence or certificate which has already been determined; or
- representations considered by the licensing authority when the premises licence or certificate was granted; or
- representations which would have been made when the application for the premises licence was first made and which were excluded then by reason of the prior issue of a provisional statement; and, in addition to the above grounds, a reasonable interval has not elapsed since that earlier review or grant.

11.13 Licensing authorities are expected to be aware of the need to prevent attempts to review licences merely as a further means of challenging the grant of the licence following the failure of representations to persuade the licensing authority on an earlier occasion. It is for licensing authorities themselves to judge what should be regarded as a reasonable interval in these circumstances. However, it is recommended that more than one review originating from a person other than a responsible authority in relation to a particular premises should not be permitted within a 12 month period on similar grounds save in compelling circumstances or where it arises following a closure order.

11.14 The exclusion of a complaint on the grounds that it is repetitious does not apply to responsible authorities which may make more than one application for a review of a licence or certificate within a 12 month period.

11.15 When a licensing authority receives an application for a review from a responsible authority or any other person, or in accordance with the closure procedures described in Part 8 of the 2003 Act (for example, closure orders), it must arrange a hearing. The arrangements for the hearing must follow the provisions set out in regulations. These regulations are published on the Government's legislation website ([www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk)). It is particularly important that the premises licence holder is made fully aware of any representations made in respect of the premises, any evidence supporting the representations and that the holder or the holder's legal representative has therefore been able to prepare a response.

## **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 like 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.