



Licensing Committee

10:30 to 12:20

6 March 2023

Present: Councillors Stutely (chair), Ackroyd, Brociek-Coulton, Catt, Davis, and Grahame

Apologies: Councillors Fulton-McAlister (E), Huntley, Kidman, Peek, Price, Sands (S) and Schmierer

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Application for the renewal of a sex establishment at Sugar & Spice, 39 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, NR1 1BG

The chair welcomed the applicants to the meeting and introduced members of the committee, the legal advisor and the public protection (licensing) team leader.

The public protection (licensing) team leader presented the report. She highlighted that the establishment was within the location designated as the inner area within the policy statement. There were no relevant representations to this application. The authority had set a cap of two sex entertainment venues within this area. There were currently three sex entertainment venues in the area, including this premises.

The committee:

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of this item on the grounds contained in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

(The following section of the meeting was held in private session)

The applicants addressed the committee and described the operation of their business.

In response to a question from the chair the public protection (licensing) team leader stated that there had been visits by the public protection team, but these had not raised any objections. Some operational issues had been found but these were being addressed by the venue in consultation with officers.

Members asked questions on the welfare of customers and performers. The applicants confirmed that while they did not have a written policy this was a key part of their business, with regular meetings with all staff and that all performers were offered support if they wanted this.

The applicants and performers answered questions from members on physical contact with customers. The committee expressed concerns about the contradiction within the licence conditions around physical contact. The public protection (licensing) team leader confirmed that the sex establishment policy was due to be reviewed which would include standard conditions, and these would be consulted on. The committee considered there was scope within the renewal process to update the conditions for clarity.

The committee asked questions on the code of conduct for performers and the applicants confirmed that they would review these and would welcome feedback on members through officers on these.

Members were concerned that there was no policy on trafficking and modern slavery. The applicants said that the duty supervisors and directors of the company were trained on spotting the signs of trafficking and modern slavery and would report these in the appropriate ways. The committee suggested that the applicant has a separate document that could be given to performers. Members also considered that a policy on performers leaving the venue should be put in writing.

The applicants addressed the committee in support of the renewal application. They stated that they had been involved in the industry for several years. They would look to clarify content in their code of conduct to ensure that everyone is protected. In doing so they would work with the council to remain open and transparent.

(The meeting closed at this point.)

(The meeting reconvened for the determination at 15:00 on 7 March 2023, with all members listed above as present, attended by the legal advisor.)

The committee considered the determination of the applications for renewal of sex establishment licence for sex entertainment venues for Pure Gold and Sugar and Spice and took into consideration the relevant locality.

Following discussion, the committee:

RESOLVED to grant:

- (1) the renewal of a sex establishment licence in respect of Pure Gold, 52 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, NR1 1LL for the period 2022 to 2023, subject to some amendment to the conditions;
- (2) the renewal of a sex establishment licence in respect of Sugar and Spice, 39 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, NR1 1BG for the period 2022 to 2023, subject to some amendment to the conditions.

(The committee adjourned for a short break and reconvened at 16:30 on 7 March 2023, with all members listed above as present. The public protection (licensing)

team leader was admitted to the meeting. The meeting was live streamed and is available on the Norwich City Council YouTube channel.)

The chair announced the committee's determination to renew the sex establishment licences for sex entertainment licences in respect of Pure Gold, 52 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, NR1 1LL and Sugar and Spice, 39 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich, NR1 1BG, for the period 2022 to 2023, subject to some amendments to the conditions.

The legal advisor said that the full reasons for the determinations would be provided to the applicants in writing. The committee had considered the agenda papers and the evidence provided at the hearings. No complaints had been received for either of these premises. No concerns had been raised following inspections of the premises. These were long standing businesses. The committee had given consideration to the locality. The committee considered that these premises were suitable and to renew both sex establishment licences, with amendments made to the conditions and the reasons for this would be provided to the applicants in writing.

CHAIR