
Licensing & Regulatory Sub-Committee

23 January 2020

Name of Cabinet Member:

Not applicable

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Ward(s) affected:

Radford

Title: Application to vary a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to consider an application to vary a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Buzz Bingo, Savoy Buildings, 268 Radford Road, Coventry, CV6 3BU.

Recommendations:

The Sub-Committee is recommended to consider whether to:

1. Grant the application as requested
2. Grant the application subject to such conditions that are necessary to promote the Licensing Objectives.
3. Refuse the application wholly or in part where it is necessary in order to promote the Licensing Objectives

List of Appendices included:

1. Premises Licence Variation application
2. Plan of Premises
3. Representation
4. Current Premises Licence
5. Location Plan
6. Hearing Procedure Note
7. Relevant Hearing Briefing Note

Background papers:

Section 182 Licensing Act 2003 Guidance

It is a statutory obligation of the Sub-Committee to take into account the Government's Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003 before reaching a decision.

Statement of Licensing Policy

The Council will have regard to the policy when making a decision on applications made under the Act.

Other Useful documents

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Premises Variation Application

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 requires Coventry City Council, as the Licensing Authority, to carry out its various licensing functions so as to promote the following four Licensing Objectives:
- The Prevention of crime & disorder
 - The Protection of public safety
 - The Prevention of public nuisance
 - The Protection of children from harm
- 1.2 A Premises Licence Variation application for Buzz Bingo was received on 29 November 2019.
- 1.3 The application seeks to remove the restriction of opening hours. The Variation application also seeks to make changes to the internal layout of the premises including an extension of the slots area and a slight reconfiguration of the main seating area and diner (see Appendix 2). It should be noted that no changes to the licensable activities (hours) have been applied for.
- 1.4 One representation from a resident (other persons), has been received to the application (outlined in paragraph 3.3).
- 1.5 In addition to the mandatory conditions, the Sub-Committee should refer to the operating schedule detailed in the application (Appendix 1). No further conditions have been proposed with the application.
- 1.6 The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Council to publish a 'Statement of Licensing Policy' which sets out the policies the Council will have regard to and apply to promote the Licensing Objectives when making a decision on applications made under the Act. The Policy will be available at the hearing for reference purposes.
- 1.7 It is essential that the Sub-Committee takes into account the government's guidance to the Licensing Act before reaching a decision. The applicant, responsible authorities, or any other persons, should bring to the Sub-Committee's attention any relevant paragraphs. However, it is suggested good practice for Members of the Sub-Committee to read the relevant paragraph(s) of the guidance prior to the hearing.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 There are three courses of action available to the Sub-Committee in relation to this application:
- (i) Grant the application as requested. If the Sub-Committee consider that granting the application would not undermine any of the Licensing Objectives, it should be granted in full as submitted. This would be granted subject to mandatory conditions and conditions consistent with the applicant's operating schedule, and any other conditions agreed by the applicant as part of the consultation / mediation process. Any conditions to be attached to a licence must be appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives.
 - (ii) Grant the application as above, but the Sub-Committee could impose extra conditions as it thinks fit, or make amendments to the operating schedule conditions, and/or proposed hours. This option may include adding any conditions suggested by other

parties at the hearing, including the applicant. Any conditions to be attached to a licence must be appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives.

(iii) If the Sub-Committee concludes that no additional conditions would ensure that the Licensing Objectives would be upheld, then the whole application should be rejected.

2.2 Your officer recommends option (ii).

The reason for this recommendation is that there have been no representations made by the responsible authorities. The concerns outlined in the representation (other persons) can be reduced by adding conditions to the Premises Licence. Appropriate conditions can be considered after the mediation meeting has taken place. If problems do occur, then the Review procedure is available to both responsible authorities and other persons.

2.3 The Sub-Committee are advised that they may depart from the officer recommendation if, having heard all the evidence, they believe it is appropriate to do so. Should the Sub-Committee decide to depart from the recommendation and choose an alternative option, they must provide full reasons for this decision, based on the promotion of the Licensing Objectives. This application should be considered on its own merits and all the circumstances considered before a decision is made.

2.4 The Sub-Committee must also be aware that licences can be reviewed at any time by any Responsible Authority or any 'other person', if it is considered that any of the Licensing Objectives have been undermined following the grant of the Premises Licence.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

3.1 As prescribed by the Licensing Act 2003, the application has been out for consultation to statutory consultees (Responsible Authorities) and any other persons for 28 days in the form of a notice displayed on the premises, and a notice published in a local newspaper.

3.2 Responsible Authorities have received a copy of the application. Please see below responses received:

Responsible Authority	Response Received	Objections	Conditions Agreed
Licensing	No	-	-
Police	Yes	No	-
Environmental Protection	Yes	No	-
Fire Safety	No	-	-
Health & Safety	No	-	-
Trading Standards	Yes	No	-
Planning	No	-	-
Safeguarding Children	No	-	-
Public Health	No	-	-
Secretary of State	No	-	-

3.3 One representation has been received from a resident (any other persons). The grounds for the representation is that the granting of the extension to the hours as requested would undermine the Licensing Objective of Prevention of Public Nuisance. The representations note concerns regarding litter from smoking and drinking alcohol at the front of the premises, parking issues and noise emanating from the premises during the evenings. There are concerns that no restriction on the hours would cause an increase in public nuisance.

3.4 The objector has accepted an offer of attending a mediation meeting to see if any resolution can be reached (date to be confirmed).

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The Appeal period is 21 days beginning on the date that the Appellant(s) receive notification of the decision of the Licensing Authority.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources

5.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, there are possible cost implications if an appeal against the decision is made to the Magistrates Court and the decision of the Sub-Committee is not upheld.

5.2 Legal implications

The Licensing Act 2003 sets out how applications for variations to premises licences should be dealt with where valid representations have been submitted. The Sub-Committee have to decide the outcome of the application taking into account the four Licensing Objectives.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, if a Licensing Authority rejects in whole or in part, an application to grant a variation, the applicant may appeal against the decision, to a Magistrates' court within 21 days of receiving notification of the decision.

Similarly, where a person who made relevant representations in relation to the application contends that the licence ought not to have been granted or that alternative or additional conditions should have been imposed on the licence, they may appeal against the decision, to a Magistrates' court within 21 days of receiving notification of the decision.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy

It is the Regulatory Services team's responsibility to ensure that members of the public in Coventry are not put at risk. This contributes to the Council's core aim of ensuring that citizens live longer healthier lives. The business' failure to uphold the Licensing Objectives may have an adverse effect on Public Safety and citizen's quality of life.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

If the application is not handled in line with the Licensing Act 2003, there is a risk of judicial appeals, reviews and associated costs.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

This decision will not affect the service provision and therefore details of the Equalities Impact Assessment are not relevant in this case.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The Council recognises that the licensing function is only one means of promoting delivery of the above objectives and should not therefore be seen as a means for solving all problems within the community. The Council will therefore continue to work with the West

Midlands Police, Community Safety Partnership, local people and those involved in child protection (Coventry Safeguarding Children Board) to promote the common objectives as outlined.

6.7 Human Rights Act Implications

None

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

Rekha Masih, Lead Licensing Officer

Directorate: Place

Telephone: 024 7697 2247

Email: rekha.masih@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Contributors:				
Carolyn Sinclair/Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Place	06/01/2020	06/01/2020
Davina Blackburn	Regulatory Services Manager	Place	06/01/2020	07/01/2020
Tracy Miller	Strategic Lead Planning & Regulation	Place	06/01/2020	08/01/2020
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Amy Wright	Solicitor	Place	06/01/2020	06/01/2020
Andrew Walster	Director (Streetscene & Regulatory Services)	Place	07/01/2020	07/01/2020
Cath Crosby	Lead Accountant	Place	06/01/2020	06/01/2020

This report is published on the Council's website:

www.coventry.gov.uk/councilmeetings