
Licensing & Regulatory Sub-Committee

27 March 2023

Name of Cabinet Member:

Not applicable

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Street Scene and Regulatory Services

Ward(s) affected:

Cheylesmore

Title: Application for a Premises Licence Application under the Licensing Act 2003

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to consider an application for a Premises Licence application under the Licensing Act 2003 for McDonalds, 275 London Road, Coventry, CV3 4AR.

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 application
2. Plan
3. Representations
4. Planning Committee Decision Notice – 18.06.2020
5. Appeal Decision Notice – 12.05/2021
6. Location Plan
7. Hearing Procedure Note
8. Relevant Hearing Briefing Note

Other useful 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?

Not applicable

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?

Not applicable

Report title: Temporary Event Notice 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 application for McDonalds, 275 London Road, Coventry was received on 30 January 2023. The application is requesting Late Night Refreshment from Monday – Sunday 23:00 – 05:00.
- 1.3 Six representations have been received from Other Persons. (Appendix 3). The representations state that granting the application could undermine the Prevention of Crime & Disorder & the Prevention of Public Nuisance licensing objectives.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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 (i).

The reason for this recommendation is that the applicant has voluntarily added the following condition that has been agreed with the Police:

"The premises CCTV digital recording system will have a minimum of 28 days recording capability and will be in operation whenever the premises are open for a licensable activity. At least one member of staff, fully trained to operate the CCTV shall be on duty at all times. All CCTV recordings shall be made available to the Responsible Authorities within 48hrs of a request".

The applicant has also added conditions in the operating schedule (Appendix 1) as follows:

Litter

McDonald's were the first company in our sector to introduce litter patrols in the early 1980's. McDonald's is committed to carry out litter patrols collecting both McDonald's packaging and any other litter that has been carelessly discarded. We are happy to act on recommendations from the Environmental Health Officer should they feel that we should extend our patrol to a nearby area, as far as this is reasonably practicable.

All of McDonald's packaging displays the "Bin It" symbol to encourage our customers to deal with their waste responsibly. Further details regarding McDonald's commitment to reducing waste and litter nuisance can be found at the "Our World" section of the McDonald's website: <http://www.mcdonalds.co.uk/ourworld/environment/policy.shtml>

Noise

Where it is practical to do so we are content to put measures in place to limit noise. All McDonald's restaurant doors are self-closing, and we try to encourage our customers to be considerate to our neighbours and to limit noise both when ordering their food and on leaving the local area.

The Responsible Authorities who responded to the Consultation have not offered up further conditions because they consider the application to be suitably conditioned by the applicant for the type of business model and operation intended at the premise and if problems do occur then the Review procedure is available to both Responsible Authorities and any 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 taken into account 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 for 28 days. The notice was displayed at the premises from 30 January 2023 – 27 February 2023, the notice was checked by the Licensing Officer on two occasions during the 28 day period. Licensing applications are also published weekly in the Members Bulletin which is available to Ward Councillors.

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

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

3.3 Six representations from Other Persons have been received (Appendix 3). The grounds for the representation is that the granting of the Premises Licence would undermine the licensing objectives of the Prevention of Crime & Disorder and the Prevention of Public Nuisance.

3.4 A mediation meeting took place on 13 March 2023, but no common ground could be found.

3.5 The Planning application was recommended for approval by officers at Planning Committee on 18 June 2020. The Committee resolved to refuse planning permission (Appendix 4). McDonalds appealed this decision to the Secretary of State and planning permission was granted on 12 May 2021 (Appendix 5).

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 Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer

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 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 Premises Licence, 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

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