



AGENDA ITEM: 5

SUMMARY

Report for:	Licensing of Alcohol and Gambling Sub-Committee
Date of meeting:	18th June 2013
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Application to vary Premises Licence: Ashridge (Bonar Law Memorial) Trust, Ashridge House, Ashridge, Nr Berkhamsted Herts HP4 1NS
Contact:	Ross Hill – Licensing Team Leader, Legal Governance
Purpose of report:	This report sets out details of an application in respect of the variation of a premises licence, which requires consideration and determination by the Sub-Committee in accordance with the adopted scheme of delegation.
Recommendations	That the Sub-Committee consider the contents of the report, and representations made in respect of the application, and determine the application in accordance with the options set out below.
Corporate objectives:	<p>Safe and Clean Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications are required to be considered with regard to the promotion of four licensing objectives, comprising the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance, and protection of children from harm. <p>Dacorum Delivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of applications for premises licences and club premises certificates is a statutory function, with a risk of judicial proceedings and reputational damage should the authority fail to properly exercise its functions.
Implications:	Applications are to be determined under existing policies. No new policy implications arise.
Consultees:	Consultation requirements are prescribed by legislation, and differ depending upon the type of application. Details of representations made by consultees are set out below.

Background papers:	Licensing Act 2003, and associated regulations Dacorum Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy Guidance to Licensing Authorities under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Home Office, October 2012)
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

1. Background

- 1.1. The supply of alcohol, provision of regulated entertainment and sale of late night refreshment are licensable activities under the Licensing Act 2003. Authorisation from the Council, in its role as the licensing authority, is required in order to carry on any of these activities at premises within the borough.
- 1.2. The Act provides several forms of authorisation for different scenarios. Persons or organisations wishing to carry on activities at premises on a regular basis, or at larger one-off events, will require a premises licence to authorise those activities. Members' clubs, satisfying a number of statutory criteria, may alternatively hold a club premises certificate.
- 1.3. Under the scheme of delegation adopted by the Council, the Licensing of Alcohol & Gambling Sub-Committee ("the Sub-Committee") is responsible for the exercise of many of the functions of the licensing authority, including determination of applications where representations have been received.

2. Applications

- 2.1. The application detailed in part 5 of this report has been made to the licensing authority and requires consideration and determination by the Sub-Committee.
- 2.2. Notice of application was given by the applicant through service of a copy of the application on specified 'responsible authorities' (this obligation is fulfilled by officers where the application was given electronically). The applicant was also required to give public notice of the application, by way of publication of details in a local newspaper, and by displaying a statutory notice at or near the premises. Failure to comply with these requirements would render an application invalid. Officers have undertaken checks to ensure that these requirements were satisfied.
- 2.3. The applicant and persons making representations have been given notice of the hearing in accordance with statutory requirements.

3. General principles to be followed when determining applications

- 3.1. When considering applications, the licensing authority is required to carry out its functions with a view promoting the licensing objectives, which are:
 - the prevention of crime and disorder;
 - public safety;
 - the prevention of public nuisance; and
 - the protection of children from harm.
- 3.2. The licensing authority must also have regard to its Statement of Licensing Policy, and to the statutory guidance issued by the Home Office under section 182 of the Act. Attention is drawn to specific, relevant provisions from these documents, with the details of the applications in the Appendices.
- 3.3. The Sub-Committee must ensure that all licensing decisions have a direct relationship to the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives. Every application should be considered on its merits, and there must not be a 'blanket policy' to the extent that it is applied so rigidly that an exercise of discretion in each individual case is precluded. Applications must be considered with regard to the principles of fair process and the Human Rights Act.
- 3.4. The Statement of Licensing Policy makes clear to applicants and persons who have made representations the considerations that will be taken into account when determining applications. It is also intended to guide the Sub-Committee when considering licensing applications; however, the Sub-Committee may depart from either the Statement of Licensing Policy or the statutory guidance where the circumstances of the application justify it and if there are good reasons for doing so. Full reasons must be given and Sub-Committees should be aware that such departures could give rise to an appeal or judicial review.
- 3.5. The provisions of chapter 10 of the statutory guidance highlight that only precise, necessary and proportionate conditions, which promote one or more of the licensing objectives, should be attached to the licence or certificate. The Sub-Committee should only impose such conditions as are necessary to promote the licensing objectives arising out of the consideration of the representations received, and should avoid straying into undisputed areas. Conditions duplicating other statutory provisions are not considered to be appropriate.
- 3.6. It is considered inappropriate for officers involved in the administration of applications to make recommendations. However officers from the Responsible Authorities may request conditions be imposed on a licence and make recommendations with regard to the licensing objectives.
- 3.7. Parties to a hearing, including the applicant and persons who made relevant representations, may have rights of appeal against any decision made by the Sub-Committee, dependent upon the nature of the decision. Appeals may be instituted by way of written notice to a Magistrates Court, within 21 days of being notified of the decision.

4. Options available to the Sub-Committee

4.1. While considering an application for the variation of an existing licence, only the proposed variation may be considered. No changes can be made to a licence or the conditions attached unless they are (part of) the subject of the variation application.

4.2. When determining an application for the variation of a premises licence (under section 34), the Sub-Committee must, having regard to relevant representations made in respect of that application, take such of the following steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- (a) modify the conditions of the licence (by way of alteration, omission or addition);
- (b) reject the whole or part of the application.

If neither of these steps are to be taken the application shall be granted.

5. Details of application

5.1. The following applications require consideration and determination by the Sub-Committee. Further details on each application are contained in the indicated appendix:

Appendix	Premises name / address	Type of application
A	Ashridge (Bonar Law Memorial) Trust, Ashridge House, Ashridge, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1NS	Variation (under section 34 of the Licensing Act)