

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: June 28 2006	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation requests – chief officer comments	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Acting Borough Solicitor)	

1. Deputation request from the Shad Thames Residents' Association

The residents of the Shad Thames area state in their deputation request letter:

“The deputation wish to speak to the issues concerning local people which are related to the motion submitted on the issue of Southwark Council’s licensing policy. A number of local businesses, tenants and residents’ associations, schools, places of worship, community organisations, local employees, visitor attractions, London Bridge Hospital and a number of local people have all expressed concern at the decision to grant a licence to a lap dancing club to be opened in Tooley Street. The deputation wish to make local stakeholders’ views known to council members about the operation of Southwark’s licensing policy.”

Comments from the strategic director environment & leisure – Shad Thames Residents’ Association

The Council recognises the degree of concern that exists within the Southwark community regarding the licensing of premises for adult entertainments.

Decisions taken to date by the Licensing Committee in respect of adult entertainments, as well as the sale of alcohol and the provision of entertainment generally have to follow the Licensing Act 2003 and the regulations and Guidance issued by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS); as well as the Council’s own Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Mayor of London’s draft consultation document on London’s Night Economy is unable to offer any best practice guidance on how Local Authorities can deal with license application for lap dancing clubs and other adult entertainment venues. Under the Act, striptease and similar entertainment is a lawful licensable activity and one of the fundamental principles of licensing remains that no statement of policy may undermine the right of any individual to apply under the terms of the Act for any of the variety of permissions and consents and have that application considered upon its merits. This means that the Council cannot ban outright lap-dancing or similar activities.

On 22nd June 2006 the Licensing Committee having regard to a variety of concerns about the new licensing regime agreed to a mid-term review of the Council’s Licensing Policy including a process of full public consultation which will operate from 3rd July through to 30th September 2006. Submissions are invited from any interested party on any matter covered in the policy.

When the consultation is completed the Licensing Committee will consider a full analysis in November 2006 and then on to this Council Assembly on 6 December 2006. The review will specifically consider: -

- a). The public advertisement requirements in respect of applications for licences involving adult entertainments;
- b). The general consultation arrangements in respect of applications for licences involving adult entertainments;
- c). The factors that should give rise to consideration as to whether a locality is suitable for the grant of a licence involving the provision of adult entertainments; and
- d). Appropriate conditions that may be attached to any licence involving adult entertainments.

The review will also consider best practice by other licensing authorities. However, it has to be recognised that many other Local Authorities that have set policies in relation to adult entertainment venues have been able to do so as a result of a concentration of each venue.

The review will separately consider the role of ward councilors within the licensing process, including where necessary lobbying the DCMS.

2. Deputation request from the Maroons Resource Centre Carers Group

The Maroons resource centre carers group state in their deputation request letter

“We wish to address the Southwark council assembly about the lack of adequate premises and resource facilities for BME mental health sufferers in the borough.

“The present resource centre has failed the council's own health and safety and environment standards for use by vulnerable people. The resource centre was located in this industrial estate over 12 years ago. The evidence is that there is no real commitment by the council to improve the quality and level of service for BME mental health sufferers in the borough. In the past, every time premises have been identified, officers have found reasons for not using them.

“We would like to seek the comment of the council and a decision by members to relocate this centre to adequate premises as a matter of urgency. For this we wish to take a deputation to the next council assembly.”

Comments From The Strategic Director Health & Community Services – Maroon Resource Centre Carers Group

See item 8, attached.

3. Deputation request from the Peckham Vision

The request states that the deputation would like to address the council assembly about the unitary development plan and the proposed tram depot in Peckham.

Comments from the strategic director regeneration – Peckham Vision

To Follow.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
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