

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 27 September 2016	Meeting Name: Licensing Sub-Committee
Report title:		Licensing Act 2003: 68 Morley Street, London SE1 7QZ	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Cathedral	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the licensing sub-committee considers an application made by Mujibul Islam for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as 68 Morley Street, London SE1 7QZ.
2. Notes:
 - a) This application forms a new application for a premises licence, submitted under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. The application is subject to representations from responsible authorities other persons and is therefore referred to the sub-committee for determination.
 - b) Paragraphs 8 to 10 of this report provide a summary of the application under consideration by the sub-committee. A copy of the full application and amendments are attached at Appendices A and A1.
 - c) Paragraphs 12 to 19 of this report deals with the representations received to the premises licence application and conciliations progress made. Copies of the relevant representations from responsible authorities and other persons and further correspondences are attached as Appendices B, B1 and C.
 - d) Paragraph 20 deals with licensed premises within a 100m radius of the premises. A map of the area is attached as Appendix D.
 - e) A copy of the council's approved procedure for hearings of the sub-committee in relation to an application made under the Licensing Act 2003, along with a copy of the hearing regulations, has been circulated to all parties to the meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Licensing Act 2003

3. The Licensing Act 2003 provides a regime for:
 - The sale of and supply of alcohol
 - The provision of regulated entertainment
 - The provision of late night refreshment.
4. Within Southwark, the licensing responsibility is wholly administered by this council.

5. The Act requires the licensing authority to carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the four stated licensing objectives. These are:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - The promotion of public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.
6. In carrying out its licensing functions, a licensing authority must also have regard to
 - The Act itself
 - The guidance to the act issued under section 182 of the Act
 - Secondary regulations issued under the Act
 - The licensing authority's own statement of licensing policy
 - The application, including the operating schedule submitted as part of the application
 - Relevant representations.
7. The premises licence application process involves the provision of all relevant information required under the Act to the licensing authority with copies provided by the applicant to the relevant responsible bodies under the Act. The application must also be advertised at the premises and in the local press. The responsible authorities and other persons within the local community may make representations on any part of the application where relevant to the four licensing objectives.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The premises licence application amended

8. On 17 June 2016, Mujibul Islam applied to this council for the grant of a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as 68 Morley Street, London SE1 7QZ. The premises are described as currently vacated and previously used as a retail unit. The original application sought hours of 08:00 to 02:00 for both alcohol sales and operating hours. The licensing unit advised the applicant that as well as being in the cumulative impact area the hours requested fell outside of Southwark's 2016 licensing policy which state Monday to Sunday 23:00 closing time. The applicant responded by amending the application by a reduction in hours and also clarifying that the premises will be run as an off licence. Copies of the application and amendments to it are attached as Appendices A and A1.
9. The application is summarised as follows:
 - Sale and supply of alcohol (off the premises)
Monday to Sunday from 08:00 to 23:00

- Operating hours
Monday to Sunday from 08:00 to 23:00.

10. The premises licence application form provides the applicant operating schedule. Parts J, K, L, and M set out the proposed operating hours and operating controls in full, with reference to the four licensing objectives as stated in the Licensing Act 2003. Should a premises licence be issued in respect of the application the information provided in part M of the operating schedule will form the basis of conditions that will be attached to the licence.

Designated premises supervisor

11. The proposed designated premises supervisor Mujibul Islam who is has a personal licence issued by Southwark Council.

Representations from responsible authorities

12. There are three representations submitted by the Metropolitan Police, public health and planning.
13. The police representation was concerned that the application was lacking in sufficient detail for them to provide a satisfactory response to address the licensing objectives. After further information and clarification as to the use of the premises was submitted and considered, they recommended that the following conditions be included on the licence, some of which may have been offered as part of the operating schedule but the wording is important to avoid ambiguity. The Police are of the opinion that the following conditions will assist with the prevention of crime and disorder in addition to the conditions offered within the operating schedule. The conditions have been agreed by the applicant and as such the representation has been withdrawn.
 - That a CCTV system be installed at the premises and be maintained in good working order and be continually recording at all times the premises are in use under the licence. The CCTV system must be capable of capturing a clear facial image of every person who enters the premises.
 - All CCTV footage be kept for a period of 31 days and shall on request be made immediately available to officers of the police and the council in that there will be a member of staff present at all times to operate the CCTV for viewing and downloading to a removable device.
 - That all staff are trained in their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 and training records to be kept and updated every 6 months and shall, upon request, be made immediately available to officers of the Police and the council.
 - Alcohol sales shall be supplied ancillary to substantial takeaway food only and sold only in a sealed container.
 - No alcohol shall be consumed on the premises.
14. Public health are concerned that the application is for a premises located within the Borough and Bankside cumulative impact policy area, and that the applicant has

made no mention of the types of alcohol that will be stocked, and suggest a restriction on high-strength beers, lagers, and ciders, given that many purchasers of these drinks are alcohol misusers, and that just one of these drinks exceeds the NHS's safer drinking guidelines. They have recommended the following conditions which have been agreed by the applicant and as such the representation has been withdrawn:

- That the start time of alcohol sales be changed to 11:00 for all days of the week.
- That no beers, lagers, ciders or similar alcohols to be sold in cans with an alcohol by volume (ABV) in excess of 5.5%, or in bottles larger than 750ml with an ABV in excess of 5.5%.

15. The planning representation stated that it was not clear what the site was to be used as. However, the site is located in a predominantly residential area, with a terrace of residential properties directly opposite the site, and further residential properties in the surroundings. More clarification has been submitted and after consideration the planning representation has been withdrawn.
16. The representations and their corresponding withdrawals are attached as Appendices B and B1 to the report.

Representation from other persons

17. There are six representations from other persons, consisting of one from a local ward councillor and five local residents. The representations are made on the grounds of public nuisance and protection of children from harm. The premises are on the ground floor of a small and residential block. Residents are concerned that these hours will be busy and noisy, and if they factor in opening and closing the premises and delivery and clean up each day, it is likely the disruption and noise will go on outside these hours. They are also concerned that the sale of snacks and drinks and alcohol in particular will encourage people to loiter around the building at all hours.
18. Copies of the representations are attached as Appendix C.

Conciliation

19. The representations were forwarded to the applicant. The amendment to the application, submission of further information and agreement to conditions has resulted in the police, public health and planning withdrawing their representations. The licensing sub committee will be updated of any developments on 27 September 2016.

The local area

20. A map of the area is attached to this report as Appendix D. The premises are identified by a triangle at the centre of the map. For purposes of scale-only the circle on the map has a 100-metre radius. The following licensed premises terminal hours are also shown on the map.

Deregulation of entertainment

21. On 6 April 2015 entertainment became deregulated and as a result:

- Live unamplified music is deregulated between 08:00 and 23:00 on any premises
 - Live amplified music is deregulated between 08.00 and 23.00 provided the audience does not exceed 500 people.
22. However, live music can become licensable in on-licensed premises if the licensing authority removes the effect of the deregulation following a licence review ('licence review mechanism').

Southwark statement of licensing policy

23. Within the Southwark statement of licensing policy 2016 - 2020 the following closing times are recommended as appropriate within this area for this categories of premises as follows:
- Closing time for restaurants and cafes: Sunday to Thursday is 00:00 and for Friday and Saturday is 01:00
 - Closing time for public houses, wine bars or other drinking establishments: Sunday to Thursday is 23:00 and for Friday and Saturday 00:00
 - Closing time for hotel bars and guest houses: No restrictions for residents
 - Closing time for night clubs (with sui generis planning classification): Monday to Thursday is 01:00 and for Friday and Saturday 03:00 and for Sunday 00:00
 - Closing time for off-licences and alcohol sales in grocers and supermarkets is 00:00 daily
 - Closing time for take-away establishment: Sunday to Thursday is 00:00 and for Friday and Saturday is 01:00
 - Closing time for cinemas and theatres is 02:00 daily
 - Closing time for vessels is 23:00 daily
 - Closing time for qualifying members club is 02:00 daily.
24. Council assembly approved Southwark's statement of licensing policy 2016 - 20 on 25 November 2015. Sections of the statement that are considered to be of particular relevance to the sub-committee's consideration are:
- Section 3 - Purpose and Scope of the Policy: This reinforces the four licensing objectives and the fundamental principles upon which this authority relies in determining licence applications
 - Section 5 – Determining Applications for Premises Licences and Club Premises certificates: This explains how the policy works and considers issues such as location, high standards of management and the principles behind condition setting.

- Section 6 – Local Cumulative Impact Policies: This sets out this authority’s approach to cumulative impact and defines the boundaries of the current special policy areas and the classifications of premises to which they apply. To be read in conjunction with Appendix B to the policy
- Section 7 – Hours of Operation: This provides a guide to the hours of licensed operation that this authority might consider appropriate by type of premises and (planning) area classification. To be read in conjunction with Appendix B to the policy.
- Section 8 – The Prevention of Crime and Disorder: This provides general guidance on the promotion of the first licensing objective
- Section 9 – Public Safety: This provides general guidance on the promotion of the second licensing objective
- Section 10 – The Prevention of Nuisance: This provides general guidance on the promotion of the third licensing objective
- Section 11 – The Protection of Children from Harm: This provides general guidance on the promotion of the fourth licensing objective.

25. The purpose of Southwark’s statement of licensing policy is to make clear to applicants what considerations will be taken into account when determining applications and should act as a guide to the sub-committee when considering the applications. However, the sub-committee must always consider each application on its own merits and allow exceptions to the normal policy where these are justified by the circumstances of the application.

Resource implications

26. A fee of £100 has been paid by the applicant company in respect of this application being the statutory fee payable for premises within non-domestic rateable value band A.

Consultations

27. Consultation has been carried out on this application in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. A public notice was published in a local newspaper and a similar notice exhibited outside of the premises for a period of 28 consecutive days.

Community impact statement

28. Each application is required by law to be considered upon its own individual merits with all relevant matters taken into account.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

29. The sub-committee is asked to determine the application for a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.

30. The principles which sub-committee members must apply are set out below.

Principles for making the determination

31. The general principle is that applications for premises licence applications must be granted unless relevant representations are received. This is subject to the proviso that the applicant has complied with regulations in advertising and submitting the application.
32. Relevant representations are those which:
 - Are about the likely effect of the granting of the application on the promotion of the licensing objectives
 - Are made by an interested party or responsible authority
 - Have not been withdrawn
 - Are not, in the opinion of the relevant licensing authority, frivolous or vexatious.
33. If relevant representations are received then the sub-committee must have regard to them, in determining whether it is necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives to:
 - to grant the licence subject to:
 - The conditions mentioned in section 18 (2)(a) modified to such extent as the licensing authority considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives
 - Any condition which must under section 19, 20 or 21 be included in the licence
 - to exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates
 - to refuse to specify a person in the licence as the premises supervisor
 - to reject the application.

Conditions

34. The sub-committee's discretion is thus limited. It can only modify the conditions put forward by the applicant, or refuse the application, if it is necessary to do so. Conditions must be necessary and proportionate for the promotion of one of the four licensing objectives, and not for any other reason. Conditions must also be within the control of the licensee, and should be worded in a way which is clear, certain, consistent and enforceable.
35. The four licensing objectives are:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety

- The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.
36. Members should note that each objective is of equal importance. There are no other licensing objectives, and the four objectives are paramount considerations at all times.
37. Conditions will not be necessary if they duplicate a statutory position. Conditions relating to night café and take away aspect of the license must relate to the night time operation of the premises and must not be used to impose conditions which could not be imposed on day time operators.
38. Members are also referred to the Home Office revised guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 on conditions, specifically section 10.

Reasons

39. If the sub-committee determines that it is necessary to modify the conditions, or to refuse the application for a premises licence application, it must give reasons for its decision.

Hearing procedures

40. Subject to the licensing hearing regulations, the licensing committee may determine its own procedures. Key elements of the regulations are that:
- The hearing shall take the form of a discussion led by the authority. Cross examination shall not be permitted unless the authority considered that it is required for it to consider the representations
 - Members of the authority are free to ask any question of any party or other person appearing at the hearing
 - The committee must allow the parties an equal maximum period of time in which to exercise their rights to:
 - Address the authority
 - If given permission by the committee, question any other party
 - In response to a point which the authority has given notice it will require clarification, give further information in support of their application
 - The committee shall disregard any information given by a party which is not relevant to the particular application before the committee and the licensing objectives
 - The hearing shall be in public, although the committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in private

- In considering any representations or notice made by a party the authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representations or notice (as applicable) either before the hearing or, with the consent of all the other parties, at the hearing.

41. This matter relates to the determination of an application for a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. Regulation 26(1) (a) requires the sub-committee to make its determination at the conclusion of the hearing.

Council's multiple roles and the role of the licensing sub-committee

42. Sub-committee members will note that, in relation to this application, the council has multiple roles. Council officers from various departments have been asked to consider the application from the perspective of the council as authority responsible respectively for environmental health, trading standards, health and safety and as the planning authority.

43. Members should note that the licensing sub-committee is meeting on this occasion solely to perform the role of licensing authority. The sub-committee sits in quasi-judicial capacity, and must act impartially. It must offer a fair and unbiased hearing of the application. In this case, members should disregard the council's broader policy objectives and role as statutory authority in other contexts. Members must direct themselves to making a determination solely based upon the licensing law, guidance and the council's statement of licensing policy.

44. As a quasi-judicial body the licensing sub-committee is required to consider the application on its merits. The sub-committee must take into account only relevant factors, and ignore irrelevant factors. The decision must be based on evidence, that is to say material, which tends logically to show the existence or non-existence of relevant facts, or the likelihood or unlikelihood of the occurrence of some future event, the occurrence of which would be relevant. The licensing sub-committee must give fair consideration to the contentions of all persons entitled to make representations to them.

45. The licensing sub-committee is entitled to consider events outside of the premises if they are relevant, i.e. are properly attributable to the premises being open. The proprietors do not have to be personally responsible for the incidents for the same to be relevant. However, if such events are not properly attributable to the premises being open, then the evidence is not relevant and should be excluded. Guidance is that the licensing authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public, living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.

46. Members will be aware of the council's code of conduct which requires them to declare personal and prejudicial interests. The code applies to members when considering licensing applications. In addition, as a quasi-judicial body, members are required to avoid both actual bias, and the appearance of bias.

47. The sub-committee can only consider matters within the application that have been raised through representations from other persons and responsible authorities. Interested parties must live in the vicinity of the premises. This will be decided on a case to case basis.

48. Under the Human Rights Act 1998 the sub-committee needs to consider the balance between the rights of the applicant and those making representations to

the application when making their decision. The sub-committee has a duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 when making its decision to do all it can to prevent crime and disorder in the borough.

49. Other persons, responsible authorities and the applicant have the right to appeal the decision of the sub-committee to the magistrates' court within a period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the applicant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision to be appealed against.

Guidance

50. Members are required to have regard to the Home Office guidance in carrying out the functions of licensing authority. However, guidance does not cover every possible situation, so long as the guidance has been properly and carefully understood, members may depart from it if they have reason to do so. Full reasons must be given if this is the case.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

51. The head of regulatory services has confirmed that the costs of this process over and above the application fee are borne by the service.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Licensing Act 2003 Home Office Guidance to the Act Secondary Regulations Southwark statement of licensing policy case file	Southwark Licensing c/o Community Safety and Enforcement 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Kirty Read Tel: 020 7525 5748

APPENDICES

Name	Title
Appendix A and A1	Application for a new premises licence and amendments to it
Appendix B and B1	Representations from responsible authorities and withdrawals
Appendix C	Representation from other persons
Appendix D	Map of the local area

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	
Report Author	Dorcas Mills, Principal Licensing Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	15 September 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	15 September 2016	