

Item No. 5	Classification: Closed	Date: December 18 2009	MEETING NAME Licensing Sub-Committee
Report title:		REVOCATION OF STREET TRADING LICENCES	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		East Walworth & Faraday	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment & Housing	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the street trading licence of the reported trader identified in Appendix A (as identified in the closed report) be revoked on the grounds of non-payment of licence fees.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Under Section 28 (1) (e) of the London Local Authorities Act 1990 (*as amended 1994*) the Council may revoke a street trading licence:

“that since the grant or renewal of the licence, the licence holder has for a period of four weeks or more failed to pay fees or charges due to the borough council in connection with the street trading licence or has failed to pay any charges due from him for accommodation provided in pursuance of sub section (2) of Section 33 (Receptacles and containers) of this Act”

3. The Act asks that the Council serve on the trader a notice stating that revocation is proposed and offering the opportunity to appear before the committee. The notice gives the trader 21 days notice to make any representations, the notice were sent on 12 November 2009.
4. Under the Act, revocation or variation are the only sanctions open to the committee, i.e. they cannot suspend a licence.
5. If the committee do decide to revoke or vary a licence, the licence holder then has rights to appeal to the magistrate’s court, and thereafter to the Crown Court. The licence holder is entitled to continue trading until such time as any such appeal has been determined.
6. One trader was sent a statutory notice under Section 29 of London Local Authorities Act 1990 (as amended) notifying him/her of the intention to revoke his/her licence.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

7. Condition 6.1 of Southwark’s Street Trading Licence:-

“you (the licence holder) must pay all fees and charges due to us in connection with the street trading licence before starting to trade. You must pay us the administrative costs incurred in collecting any rent arrears. Charges must be paid regardless of sickness or holiday periods. Please read the notes about sickness waivers.”

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8. To advise the committee of trader's non-compliance with his/her street trading licence conditions, non-exercising of trading rights and to seek the Committee's authority to revoke his/her street trading licence.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON THOSE AFFECTED

9. The Street Trading account is ring fenced, operating on a break even basis. The fees are kept as low as financially possible, but this can only happen if all traders adhere to the licence conditions and pay fees before their monthly trading as specified in the London Local Authorities Act 1990 (as amended 1994).

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

10. Monitoring accounts, sending reminder letters, meeting with trader(s), confirming contents of meeting in writing, in some instances court costs have already been incurred, being time consuming and costly, which is financed from Street Trading account.
11. If a street trading licence is revoked, the resultant vacancy will be advertised and the licence granted in accordance with Council policy. Therefore no adverse impact foreseen on the Street Trading account provided there is no delay in filling the vacancy. The Street Trading account is a ring fenced account outside General Fund and operates on a break-even basis.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

12. This decision has been judged to have no or a very small impact on local people and communities. The trader has broken his/her license conditions and therefore his/her license is being revoked, the decision has an impact solely on the trader.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director, Communities Law and Governance

13. This report recommends that the street trading licences be revoked on the grounds of persistent non-payment of fees in accordance with Section 28(1)(e) of the London Local Authorities Act 1990 (as amended).
14. It is a requirement of the Act that before revoking any licences, the Council shall have given the licence holder not less than 21 days previous notice in writing that revocation is proposed. This notice must also specify the grounds on which such a decision would be based and give the licence holder the opportunity to appear before the committee, sub-committee or officer determining the matter. The decision cannot be taken until after the 21 day period has expired. The Council is also obliged to consider any representations made by the licence holder.
15. Section 28 (2) of the Act states that the Council may instead of revoking a licence, vary it by attaching further specified conditions; (a) reducing the numbers of days in any week or the period in any one day during which the licence holder is permitted to trade; (b) specifying a different licence street or position or place at which the licence holder may trade; (c) restricting the items which licence holder is permitted to sell.
16. If the Council should decide to revoke or vary the licence, it must notify the licence holder in writing of this decision, and of the grounds for revocation/variation and notify him/her of his/her right of appeal. As the report states, an appeal may be brought in

the first instance, to the magistrates court. This is within a period of 21 days from notification in writing of the Council's decision to revoke. A further appeal may be brought to the Crown Court. In each case, the appeal would effectively be by way of re-hearing.

17. The Council has a duty in considering this matter to take account of all relevant considerations and disregard any matters of irrelevance. In doing so, it must have regard to the rules of natural justice. This is in addition to complying with procedural requirements set out in the statute.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
London Local Authorities Act 1990 (<i>as amended</i>) Case papers held on Individual traders file.	Street Trading Section SAST House Dawes Street London SE17 1EL	Sharon Coleman 0207 525 0861
Lead Officer	Des Waters, Head of Public Realm	
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CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director, Communities Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	No	No
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