

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

LICENSING HEARING

At a meeting of the **Licensing Sub-Committee** held in the Chairman's Dining Room, Committee Room 2, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF at 10:10 am on Thursday, 25 April 2019

PRESENT

Councillor I Hutchinson
(in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

T Cessford
B Crosby (Reserve)

W Pattison

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

H Bowers
H Gebbie
N Masson

Democratic Services Officer
Senior Licensing Officer
Solicitor, Regulation

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Mr S Cochrane

Sgt R Felton
Miss H Hebb
Insp K Waring

Licensing Coordinator, Northumbria
Police
Northumbria Police
Solicitor, Northumbria Police
Northumbria Police

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Ian Hutchinson be elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Crosby declared an interest in agenda item 4 as he had formerly been employed by Northumbria Police and had had a close association with

some of the Police Officers. Following advice from the Solicitor, Councillor Crosby withdrew from the meeting.

3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

- (a) That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the Agenda as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act, and
- (b) That the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

Agenda Item	Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A
4	1 - Information relating to any individual.

4. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING COMMENTS

The Chair requested a round of introductions from all those present.

5. REPORTS OF THE HEAD OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF POTS & SLOTS, (9 BAR), 42-44 WOODHORN ROAD, ASHINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE63 9AE

The Licence Holders were not in attendance.

Heather Gebbie, Senior Licensing Officer advised that the application was before the Sub-Committee to determine a review of the premises licence from Northumbria Police in respect of Pots & Slots also known as 9 Bar. The application to review related to the licensing objective of prevention of crime and disorder.

Members were informed that following consideration of the report, representations and verbal submissions, the Sub-Committee were required to determine the review on the conclusion of the hearing.

In this particular case, the Sub-Committee could modify the licence subject to conditions consistent with the operating schedule; exclude any of the licensable activities; remove the person named as the Designated Premises Supervisor; suspend or revoke the Premises Licence.

Members were reminded that they could only attach conditions in respect of those matters which were subject to the review and in respect of which a relevant representation had been made; that were appropriate and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The Senior Licensing Officer referred to the history of the premises (Appendix A); the application for the review of the premises licence from Northumbria Police (Appendix B) and the supporting documentation (Appendix C).

Since the report had been written a Withdrawal of Consent had been received from the Designated Premises Supervisor which was circulated to all those present.

All parties present confirmed that they had received and read the copy of the application and supporting documentation within the agenda and the additional information which had been circulated prior to the commencement of the hearing.

Miss Hayley Hebb, Solicitor, Northumbria Police gave a verbal submission on behalf of the applicant and asked a number of questions of the Police Officers in relation to the information in Appendix C.

Members then asked questions of the applicant.

Members of the Sub-Committee remained in the meeting to deliberate and make their decision and all others, except the legal advisor, left the room.

When all were asked to return to the meeting the Chair informed the applicant of the Sub-Committee's decision:

The Sub-Committee in reaching its decision has considered all of the evidence and representations before them and have determined to REVOKE the premises licence.

The Sub-Committee's reasoning and findings were outlined as follows:-

- The Sub-Committee accepts the evidence submitted by the applicant in its entirety.
- The evidence has satisfied the Sub-Committee that the Licence Holders have breached conditions 1 and 4 in Annexe 2 of the Licence .
- The evidence has satisfied the Sub-Committee that serious criminal activity has been taking place on the premises and the Licence Holders have used premises Licence to further these activities.

- The Sub-Committee therefore consider the Licensing Objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder are being undermined to such a serious degree as to cause harm to the public.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____