

# LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

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Tuesday, 14 November 2017

## CONFIDENTIAL

### **Contact for further enquiries:**

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### **Information:**

The Exempt / Confidential (Pink) Committee papers in the Agenda will contain information, which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. If you do not wish to retain these papers after the meeting, please hand them to the Committee Officer present.

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact the officer shown above.

If the fire alarm sounds please leave the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit without deviating to collect belongings. Fire wardens will direct you to the exits and to the fire assembly point. If you are unable to use the stairs, a member of staff will direct you to a safe area. The meeting will reconvene if it is safe to do so, otherwise it will stand adjourned.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST (Pages 3 - 6)**

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

### **2. RULES OF PROCEDURE (Pages 7 - 16)**

To note the rules of procedure which are attached for information.

### **3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

In view of the contents of the remaining items on the agenda the Committee is recommended to adopt the following motion:

“That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contains information defined as Exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972.”

#### **EXEMPT SECTION (Pink Papers)**

The exempt committee papers in the agenda will contain information, which is commercially, legally or personally sensitive and should not be divulged to third parties. If you do not wish to retain these papers after the meeting, please hand them to the Committee Officer present.

### **4. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- |  | <b>PAGE NUMBER</b> | <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED</b> |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>4.1 Application for a Section 53A Review under the Licensing Act 2003 for Denni's News, 15 Swaton Road, London E3 4ES</b> | <b>17 - 54</b>     | <b>Bromley South</b>    |

# Agenda Item 1

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER**

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

### **Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)**

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

### **Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings**

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

### **Further advice**

For further advice please contact:-  
Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer, Tel 020 7364 4800

## APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

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## TOWER HAMLETS



### LICENSING COMMITTEE

#### **RULES OF PROCEDURE GOVERNING APPLICATIONS FOR PREMISES LICENCES AND OTHER PERMISSIONS UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

<b>Date Last Reviewed:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>
<b>Reviewed By:</b>	<b>Senior Corporate and Governance Legal Officer</b>
<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Licensing Committee</b>
<b>Date Approved:</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> June 2016</b>
<b>Version No.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Document Owner:</b>	<b>Paul Greeno</b>
<b>Post Holder:</b>	<b>Senior Corporate and Governance Legal Officer</b>
<b>Date of Next Scheduled Review:</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>

## **1. Interpretation**

- 1.1 These Procedures describe the way in which hearings will be conducted under the Licensing Act 2003, as set out in the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (as amended) ('the Hearings Regulations'). The Procedures take into account the Licensing Act (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005.
- 1.2 Except where otherwise stated, references in this Code are to the Licensing Committee and its Sub-committees and the expression 'Licensing Committee' should be interpreted accordingly.
- 1.3 The Hearings Regulations provide (Regulation 21) that a Licensing Authority shall, subject to the provisions of those Regulations, determine for itself the procedure to be followed at a hearing.
- 1.4 These Procedures, therefore, set out the way in which Licensing Committee Meetings will be conducted under the Licensing Act 2003, following the requirements of the Hearings Regulations.
- 1.5 Proceedings will not be rendered void only as the result of failure to comply with any provision of the Hearings Regulations (Regulation 31) save that in any case of such an irregularity, the Licensing Committee shall, if it considers that any person may have been prejudiced as a result of the irregularity, take such steps as it thinks fit to cure the irregularity before reaching its determination (Regulation 32).

## **2. Composition of Sub-Committee**

- 2.1 The Sub-Committee will consist of three (3) members and no business shall be transacted unless three (3) members of the Licensing Committee are present and able to form a properly constituted Licensing Sub-Committee. In such cases the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

## **3. Procedure**

- 3.1 The hearing shall take place in public save that the Licensing Committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that, on balance, it is in the public interest to do so. The parties and any person representing them may be excluded in the same way as another member of the public. Any person so excluded may, before the end of the hearing, submit to the Licensing Committee in writing, any information which, they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave. Where there are a number of items on the agenda, the adjournment of that item for a short period, whilst another item is heard, may allow this process to be carried out effectively.



- 3.2 The Chair will begin by asking the parties to identify themselves and confirm whether or not they are represented.
- 3.3 The Licensing Committee should always satisfy itself that sufficient notice of the hearing has been given to all parties and if not satisfied, then the Licensing Committee should take such steps as it thinks fit to deal with that issue before reaching its determination and this could include adjourning that application to a later date.
- 3.4 The Licensing Committee will then consider any requests by a party for any other person to be heard at the hearing in accordance with the Regulations. Permission will not be unreasonably withheld provided proper notice has been given.
- 3.5 The Chair will then explain how the proceedings will be conducted, and indicate any time limits that may apply to the parties to the application. In setting time limits, the Licensing Committee will take into account the importance of ensuring that all parties receive a fair hearing, and the importance of ensuring that all applications are determined expeditiously and without undue delay. Further the Licensing Committee must have regard to the requirement to allow each party an equal amount of time.
- 3.6 If a party considers that any time limit is not sufficient then they should address the Licensing Committee and which will determine accordingly.
- 3.7 If any party has informed the Authority that they will not be attending or be represented at the hearing or any party does not give notice that they will not be attending but fails to attend and is not represented, the Licensing Committee may proceed in their absence or adjourn the hearing if it considers it to be necessary in the public interest. An adjournment will not be considered where due to the operation of the Hearing Regulations it would not be possible to adjourn.
- 3.8 If the Licensing Committee adjourns the hearing to a specified date it must specify the date, time and place to which the hearing has been adjourned and why it is considered necessary in the public interest.
- 3.9 If the Licensing Committee holds the hearing in the absence of a party, it will consider at the hearing the application, representation or notice given by that party.
- 3.10 The Chair will invite an Officer of the Licensing Section to present the report by briefly summarising the application and the number and type of the representations as set out in the papers circulated. The Officer will also advise of any discussions held with the parties; any amendments made to the application; any representations withdrawn; and any agreed conditions that the Licensing Committee is being asked to consider. The Officer shall not give

any opinion on the application or ask the Committee to make an inference based on such an opinion.

- 3.11 Members of the Licensing Committee can then ask questions of clarification of the Licensing Officer or seek legal advice from the Legal Adviser to the Licensing Committee if they require in respect of matters raised during the presentation by the Licensing Officer.
- 3.12 The Legal Adviser to the Licensing Committee will then give any relevant legal advice that the Licensing Committee need to take into consideration.
- 3.13 The Chair will then ask the applicant or their representative, if present, to present a summary of the nature and extent of the application. This should be brief, avoid repetition of material already available to the Licensing Committee in the Officer's report or otherwise, and include any reasons why an exception should be made to the Council's Licensing Policy, where appropriate, and respond to the written representations received. The submission may be followed by the evidence of any person who has been given permission by the Committee to give supporting evidence on behalf of the applicant or who has made a representation in favour of the application.
- 3.14 The application is to be presented within the time limit that has been set.
- 3.15 Where an applicant is unrepresented and having difficulty in presenting their application then the Legal Adviser to the Licensing Committee may ask questions of the applicant so that the relevant points are addressed and clarified for the Licensing Committee.
- 3.16 Members of the Licensing Committee may ask questions of the person presenting the case after their address as well as any other person who has spoken in support of the application. Members can also ask questions of the applicant as well as any other person present for the applicant who they consider can assist.
- 3.17 The Legal Adviser to the Licensing Committee may ask questions for the purpose of clarifying points for the Licensing Committee.
- 3.18 The Chair will then ask the persons who have made representations against the application to address the Licensing Committee within the time limit that has been set. They should not repeat what is already set out in their representations or notice or raise new matters. In their address they should provide clarification on any points previously requested by the Council. The submission may be followed by the evidence of any person who has been given permission by the Committee to give supporting evidence.
- 3.19 Members of the Licensing Committee may then ask questions of the persons making representations against the application and any other person who has

spoken in support of such representation. Members can also ask questions of any other person present who they consider can assist.

- 3.20 The Legal Adviser to the Licensing Committee may ask questions for the purpose of clarifying points for the Licensing Committee.
- 3.21 Petitions will be treated as representations provided they meet the requirements for relevant representations set out in the Licensing Act 2003. Members should proceed with caution when relying upon petitions used as evidence due to the structure and wording used.
- 3.22 The Licensing Committee will disregard any information given by a party, or any other person appearing at the hearing, which is not relevant to:
  - a) their application, representation or notice; and
  - b) the promotion of the licensing objectives or the crime prevention objective where notice has been given by the police.
- 3.23 The Chair will intervene at any stage of the hearing to prevent repetitious or irrelevant points being raised.
- 3.24 Cross examination of any party or any other person allowed to appear will not be allowed unless specifically permitted by the Chair.
- 3.25 There is no right for any party to sum up but they may be permitted to do at the discretion of the Chair and within time limits prescribed by the Chair.
- 3.26 The Licensing Committee will consider its decision in private save that the Legal Adviser and Democratic Services Officer will remain with them.
- 3.27 The Licensing Committee will normally return to open session to announce its decision but in cases where the prescribed time limit allows for a later determination and it is appropriate to determine the matter within that time then the Chair will advise the parties present that the decision will not be announced then but that the determination will take place within the prescribed time limit and that written notification will be dispatched to all parties advising them of the determination.

#### **4. Exclusions**

- 4.1 In addition to any exclusion under paragraph 3.1 above, The Licensing Committee may require any person attending the hearing who in their opinion is behaving in a disruptive manner to leave the hearing and may refuse to permit the person to return; or allow them to return only on such conditions as Licensing Committee may specify.

- 4.2 Any person so excluded may, before the end of the hearing, submit to the Authority in writing, any information which, they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave.

## Guidance for Licensing Sub-Committee Meetings.

### (1) Attendance at Meetings.

All meetings of the Sub-Committee are open to the public and press to attend. On rare occasions, the Sub-Committee may retire to consider private business that will be clearly marked on the agenda as such. The press and public will be excluded for those confidential items only. We try to keep confidential reports to an absolute minimum. We request that you show courtesy to all present and please keep mobile phones on silent. Meetings can reach full capacity and seats are allocated on a first come first come served basis.

### (2) Licensing Sub-Committee Role and Membership.

In summary, the Sub-Committee will consider and determine applications to grant, vary or review a license submitted under the Licensing Act 2003 where representations have been made. The full terms of reference can be found on the Committee webpages (see below). The Licensing Sub-Committee will consist of 3 Members of the main Licensing Committee. Meetings are normally held in the Town Hall Council Chamber.

#### Licensing Sub-Committee Webpages

To view go to the Committee and Member Services web page:  
[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee) - 'agenda, reports, decisions and minutes', then click on 'Licensing Sub-Committee'.

The pages include:

- Terms of Reference for the Licensing Sub-Committee.
- Meeting dates, agendas and minutes.
- Agenda timetable including agenda publication dates. (To view click 'browse meetings and agendas for this committee', then 'show agenda management timetable').

### (3) Access to Committee Papers.

The agenda for Sub-Committee meetings is published five clear (working) days before the Sub-Committee meeting on the Committee webpages (except for certain types of applications where special rules apply). All Committee papers (i.e. agendas, reports, minutes and decisions) are published on the website and also available on iPad and Android tablet apps downloadable for free from their respective app stores.

### (4) Who can speak at Licensing Sub-Committee meetings?

Only interested parties may address the Sub-Committee (those who have made a valid representation) and the applicant and their representatives. Although the Sub-Committee may allow other persons to present the interested parties evidence or to give supporting evidence. If you are planning to attend the hearing to address the committee, you are advised to contact the Committee officer - see the Committee

pages and agenda front page for contact details. Speakers are advised to arrive at the start of the meeting in case the order of business is changed. Speakers will be called to speak by the Chair at the appropriate time. If speakers are not present by the time their application is heard, the Committee may consider the item in their absence.

**(5) What can be circulated?**

Should you wish to submit any material, please contact the Committee/Licensing Officer as soon as possible. The Sub-Committee may accept information at the hearing, however this is only with the agreement of all parties present.

**(6) How will the applications be considered?**

The Sub-Committee will normally consider the items in agenda order subject to the Chair’s discretion. The hearing procedure is detailed at the end of this guidance.

**(7) How can I find out about a decision?**

You can contact Democratic Services the day after the meeting to find out the decisions.

**(8) Queries on reports.**

For any questions, please contact the Officer named on the front of the report.

Typical Seating Plan for Licensing Sub - Committee Meetings in the Town Hall Council Chamber.

Public Seating		Objectors Benches		Sub-Committee Members
Public Seating				Chair
Public Seating				Legal Officer
Public Seating		Applicants Benches		Committee Officer
Public Seating				Licensing Officer

## **LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE**

All interested parties to the hearing must notify Democratic Services within prescribed timescales that they intend to attend and/or be represented at the hearing and whether any witnesses will be attending on their behalf. The meeting will be in the form of a discussion led by the Sub Committee, cross examination of either party will not be permitted.

The Chair will allocate an equal amount of speaking time to each party. Where there is more than one representation raising the same or similar grounds, those parties should consider nominating a single representative to address the Sub-Committee on their behalf at the hearing.

The hearing will proceed as follows (subject to the discretion of the Chair).

1. Chair will introduce him/herself and ask Members, officers, and all interested parties present at the meeting to introduce themselves.
2. Licensing Officer to present the report.
3. Committee Members to ask questions of officer (if any).
4. The Applicant to present their case in support of their application (including any witnesses they may have).
5. Committee Members to ask questions of applicants and their witnesses or ask for points of clarification.
6. The relevant Responsible Authorities in attendance will present their case and their reasons for representation (including any witnesses they may have).
7. The Objectors/Interested Parties in attendance will present their case and their reasons for objecting (including any witnesses they may have).
8. Committee Members to ask questions of Responsible Authorities, objectors and their witnesses or ask for points of clarification.
9. Applicant (with exception and with permission of the Chair) can ask questions of the other parties to the hearing and their witnesses.
10. Interested Parties to the hearing (with exception and with the permission of the Chair) can ask questions of the applicant/other parties to the hearing and their witnesses.
11. Chair's closing remarks
12. Sub-Committee retire from the meeting with the Committee Officer and Legal Officer and consider their decision.
13. The Sub-Committee will return to the meeting and Chair announces the decision together with the reasons for the decision and any right to appeal.
14. A Decision letter will be sent to all interested parties confirming the decision made.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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