

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.00 P.M. ON MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2021

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Shah Ameen (Chair)

Councillor Shad Chowdhury
Councillor Peter Golds
Councillor Zenith Rahman
Councillor Dan Tomlinson

Councillors Present Virtually:

Councillor Amina Ali
Councillor Kevin Brady
Councillor Eve McQuillan
Councillor Mohammed Pappu
Councillor Victoria Obaze

Apologies

Councillor Rajib Ahmed
Councillor Dipa Das
Councillor Mohammed Ahbab Hossain
Councillor Ayas Miah
Councillor Kyrsten Perry

Officers Present:

Tom Lewis	– (Team Leader - Licensing Services)
Jonathan Melnick	– (Principal Lawyer-Enforcement)
David Tolley	– (Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards)
Simmi Yesmin	– (Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

2.1 Cumulative Impact Assessment Policy 2021 - 2024

Mr David Tolley, Head of Environmental Health and Trading Standards, introduced the report and explained that the Council must review its Cumulative Impact Assessment Policies (CIA) every 3 years. As part of the review the Council is to carry out statutory consultation in the same way as specified for reviewing the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

It was noted that the Brick Lane Cumulative Impact Area had been in place for 7 years and the Bethnal Green Cumulative Impact Area for 3 years. It was noted that the consultation process took place between 28th January and 22nd April 2021 and that this report would go to overview and scrutiny, cabinet and then to Full Council for adoption in November 2021.

Mr Tolley explained that the CIAs seek to help limit the number or types of licence applications granted in areas where there is evidence that show that the number or density of licensed premises is having a cumulative impact in an area or leading to problems that undermine the four licensing objectives.

Mr Tolley, detailed the consultation process and the responses received and then referred to the list of consultees in appendix 3 of the report. He went on to explain that the online response asked two main questions to which 55% wanted the Brick Lane CIA to remain and 58% wanted the Bethnal Green CIA to remain.

It was noted that during the consultation, residents asked if the Bethnal Green CIA could be extended to create one large CIA encompassing the areas between the CIAs and Columbia Road. Mr Tolley explained that the review of the CIAs in Brick Lane and Bethnal Green did not include any proposal to extend into the Weavers or Bethnal Green extensions. Therefore, to extend the CIAs as suggested would require another statutory consultation, where the Council would need to consider if there was sufficient evidence that, crime and disorder or nuisance related to the cumulative impact of licensed premises is occurring within the Weavers and/or Bethnal Green extensions. Due to the number of requests for this proposal, Officers collated information on the number of licensed premises in the area, the number and types of complaints received etc. and in conclusion it did not appear that the area had a high saturation of licensed premises within the proposed extension area.

In response to questions the following was noted;

- Officers to report back to the Committee with a breakdown of the reported number of crime and disorder the Police attend to in Tower Hamlets especially in the CIAs in comparison to other neighbouring boroughs.
- Concerns raised as to why applications in the CIA areas are being approved, it was noted that these could be because of a range of things, such as small offerings of alcohol, robust conditions, demonstrating exceptional circumstances, or successfully rebutting the presumption of not negatively impacting on the area.

- That the onus was on the applicant to demonstrate how they would not negatively impact on the CIA area, by providing a more detailed application.
- An enforcement report would be brought to the next committee meeting which will include information about the number of licensed premises, the number of complaints received and the enforcement actions taken etc.

The Committee welcomed the report.

The Chair moved and it was **RESOLVED**;

1. The report be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.35 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Shah Ameen
Licensing Committee