
Application for a New Premises Licence

Executive Member(s): Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts

Local Member(s) and Division: Cllrs Kathy Pearce & Brian Smedley

Lead Officer: Alan Weldon, Licensing & Fraud Manager

Author: Alan Weldon

Contact Details: alan.weldon@somerset.gov.uk

Summary / Background

1. **The Hearing** is required to determine the application for a new Premises Licence in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 following receipt of relevant representations by way of objection received from The Police & Bridgwater Town Council
2. The premises subject to the objection is: The Sweetbox, 30 Cornhill, Bridgwater, Somerset TA6 3BY.

Recommendations

3. The **Licensing Sub-Committee** is required to determine the application in accordance with the Act and must resolve to do one of the following:
 - a. To grant the application as applied for
 - b. To grant the application with attached conditions.
 - c. To grant the application in part.
 - d. To grant the application in part with attached conditions.
 - e. To refuse the application.

Reasons for recommendations

4. The **Licensing Sub-Committee** is to consider an application for a New application for a Premises Licence in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. It is therefore the duty of the **Licensing Sub-Committee** to determine the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives which are: -
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety
 - The prevention of public nuisance; and
 - The protection of children from harm.

5. The objections in this case refer to all four Licensing Objectives.

Other options considered.

6. Not applicable.

Links to Council Vision, Business Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy

7. The Council must carry out its functions in accordance with the Act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives and this remains the prime consideration of this report.

Financial and Risk Implications

8. There are no financial implications.

9. There are no significant risks identified providing the granting of a Premises Licence is determined correctly, in accordance with the legislation and having due regard to the Sedgemoor Licensing Policy.

Legal Implications

10. The Licensing Officer has determined that the representations submitted by the Police and Bridgwater Town Council are relevant. It is, therefore, the duty of the **Sub-Committee** to determine the Premises Licence Application with regards to the licensing objectives.

11. The issue for the **Licensing Sub-Committee** is whether the application as submitted, sufficiently promotes the licensing objectives, whether the promotion of the licensing objectives requires the application to be granted subject to conditions, or whether the application requires it to be rejected because the licensing objectives cannot be met by the imposition of conditions.

The applicant and/or objectors may appeal against any decision made by the Licensing Sub-Committee. Any appeal must be made to the Magistrate's Court.

HR Implications

12. None

Other Implications: -

Equalities Implications

13. None.

Community Safety Implications

14. The **Licensing Sub-Committee** may consider any factors that would promote or, conversely, undermine the licensing objectives.

Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

15. None.

Health and Safety Implications

16. None.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

17. The **Licensing Sub-Committee** may consider any factors that would promote or, conversely, undermine the licensing objectives.

Social Value

18. As the contents of this report do not relate to a procurement process, there are no social value implications.

Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

19. This report relates to a statutory function of the Council, which is the responsibility of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee (delegated to a Sub-Committee), so there are no scrutiny comments or recommendations to make.

Background

20. On 31st July 2024, a new Premises Licence application was served on Somerset Council by way of the Council's online application process by Mr. Kamalan Sathiyaseelan in respect of the aforementioned premises.

The application seeks authorisation for the following licensable activities to take place: -

- Sale/supply of alcohol daily from 08.00 to 01.00 hours, off the premises only

Copies of the redacted application form and the plan of the premises are attached as **Appendices A** and **B** respectively. A map of the surrounding area relating to the premises is shown as **Appendix C**.

21. An objection to the application for a premises licence has been received within the permitted timeframe from Neighbourhood Sergeant Kat Forrest on behalf of Avon & Somerset Constabulary, which is attached as **Appendix D**. Additional

information provided by the Police in support of the representation is shown as **Appendix E**.

22. A further objection was received, also within the required timeframe, from Mr. Rob Semple, Director of Community Services on behalf of Bridgwater Town Council. The representation is attached as **Appendix F**.

23. A final point to make is that the applicant had previously submitted an application for a New Premises licence in respect of the same premises on 16th July 2024 which was subsequently withdrawn on 31st July 2024. A redacted copy of the withdrawn application is attached as **Appendix G**.

Background Papers

24. As identified in the report and below under 'Appendices'.

Appendices

- A. Application for a New Premises Licence – Appendix A**
- B. Plan of the Premises – Appendix B**
- C. Map of the surrounding area – Appendix C**
- D. Representation - Police - Appendix D**
- E. Additional information - Police – Appendix E**
- F. Representation – Bridgwater Town Council - Appendix F**
- G. Withdrawn New Premises Licence application – Appendix G**