



Licensing Committee

Report title: Sip City Lounge, 189 Deptford High Street, SE8 3NT

Date: 23 April 2024

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1.

Ward(s) affected: Deptford

Contributors: Community Services – Safer Communities Service

Outline and recommendations

Determination of Variation of Premises Licence Application submitted on 12th February 2024 by Oreoluwa Sobers-Onipede for the premises at 189 Deptford high Street, SE8 3NT.

After having regard to all the representations heard, Members must take such steps as they consider appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

This application was advertised in accordance with regulation 25 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The last day for representations was 12th March 2024.

1. Summary

1.1. Particulars of Application

The application for a variation to the premises licence proposes the following:

- Extension for sale of alcohol on the premises
23:00 – 03:00 Thursday – Saturday

- Addition of Recorded and Live Music
23:00 – 03:00 Thursday – Saturday
- Addition of Late Night Refreshment
23:00 – 03:00 Thursday – Saturday
- Removal of conditions 14, 15 and 16 from Annex 2

The outside seating area at the rear of the premises must be closed by 21:00hrs and must not re-open until the start of the next day's trading.

After 21:00, the designated smoking area shall not exceed four (4) people.

No live music shall be played at the premises. Music played must only take the form of recorded background music set at a level that no noise or vibration shall be detectible outside or at any neighbouring premises.

- Amendment of opening hours 23:00 – 03:30
- Addition of Seasonal Variations
Christmas Eve, New Years Even, Nigerian Independence Day (1st October), any day proceeding bank holidays
Alcohol, Recorded and Live Music and Late night refreshment 23:00 – 03:00

The premises is currently licensed for the supply of Alcohol for consumption ON the Premises at the following times:

11:00 – 23:00 Monday
11:00 – 23:00 Tuesday
11:00 – 23:00 Wednesday
11:00 – 23:00 Thursday
11:00 – 23:00 Friday
11:00 – 23:00 Saturday
11:00 – 23:00 Sunday

- 1.2. The Council have received eight representations from local residents in addition to one from a local Councillor objecting to the proposed variation on various grounds including the Prevention of Public Nuisance, Protection of Children from Harm and prevention of Crime and Disorder.
- 1.3. In addition, there have also been representations from two responsible authorities objecting to the variation. The MET Police have objected to the variation on the grounds of the prevention of public nuisance and prevention of crime and disorder.
- 1.4. The Licensing Authority have objected to the proposal on the grounds of the prevention of public nuisance.
- 1.5. The representations received have been examined by officers and are not considered to be vexatious or frivolous. All representations were received within the specified time.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 After having regard to all the representations heard, Members must take such steps as they consider appropriate to promote the licensing objectives. The steps available to the Licensing Authority:

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

- 1.) Grant the variation to the premises licence as applied for,
 - 2.) Grant the variation to the licence subject to conditions modified to such extent as the authority considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives
 - 3.) Exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates;
 - 4.) Refuse to specify a person in the licence as the designated premises supervisor;
 - 5.) Refuse to grant the variation application.
- 2.2 Either party has a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court against a decision which should be submitted to the court within 21 days of the date of the decision letter.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. Decisions by Members of the Licensing Committee should have regard to the Licensing Act 2003 and the promotion of the four Licensing Objectives at all times, which includes the following:
- Protection of Children from Harm
 - Prevention of Crime and Disorder
 - Prevention of Public Nuisance
 - Public Safety
- 3.2. Members should also have regard to the Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-25.
- 3.3. Decisions made will link in with the following objectives under the Council's Corporate Strategy – Building an Inclusive Local Economy and Building Safer Communities.

4. Financial implications

- 4.1. Applicants have the right of appeal against any decision by the Licensing Committee. Therefore there would likely be costs for the Authority in seeking legal support should an appeal be brought by the applicant.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The Licensing Authority is a public authority under the Human Rights Act 1998. Therefore the licensing authority is required to act compatibly with the convention rights in the exercise of their functions. Article 6 (1) of the Convention provides that everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial hearing established by law.
- 5.2 A Premises Licence is a possession for the purpose of the Human Rights Act 1998. The right to hold a licence is a qualified rather than an absolute right. Therefore the right to hold a licence may be interfered with if it affects the interests of local residents or others. Such interference may be justified if it is necessary and proportionate to promote the licensing objectives.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

- 6.2 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.3 It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above.
- 6.4 The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. The Mayor must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.
- 6.5 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-codes-practice>
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/equality-act-technical-guidance>
- 6.6 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
- [The essential guide to the public sector equality duty](#)
 - [Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making](#)
 - [Engagement and the equality duty: A guide for public authorities](#)
 - [Objectives and the equality duty. A guide for public authorities](#)
 - [Equality Information and the Equality Duty: A Guide for Public Authorities](#)
- 6.7 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at:
- <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance#h1>

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

7. Climate change and environmental implications

- 7.1. Any decision made by Members must fall in line with the Licensing Act 2003, to that end there are no climate change or environmental considerations.

8. Crime and disorder implications

- 8.1. Under the Licensing Act 2003, one of the 4 licensing objectives is the Prevention of Crime and Disorder.
- 8.2. It is a requirement of the Licensing Act 2003 that any decision made by the Licensing Committee must not negatively impact on the Licensing objectives.

9. Background papers

- 9.1. Application received 12th February 2024.
- 9.2. Representation from MET Police received 8th March 2024 (Amended on 28th March 2024).
- 9.3. Representation from Licensing Authority received 1st March 2024 (Amended on 8th April 2024).
- 9.4. Representations from local residents.

10. Glossary

Term	Definition
Appeal	asking a court to overturn a lower court's decision. If the decision of a court is disputed it may be possible to ask a higher court to consider the case again by lodging an appeal.
Licence	an authority to do something.
Licensee	the holder of a licence to do something.
Licensing Authority	The Council (London Borough of Lewisham) Under section 3 of the 2003 Act, the licensing authority's area is the area for which the authority acts.
Licence Objectives	Under section 4 of the 2003 Act the Licensing Authority must promote the following 4 objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevention of crime and disorder• Public safety• Prevention of public nuisance• Protection of children from harm

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

Interested Person	<p>A person who lives in the vicinity of the premises A body who represents the persons who live in that vicinity A person involved in a business in that vicinity A body representing businesses in that vicinity An elected member of the council</p>
Relevant Representation	<p>A representation that is specific to the premises in question, related to the four licensing objectives and/or the local licensing policy.</p>
Responsible Authorities	<p>Public bodies that must be notified of all applications and who are entitled to make representations in relation to Premises Licences, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing Authority • Chief Officer of Police • London Fire Brigade • Trading Standards • Planning Authority • Public Health • Environmental Enforcement (with respect to Noise) • Children’s Services • Home Office Immigration

11. Report author and contact

- 11.1. Richard Lockett, Safer Communities Service Senior Officer for Licensing
richard.lockett@lewisham.gov.uk.

Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>