

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE  
Council Chamber - Town Hall  
4 January 2018 (10.30 - 11.50 am)**

**Present:**

**COUNCILLORS**

**Conservative Group**            Linda Trew (Chairman)

**Residents' Group**            Jody Ganly

**UKIP Group**                    Phil Martin

Present at the hearing were Mr Tim Shield, Legal representative for applicant and Ms Louise Woodruff for applicant. Also present were Havering Licensing Officer Paul Jones, Paul Campbell - Havering Licensing Authority, John Giles Health and Safety Specialist and Police Licensing Officer PC Belinda Goodwin.

Also present were the Legal Advisor to the Sub-Committee and the clerk to the Licensing sub-committee.

The Chairman advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

No interests were disclosed at the meeting.

**1      APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE MADE BY WHITBREAD GROUP PLC UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 - THE PREMIER INN MARKET PLACE ROMFORD**

**PREMISES**

Premier Inn Romford  
25-29 Market Place  
Romford  
RM1 3AB

**DETAILS OF APPLICATION**

The application for a premises licence is made by Whitbread Group PLC under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003("the Act).

**APPLICANT**

Whitbread Group PLC  
Houghton Hall Business Park  
Porz Avenue, Dunstable

Bedfordshire  
LU5 5XE

### **1. Details of requested licensable activities**

The Sub-Committee considered an application for a new premises licence for Premier Inn Romford, 25-29 Market Place, Romford, RM1 3AB made by Whitbread Group PLC.

### **2. Promotion of the Licensing Objectives**

The applicant acted in accordance with regulations 25 and 26 of The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and club premises certificates) Regulations 2005 relating to the advertising of the application. The required public notice was installed in the Yellow Advertiser on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017.

The Non-standard timings in section J (which if granted will relate to all licensed activity) "To extend the licensing hours on New Year's Eve: 10:00 to New Year's Day 00:30 (being 2<sup>nd</sup> January). This point required clarification –New Year's Day is the 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Does the applicant wish to be licenced from the end of licensable hours on New Year's Eve (into New Year's Day) to the end of Licensable hours on New Year's Day (into 2<sup>nd</sup> January).

### **3. Details of Representations**

There were three representations from Responsible Authorities against the application for a new premises licence.

### **4. Determination of Application**

The hearing was opened by Paul Campbell of the Council's licensing Team.

The Sub-Committee received written representations, and heard evidence and oral submissions from Mr John Giles from Havering Health and Safety Team, objecting on the grounds of crime and disorder and prevention of children from harm.

The Sub-Committee received written representations, and heard evidence and oral submissions from PC Goodwin on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Licensing Team. Although PC Goodwin's written representations objected on the grounds of crime and disorder and prevention of children from harm, following the applicant providing further information and discussions between the Police and the applicant's representatives, PC Goodwin appeared not to pursue her initial objections.

The Sub-Committee received written representations, and heard evidence and oral submissions from Paul Jones Havering Licensing Authority objecting on the grounds of crime and disorder.

The Sub-Committee received written representations, and heard evidence and oral submissions from Mr Shields on behalf of Premier Inn Romford-Whitbread Group PLC.

### **Legal Framework**

The Sub-Committee reminded itself that it must promote the licensing objectives and must have regard to the Statutory Guidance issued under s.182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Sub-Committee also reminded itself that as the premises under discussion lies within a Cumulative Impact Zone, there was a rebuttal presumption that applications for a new premises licence in respect of such premises would normally be refused.

### **Decision and reasons**

Having considered all the evidence the Sub-Committee was of the view that the licence should be granted subject to the conditions proposed by the applicant in its initial application and operating schedule and those set out in the written submissions provided on behalf of the applicant dated December 2017, save for two conditions.

The Sub-Committee was of the view that in relation to the licensable hours over the New Year period, the licensable activity should be between 10am on 31st December until 12:30am on the 1st January, the following day. The Sub-Committee noted that Mr Shields indicated that the condition as originally proposed was inserted simply because the initial application was a standard application however he was not seeking to pursue this condition as originally proposed.

In additional, the Sub-Committee considered carefully the representations made in relation to the age verification policy that should be adopted. The Sub-Committee noted that the policy of the local authority was Challenge 25 (Licensing Policy 20).

Whilst the Sub-Committee accepted that Challenge 21 was mentioned within the Council's statement of Licensing Policy, the actual policy was Challenge 25. The Sub-Committee noted that there was a drive to implement Challenge 25 over Challenge 21 across the borough principally because this was, in the council's view, the best way of promoting the licensing objectives, and in particular the protection of children from harm.

Having considered the matter at length, the Sub-Committee could see no reason to depart from the policy stated in Licensing Policy 20. The Sub-Committee was of the view that there was nothing exceptional about the applicant or in the application justifying departure from the Challenge 25 Policy. Therefore, the condition would be "the premises shall operate a proof of age scheme and would require photographic identification from any person who appears to be under the age of 25 years".

In conclusion, the Sub-committee was of the view that the granting of the licence subject to all of these licencing conditions would meet all of the licencing objectives. The Sub-committee was further of the view that the applicant had demonstrated that there would be no negative impact on the licencing objectives and therefore the applicant had rebutted the presumption against the grant of the licence.

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**Chairman**