

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: LICENSING ACT SUB-COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting:	Monday 1st August at 10.00am
Report of:	Jennifer Knight, Licensing Officer
Subject/Title:	Application for a Premises Licence at Old Sessions House, Toft Road, Knutsford, WA16 0PB

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The report provides details of an application for a premises licence for a limited time period, and the proposed operating schedule together with details of relevant representations received in relation to the application.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Licensing Act Sub-Committee is requested to determine the application for a Premises Licence by Cookson Hotels LLP, in respect of:

**Old Sessions House (Formerly Knutsford Crown Court)
Toft Road
Knutsford
Cheshire
WA16 0PB**

- 2.2 Acting in the capacity of Licensing Authority, Members must seek to promote the Licensing Objectives, and where Members consider matters have engaged one or more of the objectives, they may exercise their discretion. The licensing objectives are:
- (a) The prevention of crime and disorder
 - (b) Public safety
 - (c) The prevention of public nuisance
 - (d) The protection of children from harm
- 2.3 Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee are reminded that they may not exercise discretion in any case, merely because it considers it desirable to do so. Careful consideration should be given to application and relevant representations in light of the proposed operating schedules.
- 2.4 The Sub-Committee in respect of this application must have regard to the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.
- 2.5 Finally, Members are also reminded that in determining the application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003, Members must also have regard to:

- The rules of natural justice
- The provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The Licensing Act Sub-Committee has the power to determine this application in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Council's Constitution.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 Knutsford

5.0 Local Ward Members

Cllr Tony Dean
Cllr Hayley Wells-Bradshaw
Cllr Stewart Gardiner

6.0 Policy Implications

6.1 The Licensing Authority has adopted a Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with section 5 of the Licensing Act 2003.

6.2 Whilst having regard to the general principles within the Statement, Members may wish to consider the following:

- 6.2.1 The representations relate to the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and the Prevention of Public Nuisance Licensing Objectives. The Licensing Authority sets out at paragraphs 7 and 9 respectively, of its Statement of Licensing Policy how it will deal with representations under these objectives. At paragraph 9.1 the Statement of licensing policy confirm that a broad interpretation of what constitutes a public nuisance will be taken
- In considering the potential impact of licensed premises on the surrounding locality the Licensing Authority, when in receipt of any Relevant Representations will take into account the type of entertainment activity proposed hours of operation, the capacity of the premises, the character of the areas and the proximity to local residents. Consideration will be given to the potential steps which could be taken to reduce the risk of nuisance occurring. This will particularly apply in areas where there is residential accommodation in the proximity of the premises. Para 9.2
- The Statement Of Licensing Policy has a specific section relating to noise nuisance. This section is reproduced for the benefit of the sub-committee at appendix 3
- The representation also states their concerns regarding the hours applied for in the application. This section is also reproduced in appendix 3

6.3 Members should provide reason(s) for any decision taken and should set out the reasoning where they determine to depart in any way from the Policy or Guidance.

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 In accordance with the provisions of section 18 of the Licensing Act 2003 the Licensing Authority must, having regard to the representations, take such steps (if any) as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Section 18(4) provides that the authority may:

- (a) Grant the licence subject to the relevant mandatory conditions and conditions consistent with the operating schedule
- (b) Modify the application to such extent as the Authority considers appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives
- (c) Exclude from the scope of the licence any of the Licensable Activities to which the application relates
- (d) Refuse to specify a person in the licence as the Premises Supervisor
- (e) Reject the application.

8.2 Members are reminded that should any conditions be added, they should be practical, enforceable and appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives.

8.3 Members are also reminded of the statutory obligation placed on the Local Authority under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to through all of its various functions, and Licensing is one of those functions to do all that it can to prevent Crime and disorder, Anti-social Behaviour, behaviour adversely affecting the environment and re-offending.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 Section 181 and Schedule 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 make provision for appeal to the Magistrates' Court of any decision made by the Licensing Authority.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The application was initially received on the 8th June 2016. The application is for the grant of a Premises Licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.

10.2 The operating schedule indicates that the relevant licensable activities applied for are:

Sale and Supply of Alcohol
Provision Regulated Entertainment (as listed below)
Late Night Refreshment

10.3 The hours applied for are as follows:

Sale and supply of alcohol (for consumption on and off the premises)

00:00 to 23:59 Monday to Sunday.

Live Music (on and off the premises)

To take place between the hours of 08:00 to 02:00 Monday to Sunday

Recorded Music (on and off the premises)

To take place between the hours of 08:00 to 02:00 Monday to Sunday

Performance of Dance (on and off the premises)

To take place between the hours of 08:00 to 02:00 Monday to Sunday

Anything of a similar description to the above (on and off the premises)

To take place between the hours of 08:00 to 02:00 Monday to Sunday

Exhibition of Films (on and off the premises)

To take place between the hours of 00:00 to 23:59 Monday to Sunday

Indoor Sporting Events

To take place between the hours of 08:00 to 02:00 Monday to Sunday

Late Night Refreshment (on and off the premises)

To take place between the hours of 23:00 to 05:00 Monday to Sunday

10.4 A copy of the application form is attached as Appendix 1.

10.5 Relevant Representations are attached as Appendix 2.

Responsible Authorities:

10.6 The Police responded with conditions to the application which have now been agreed with the applicant. Appendix 5

10.7 Environmental Protection responded with conditions which have now been agreed with the applicant. Appendix 4

Other Persons:

10.7 The Council has received one written objection

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Premises Licence Application Form and site plan.

Appendix 2 – Written objection from other person

Appendix 3 – Relevant parts of Licensing Policy

Appendix 4 – Environmental Health Consultation Response

Appendix 5 – Police Conditions