

Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday 19 June 2018 at 10.00 am

To be held at the Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillors David Barker (Chair), Josie Paszek and Vickie Priestley
Dawn Dale (Reserve)

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Licensing Committee carries out a statutory licensing role, including licensing for taxis and public entertainment.

As a lot of the work of this Committee deals with individual cases, some meetings may not be open to members of the public.

Recording is allowed at Licensing Committee meetings under the direction of the Chair of the meeting. Please see the website or contact Democratic Services for details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday.

You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

If you require any further information please contact John Turner on 0114 273 4122 or email john.turner@sheffield.gov.uk

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDA
19 JUNE 2018**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
- 5. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (as amended) 1982 -
Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS**
Report of the Chief Licensing Officer

(NOTE: Appendix B to the report in Item 5 above is not available to the press and public as it contains exempt information as described in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person).

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ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

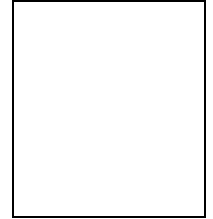
To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Audit and Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk.

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Licensing Sub Committee Report



Report of: Chief Licensing Officer, Head of Licensing

Date: 19th June 2018

Subject: Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

Author of Report: Craig Harper

Summary: To consider an application for the renewal of a sexual entertainment licence in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended).

Recommendations: That members note the content of the report, any further information supplied and make a decision based on the evidence

Background Papers: Attached documents

Category of Report: OPEN

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Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) - Sexual Entertainment Venues

Premises – Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an application for the renewal of a sexual entertainment venue licence made under Schedule 3, Section 10, of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2.0 THE APPLICATION

- 2.1 The applicant is Sonfield Developments Limited.
- 2.2 The application was received on 10th April 2018 and is attached to this report, labelled Appendix 'A'. Supplementary information is attached at Appendices 'B' and 'C'.

3.0 REASONS FOR REFERRAL

- 3.1 Representations concerning the application are attached at Appendix 'D'.

4.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 4.1 The hearing will be held in two parts in accordance with the hearing procedure, which can be found at Appendix 'G'. A departure from the procedure will only be considered at the discretion of the Chair and with full agreement of all interested parties present at the hearing.
- 4.2 Objections will be heard in part one of the hearing.
- 4.3 The applicant will be invited to present the application in part two of the hearing.
- 4.4 Copies of the invites sent to the applicant and interested parties are attached to this report labelled Appendix 'E'.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this application. However, additional costs may be incurred should the matter go to appeal. In such an eventuality it may not be possible to recover all these costs. The impact of these additional costs (if any) will be kept under review and may be subject of a further report during the year.

6.0 THE LEGAL POSITION

6.1 Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 amends Paragraph 2A of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and introduces a new category of sex establishments called “sexual entertainment venues” which allows licensing authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar venues.

6.2 Sheffield City Council has adopted the Sexual Entertainment Venue Provisions under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Policing & Crime Act 2009 so as to have effect as from the 1st May, 2011, in relation to the whole of the Sheffield City Council area for the purposes of regulating premises deemed to be sexual entertainment venues.

6.3 Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 amends Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and reclassifies lap dancing clubs as sexual entertainment venues and gives local authorities in England and Wales the power to regulate such venues.

6.4 For the purposes of these new provisions “sexual entertainment venue” is defined as:

“any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer”.

6.5 The meaning of “relevant entertainment” is defined as;

“any live performance or live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of an audience (whether by verbal or other means)”.

6.6 The Licensing Authority will have regard to the [Home Office Guidance](#) when exercising its functions in order to promote best practice and consistency across England and Wales.

7.0 EQUALITY CONSIDERATION – PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty was created by the Equality Act 2010, and replaces the race, disability and gender equality duties. It is supported by the specific duties contained in The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.

7.2 The equality duty was developed in order to harmonise the equality duties and to extend it across the protected characteristics. It consists of a general equality duty, supported by specific duties which are imposed by secondary legislation. In summary, those subject to the equality duty must, in the exercise of their 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.

7.3 These are sometimes referred to as the three aims or arms of the general equality duty. The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

7.4 The Act states that meeting different needs involves taking steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities. It describes fostering good relations as tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups. It states that compliance with the duty may involve treating some people more favorably than others.

7.5 The equality duty covers the nine protected characteristics:

- Age;
- Disability;
- gender reassignment;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex; and
- sexual orientation.

Public authorities also need to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status. This means that the first aim of the duty applies to this characteristic but that the other aims (advancing equality and fostering good relations) do not apply.

7.6 Therefore members should when making any decisions consider the above duty.

7.7 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and approved by the Council's Equality Team. Members should be aware that equality impact assessments are under constant review.

8.0 POLICY – SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Members should be aware of Section 7 of the policy with regards to the Location of Licensed Premises. The Sex Establishment Policy published in January 2018 is the policy by which the application will be determined.

8.2 Members will need to consider the character of the relevant locality and have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;
- (b) the premises are sited near shops used by or directed to families or children, or on frontages frequently passed by the same;
- (c) the premises are sited near properties which are sensitive for religious purposes e.g. synagogues, churches, mosques, temples;
- (d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not

limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

- (e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions;
- (f) the premises are sited near civic buildings.

8.3 Members should consider the use of other premises in the vicinity and have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age;
- (b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;
- (c) places primarily used for religious worship;
- (d) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;
- (e) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;
- (f) predominately residential areas;
- (g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library)

8.4 Members will also need to consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate:

- (a) any cumulative adverse impact of existing sex establishment related activities in the vicinity of the proposed premises;
- (b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;
- (c) whether the premises has met the relevant planning requirements;
- (d) the design of the premises frontage (signage/images etc.);
- (e) any relevant representation to the application; and/or
- (f) the proposed operating hours

9.0 HEARINGS REGULATIONS

9.1 The hearing procedure is set out in Schedule 3 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 at Section 10. A copy of the hearing procedure is attached at Appendix 'G'.

10.0 APPEALS

10.1 There is a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court against decisions for the refusal to grant, renew, vary or transfer of a licence, the imposition of conditions and revocations may also be appealed.

10.2 Appeals must be made to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days, starting from the date the applicant is notified of the Licensing Authority's decision.

10.3 Appeals only lie against the mandatory refusals on the basis that the mandatory ground does not apply to the applicant/licence holder. Further, no appeal lies against the Licensing Authority's decision made on the discretionary grounds, namely:

- That it is inappropriate to grant or renew a licence on the grounds of the character of the locality or the number of premises in it; or
- The use of premises in the vicinity or the layout, character or condition of the premises

10.4 The only discretionary grounds which an appeal lies are those relating to the suitability of the applicant, the manager and/or the beneficiary of the operation.

10.5 There is no statutory right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court for the police or objectors.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 That Members carefully consider the application and / or any representations made and take such steps as the Committee consider necessary for the promotion of the Council's Sex Establishment Policy and with regard to relevant legislation and the Home Office Guidance.

12.0 OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

12.1 To grant the sexual entertainment venue licence application in the terms requested.

12.2 To grant the sexual entertainment venue licence application, with additional or amended conditions.

12.3 To defer the application.

12.4 To refuse the whole or part of the application.



Stephen Lonnie
Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing
Business Strategy and Regulation
Place Portfolio
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Sheffield
S9 3HD

19th June 2018

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Appendix A

Application

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE APPLICATIONS

Application for the Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Licensing Service
Place Portfolio
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD
S9 3HD

Telephone Number: 0114 273 4264
Fax Number: 0114 273 5410

Or visit our website: www.sheffield.gov.uk
Or email us at: general.licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Opening Times

Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm

Sheffield *where everyone matters*



Application for Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Notes to Applicant:

All questions must be answered unless otherwise stated.
 If relevant questions are not answered, the application will be deemed incomplete
 and returned to the Applicant.

I / WE HEREBY APPLY to the Sheffield City Council for the renewal of a licence to use
 a premises as a Sexual Entertainment Venue.

A. THE APPLICANT

Q1	Is the Applicant:		
	a.	An individual?	<input type="checkbox"/> Answer question 2
	b.	A company or other corporate body?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Answer question 3 & 4
	c.	A partnership or other unincorporated body?	<input type="checkbox"/> Answer question 5

Q2	Answer only where the applicant is an individual.	
	Full Name of the Applicant	
	Applicants permanent private address	
	Occupation (during preceding six months).	
	Telephone No.	
You need to complete Annex A. Now go to question 5		

Q3	Answer only if the Applicant is a company or other corporate body.	
	Full Name of the Applicant	SONFIELD DEVLEOPMENTS LIMITED
	Applicant's trading address	60 BROWN STREET, SHEFFIELD, S1 2BS
	Applicant's registered address (if different)?	C/O 161 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1T 7NN

What is the registered number of the Applicant?	04315210
Has the Applicant previously been known by any other name, and if so, what?	NO

What are the full names of the Directors and Company Secretary?	KATHY JoANN VERCHER JOHN ROBERT SPECHT SPEARMINT RHINO SECRETARIAL SERVICES LIMITED
Are any persons responsible for the management of the Applicant other than the Directors and Company Secretary? If so, state their names	Yes [] No [x]
For all persons with a shareholding greater than 10% in the Applicant state the names, and registered address where it is a body corporate of all persons and their percentage shareholding at the date of application.	SPEARMINT RHINO VENTURES (UK) LIMITED C/O 161 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1T 7NN
For any body corporate with a shareholding holding greater than 10% in the Applicant, state the names of its Directors and Company Secretary.	KATHY JoANN VERCHER JOHN ROBERT SPECHT
All individuals named above need to complete Annex A. Now go to question 5	

Q4 Answer only if the Applicant is a partnership or other unincorporated body:	
Full Name of the Applicant	
Applicants trading address	
What are the names, of the Applicants Partners?	
Are there persons responsible for the management of the Applicant other than the Partners? If so, state their names.	
Has the Applicant previously been known by any other name, and if so, what?	
All individuals named above need to complete Annex A. Now go to question 6	

Q5 Will the business for which a licence is sought be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person other than those already mentioned in answer to Q2 to Q4 above. This includes third parties such as funders and suppliers where the arrangements are not on normal arms length commercial terms or any persons who may share in the profits.	Yes [] No [x]
If the answer is yes, state their name(s). If a body corporate body, state their place of registration and registered number, and the name(s), of all Directors, the Company Secretary and those with a greater than 10% shareholding.	

All individuals named above need to complete Annex A. Now go to question 6

Q6	Has any body corporate or unincorporated named in Q3 to Q5 above:		
	• Ever been convicted of a criminal offence, issued with a caution, or bound over to be of good behavior?	Yes []	No [x]
	• Ever had a grant or renewal application for a sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue licence refused or such licence revoked?	Yes []	No [x]
	• Ever been the subject of insolvency proceedings?	Yes []	No [x]
	• If Yes please provide full details including dates (this can be done on a separate piece of paper).		

Note: Question 6 does not apply to individuals as they are required to answer similar questions in Annex A.

Q7	Does the Applicant have a trading name different from that given in answer 2, 3 or 4 above? If so, state the trading name.	SPEARMINT RHINO
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Q8	Does the Applicant operate any other sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue in Sheffield whether licensed or not?	Yes []	No [X]
	If so, state the name, address and type(s) of sex establishment (e.g. sex shop, sex cinema, sexual entertainment venue).		

Notes to Applicant:

Each of the individuals named in Questions 2, 3, 4 and 5 must complete a copy of the form attached at Annex A to this application.

These form part of the application and must be submitted with this application. If not, the application will not be regarded as complete and will not be processed.

It will be rejected if not made complete within seven working days of receipt.

B. THE PREMISES, VEHICLE, VESSEL OR STALL

Q9	Is this application in respect of:	Premises	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 11
		Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Vessel	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Stall	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10	Answer only where the application is for a vehicle, vessel or stall		
	Give a description and state all locations where the vehicle / vessel / stall is proposed to be located during use as a sexual entertainment venue. If moving please describe the route to be taken and any places where it will be stationary.		
Now go to question 12			

Q11	Postal address of premises: SPEARMINT RHINO 60 BROWN STREET		
	Post Town: SHEFFIELD	Postcode: S1 2BS	
	Telephone Number:	Email Address: receptionuk@spearmintrhino.com	

For Q12 to Q17 reference to premises should be taken to include vehicle, vessel or stall as appropriate.

Q12	Is the whole of the premises to be used as a sexual entertainment venue?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	If not, state the use of the remainder of the premises		
	State the names of those who are responsible for the management of the remainder of the premises		

Q13	State the nature of the Applicant's interest in the premises.	a.	Owner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		b.	Lessee	<input type="checkbox"/>
		c.	Sub-lessee	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If the Applicant is a lessee or sub-lessee, state:			
	(i) the name and address of the landlord			
	(ii) the name and address of the superior landlord (if any)			

	(iii) the amount of the annual rental	
	(iv) the length of the unexpired term	
	(v) the length of notice required to terminate the tenancy	

Q14	State the current use of the premises	SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE
	Is there planning permission for the premises (or any site where a vehicle, vessel or stall is to be placed) which covers use as a sexual entertainment venue?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]
	If so, state the date of the planning permission	07/01/2002
	If not, state whether and why the use as a sexual entertainment venue is lawful, e.g. because there is a certificate of lawful use, give full details.	

Q15	Are the premises licensed under any other Act, e.g. the Licensing Act 2003?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]
	Provide full details:	
	(i) Legislation	Licensing Act 2003
	(ii) Premises Licence Holder	SONFIELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
	(iii) Designated Premises Supervisor	PETER MERCER
	(iv) Licence number	SY 0971 PR
	Does the Applicant intend to obtain or vary a licence under any other Act?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
	Provide full details:	
	(i) Legislation	
	(ii) Type of application	
	(iii) Licence number	

Q16	Is customer access to the premises:	Directly from the street or a public thoroughfare? [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
		From other premises? [<input type="checkbox"/> Please provide details:

	Is each customer access from the street to be supervised at all times the premises are open to the public?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/> If the answer is No give full details of proposed door controls and supervision:
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Q17	Are the premises, so constructed or adapted and laid out as to permit access to, from and within the premises (including WC facilities) for members of the public who are disabled?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/> If the answer is No give full details of proposals for affording such access:
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Q18	Are the premises being used as a sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue at the date of this application?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>
	If the answer is Yes, state the name and address of the body or person now operating the business.	Name: SONFIELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED Address: C/O 161 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1T 7NN

C. MANAGEMENT OF THE BUSINESS

Q19	State the identity of the person who will be primarily responsible for the day to day management of the business at the premises.	Name: PETER MERCER – GENERAL MANAGER
	Will that person be based at the premises and will the management of the business there will be his/her sole and exclusive occupation.	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>
	Which person(s) will be responsible for the day to day management of the business in the absence of the person named above.	Name: MICHAEL DAVID GOODWIN (MANAGER)

		Name: ANDREW FOSTER (REGIONAL MANAGER)
	Confirm that the relief manager(s) or one of them will be based at the premises full time in the absence of the Manager.	Yes [X] No []
You should ensure that any person listed in this question is also included in Q2 to Q5 above as appropriate.		

Q20	State all times at which the premises will be used as a Sexual Entertainment Venue			
	Day	Start	Finish	Please give further details here:
	Mon	00:00	24:00	
	Tue	00:00	24:00	
				State any seasonal variations:
	Wed	00:00	24:00	
	Thur	00:00	24:00	
				Non-standard timings. Where you intend to use the premises at different times from those listed in the column on the left:
	Fri	00:00	24:00	
	Sat	00:00	24:00	
	Sun	00:00	24:00	

Q21	State proposals in respect of: (A plan of the exterior must be submitted)		
	Exterior Signage	Nature:	1. SIGN ABOVE THE FRONT DOOR WHEN THE PREMISES IS OPEN. 2. WINDOW SIGN, LOGO AND WEB ADDRESS 3. SIGN AT SIDE OF BUILDING.
		Size:	1. 4FT BY 9FT 2. 6FT BY 9FT 3. 2FT BY 7FT

		Images:	PHOTOS PROVIDED
		Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Advertising	Nature:	EVENTS BOARD NEXT TO FRONT DOOR	
	Size:	A1/A2	
	Images:	PHOTO	
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Window Displays	Nature:	SEE ABOVE	
	Size:		
	Images:		
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Q21	State any proposals for solicitation or advertisement of business in public areas (in doing so you should take account of the Council's Policy and the Standard Terms and Conditions that will apply to the licence if granted) :		
Fliers	Images:	FLYERS/VIP PASSES DISTRIBUTED WHERE LAWFUL AND ON DISPLAY IN HOTELS BY AGREEMENT	
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Business Cards	Images:	SEE PHOTO	
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	Images:		
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Q22	<p>What means are to be taken to prevent the interior of the premises being visible to passers-by?</p>	<p>ENTRANCE FOYER IS VISABLE FROM THE OUTSIDE. NO AREAS WHERE RELEVANT ENTERTAINMENT IS PROVIDED ARE VISIBLE FROM THE OUTSIDE DUE TO THE LOCATION OF THE ROOMS AND WINDOWS BEING BLACKED OUT/BOARDED.</p>
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Q23	<p>State what age restrictions are to be applied in respect of admissions, and how are these to be enforced.</p> <p>In answering, state what forms of identity will be accepted.</p>	<p>NO- ONE UNDER 18 PERMITTED</p> <p>PASSPORT/ DRIVING LICENCE</p>
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Q24	<p>State the arrangements for CCTV and for retention of recordings.</p> <p>In answering, state whether all public areas are to be covered by CCTV at all times the business is open and whether the feed from all cameras will be recorded.</p>	<p>ALL AREAS OF THE PREMSIES, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ARE COVERED BY CCTV, THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM AND ALL CAMERAS RECORD WHILST THE PREMSIES IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS. RECORDINGS ARE GENERALLY KEPT FOR 70 DAYS, COPIES OF RECORDINGS CAN BE PROVIDED TO POLICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY SUBJECT TO DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998.</p>
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Q25	<p>State whether the proposal is for full nudity (nudity is defined as per the Council's Policy).</p>	<p>Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]</p>
	<p>Give full details of the nature of the entertainment.</p> <p>Lap Dancing</p>	<p>IN BOOTHS</p>
	<p>Pole Dancing</p>	<p>ON STAGE</p>
	<p>Stage Strip-tease</p>	<p>ON STAGE</p>

	Other	ANYTHING OF A LIKE KIND
	State whether arrangements are proposed for private booths or areas. If so, provide full details (highlighted on accompanying plans), including proposals for supervision of such areas.	SEE PLANS, AREAS COVERED BY DOOR SUPERVISORS.

Q26	This question need not be answered in the case of renewals.	
A	State proposals for preventing nuisance to residents and businesses in the vicinity: RENEWAL	
B	State proposals for promoting public safety: RENEWAL	
C	State proposals for preventing crime or disorder: RENEWAL	
D	State proposals for protecting children from harm: RENEWAL	
E	Set out the system for training all staff in the Code of Practice for performance, and enforcing compliance. <i>(Note: the Code of Practice must be attached to this form.)</i>	RENEWAL
F	Set out the system for notifying customers of the Rules for Customers, and for monitoring and enforcing compliance. <i>(Note: the Rules for Customers must be attached to this form.)</i>	RENEWAL
G	Set out the system for monitoring compliance with the venue's Policy for Welfare of Performers. <i>(Note: the</i>	RENEWAL

	<i>Policy for Welfare of Performers must be attached to this form.)</i>	
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Q27	<p>Set out any further information which you wish the authority to take into account.</p> <p>Include here any proposed conditions (you may attach a schedule of such conditions) or any reason relied upon to provide an exception to the authority's Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy or Standard Conditions (any such application will be referred to Licensing Sub-Committee for determination).</p> <p>THE PREMISES HAS OPERATED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT OPERATION OR TO THE PLANS. DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED PREVIOUSLY.</p>
------------	--

Q28

Is there any information on this form which you do not wish to be seen by members of the public? If so, state which information and the reasons why you do not wish it to be seen.

ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION

Q29	Please use the checklist below to ensure you have completed all parts of the application. Tick to confirm you have enclosed all of the required information documents:
<p>I have made or enclosed payment of the fee.</p> <p>I have enclosed plans of the premises (scale 1:100) that detail all the relevant information including the designated performance areas, access and egress, etc.</p> <p>I have enclosed a site plan detailing the location of the premises (scale 1:1250) in relation to the surrounding area.</p> <p>I have enclosed drawings of the proposed front elevation as existing and as proposed (scale 1:50).</p> <p>I have enclosed a copy of any other licences for the premises.</p> <p>I have enclosed the Code of Practice and Disciplinary Procedure for Performers.</p> <p>I have enclosed the Rules for Customers.</p> <p>I have enclosed the Policy for the Welfare of Performers.</p> <p>I have enclosed a completed Annex A for all individuals named in questions 2 to 5.</p> <p>I understand and agree that I must send a copy of my complete application to the Chief Officer of Police no later than seven days after the date of the application.</p> <p>I understand that I must now advertise my application on or near the Premises for 21 days starting with the date of the application.</p> <p>I understand that I must advertise the application in a local newspaper within seven days after the date of the application and that a copy of the complete newspaper must be provided to the Licensing Authority in accordance with paragraph 10(8), Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.</p>	<p>[X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>[X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>[X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>[X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>[X]</p>
<p>Should the information provided in relation to this application form cease to be correct, or if there are any changes in the information provided in the application form between the date the application is submitted and the date it is determined, the Applicant must advise the Licensing Authority immediately. Failure to do so may result in any licence issued being revoked.</p> <p>I/we agree to notify the Licensing Authority should any of the information given in this application change.</p>	<p>X]</p>
<p>I declare that I have read and agree to abide by the standard conditions of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence made by Sheffield City Council in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.</p>	<p>X]</p>

Applicants are informed that any person who, in connection with an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence, makes a false statement which he knows to be false in any material respect or which he does not believe to be true, is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £20,000.

I/we certify to the best of my/our knowledge and belief that the information given in this application is complete and correct in every respect.

X]

Name: _____

Position in Organisation: **Licensing Consultant for and on behalf of the applicant**

Date: 10th April 2018

Signature: _____

Q30 Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application:

Address:

Keystone Law Limited
48 Chancery Lane

Postal Town: London

Post Code:
WC2A 1JF

Telephone Number: _____

Mobile Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return the fully completed form and all attachments to:

**Licensing Service,
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD**

Guidance Notes for Applicants

1. Application

All questions must be answered unless otherwise stated. If relevant questions are not answered, the application will be deemed incomplete and returned to the Applicant.

A separate "Annex A" form must be completed by each of the individuals named in Questions 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the application form. These must be submitted with the application.

The correct fee should be enclosed with the application.

The application must be served on South Yorkshire Police at:

**The Police Licensing Team
1st Floor
Attercliffe Police Station
60 Attercliffe Common
Sheffield
S9 2AD**

No later than seven days after submitting the application to Sheffield City Council.

2. The Plan

The layout plan must show:

- (a) The layout of the premises including, e.g. stage, bars, cloakroom, wc's performance areas and dressing rooms.
- (b) The extent of the boundary of the premises outlined in red.
- (c) The extent of the public areas outlined in blue.
- (d) Uses of different areas in the premises, e.g. performance areas and reception.
- (e) Structure or objects (including furniture) which may impact on the ability of individuals to use exits or escape routes without impediment.
- (f) Location of points of access to and egress from the premises.
- (g) Any parts used in common with other premises.
- (h) Position of CCTV cameras.
- (i) Where the premises includes a stage or raised area, the location and height of each stage or area relative to the floor.
- (j) Where the premises includes any steps, stairs, elevators or lifts, the location of the same.
- (k) The location of any public conveniences, including disabled WC's.
- (l) The position of any ramps, lifts or other facilities for the benefit of disabled people.
- (m) Any level changes at the entrance to or within public parts of the premises which may be inaccessible to disabled people.
- (n) The location and type of fire safety and any other safety equipment.
- (o) The location of any kitchen on the premises.
- (p) The location of emergency exits.

3. Public Notices

A notice must be displayed at, or on the premises to which the application relates for a period of not less than 21 consecutive days from the day following the day the application was given to the Council. The notice must be able to be conveniently read from the exterior of the premises.

Where the premises cover an area of more than 50 square metres, a further identical notice must be displayed every 50 metres along the external perimeter of the premises abutting the highway.

The full regulations regarding the size, content and font to be used on public notices can be obtained from the Licensing Service.

A notice must also be placed in a local newspaper circulating in the area within 7 days of serving the application on the Council (Example the Sheffield Star or Sheffield Telegraph).

You must send a copy of the newspaper containing the advertisement as soon as is reasonably practicable to the Licensing Section.

4. Grant of a Licence

The Council may grant to any applicant a licence for the use of a premises as a sexual entertainment venue on such terms and conditions as specified by the Council.

A licence will remain in force for one year, or such shorter period specified in the licence, unless previously cancelled or revoked.

To apply for the renewal of a sexual entertainment venue licence an applicant must send to the Council:-

- a) A completed application form;
- b) The fee;
- c) A plan of the premises to which the application relates (to the scale of 1:100) showing all means of ingress and egress to and from the building, layout of the premises;
- d) A site plan detailing the location of their premises in relation to the surrounding area and other premises (to the scale of 1:1250);
- e) Drawings showing the front elevation of the premises as existing and as proposed (to the scale of 1:50);

And must also:

- f) Display a notice at or on the premises (see section 1 above);
- g) Place a public notice in a local newspaper (see section 1 above);
- h) Serve a copy of the application on the Chief Officer of Police at **The Police Licensing Team, 1st Floor, Attercliffe Police Station, 60 Attercliffe Common, Sheffield, S9 2AD.**

Application forms are available from www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev.

For further information and guidance in relation to applications for a Sexual Entertainment Venue, please see our Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy at www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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Appendix C

Supplementary Evidence

SPEARMINT RHINO – SHEFFIELD

RULES FOR CUSTOMERS

1. Customers must be seated before a dancer can commence a dance and the customer must remain seated during the dance with their hands at their sides.
2. There must be no touching of the dancers at any time during the dance except when paying the dancer a fee.
3. No propositioning the dancers.
4. Customers must not dance at any time.
5. The customer must remain fully clothed at all times.

Any breach of the above rules will result in the customer being excluded from the club.

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

DANCER ASSESSMENT

Step 1: Preliminary Interview with Manager covering:

Previous experience as a dancer
Most recent employer
Reason for leaving (if applicable)
Any previous convictions for drugs or prostitution
Knowledge and understanding of Spearmint Rhino brand
Dance audition

Step 2: Formal Procedures

Proof of address – 2 forms of ID to include utility bill and photo ID
Request for data protection statement if applicable
Explanation of House Rules and Code of Conduct in detail – signature required
Completion of Dancer Performance Licence and Licence to Occupy Space – signature required
Explanation of Disciplinary Procedure
Polaroid photo to be attached to front of envelope
Tour of venue for familiarity of fire exits and explanation of evacuation procedures

Promotional Opportunities

I am interested in the following:

TV Events Newspapers and Magazines Flyering Online None

Step 3: Induction

Explanation of stage and podium requirements
Working schedules
Changing room etiquette
Payment and charging
Explanation of House Rules and Code of Conduct in detail
Explanation of additional conditions as part of the PEL and/or Liquor Licence
Explanation of Disciplinary Procedure
Customer Relations and Conflict Management
Arrival and exit procedures for the premises
Fire Safety – Health and Safety
Incident reporting
Mystery shoppers and their function
Advice on obligations to statutory bodies as independent contractors
Additional dance tuition if required – Spearmint Rhino 'School of Excellence'

Induction Completed:

Manager's Signature _____

Dancer's Signature _____

Date _____

Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

Experienced dancers will initially accompany new dancers
Ongoing evaluation and supervision by Club Management to ensure compliance of the above

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

**OBEDY THE CODE!
COMPLY WITH THE LAWS!
USE COMMON SENSE!
ANY BREACH OF THE ABOVE
RULES MAY RESULT IN THE DANCER BEING EXCLUDED
FROM THIS CLUB AND ALL OTHER SPEARMINT
RHINO CLUBS WORLDWIDE. ANY BREACH MAY BE
REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES
FOR POSSIBLE PROSECUTION!**

**SPEARMINT RHINO HAS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR;
PROSTITUTION, SOLICITATION,
UNLAWFUL DRUGS & UNLAWFUL CONDUCT!**

The signing of this document signifies that you, the dancer, have read and understood the **SPEARMINT RHINO CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS**, and that you agree to comply with the Code of Conduct and accept the obligations under it. This document is in no way designed to restrict your own artistic performance or freedom of expression.

Dancer's signature

Date Signed

Dancer's printed birth name

Dancer's stage name

Witnessed:

Printed Club Manager name

Date Witnessed

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES AT ALL TIMES AND MUST
BE READ SUBJECT TO ANY VARIATIONS
AGREED WITH STATUTORY AUTHORITIES ATTACHED**

A. General points and dancer attire:

1. Dancers must always sign in with the Club Management prior to commencing each shift;
2. At any time, dancers arriving or departing the Club must be fully dressed in clean, neat and smart attire. Dancers must endeavour *always* to arrive at and depart from the Club quietly, particularly during the evening and early morning;
3. Dancers are to arrive within adequate time to ensure that the dancer is ready on the main floor commensurate with the dancers shift or as designated by the Club management;
4. Except in an emergency, the use of mobile phones in public areas is prohibited;
5. After arriving at the Club and entering the dressing room, dancers are to change into appropriate attire as required by the Club and remain so dressed unless providing a stage or table dance performance. On leaving the premises, dancers' attire should be as indicated at (2) above;
6. Dancers' appropriate attire shall include:
 - a) Floor length elegant gowns and high heel shoes as approved by the Club management. The Club reserves the right to specify what is and is not appropriate on a continual basis;
 - b) Shoes must retain a minimum of a 3" heel and be worn at all times while in any public area of the Club;
 - c) Dancers' hair and make-up must be presented professionally. The Club encourages the use of costume jewellery, hairpieces, gloves and related accessories – remember style and elegance is the desired intent;
 - d) Dancers shall be required to wear at least a g-string or t-back undergarment in addition to the afore mentioned appropriate attire and not be completely nude except while performing on the centre main stage of the Club or performing a nude table dance where permitted;
 - e) At all times, other than during a table dance or stage performance, dancers must remain clothed whilst in the public areas and;
 - f) Dancers must fully dress at the end of each performance.

B. Dancer conduct:

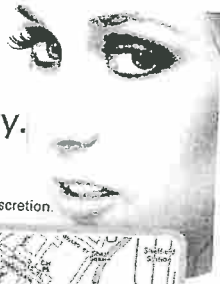
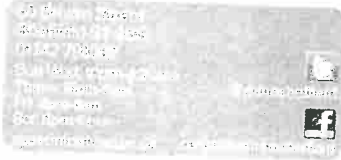
1. Dancers may *never* give out any personal information, including telephone numbers, or contact details away from the Club. Dancers may provide a customer with the days and shifts they or other dancers work at the Club;
2. Dancers may *never* accept any telephone number, address or any other contact information from any customer, except in the form of a business card, but may *not* make use of that information to contact the customer. Before leaving the premises, dancers *must* permanently surrender all such cards to a member of *management* (without copying any information);
3. Dancers are *never* to be in the company of a customer except in an area open to the public within the Club (excluding toilets);
4. Dancers are *never* to enter or be in a roped-off V.I.P. dance area, *only* a floor supervisor or manager may open such a roped-off area;
5. Dancers are *never* to perform a nude table dance unless dancer is in a supervised area or within 5 metres of a floor supervisor;
6. Dancers must *never* perform a nude table dance *except* in a V.I.P. dance area.
7. During the performance of a table dance:
 - a) Customers *must* be seated in an upright position against the back of the booth with their hands by their sides *before* a dancer can commence a table dance, customers must remain so seated during the entire dance;
 - b) For the purpose of constraint, dancers may only touch a customer *above* the customer's chest with only the dancer's hands;
 - c) Dancers must not sit on or straddle the customer;
 - d) Dancers must maintain one shod foot on the floor at all times and not place their feet on the booth seat;
 - e) Dancers may not place their knee or knees on the booth seat;
 - f) Floor work is prohibited and may only be performed whilst performing stage shows on the Club's designated stages;
 - g) Dancers may not perform any act that clearly simulates masturbation, oral sex or sexual intercourse, including the insertion of any object, including their own finger into any genital opening. Dancers may not touch their breasts with their mouths, lips or tongues;
 - h) Dancers may not intentionally touch a customer at any time during the performance except as stated in (b) above, or unless absolutely accidental by a third party or object;
 - i) Dancers may not use language of an inappropriate, suggestive or sexually graphic nature at any time;
8. Customers are *not* permitted to dance at any time. Customers *must* remain *appropriately* clothed at *all* times. Neither customer nor dancer may remove any of the customers clothing during a performance;
9. If a customer attempts to touch, or speak to a dancer inappropriately, the dancer must immediately stop the performance and explain the relevant rules. If necessary, ask for assistance from and cooperate with a floor supervisor, who will take appropriate action, which may include escorting the customer out of the Club;

10. Dancers are *never* to intentionally touch the genitals or breasts of another dancer or to knowingly permit another dancer to intentionally touch their genitals or breasts;
11. Dancers are *never* to engage in an act of **prostitution** (the receiving of gratuities or payments for any form of sexual favour or offer as such);
12. Dancers may not accept a customer's offer of payment in return for sexual favours (**solicitation**);
13. Dancers must not engage in communications that could be deemed as acts of prostitution or solicitation, even if the dancer has no intention of carrying out the act;
14. Dancers are *never* to intentionally meet any customer outside of the Club;
15. Dancers are *never* to agree to meet a customer outside of the Club;
16. Dancers must *never* engage in any unlawful activity within the Club;
17. Dancers may *never* leave the premises during a shift, except in the case of an emergency and then *only* with the express permission of the duty manager. In that event, dancers must sign out before leaving the premises. If a dancer leaves early, *for any reason*, the dancer will *not* be re-admitted during that *shift*;
18. Dancers will *either* leave at the end of a shift in a nominated taxi, or a member of security will escort them to their car or off the premises;
19. At the *end of the* night shift, dancers *must* not leave the premises *until after* the customers have departed and then have been cleared to leave by the manager;
20. Dancers may *only* consume alcohol in *moderation*;
21. Dancers must *never* consume, possess or be under the influence of any unlawful drug or substance, unless it is personally prescribed medication by a registered GP;
22. Dancers are *never* to invite or knowingly permit dancer's spouse, boyfriend nor anyone else with whom dancers are romantically involved to enter the Club;
23. Topless table dances and full nude table dances may be performed for a pre-determined rate as set by the individual Club;
24. Dancers are required from time to time to participate in promotional activities and offers as designated by the Club manager;
25. Dancers are required from time to time to participate in stage and podium performances as designated by Club staff;
26. Whilst performing on stage or podium, dancers may not perform any act that clearly simulates masturbation, oral sex or sexual intercourse, including the insertion of any object, including their own finger into any genital opening. Dancers may not touch their breasts with their mouths, lips or tongue;
27. For the purposes of safety and standards, the Club may employ the use of closed circuit cameras and radio communications throughout the premises and;
28. Any dancer found to be in violation of any of these rules, without exception, will be subject to the disciplinary procedure.

Upon surrender,
this pass entitles the
holder to one free entry.

Promo Team

Management reserves the right to refuse entry at their discretion.



Promo Team

Free
Entry
Pass



SPEARMINT RHINO
GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS



MICHAEL GOODWIN
MANAGER

SPEARMINT RHINO VENTURES UK, LTD.
SHEFFIELD LOCATION:
60 BROWN STREET
SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE S1 2BS
TEL 0114 2798092
CELL 07816967526
MGOODWIN@SPEARMINTRHINO.COM

SPEARMINT RHINO
CONSULTING WORLDWIDE, INC.
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS:
1875 TANDEM WAY
NORCO, CALIFORNIA 92860
TEL (951) 371-3788
FAX (951) 280-4378
SPEARMINTRHINO.COM



PETE MERCER
GENERAL MANAGER

SPEARMINT RHINO VENTURES UK, LTD.
SHEFFIELD LOCATION:
60 BROWN STREET
SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE S1 2BS
TEL 0114 2798092
CELL 07817868553
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NORCO, CALIFORNIA 92860
TEL (951) 371-3788
FAX (951) 280-4378
SPEARMINTRHINO.COM

Club Rules

1. Customers must be seated before a dancer can commence a dance and the customer must remain seated during the dance with their hands at their sides.
2. There must be no touching of the dancers at any time during the dance except when paying the dancer a fee.
3. No propositioning the dancers or asking them to perform any sexual favour.
4. Customers must not dance at any time.
5. The customer must remain fully clothed at all times and not perform acts of masturbation or indulge in other sexual behaviour.
6. Customers must not make lewd or offensive remarks to dancers.
7. Customers should be polite and not harass or intimidate the dancers.

Any breach of the above rules will result in the customer being excluded from the club.

Table Dance Rules

As an industry standard we recommend a topless dance at £10 and a nude dance at £20. The industry standard is that one dance is the equivalent of one song track. This may on occasion change due to special promotions. The price of a dance should be agreed with the dancer before the dance commences. It is at the discretion of the individual dancer as to whom she dances for.

We consider it customary to tip while you are seated at the tip rail around the stage. This tip should be placed on or at the tip rail at the time of the dance.

Rhino Chips

- Your Rhino Chips can be purchased with any approved credit, debit card or cash.
- If purchased by credit, debit card or cash, a handling fee of 20% will be added.
- You can use them for tipping dancers, waitresses, bar and restaurant staff.
- They cannot be used for the purchase of food or drinks.
- They cannot be refunded.

Rhino Chips are available in denominations of:

£10 (all clubs) £100 (only at TCR)
£20 (all clubs) £500 (only at TCR)

All major cards
accepted



For VIP guest list & table reservations visit: spearintrhino.com

SpearMint Rhino United Kingdom

Why
use cash
for dances

when you can use

RHINO

Chips

Ask your waitress
for details

London: 161 Tottenham Court Road 0207 209 4488
Birmingham: 64 Hagley Road 0121 455 7656
Sheffield: 60 Brown Street 0114 279 8092
Leicester: 64 Belgrave Gate 0116 262 6010



60 BROWN STREET

Under 21 CLUB
OPENING HOURS

MONDAY
10PM - LATE

TUESDAY
10PM - LATE

WEDNESDAY
10PM - LATE

THURSDAY
10PM - LATE

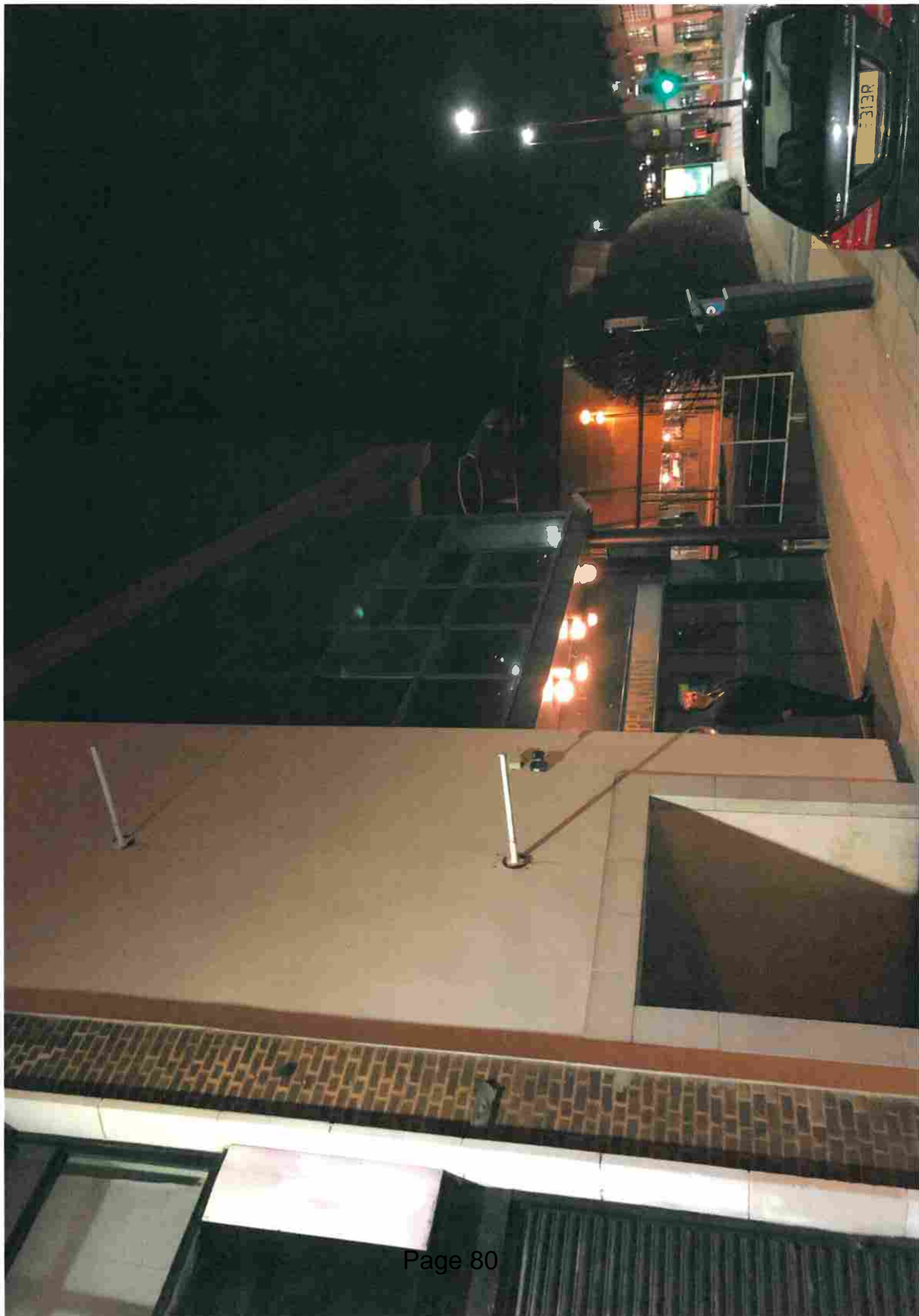
FRIDAY
10PM - LATE

SATURDAY
9PM - LATE

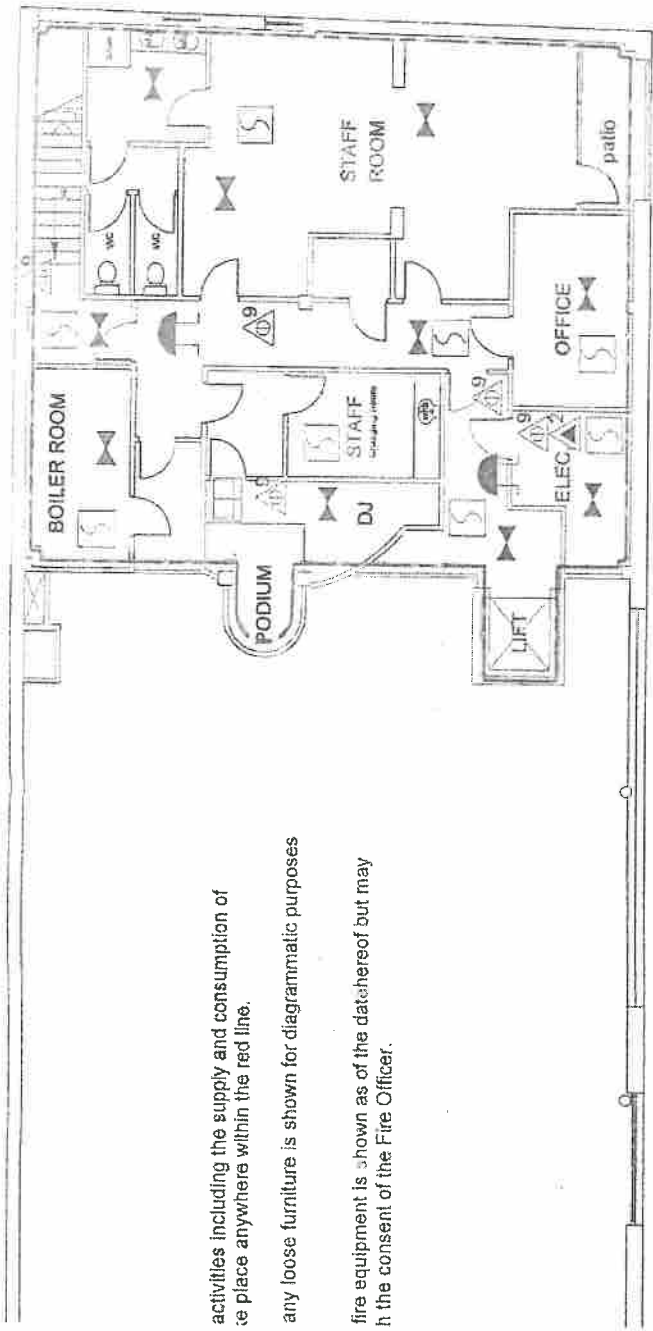








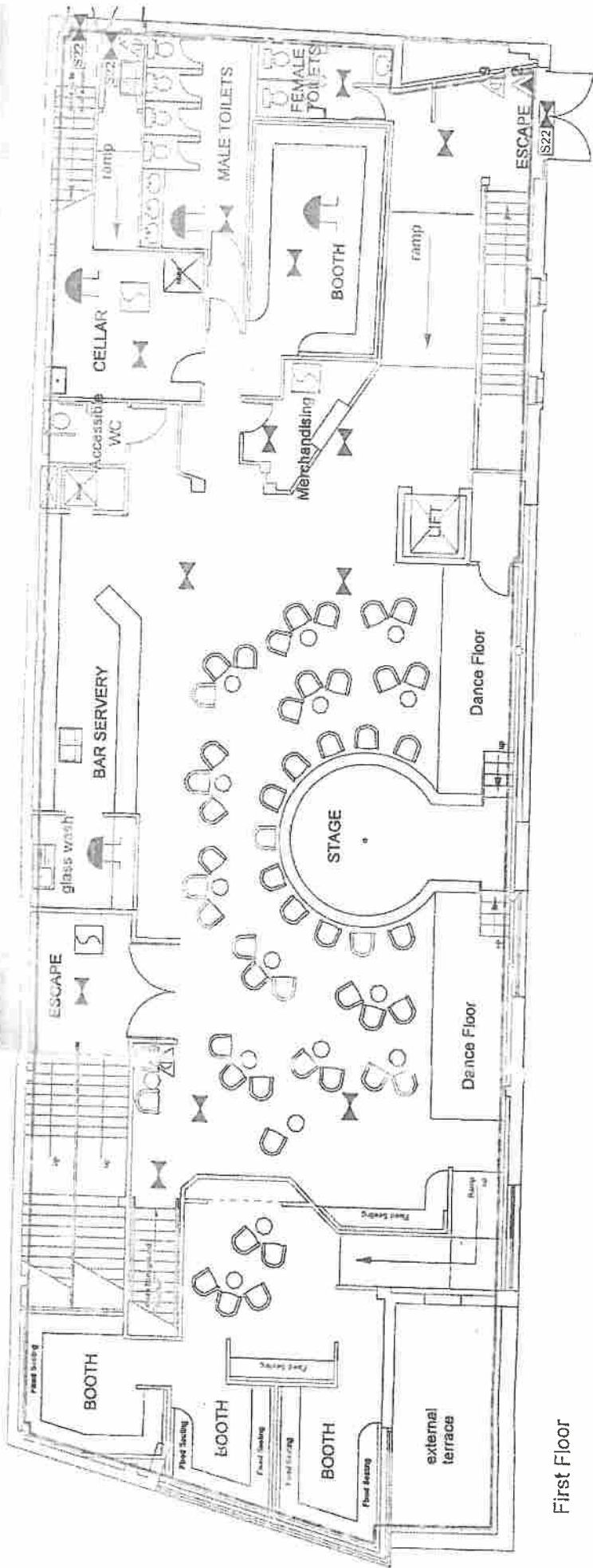




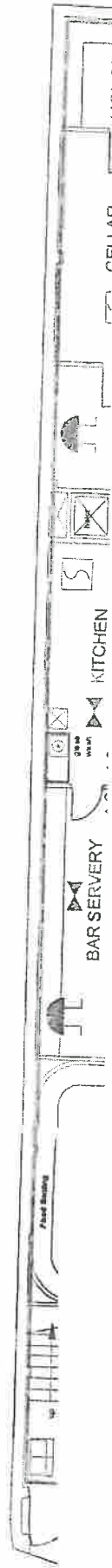
3rd floor

activities including the supply and consumption of
 be placed anywhere within the red line.
 any loose furniture is shown for diagrammatic purposes
 fire equipment is shown as of the date hereof but may
 be subject to change without the consent of the Fire Officer.

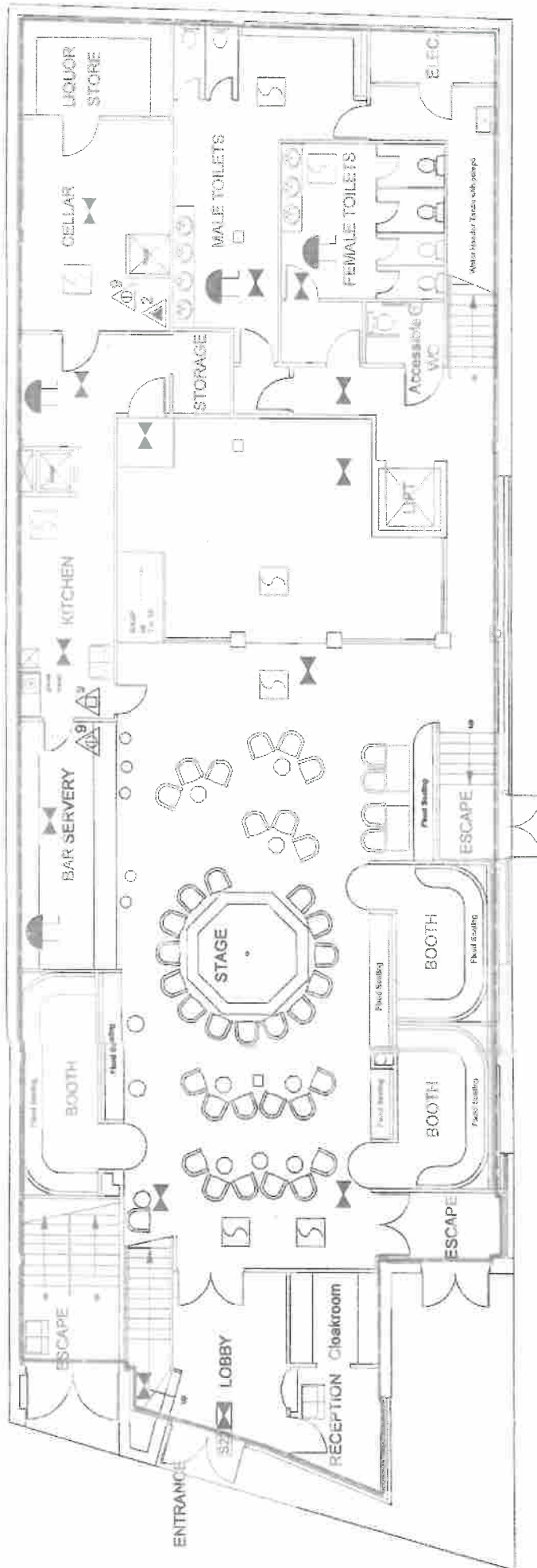




First Floor



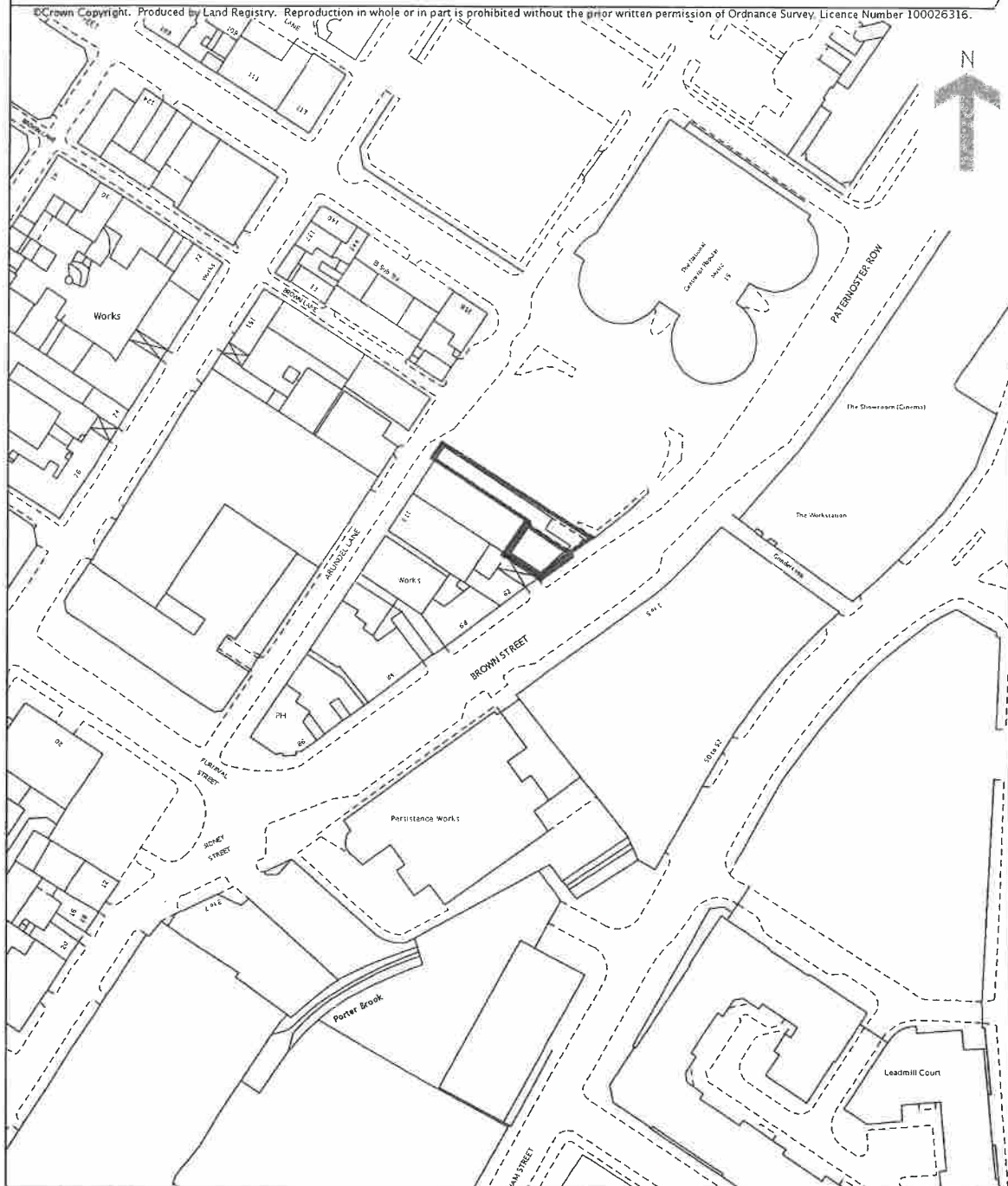
First Floor



Ground Floor



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This is a copy of the title plan on 30 APR 2015 at 09:50:41. This copy does not take account of any application made after that time even if still pending in the Land Registry when this copy was issued.

This copy is not an 'Official Copy' of the title plan. An official copy of the title plan is admissible in evidence in a court to the same extent as the original. A person is entitled to be indemnified by the registrar if he or she suffers loss by reason of a mistake in an official copy. If you want to obtain an official copy, the Land Registry web site explains how to do this.

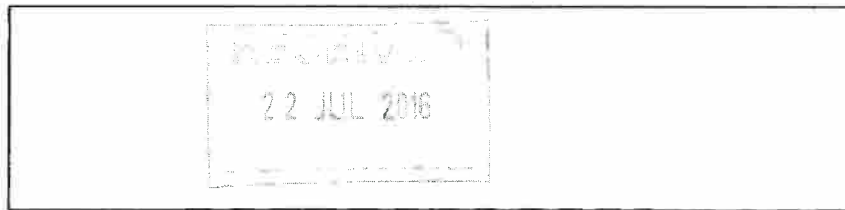
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This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Nottingham Office.

KEYSTONE LAW

POST RECEIPT

Post received at Audley House, 13 palace Street, London on





THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Premises Licence No: SY 0971 PR

ISSUE NO:5

The Sheffield City Council being the Licensing Authority under the above Act, hereby grant this licence in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of and subject to the conditions attached:

PART 1 – Premises details

Spearmint Rhino
60 Brown Street
Sheffield
S1 2BS

Telephone Number: 0114 2798092

Licensable activities authorised by the licence and the times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities:

1. Provision of regulated entertainment:

Plays

Films

Live Music

Recorded Music

Performances of Dance

Anything of a similar description to live music, recorded music or performances of dance

Indoors

Sunday to Saturday 10:00 to 06:00 hours the following day

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

2. Provision of entertainment facilities for:

Facility for Making Music

Facility for Dancing

Entertainment of a similar description to making music and dancing

Indoors

Sunday to Saturday 10:00 to 06:00 hours the following day

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

3. Late Night Refreshment:

Indoors

Sunday to Saturday 23:00 to 05:00 hours the following day

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

4. Sale by retail of alcohol

- a) for consumption on the premises
- b) for consumption off the premises

Sunday to Saturday 10:00 to 06:00 hours the following day

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

The opening hours of the premises are

Sunday to Saturday 00:00 to 24:00 hours the following day

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and/or off supplies

Sale by retail of alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises.

PLEASE NOTE:

In the event, that the hours permitted on this premises licence differ from those authorised on your planning consent, you **MUST ONLY** operate to which ever is the most restrictive permission.

Both Licensing and Planning carry out enforcement activities and if you are found to be in breach of either your premises licence and / or your planning consent, it may result in legal action being taken against you.

PART 2

Name, (registered) address, telephone number and e-mail (where relevant) of holder of premises licence:

Sonfield Development Limited
161 Tottenham Court Road
London
W1T 7NN

Telephone Number: 020 7025 8332

Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable):

4315210

Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol:

[Faint, illegible text]

Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol:

Personal Licence Number: WK/050603
Issuing Authority: Harrogate Borough Council

State whether access to the premises by children is restricted or prohibited:

Prohibited

This Premises Licence shall be in force from the 24 November 2005

Issued on: 16th January 2006.



.....
Steve Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing Services
On behalf of Sheffield City Council (issuing licensing authority)

Sheffield City Council – For Office use only	
Variation of Premises Licence	No: 1 Issue Date: 3rd March 2011
Variation of DPS	No: Issue Date:
Transfer of Premises Licence	No: Issue Date:
Minor Variation	No: Issue Date:
Change of Name/Address	No: 1 Issue Date: 5th December 2013

Amendment to Premises Licence	No: Issue Date:
ReviewNo: Issue Date:	No: Issue Date:
Summary Review	No: Issue Date:
Copy Premises Licence	No: 1 Issue Date: 22 nd June 2016

Annex 1A – Mandatory Conditions

Mandatory Condition 1 (Section 19 ss 2)

Where a licence authorises the sale of alcohol then no supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence –

- (a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
- (b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.

Mandatory Condition 2 (Section 19 ss 3)

Where a licence authorises the sale of alcohol then every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Mandatory Condition 3 (Section 20)

1. Where a premises licence authorises the exhibition of films, the licence includes the following conditions relating to the admission of children to the exhibition:
 - (a) The admission of children (under 18) to the exhibition of any film must be restricted in accordance with the classification set by the film classification body (currently the BBFC).
 - (b) In a case where there is no classification given by the classification body (the BBFC) the admission of children to the exhibition of any film must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation given by the Licensing Authority.
2. In this section -
“children” means persons aged under 18; and
“film classification body” means the person or persons designated as the authority under section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 (c.39) (authority to determine suitability of video works for classification).

Mandatory Condition 4 (Section 21)

Where a premises licence includes a condition that at specified times one or more individuals must be at the premises to carry out a security activity each such individual must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

Annex 1B - Mandatory Condition effective from 28th May 2014:

1. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.

Annex 1C - Mandatory Conditions effective from 1st October 2014:

- 1.—(1) The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.
(2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises—
 - (a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to—
 - (i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
 - (ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);

- (b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
- (c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
- (d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner;
- (e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).

2. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

3.—(1) The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.

(2) The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.

(3) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either—

- (a) a holographic mark, or
- (b) an ultraviolet feature.

4. The responsible person must ensure that—

(a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures—

- (i) beer or cider: ½ pint;
- (ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
- (iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml;

(b) these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and

(c) where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available.

Annex 2 – Conditions consistent with the operating schedule

1. CCTV installed and maintained according to current standards.
2. Door Supervisors should be SIA registered.
3. A customer code shall be prominently displayed and clearly visible throughout the premises advising patrons of the rules in relation to strip tease.
4. A price list should be displayed in a prominent and clearly visible throughout the premises advising patrons of the rules in relation to striptease.
5. Water and non-alcoholic beverages are available.
6. Notices to leave the premises quietly will be displayed at the premises.
7. Except as with the consent of the council, no external advertising of the striptease / lap dancing shall take place at the premises or in its immediate vicinity (within 440 yards of the premises).
8. No dancer may perform at the premises until such time as photographic proof of identity showing date of birth is provided, confirming that the dancer is over the 18 years.
9. Whilst strip tease is taking place, no person under the age of 18 shall be permitted on the premises. A notice shall be clearly displayed at the entrance to the premises stating that "no person under 18 will be admitted" so it can be easily read by persons entering the premises.

Any embedded permissions and restrictions attached to the justices on/off licence including those specified at Appendix 1.

1. Any personal licence holders at the premises to be a member of the Pub Watch Scheme.
2. Colour CCTV will be installed in positions agreed with the Police and tapes or other forms of record stored for such period of time as the Police may specify.

Specific conditions converted from the Public Entertainment Licence

1. Capacity

- 1) The number of members of the public who may be present at any one time on the premises or in any part of such premises specified below shall not exceed: -

Area	Capacity
The whole of the premises	450

- (2) Where the Council is of the opinion that in order to avoid or reduce any disturbance of or annoyance to residents in the neighbourhood of the premises or the occurrence of disorderly conduct in the premises, it is desirable for the permitted hours specified in

Part 1 of the Premises Licence to be varied, the Council may, after affording the licensee the opportunity of making representations to the Council, by notice served on the licensee vary the permitted hours and thereafter the hours specified in the notice shall apply in substitution for the hours specified in Part 1 of the Premises Licence.

2A. Security Staff

The licensee shall maintain at the premises a register containing the following details of all persons present on the premises during Public Entertainments whose duties wholly or mainly consist of the direction or control of the members of the public. The details of each person shall be entered prior to that person commencing such duties and shall not be deleted from the register for a period of twelve months from the last date upon which that person carried out such duties. The details of each person required to be kept are: full name and address, date of birth, photograph, physical description and description of duties at the premises.

The licensee shall also keep a record showing which registered person (s) are working at the premises on each occasion the premises are open for the purpose of Public Entertainment. This record is to be kept at the premises for a period of not less than twelve months.

The register and record shall be open for inspection at any time by any Police Officer or Authorised Officer of the Council.

2B. Security Staff Registration Scheme

The Licensee shall only permit staff registered by the Council (under its Security Staff Registration Scheme) or licensed by the Security Industry Authority to be engaged in duties which wholly or mainly consist of: (a) deciding on the suitability of persons to be allowed on the premises and/or (b) maintaining order on the premises.

1. The Licensee must take a proactive approach to noise control to ensure that noise is kept to a reasonable level so as not to cause a nuisance at the nearest noise sensitive building.
2. The power amplifier must have an electronic noise limited device fitted and set to a maximum of 94 dB at the nearest bar.

Striptease / Pole / Lap Dancing Conditions:

1. The striptease/entertainment (lap dancing) shall be given only by the performers /entertainers and the audience must remain fully clothed.
2. The performance must not be visible from the street.
3. Except with the consent of the council no external advertising of the striptease/ lapdancing shall take place at the premises or in its immediate vicinity (within 440 yards of the premises).
4. When the premises are open for striptease/lap dancing no person under the age of 18 shall be allowed on the premises.
5. Customers must be informed prior to lap dancing commencing of the following rules:-

- a. No touching must take place during dances.
- b. Customers must remain seated during dancing.
- c. Customers must leave the area as soon as the dances allotted to that customer have finished.

6. Lap dancers must not:-

- a. Sit on customers' laps during performances.

7. On completion of the dance or dances, dancers must:-

- a. Ask the customer to leave the area immediately.
- b. Dress themselves immediately.
- c. Dancers must not leave the dance area in a state of undress and must dress in accordance with club regulations.

8. Podium (Pole) dancers must not:-

- a. Entice customers onto the podium.
- b. Remove their lower undergarments. (Dancers may dance topless)
 - a. Interfere with their undergarments in such a way as to show their genitals.
 - b. Receive gratuities other than in their garter belts or by hand.

9. Sex toys must not be used and penetration of the genital area by any means must not take place.

10. Dancers must not solicit, exchange addresses or telephone numbers with customers or liaise with customers off the premises.

11. When dancers leave the premises they must be escorted to their cars or taxi by a another staff member.

12. The following minimum number of registered security staff will be located at the front entrance:-

One person Sunday to Thursday;
Two persons Friday and Saturday.

In addition there will be one registered security staff located within the premises for the first 50 customers and then one registered security staff per additional 100 customers thereafter whenever the premises are open.

Notwithstanding the above, no floor at the premises will be open to the public unless there is a minimum of one registered security staff on that floor.

13. These conditions are imposed in addition to the standard Public Entertainment Licence Conditions with which the Licencee must comply.

Annex 3 – Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority

Annex 4 – Plans

Plan Reference: G/100/40
Date: JULY 2005

Appendix 1



LICENSING ACT 2003

Premises Licence Summary

ISSUE NO:4

The Sheffield City Council being the Licensing Authority under the above Act hereby issue this Premises Licence Summary in respect of:

Premises licence number **SY 0971 PR**

Spearmint Rhino
60 Brown Street
Sheffield
S1 2BS

Telephone Number: 0114 2798092

Licensable activities authorised by the licence and the times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities:

1. Provision of regulated entertainment:

Plays

Films

Live Music

Recorded Music

Performances of Dance

Anything of a similar description to live music, recorded music or performances of dance

Indoors

Sunday to Saturday 10:00 to 06:00 hours the following day

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

2. Provision of entertainment facilities for:

Facility for Making Music

Facility for Dancing

Entertainment of a similar description to making music and dancing

Indoors

Sunday to Saturday 10:00 to 06:00 hours the following day

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

3. Late Night Refreshment:

Indoors

Sunday to Saturday 23:00 to 05:00 hours the following day

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

4. Sale by retail of alcohol

- a) for consumption on the premises
- b) for consumption off the premises

Sunday to Saturday 10:00 to 06:00 hours the following day

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

The opening hours of the premises are

Sunday to Saturday 00:00 to 24:00 hours the following day

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and/or off supplies

Sale by retail of alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises.

PLEASE NOTE:

In the event, that the hours permitted on this premises licence differ from those authorised on your planning consent, you **MUST ONLY** operate to which ever is the most restrictive permission.

Both Licensing and Planning carry out enforcement activities and if you are found to be in breach of either your premises licence and / or your planning consent, it may result in legal action being taken against you.

PART 2

Name, (registered) address, telephone number and e-mail (where relevant) of holder of premises licence:

Sonfield Development Limited
161 Tottenham Court Road
London
W1T 7NN

Telephone Number: 020 7025 8332

Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable):

4315210

Name of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol:

Mr Peter Mercer

State whether access to the premises by children is restricted or prohibited:

Prohibited

The Premises Licence shall be in force from 24 November 2005.

Issued on: 16th January 2006.



.....
Steve Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing Services
On behalf of Sheffield City Council (issuing licensing authority)

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
Part II, Schedule 3**

Notice is hereby given that:

**We Sonfield Developments Limited c/o 161 Tottenham
Court Road, London W1T 7NN**

Have made an application under Part II and Schedule 3 of
the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
for the renewal of a sex establishment licence for the
Premises known as

**SPEARMINT RHINO, 60 BROWN STREET, SHEFFIELD
S1 2BS**

We intend to operate the premises as a Sexual
Entertainment Venue during the following days and times;

MONDAY TO SUNDAY 00:00 TO 00:00

Interested parties may make written representations to
Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council, Block C, Staniforth
Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield, S9 3HD about this
application by

7th May 2018

For full details and to view a copy of the application please
contact the Licensing Service on 0114 2734264.

Appendix D

Representations

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

30/04/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and "... designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. This includes significant investment from the Arts Council and SCC so it seems ridiculous to jeopardise Site's potential attractiveness with this sexist and misogynistic operation just across the road. Spearmint Rhino is not

only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge

of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men

hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

.b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱSheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱSheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv}Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v*Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi}Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii}Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii}Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix}Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Gough Jayne (CEX)

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 30 April 2018 15:34
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

30th April 2018

Dear Licensing,

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

- 1. the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;**

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

- (d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational**

establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."iii

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge

of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable” ^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of

men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage” vii.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“ . . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”viii

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.ix

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearingx.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy xireported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”xii

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”xiii

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in Englandxiv. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I am no longer formally resident in Sheffield but I lived there for over 20 years and still have a base there. I am a regular both for professional purposes and to visit friends and family. I do not want the city to be responsible for the commodification of women.

Yours faithfully,











References

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- i Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ii Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- iii Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- iv Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- vi Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- vii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- viii Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ix Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- xi Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- xii Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- xiii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- xiv 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Gough Jayne (CEX)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 April 2018 15:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to renewal of Spearmint Rhino

29/04/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City

Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

White Ribbon UK is the largest organisation working with men and young men to challenge violence against women and girls. Hull University and Anglia Ruskin University are fully accredited to White Ribbon. They and other university authorities recognise the importance of ensuring a safe local environment for students. The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London" for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

White Ribbon has a number of music and creative industry venues fully accredited because the hear organisations see the need to take positive steps to challenge inappropriate messaging about women including the commodification of women .

(d)the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g)The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industires Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier

for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage” .

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.”

I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

(Equality)

Bower Claire

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 30 April 2018 20:58
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service

Block C, Staniforth Road Depot

Staniforth Road

Surrey Street

S9 3HD

By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

30.4.18

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

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i) Character of the relevant locality

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The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and

Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

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The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

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There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

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Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

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of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."iv

My sister, Jill Seward, prior to her death, was instrumental in changing the law for women, victims of crime and those who have been abused and raped, by men who thought nothing of women.

Sheffield, like other cities, has been facing all kinds of bad publicity for the crime and depravity – and I for one have no desire to visit a city whilst you allow places like this to exist and encourage men to act in such ways.

Last year, I asked you not to allow the granting of this license again, but my comments like many others were ignored. Come on Council, clean up your act. This is the twenty first century and there is no need for places like this.

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.v

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“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable” vi

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“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage” vii.

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“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”viii

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.ix

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearingx.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy xireported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is

10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[Faint signature]

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References

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- i Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ii Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- iii Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- iv Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- vi Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- vii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- viii Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ix Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- xi Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- xii Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- xiii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- xiv 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 April 2018 22:16
To: Lonnia Stephen (CEX)
Cc: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to application of Spearmint Rhino gentleman's club to renew sexual entertainment licence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Good evening,

I would like to raise another "objection" with regard to the proposed forthcoming application submission for the consideration of the renewal of the sexual entertainment licence for the "gentleman's" club Spearmint Rhino.

In terms of grounds for consideration for rejection of the renewal of the licence, I would respectfully allude to the proximity of the club to its closest neighbours including the adjacent Sheffield Hallam Student Union Hub, and the Showroom Cinema, as the club lies both within the Cultural Industries Quarter and academic corridor close to several other organisations providing educational opportunities for vulnerable people.

I would also like to refer to the Purple Flag status of the city of Sheffield, a city whose motto is "where everyone matters" where the emphasis is upon the promotion of a safe city environment, therefore the safety of both male and female citizens is paramount, and the highly charged atmosphere of a sexual entertainment venue combined with the provision of alcohol being readily available situated on a public transport route is not especially conducive to the safety of its citizens.

Broadening the perspective into the wider social and political context, I believe that in the 21st century, as a forward thinking modern city just ahead of the local council elections, we should be looking at the values behind the sale and purchase of both male and female bodies, in so much as Spearmint Rhino as a sexual entertainment venue acts as an outlet for same in relation to the 1982 miscellaneous provisions Act, and would ask the council to look to its duty to uphold the Public Sector Equality Duty when considering the renewal of a licence for the club.

With regard to a long-term vision, I believe that all of the staff including dancers, domestic staff and other personnel would benefit from the council investing in retraining employees, in addition to a fast track process to facilitate employment opportunities should the decision be taken to revoke the licence pending a judicial review from the previous year's licensing hearing.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 01 May 2018 14:24
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I work as a Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University and as such I attend events in The Hubs, our Student Union building. I know that a number of our students feel uncomfortable about the presence of Spearmint Rhino so close to our Students’ Union, and in the heart of the campus.

After a recent course trip, I accompanied a group of students from Sheffield train station to The Rutland pub on Brown Street. On our way we had to pass Spearmint Rhino and several of the students said that they feel unhappy and angry at having to walk past such a venue on a regular basis.

The middle of a university campus and the city’s Cultural Industries Quarter is a completely inappropriate location for a strip club.

I feel that the normalisation and mainstream promotion of such venues is very harmful to women. These venues promote a dehumanised view of women, sending out the message that women's bodies are for male consumption. In the context of a society in which there is widespread violence against women, and in the light of the recent #Metoo campaign, I think this is something Sheffield Council should be taking very seriously.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

1. the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

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The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

References

iSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

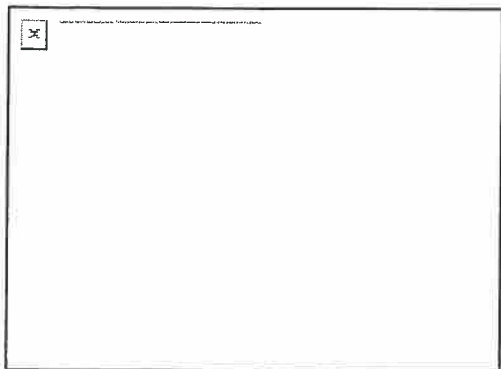


Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield ...

www.thestar.co.uk

The number of people living in Sheffield city centre has risen by a staggering 400 per cent over the last 10 years - and council bosses hope to see it rise at an even quicker pace.

ii Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project*
Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>



Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m ...

www.scci.org.uk

Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter will be extended as a £10m project takes shape to add apartments and studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink. A mix of new buildings and refurbished old factories will form the first phase of Alsop Fields, parking ...

iii Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city*
Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the ...

www4.shu.ac.uk

Sheffield Hallam University has today revealed its campus masterplan which places it at the heart of the city.

iv Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

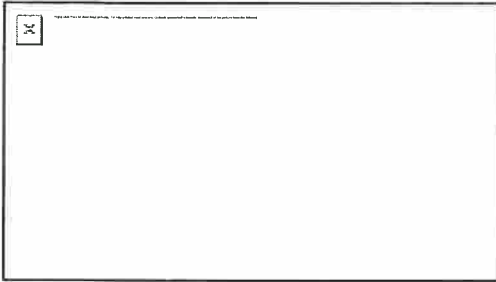


Zero Option's representation at the Spearmint Rhino ...

zerooptionblog.wordpress.com

This is the full text of Zero Option's representation at Spearmint Rhino's SEV licence renewal hearing on 11th April 2017. Unfortunately, due to time constraints we were unable to read it in full.

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- vi Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- vii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- viii Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ix Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.



Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is

theconversation.com

Where do women feel safe - or unsafe - in city streets? A new research project has unearthed some disturbing responses.

x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

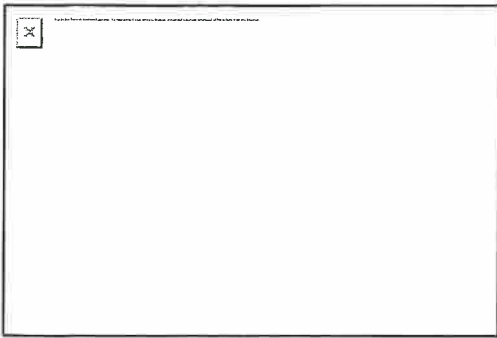


Villa Mercedes Hearing 8th September 2016 - SlideShare

www.slideshare.net

Slides presented by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes sexual entertainment venue licence (SEV) hearing, Sheffield 8th September 2016

- xi Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- xii Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>



LISTED: These are the 10 most crime-ridden streets in ...

www.thestar.co.uk

Sheffield's 10 most crime-ridden streets have been revealed today, with 800 offences committed on one street alone last year.

xiii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

xiv 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

1st May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference. For several years, I have been involved with the South Yorkshire poetry festival, an important literature event for the region which uses these premises. The proximity to Spearmint Rhino was something that our festival attendees - many of whom were visiting Sheffield for the first time - found off-putting or even threatening.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building) and offers a problematic message to students in the city.

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge

of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hang-

ing around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
- Strip clubs promote the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating the performer as a commodity with no regard to her actual feelings, as if she were an object: if she really wanted to strip for whoever pays her she wouldn't need to be paid to do so. This is dehumanising and disempowering to the performer. The punter is eroticising his power over the woman and getting a sexual thrill from his control over her. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers have spoken of the psychological harm they have experienced as a result of working in strip clubs. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their mind and feelings from their bodies, which is required in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that they realise the harm caused to them by it, which is similar to the experience of women once they have left an abusive relationship.
- Licensing Spearmint Rhino gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this.
- Condoning, by licensing, a strip club which is set up solely to profit from the objectification of women is to effectively promote views and behaviours which are associated with male violence towards women and girls, stoking the misogynistic attitudes that lead to this violence.
- Research again and again identifies the link that men who hold objectifying views of women as lesser than human are more likely to be violent to them.
- Many women have written to the Council specifically stating how uncomfortable and unsafe they feel walking past Spearmint Rhino. Many try to avoid walking past it. No-one should feel unsafe in Sheffield and there should be no no-go areas for women.
- Thus, to relicence Spearmint Rhino would have the effect of promoting inequality between the sexes, which is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.
- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED:

Bower Claire

From: ■ [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 May 2018 23:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Please do not allow a lap dancing club in Sheffield.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

I believe that strip clubs should not be allowed in our city- or indeed anywhere.

Spearmint Rhino, a lapdancing and strip club in Sheffield city centre, has applied to renew its operating licence. Please do not renew it. I believe in equality between women and men. I object to women being treated as commodities. Strip clubs thus are incompatible with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between the sexes.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 02 May 2018 09:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to relicensing of Spearmint Rhino

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

2 May 2018

Dear Licensing,

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[i] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"^[ii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."^[iii]

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The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

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(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's

signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,
[Redacted Signature]

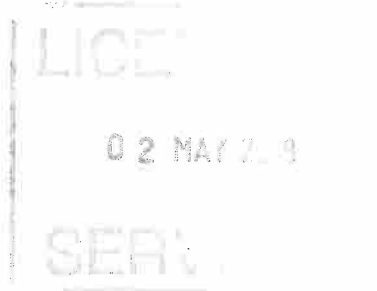
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- [i] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
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- [xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- [xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Sheffield Hallam University

30th April 2018

Chief Licensing Officer
Licensing Service
Sheffield City Council
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD



Re: Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS - Application under Part II and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 - Sexual Entertainment Venue License

We, Sheffield Hallam University, wish to object to the above application on the grounds outlined below.

Part 7 - Policy of Sheffield City Councils Sex Establishment Policy, Discretionary Ground d) Location, states that "The Act permits applications to be refused:

- i. where the grant would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality;*
- ii. where the grant would be inappropriate having regard to other premises in the vicinity"*

Our specific comments against the policy are as follows:

60 Brown Street is sited in what is now a residential area with student living accommodation located directly to the rear of the building on Arundel Lane. Furthermore, there are further planned developments to provide PRS (at Allsop Fields area adjacent to Decathlon), residential and student accommodation (Furnival Square) within the surrounding area which will bring a vastly increased number of residents within a short distance of the establishment. Our recently launched Sheaf Tower development proposal will also seek to create a high quality development that brings a high class hotel, restaurants, conference facility and residential accommodation to within approximately 300 metres of the establishment. The Licencing Authority states that it will have regard to this [section i(a)].

60 Brown Street is a short distance away from the University Technical College which is attended by pupils of the ages 14-19. They are regularly seen walking in the locality, including past 60 Brown Street. The premises are also adjacent to Festival Square, a public open space used by members of the public including families with children and those under 18 years of age. We have recently been working with the Site Gallery to improve the Festival Square and increase the amount of cultural animation and activity, both day and night time around the square to enhance its prominence as one of the City's key cultural hubs.

Clearly the ongoing presence of a strip club directly adjacent to a cultural area is at odds and threatens to jeopardise the long term plans for this area. The Licencing Authority states that it will have regard to this [Section i (b) & i (d)].

60 Brown Street is sited near to Sheffield Hallam University's Prayer Rooms and Multi-Faith Chaplaincy which attracts a large number of students seeking a place of worship, spirituality, meditation or reflection, including Muslim Prayer Rooms. The route to these facilities takes visitors past Spearmint Rhino. A venue such as this can cause offence to such students. These facilities are sensitive for religious purposes. The same applies for those using the Counselling and Wellbeing services available for staff and students at SHU. The Licencing Authority states that it will have regard to this [Section i (c)].

The premises are sited adjacent to Sheffield Hallam Union of Students Building, the HUBs, formerly the National Centre for Popular Music. This is an iconic building, a Sheffield City Landmark and is of cultural interest. The Licencing Authority cannot disclaim that 60 Brown Street is in an area of cultural interest given that it is within the Cultural Industries Quarter. The premises are located on a gateway to the city, just meters away from The Councils designated Gold Route. The Licencing Authority states that it will have regard to this [Section i (e) & ii (e)].

Commentary

The route past Spearmint Rhino is a very high traffic area for students with an abundance of student accommodation nearby with a development of student accommodation situated immediately adjacent to the venue on Arundel Lane. The route for students to Sheffield Hallam takes them directly past the venue during normal working hours and around the clock - Sheffield Hallam University's Learning Centre is open 24/7 and the core teaching hours are up to 9pm. There is a concern that our students are entitled to and need to feel safe and secure during their studies at Sheffield Hallam and that a venue such as Spearmint Rhino will undermine the perception of safety, equality and diversity that the City and the University are spending considerable resources to develop and ensure. The current existence of the venue portrays the area in an anti-social light not conducive with its setting in the Cultural Industries Quarter, with the potential to create a perception of fear and crime rather than safety and vibrancy.

The presence of a striptease club in the heart of the Cultural Industries Quarter is inappropriate, with the focus of the area being arts, media and education mixed with industrial heritage. Sheffield train station and the main transport interchange is just a moment's walk from the venue providing a main gateway (the 'Gold Route') to and from the city centre. It is felt that having Spearmint Rhino in such a location gives a negative impression of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University and serves to undermine the considerable improvements that are planned for this part of the City Centre.

Spearmint Rhino is also directly adjacent to the Quarters' only designated Public Space which is not used to its full potential; this being highly likely due to the fact that it is next to a strip club and this in turn prevents the creation of a day and night active frontage onto the public space. It is also directly adjacent to Sheffield Hallam University's Students Union which is a Social and Cultural Hub as well as providing advice and services including counselling, equality, disability, legal and personal issues.

According to Sheffield City Councils' Urban Design Statement, the venue is surrounded by significant buildings of character, is within a Character Area and is adjacent to a Landmark building (SHU Students Union). Granting a licence to a Sexual Entertainment Venue is not in keeping with the quality and public use of the area.

Sheffield City Council states that its vision for the Cultural Industries Quarter is 'to develop its growing reputation as a thriving cultural enclave and will help to establish Sheffield as a regionally and nationally significant centre for knowledge and creativity' and that 'mixing of uses within the Quarter could offer a diverse range of activity. These uses would complement each other and not inhibit the development of the Quarter as a vibrant cultural destination'. We feel that Spearmint Rhino does not complement any of these attributes and in fact works in total opposition to the above statements and is in no way cultural, artistic or educational.

Sheffield Hallam University also has various Cultural and social hubs nearby including Cafes on Arundel Street. There are several art galleries in the vicinity, often used by Sheffield Hallam including several venues on Brown Street and Paternoster Row.

SHU Campus Plan

Sheffield Hallam University has recently launched its ambitious and visionary Campus Masterplan to great acclaim both locally and nationally. Sheffield City Council has had significant involvement in the development of our Campus Masterplan and is very supportive of our proposals. Phase 1 of the Plan, which will be implemented over the next 5 years, intensifies development in the CIQ and focuses on the development of a new gateway to the University and the City. This will commence with the demolition of the Science Park to make way for new developments on the site and on that of the Science Park Car Park. It will see the creation of a 'University Green' on Arundel Lane, immediately adjacent to the premises currently housing Spearmint Rhino and as such we are concerned that the presence of this Sexual Entertainment Venue will have a greater negative impact on what will be a highly positive and substantial investment by Sheffield Hallam University. The Campus Masterplan also has the support of the Sheffield City Region for the Sheffield City Gateway. This highlights the significance of the plans and the positive impact they will have on the city and more importantly, the immediate area in which Phase 1 is operating.

I draw your attention to the attached images and plans. The first one (Appendix 1) shows the new buildings in the SHU Campus Plan. Phase 1 clearly shows the proximity of the prestigious new development to 60 Brown Street. The second plan (Appendix 2) is taken from The Councils' current City Centre Master Plan and shows the proposals for 'Knowledge City' - we are aware that this is in the process of being revised but that the proposals will still be progressed. This has been annotated to show the current position in terms of developments. The purple dashed outline denotes an area that is 'University Related'. The site 60 Brown Street - Spearmint Rhino - is absurdly within this boundary. Spearmint Rhino is in no way educational and should not form any part of the Knowledge City. It has no place near a learning environment and it is ludicrous to think that such a venue be sited anywhere near, let alone within, such an area, where tens of thousands of students descend from all over the globe to receive a world-class education.

The commentary by Sheffield City Council relating to the Knowledge City portrays the importance of its relationship with the higher education establishments in the city. This can be seen in Appendix 3. (This is soon to be replaced the 2018 City Centre Plan). Furthermore, the planned development of the Knowledge Gateway project, which will improve the street frontage on Brown Street, in front of Spearmint Rhino and along Paternoster Row, demonstrates that this is a location that the Council is supporting continued cultural and economic development.

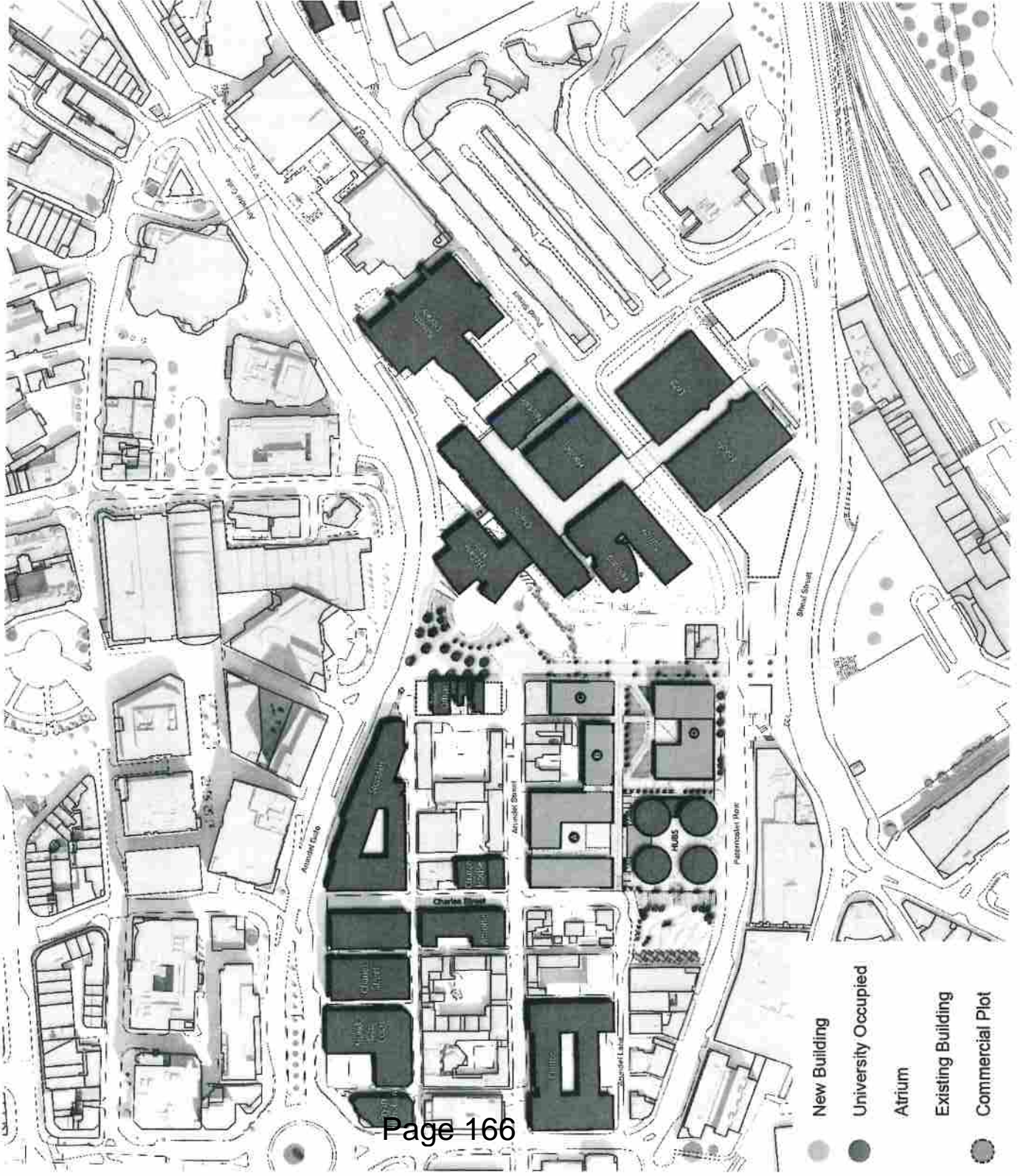
We would like to highlight the significant conflict that the Council communicates through its continuing decision to grant the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino in its current location. If the licencing Authority believes that the venue contributes in a cultural or educational manner, then it is questioned as to why the venue is not highlighted on Plan 2 as being such an attraction, along with Festival Square, HUBs, the Showroom, Site Gallery, Workstation, Persistence Works and the Institute of Art. This is also the case in the City Centre Master Plans' 'Vibrancy, Hospitality, Attractions' section (Appendix 4) - Spearmint Rhino is clearly not identified by The Council as an 'attraction'; else it would feature as such here.

Having worked with stakeholders across the CIQ and City, including the City Council, in the development of our new Campus Masterplan, we believe that there are now far too many compelling reasons for the Council not to renew the license to Spearmint Rhino. Indeed, if this were to be renewed then we believe that the Council would be placing itself into conflict regarding its own plans for the development of the City Centre and jeopardising both the potential impact of the planned Knowledge Gateway investment and also the proposed plans for a number of key stakeholders to obtain external funding and continue to develop this part of the city into a thriving cultural hub, right at the gateway to the City.

We hope therefore that the Council will finally take into account the numerous objections that have and will be raised against the granting of a renewed license for Spearmint Rhino and will this time act decisively in a manner that supports the interests of the planned and future development of the City and does not renew the license.

Appendix 1

Phase 1



Phase 1 involves development in the CIQ and focuses development to form a new gateway to the University and the city by activating the southern edge of Howard Street.

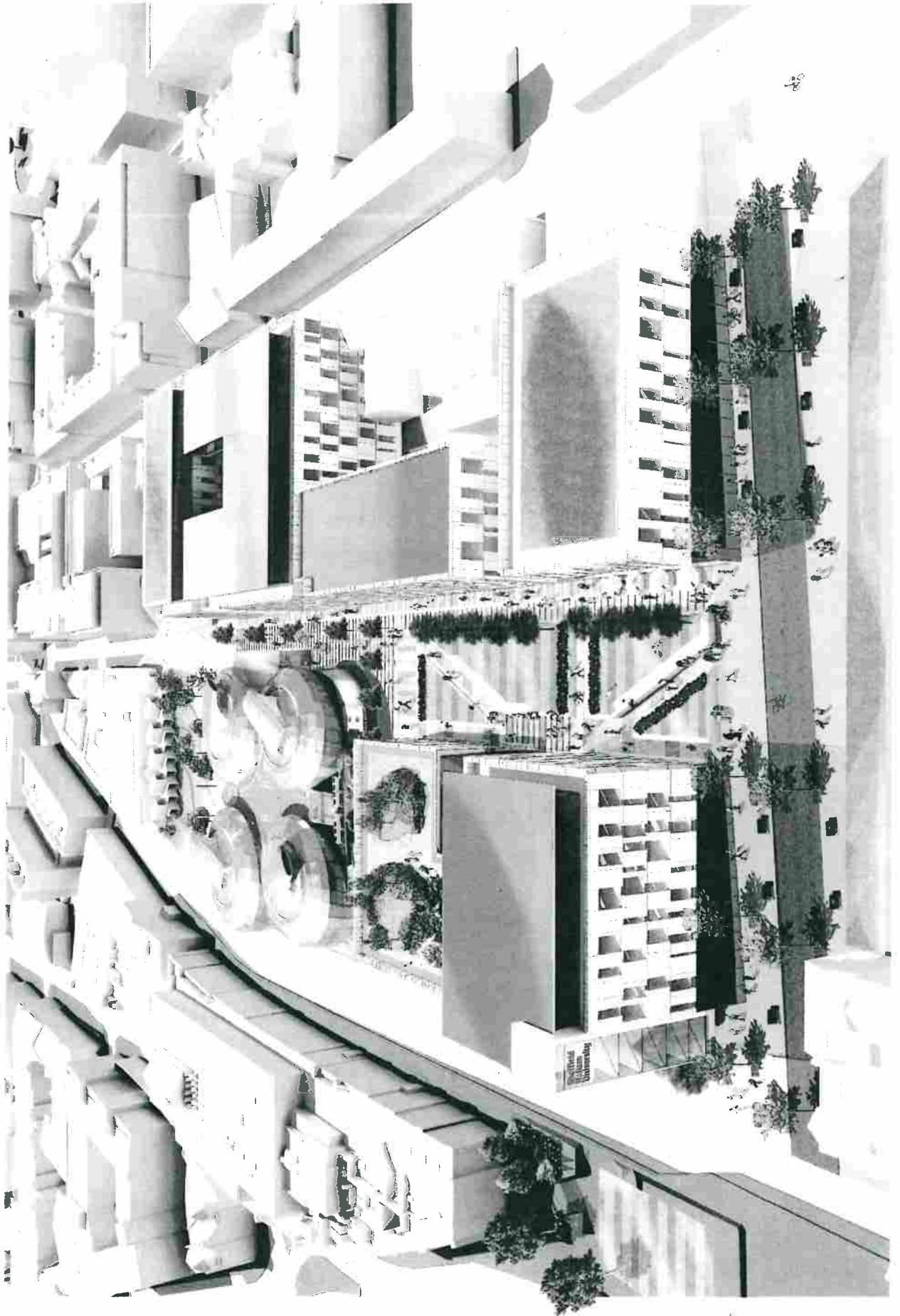
A 'University Green' is created on Arundel Lane, providing a new external Heartspace and campus identity for Sheffield Hallam University.

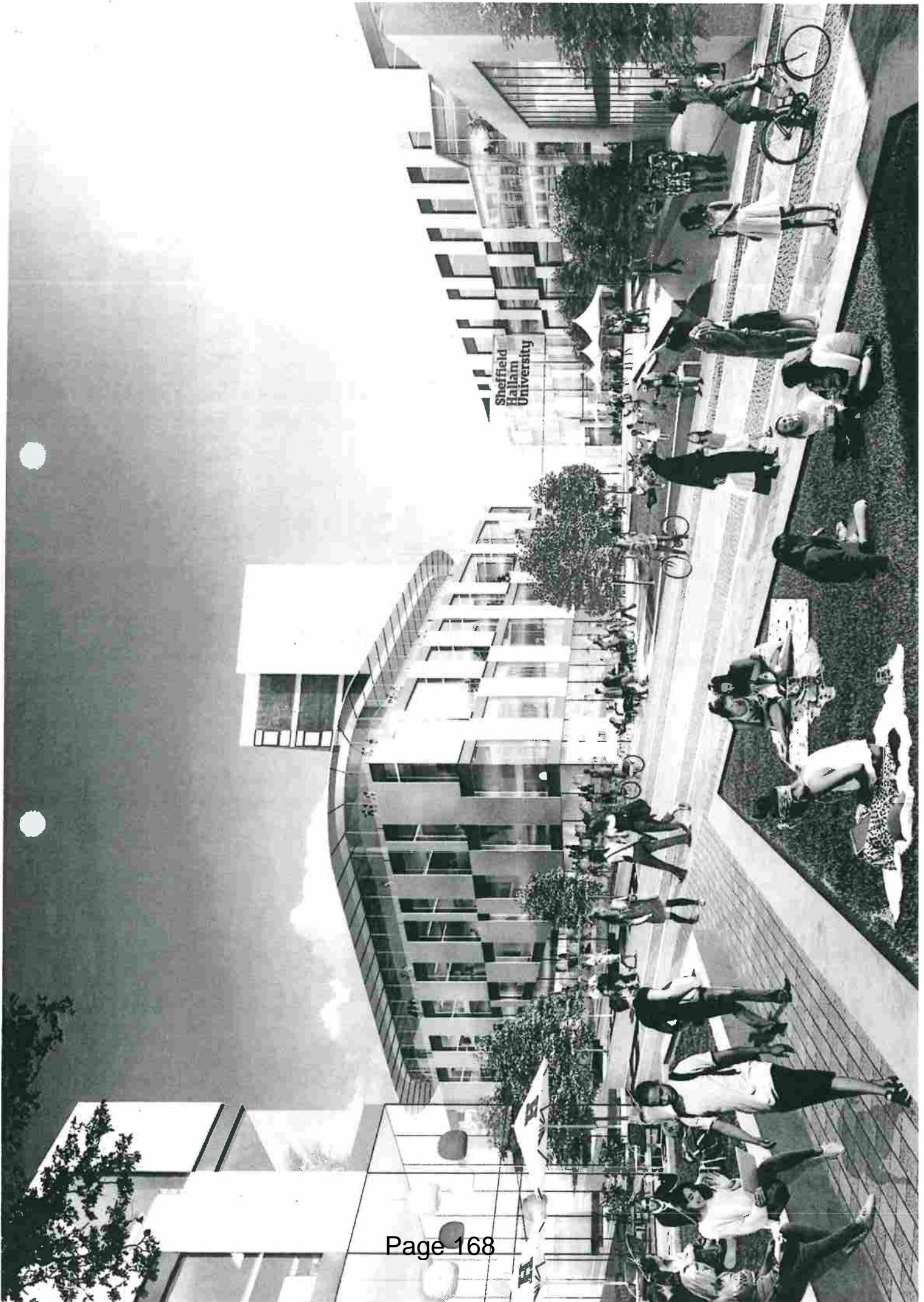
The layout improves the pedestrian permeability along Arundel Lane, following the historic street pattern.

A strong civic presence is provided at the prominent corner where Howard Street meets Paternoster Row.

New buildings provide the opportunity to create active frontages showcasing the University's activities to the city and beyond.

City Phase 1





Student-Centred



Sense of Place & Identity



Connected, Collaborative & Organised



High Quality



Staff & Visitor-focused



Business Focused



Civic Presence



Showcase



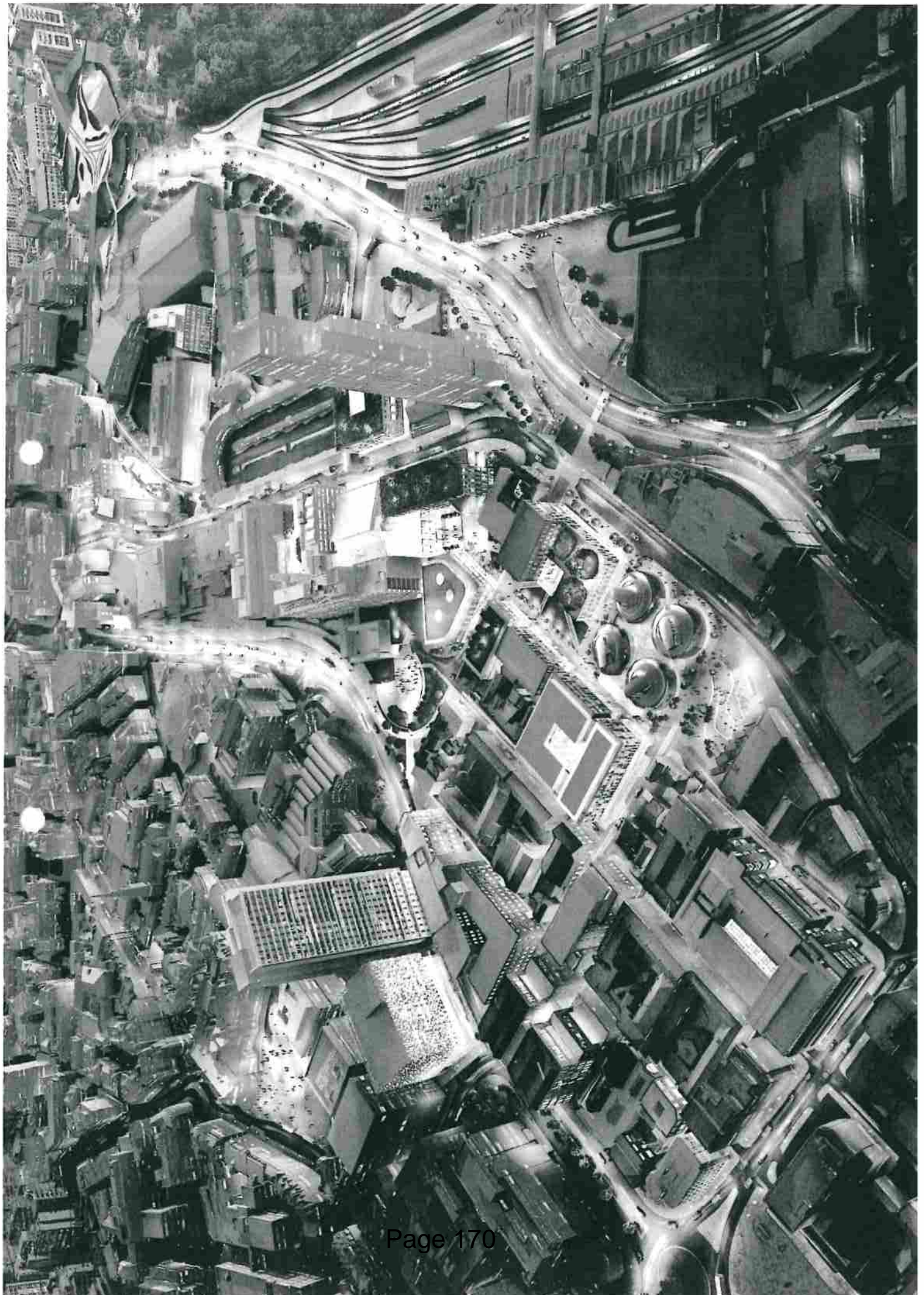
Campus Spine
Public Spaces
Gateways & Civic Presence
Permeability
Showcasing

Peace
Gardens

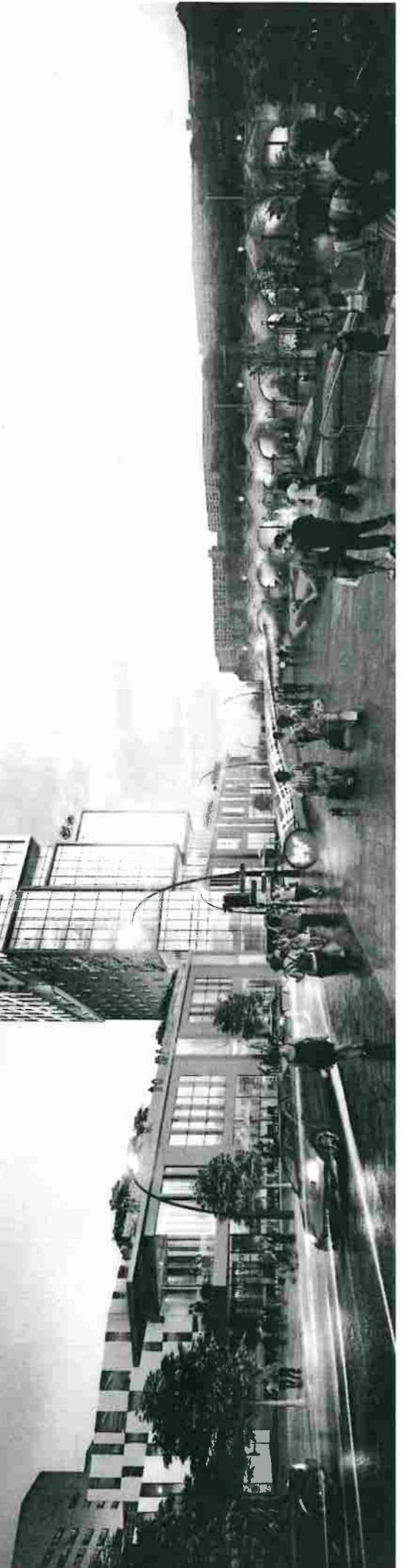
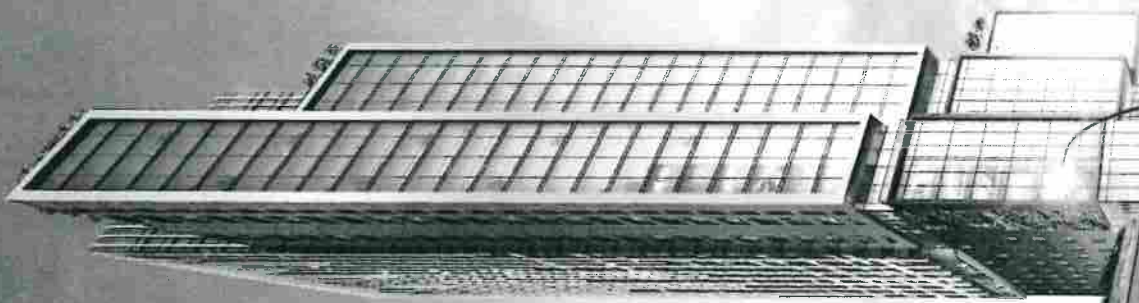
Library

HUBS

Train
Station

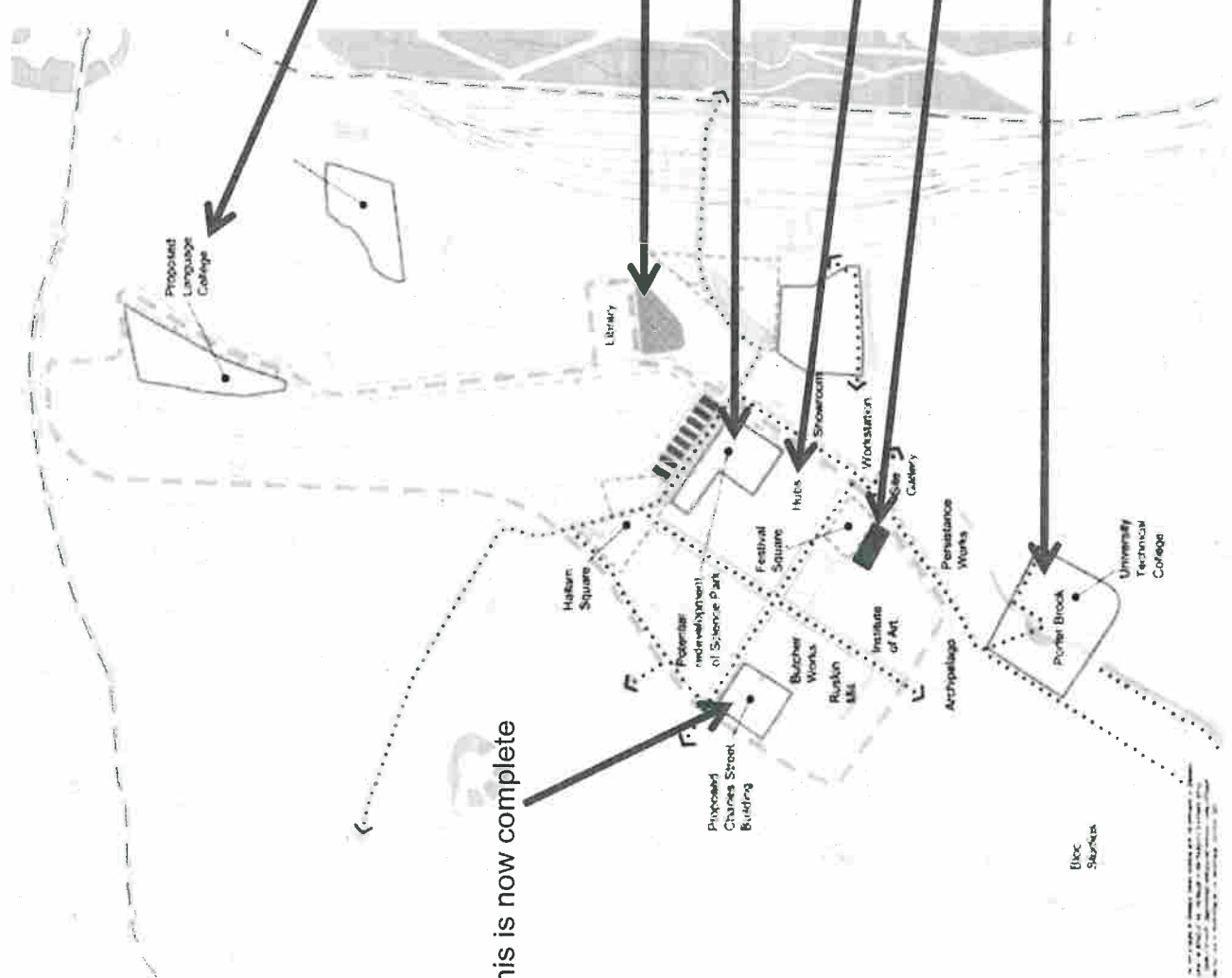


Proposed Sheaf Tower



Appendix 2

- University Related
 - Potential Redevelopment Site
 - Public Space
 - Public Realm Improvements
- Completed Public Realm Improvements
 - Hotels/Offices
 - Active Frontages
 - Mixed Use
- Gold Route
- Tram Route
- River/Water Feature
- Pedestrian Links



This is now the Institute of Arts

Proposed Sheaf Tower

Phase 1 of SHU Campus Masterplan - proposed new Business School and Social Sciences buildings

SHU Students Union

Spearmint Rhino

This is now complete

This is now complete

Appendix 3

4.3 Knowledge City

The transformation of Sheffield City Centre over the last twenty years has developed hand in hand with the growth of the higher education sector including its two world class universities, one of the largest FE colleges in Europe, Learn Direct the UK's largest provider of on-line study, the Source Retail Academy and the soon to open University Technical College. Each has expanded its activities in and around the central area.

They constitute a major part of the economy both at the higher level as suppliers to the knowledge industries, as well as massively stimulating the City Centre bringing vitality, footfall, diversity and spending power of 60,000 students each year. At the same time the city has given them a distinctive, stimulating, friendly and liveable home to which many graduates have responded by staying on.

Both universities have further ambitious building projects expected on site in 2013 - the UoS' New Engineering Building at Jessop, SHU's Development & Society Building at Charles St as well as residential language colleges such as that now proposed for the old Post Office at Fitzalan Square.

The new University Technical College at Porter Brook South in the CIQ will bring large numbers of school-age students into the City Centre to learn and train for careers in the Advanced Engineering, Manufacturing and Creative/Digital sectors, adding a new source of energy to the Cultural Industries Quarter.

Sheffield College is also considering seeking further accommodation in the City Centre and this requirement needs to be quantified and located.

With keen competition between universities the first impression, quality and distinctiveness of the campus is a vital component of success. Public spaces such as the Station Square, Barkers Pool, Weston Park and the Peace Gardens have given the city and the universities world class settings for their set-piece events but much remains to be done.

The Council will continue to work closely with each institution to ensure integration of each of the campus Master Plans with the greater City Centre Master Plan.

Where possible it will seek to co-ordinate improvements to the campus public realm with the Streets Ahead highway repair programme, as well as improvements to wayfinding, road safety and pedestrian connectivity.

In particular it will seek a closer understanding and sharing of the UoS campus ambitions and to build a partnership similar to that already in operation with SHU and the UTC.

The City Council will also investigate ways of supporting the key recruitment open days and graduation ceremonies for instance by use of Variable Message Signs's (VMS) to welcome visitors.

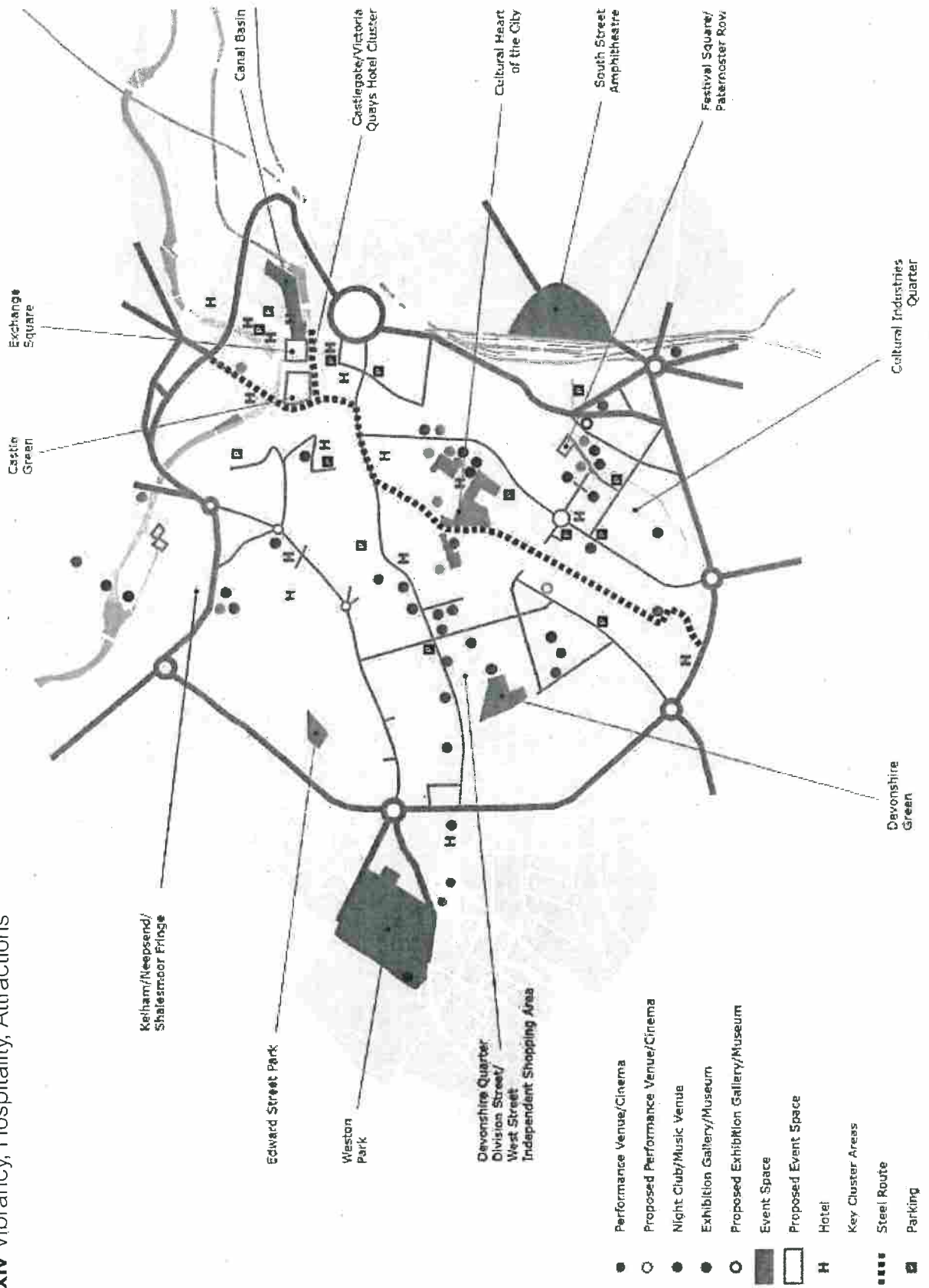
Both universities are now significantly involved in the events calendar of the City Centre as exemplified by the Food Festival, Tramlines and Festival of the Mind but there is more potential in this area which is now being developed.

There is a long history of successful joint research on urban issues by various university faculties but this has tended to only last for the period of a particular research grant or thesis. The potential to harness academic research capacity to analysing and tackling the city's challenges in a more systematic way and over longer time should now be seized.

Appendix 4

Sheffield City Centre Master Plan

Plan xiv Vibrancy, Hospitality, Attractions



Bower Claire

From: ([redacted])
Sent: 02 May 2018 12:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing renewal objection

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' ...

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' ...

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' ...

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.





___ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

___ Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

___ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

___ p. 90

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2018 14:15
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection letter to the license application of Spearmint Rhino - my call for the council to refuse it

Dear Licensing,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note: 'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'* [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

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f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

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It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

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[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

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SHU MAC | [BOOK](#) | [VIMEO](#)



1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the specific procedures and protocols that must be followed to ensure that all records are properly maintained and updated. This includes regular audits and reviews to identify any discrepancies or errors.

3. The third part of the document provides a detailed overview of the various systems and tools that are used to manage and store records. It highlights the importance of using secure and reliable technology to protect sensitive information.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the role of all employees in maintaining accurate records. It stresses that every individual has a responsibility to ensure that their work is properly documented and reported.

5. The fifth part of the document provides a summary of the key points discussed and offers recommendations for further improvement. It encourages ongoing communication and collaboration between all departments to ensure the highest standards of record-keeping are maintained.

Bower Claire

From: customerservices@sheffield.gov.uk
Sent: 02 May 2018 14:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: 101004049718 -

Dear Colleagues,

Here is a copy of a customer enquiry we received within Customer Services for your attention.

Hi, I can't find details on this website of who to contact about a recent granting of a request for judicial review on licensing of strip clubs in Sheffield (regarding Spearmint Rhino). I would like to let the council know that I fully support Spearmint Rhino maintaining their license and vehemently oppose the arguments that strip clubs harm all women in society. To say strip clubs cause abuse to women everywhere is just mistaken, we are subject to that whether or not there are strip clubs in our city. Removing a safe workplace for a great many women without consulting with them on whether that is what they want and need is irresponsible at best and at worst will cause direct harm. To do so is not feminist. As a 22 year old female student at the University of Sheffield I've been subject to gender based violence/harassment in a great many contexts and ways but to say the existence of strip clubs (as a safe and regulated place for other women to work) harms me, instead of addressing broader issues that women of all backgrounds face, is absurd.

If you could direct me to someone who is involved in this matter or forward my relevant information/my views on, that would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

Please could you reply to the customer as appropriate.

Customer Details:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted] k

Many thanks for your co-operation and assistance with this matter.

Customer Services

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2018 21:34
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

To whom it may concern,

I wish to register my strong objection to the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Licence for Spearmint Rhino on Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS, on the grounds that allowing such a place in the Cultural Industries Quarter is highly inappropriate, having regard to the character of the area and the uses to which the premises are put. They are certainly not cultural. I'm sure visitors to our Cultural Industries Quarter are bemused, if not shocked, to see such an establishment in the centre of Sheffield. It makes us a laughing stock.

It is also inappropriate to have such a place so close to Sheffield Hallam University and the cafes where many students hang out.

Finally, I object to it being in an area I take my young grandsons to and to having to prevaricate about what it is and what goes on there, when they ask me about it.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 May 2018 22:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

2 May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)**i) Character of the relevant locality**

a. the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

All of these apply.

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

- a. schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,
- b. parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;
- c. hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;
- d. any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

(f) predominately residential areas;

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

All of these apply

Further grounds for refusal**The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality**

The Council has an obligation to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty which includes tackling gender inequality.

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino contribute significantly to discrimination against women, normalising objectification.

A culture in which (mostly) men feel it is normal to buy sexual access to (mostly) women is one in which the message is promoted that access to women's bodies can be purchased; that women's reluctance to engage sexually can be overcome by payment. This is the same culture in which many still believe that expenditure, such as paying for dinner, entitles a man to sex. This normalisation of payment for access to women's bodies directly contributes to rape culture.

Licensing a venue such as this is incompatible with the need to eliminate discrimination and promote good relations and equality of opportunity within the Public Sector Equality Duty.

I look forward to hearing from you.




Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 May 2018 11:28
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Spearmint Rhino should not have premises in Sheffield.

A Labour Council should not agree to their license or its renewal.

It is a sex club. Sex clubs encourage / foster violence against women. Their very nature leads to an objectification of women as purely sexual objects to be used and paid for by men. This is 2018.

Is this Sheffield Council's view of women? Is this the Labour Party's view?

Sheffield does not need this club.

Many women find the existence of such clubs threatening. To walk past it is a very difficult and challenging experience and it is in the student area of town. It poses a threat to all women.

Women who work there have little or no choice about their employment. Do they have rights / a Trade Union?

They only work there because they have to.

Make Sheffield a Spearmint Rhino free zone. Make us proud.

I object to the application by Sonfield Dev LTD 161 Tottenham Court Rd London.

I support Zero Option Sheffield.

Dear Licensing,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:
'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'^[1]
Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'^[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:
'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'^[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.
The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also

centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc. There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

4 May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and "... designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London" for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,
There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is

in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;
The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;
There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;
See (e) under (i).

(f) predominantly residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessed during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments.
(p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasised and their humanity is de-emphasised. After having internalised the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanisation, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing. As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note: "In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage".

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.”

I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature block]

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

04/05/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

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The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

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See (e) under (i).

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". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

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It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license."^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I would further like to add that although I have only been visiting Sheffield from South Africa on a twice annual basis I will be returning for good in June 2018 and have been looking forward to being able to walk round the city as this is something I cannot do in South Africa and the presence of Spearmint Rhino puts me off using any of the amenities and facilities in the cultural industries quarter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Address as of 30th June 2018

REFERENCES:

¹Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

¹ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

¹ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

¹ Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women,

and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

¹ *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

¹ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

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¹ Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

¹ Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

¹ Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

¹ Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

¹ Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

¹ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

¹ 23rd February 2018 Available from:

ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

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^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women,

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^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

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^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

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^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

I'm sending my companion in, because I think it's good, but I'm glad to email me my own thoughts.

21

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

904 MAY 2006

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
- Strip clubs promote the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating the performer as a commodity with no regard to her actual feelings, as if she were an object: if she really wanted to strip for whoever pays her she wouldn't need to be paid to do so. This is dehumanising and disempowering to the performer. The punter is eroticising his power over the woman and getting a sexual thrill from his control over her. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers have spoken of the psychological harm they have experienced as a result of working in strip clubs. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their mind and feelings from their bodies, which is required in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that they realise the harm caused to them by it, which is similar to the experience of women once they have left an abusive relationship.
- Licensing Spearmint Rhino gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this.
- Condoning, by licensing, a strip club which is set up solely to profit from the objectification of women is to effectively promote views and behaviours which are associated with male violence towards women and girls, stoking the misogynistic attitudes that lead to this violence.
- Research again and again identifies the link that men who hold objectifying views of women as lesser than human are more likely to be violent to them.
- Many women have written to the Council specifically stating how uncomfortable and unsafe they feel walking past Spearmint Rhino. Many try to avoid walking past it. No-one should feel unsafe in Sheffield and there should be no no-go areas for women.
- Thus, to relicence Spearmint Rhino would have the effect of promoting inequality between the sexes, which is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.
- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 May 2018 20:55
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
2018
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

4 May

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[1] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"^[2] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”^[iii]

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^[iv]

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

“Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area”.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^[v]

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^[vi]

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^[vii].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^[viii]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[xi]. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xii] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^[xiii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

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The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

↓ [Redacted]
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↓ [Redacted]
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^[i] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

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- ^[xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^[xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 May 2018 20:56
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 2018
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD

4 May

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See (e) under (i).

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This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^[viii]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[x]. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xi] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."^[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xiv]. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[Faint, illegible text]

^[i] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

^[ii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

^[iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

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- [ix] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- [x] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
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- [xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- [xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Licensing Service
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Surrey Street
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By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

3rd May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city “housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge

of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

As a regular visitor to the area, I personally feel intimidated by the club’s presence (and any strip club that I pass by for that matter, particularly when I am on foot). Knowing the exploitation, sexism and objectification that goes on inside the club, I fear for my safety in the knowledge that the punters inside will at some point emerge full of an attitude that they apply to the rest of the world, that they are entitled access to women’s bodies. Friends have reported to me sexual harassment they have endured by men visiting the club and I myself have been subjected to cat calling from men leaving strip clubs in the past.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in

the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

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According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]
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References

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Discretionary Ground d)

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The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

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We look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

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- ^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- ^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: 1 [redacted] t>
Sent: 05 May 2018 18:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: objection to Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
 C
 Depot
 Road
 3HD
 to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

Block
 Staniforth Road
 Staniforth
 SHEFFIELD S9
 By email

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
- Strip clubs promote the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating the performer as a commodity with no regard to her actual feelings, as if she were an object: if she really wanted to strip for whoever pays her she wouldn't need to be paid to do so. This is dehumanising and disempowering to the performer. The punter is eroticising his power over the woman and getting a sexual thrill from his control over her. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers have spoken of the psychological harm they have experienced as a result of working in strip clubs. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their mind and feelings from their bodies, which is required in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that they realise the harm caused to them by it, which is similar to the experience of women once they have left an abusive relationship.
- Licensing Spearmint Rhino gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this.
- Condoning, by licensing, a strip club which is set up solely to profit from the objectification of women is to effectively promote views and behaviours which are associated with male violence towards women and girls, stoking the misogynistic attitudes that lead to this violence.
- Research again and again identifies the link that men who hold objectifying views of women as lesser than human are more likely to be violent to them.
- Many women have written to the Council specifically stating how uncomfortable and unsafe they feel walking past Spearmint Rhino. Many try to avoid walking past it. No-one should feel unsafe in Sheffield and there should be no no-go areas for women.
- Thus, to relicence Spearmint Rhino would have the effect of promoting inequality between the sexes, which is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.

- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

[Faint, illegible text]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 07 May 2018 20:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

07/05/18

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I understood from the last hearing you preferred objectors to write their own objection letters. However I am not brilliant at writing and the following template does say everything I wish to express.

I would like to add that I teach joinery and carpentry to 16-18 year old students most of them are boys and it saddens me that I am still hearing from them horrible degrading and sometime aggressive terms relating to women and girls. Some have actually told me that lap dancing is more of a job for girls than doing a trade. My male colleagues and I have spent many a time talking about equality and the rights of girls and women to these boys and are saddened by their attitudes. In education we spend time and money do our best to break down barriers for girls to join non-traditional trades and places like spearmint rhino does nothing to help us. It shows that we accept that women's bodies are for sale and that's what women do. Although the college is further away from all the other educational and support establishments around the club it still has a strong influence on our youth. The fact that is and accepted by our council adds to the normality of it. If you are worried for the jobs which I understand when clubs close they tend to turn into clubs the staff get to stay on with better employment rights. But also I would be happy to teach the women a trade and a skill for life with better employment opportunities and even a pension.

I also have a studio on Brown street and I have been impressed by the growth of the area it seems sad to me that we have this dead zone no one uses the park to its fullest the building next to it is a store. It could be so much better the building itself could be a bar and music venue. There are so many educational establishments and residential areas compared to what it was before and with any luck we may even have channel four. We need to move into the 21 century and think about the wider benefits with out the club.

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[i] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”^[ii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children’s Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”^[iii]

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^[v]

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^[vi]

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"^[vii]

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage"^[viii].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."^[ix]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes

upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[xi].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xii] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^[xiii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^[xiv]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xv]. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

NAME and ADDRESS which will be redacted

^[i]Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

^[ii]Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

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- ^[xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 May 2018 20:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Fwd: Spearmint Rhino objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: 7 May 2018 at 20:05
Subject: Spearmint Rhino objection
To: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
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In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xi] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^[xiii]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xiv]. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

- ^[i] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ^[ii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- ^[iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- ^[iv] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- ^[v] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^[vi] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^[vii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^[viii] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ^[ix] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^[x] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^[xi] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- ^[xii] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- ^[xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^[xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 08 May 2018 20:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application

Dear Licensing Officers

I am writing to object to the renewal of the license for Spearmint Rhino at it's site in Brown Street, in the city centre.

If the Labour Party is so proud of it's control of the city council, then it needs to take responsibility for decisions made by the council.

I fail to understand how the Labour Party in Sheffield and it's members can claim to be proud of the city and all that it is, and yet happy to have a lap dancing and strip club as one of the city centre's "attractions".

I'm tired of hearing from Labour Party supporters and officers that it is the "party of equality" when it fails to demonstrate this in practice. I feel it is time for the Labour Party to stand up for what it claims to believe in and comes down on the right side of gender equality by objecting to the license renewal.

Just as we look back now at our outdated, racist TV programs and wonder how we ever tolerated them, so one day we will be judged on the sexist policies surrounding strip clubs. Sheffield, and the Labour Party that runs it, should want to be leading the way in becoming a gender equal city, not the last to make a change.

Regards

PS I am happy for my name to appear in the published objection, but please ensure that my email address is redacted.

--
[Redacted]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 08:34
To: licensingservice
Subject: Rhino club

I would like to object to the licensing of the Rhino strip club. I specifically object to its location in the midst of a student area and fear its presence encourages the thought patterns of some young men that girls are only objects to be used, thus putting female students at risk of sexual violence and harm.

I also suggest that this sort of behaviour is no longer acceptable and sheffield council should have the courage to stand up against it.

yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 08:37
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to renewal of Spearmint Rhino license

Dear Council Members,

I would like to lodge my objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino license.

Strip clubs, where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship, do not foster good relations between the genders and have no place in a forward-thinking society where equality and diversity are so important.

It would be an embarrassment to Sheffield Hallam University, and to the city, to have a strip club on campus and sends entirely the wrong message to students.

Having a strip club in the classy industrial quarter runs counter to everything the city is trying to achieve with regards to the regeneration of the area.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 09 May 2018 10:50
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Licensing Service,

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

My reasons outlined below:

- Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders
- Strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
- Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
- The area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

I look forward to your decision

Regards

[Redacted signature block]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 09 May 2018 11:20
To: licensingservice
Subject: Proposal for Strip Club in City Centre

I wish to register my strong objection to plans to develop a strip club, Spearmint Rhino, in the centre of Sheffield.

Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell.

- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with its own on-campus strip club. What will this be saying about Sheffield's offer to students?
- the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Latest publication : An Uncertain Shore, a novel

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 12:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: renewal license for Spearmint Rhino

Please note my objections to the renewal license for the Spearmint Rhino strip club.

Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders

- strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
- Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
- the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

With thanks

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 12:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: spearmint rhino

Please note my objections to the renewal license for Spearmint Rhino strip club.

- Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders
- strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
 - Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
 - Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
 - the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

With thanks

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 16:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Stop licensing Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam

I am emailing to object to licensing Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield. This establishment is offensive to many, and should not be in the heart of the cultural industries quarter or so close to Hallam University. It is degrading to women and something that I feel should not be there.

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 09 May 2018 16:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino licensing application objection

Dear Licensing Services Officer,

I am writing to object to the application for Spearmint Rhino to renew their strip club license in Sheffield. The council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders and this business runs counter to those aims by normalizing the sexualised objectification of women. This is particularly important in this premises when viewed in its context adjacent to Sheffield Hallam University campus. At a time of life when young adults are solidifying their understanding of gender and sexual norms, the perceived acceptance of a strip club, virtually on campus, can easily confuse and pervert their understanding of acceptable behavior toward women for many years. This is a clear conflict with the city's aims to foster good relations between genders. In this year of the #me-too movement, it is time to take a step forward in understanding the impact of these institutional influences on societal norms. On these grounds, the license renewal should be rejected.

Regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 09 May 2018 18:21
To: licensingservice
Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO OBJECTION

Hello

I am a masters' student at Sheffield Hallam university.

I believe it is totally inappropriate for a lap dancing club to be situated within what could be considered the university campus. I do not feel that it encourages good relationships between men and women, particularly students, being young people who are easily influenced by the kind of messages that such an establishment gives out, in terms of normalising men paying to view womens' naked bodies.

It is such a shame that the lap dancing club exists in a progressive city such as Sheffield. I am disappointed.

I hope that you will take my objection in to consideration.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 21:01
To: licensingservice
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to relicensing Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object most strongly to the decision to relicense the strip club Spearmint Rhino. I am also dismayed by the Council's decision to allow unlimited numbers of SEVs in the city. This is clearly sending out a message to women and girls that their safety and dignity are not considered to be important.

The council have a legal Public Equality Sector Duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders. There is no way that a strip club can be said to do this. Women in and around this venue are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship and this clearly does not foster good relations between the genders. Many women feel unsafe walking around this area because of the attitudes of the men, towards women, who attend the venue.

Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union. The existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with its own on-campus strip club. This does not help to make it a positive choice for many young women when considering which university to attend.

The area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

It is time to do the right thing and refuse to relicense Spearmint Rhino.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

www.avast.com

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Bower Claire

From: [redacted]
Sent: 09 May 2018 21:16
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am appealing to Sheffield Council to not grant a license to Spearmint Rhino in order to get rid of it's only strip club in Sheffield after 16 years.

Having a strip club sexualizes and objectifies women and does not fulfil the Council's public sector equality duty to foster good relations between the genders.

I hope you are able to take my objection into account when making your decision.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
[redacted] ■
[redacted]
[redacted]

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 09 May 2018 21:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO - Objection

To whom it may concern,

I want to register my objection to the council licensing **Spearmint** Rhino fot the following reasons:

- Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders
- strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
- Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
- The area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

Best wishes,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[Redacted Address]

[Redacted Contact Info]

Find us on Facebook and Twitter!



Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 09 May 2018 21:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Lao Dancing Strip Club

I am objecting to plans to give the Spearmint Rhino Club a license.

There are many reasons for Sheffield to refuse the license but as a resident in the city I do not feel that it is appropriate to have Hallam University's future plans for their city campus to include the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club.

Also the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture in the 21st Century. Sheffield Council should be more forward looking than licensing a club that objectifies women.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

42

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 21:48
To: licensingservice
Subject: Strip club objection

To whom it may concern,
I'm writing to object to the licensing application for the Sheffield strip club on the basis that this objectifies women and doesn't comply with the councils gender equality standards, Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 09 May 2018 22:03
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino license renewal

I am staggered to learn that the council is contemplating renewing the license for an establishment that promotes the objectification and quite frankly the equality of women. An act that would be entirely contrary to the Council's public sector equality duty to foster good relations between the gender.

Is this just another case of say one thing and do the opposite?

Is it really acceptable to sexulise women in this manner. I believe not and I am hard pushed to find any moral reason to suggest otherwise.

Sheffield City Council needs to make its mark and show its true intentions with regards to gender equality and not just be in the pocket of those who are willing to pay. #sheffieldbedifferent.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE 9/5/18

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but

it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs. The presence of the club is inappropriate and could present a safeguarding issue. It is completely inappropriate for this location.

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

It is inappropriate and insensitive that Spearmint Rhino should exist in this location. It presents a significant barrier to people accessing services and does not create an inclusive environment. I would also suggest that it creates an intimidating environment, and traumatises already vulnerable people further, and directly discriminates against those with protected characteristics. (Equality Act 2010). It may also present safeguarding issues to vulnerable groups and vulnerable adults.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student

accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."ⁱⁱⁱ

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative

impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^{iv}

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^v

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vi}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{vii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{viii}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^{ix}.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^x reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xi}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiii}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

Personally, I have felt intimidated when walking in this area at night. I work in Sheffield, so I have to walk to the train station in the evening. I always cross over the road, but I avoid the whole area, from the club to the train station, when it is dark.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

09/05/18

References

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^{iv} *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^v Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{viii} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^{ix} Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^x Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xi} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiii} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 10 May 2018 08:58
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to the re-licencing of the Spearmint Rhino Strip Club in Sheffield City Centre. If Sheffield City Council were to re-authorise this, it signals that it is effectively endorsing the objectification and sexualisation of young women. This is against the Council's public duty to promote equality.

The Club is right next to Sheffield Hallam University Campus, and in the centre of the 'cultural quarter', which also make this an inappropriate location.

Kind regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Bower Claire

From: [redacted]
Sent: 10 May 2018 14:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to License for Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

I would like to register my objection to Sheffield City Council granting Spearmint Rhino a license to operate a Sexual Entertainment Venue in the heart of Sheffield. My objections are as follows:

- SCC has a duty to ensure that they do not make decisions that could directly or indirectly put women at risk. I believe strongly that strip clubs directly affect women by objectifying us and diminishing our standing in the community.
- It goes against the 'Know the Line' campaign that was launched towards the end of the year. The campaign aims to put an end to sexual harassment and recognises that sexual harassment shouldn't be a 'normal' part of everyday life for women and girls. The Police and Crime Commissioner helped launch the campaign and I cannot see how granting strip club licenses fits with the commitment to end misogyny and sexual harassment and believe that SCC should not be supporting objectification of women and girls in our city.
- Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
- The area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

[Faint, illegible text]

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted] >
Sent: 10 May 2018 19:39
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to licence, spearmint rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Sir/madam,

I am writing to object to the issuing of a new liscence for spearmint rhino in Sheffield city centre. As a tax payer and parent in the city I strongly object to SCC effectively endorsing this facility and it's activities. To do so runs counter to the gender equalities principles the Council should stand for. I hope that this, and other objections received, will be considered fully when deciding on the renewal and that the Council will take this opportunity to make a brave and positive choice for the city.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 10 May 2018 20:17
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Hi

I don't think strip clubs should be in the CIQ in the centre of town
As you've got a chance to sort this coming up
can you please register this as an objection from me

Thanks

--

[Redacted signature block]

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 10 May 2018 22:54
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to spearmint rhino Sheffield

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

To whom it may concern,

I object to the renewal of the licence for spearmint rhino on the below grounds:

Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders

- strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders

- Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.

- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club

- the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

Sincerely
[Redacted]

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

11th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children’s Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the

fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" ^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" ^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club." ^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy ^{xi}reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license."^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women,

and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from:

<https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 May 2018 11:09
To: licensingservice
Subject: spearmint Rhino License

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

11th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

1. the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ii for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."iii

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The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, **Page 304** which is situated directly behind the club. Charles

Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

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"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."iv

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The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.v

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"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" vi

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" vii.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“ . . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

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In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy xireported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in Englandxiv. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

There is no place for such clubs in the 21st century.

I look forward to hearing from you.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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- i Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ii Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- iii Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- iv Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- vi Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- vii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- viii Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ix Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- xi Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- xii Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- xiii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- xiv 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 11 May 2018 15:27
To: licensingservice
Subject: RE: Renewal license for Spearmint Rhino

Dear Claire,
I am sorry but I don't know what happened there.

Please note my objections to the renewal license for Spearmint Rhino strip club.

- Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders
- strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
 - Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
 - Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
 - the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

With thanks
[Redacted]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----
From: licensingservice <licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk>
Date: 11/05/2018 13:11 (GMT+00:00)
To: [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Renewal license for Spearmint Rhino

Dear sir/madam

Thank you for contacting us.

Unfortunately, the message sent below is illegible. Please could you try sending again or from an alternative source?

Best wishes

Claire

Claire Bower
Licensing Strategy & Policy Officer
Licensing Service, Business Strategy & Regulation, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Sheffield, S9 3HD

Email: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk
Telephone: 0114 2734264
Web: www.sheffield.gov.uk/licensing

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED], (EX)
Sent: 11 May 2018 16:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Licence Application - 60 Brown Street Sheffield S1 2BS
Importance: High

Dear Sheffield City Council Licencing,

On behalf of the City Centre Development Team in the capacity of Landlord and Developer of the Heart of the City II scheme I wish to object to the renewal of the licence for **Sonfield House Developments Limited, Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS** on the following grounds:-

- That the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the locality and the use to which premises in the vicinity are used given that:-
 - o The siting of the premises in the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) is incongruent with the focus on art and culture, small creative industries, student life and residential uses.
 - o The current premises are in the Heart of the City and more so in the CIQ with a newly refurbished and extended Art Gallery (Site Gallery).
 - o Sheffield Hallam have also recently announced their campus expansion plans in the area which should bring more people into the area.
 - o The premises are also located in close proximity the SHU Student Union and there are residential units to the West.
 - o The site is adjacent to "Festival Square / HUBS Square" on Paternoster Row which is awaiting regeneration for all to enjoy. Such a public space next to an entertainment venue of this nature would not appear to be compatible.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] k

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

11th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

Spearmint Rhino is completely at odds with its location for a number of reasons as detailed below.

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but

it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

Spearmint Rhino is completely at odds with the other premises in the vicinity as detailed below.

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these

considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^{ix}.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^x reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xi}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

References

- ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- ^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- ^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ^{ix} Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^x Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
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- ^{xii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^{xiii} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 11 May 2018 22:34
To: licensingservice

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

DATE 11th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S12BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London” for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d)the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children’s Media Conference.

(e)the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”

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The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

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"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

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Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.

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This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

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(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

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“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

NAME and ADDRESS which will be redacted

[Redacted text]

Bower Claire

From: [redacted] >
Sent: 11 May 2018 22:59
To: licensingservice
Subject: Strip club browns streets

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

To whom this may concern

The area of Sheffield Hallam university is an upcoming area where plans to develop is on going. To have a strip club in the Middle of these developments would be unhealthy for the young adults of our society whom live here and whom have come to sheffield to fulfil there education needs. I find a strip club in this area ,sexualises and objectifies women and does not fulfil the councils public sector equality duties between the genders .

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2018 22:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection letter to Sheffield Council re Spearmint Rhino SEV License Renewal May 2018.docx
Attachments: image1.png; ATT00001.txt
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service -Sheffield City Council,
 Road Depot,
 SHEFFIELD S9 3HD

Block C , Staniforth
 Staniforth Road

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip and lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought and treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising: if the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from this control over her which is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe experiencing psychological harm as a result of this. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their minds and feelings from their bodies in order to cope. Often it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experience of women who have left abusive relationships.
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just to the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Council's duty under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women and to attribute responsibility (victim blaming) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus, in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
- Many women have informed the Council's Licensing Department that they feel unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. There should be no no-go areas for women and no woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council has stated explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. Strip and lap dancing clubs do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacts on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. This is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010
- Spearmint Rhino is situated in an area that is now undergoing major and extensive redevelopment. The area has become increasingly residential and several sites of major cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable young people, education providers and recreational areas are situated nearby. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.
- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

ATT00001

[REDACTED]

12/5/2018

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

12 May 2018

Dear Sheffield Licensing Service

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I strongly object to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I do not wish to see Sheffield City centre, of which this area is a key part, degraded and reputed as a venue for selling sex.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

I often take my children to this area - The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”ⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking

plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”ⁱⁱ

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.ⁱⁱⁱ

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{iv}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^v.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{vi}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{vii}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^{viii}.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{ix} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^x

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xi}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xii}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[Redacted signature block]

References

ⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

ⁱⁱ Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

ⁱⁱⁱ *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{iv} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^v Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vi} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{vii} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^{viii} Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{ix} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^x Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xii} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2018 09:13
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection Licence Renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

- **Character of the Locality & Use of Other Premises**

Location wise it is close to ; the city centre, train station, residential units, Hallam University, the rich cultural industries quarter encompassing art galleries, Yorkshire Art Space and the Showroom Cinema, SRASAC (Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre).

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

As a family we are members of the Showroom Cinema and are frequent visitors. As a mother of 3 young children it is extremely uncomfortable having to walk past the club, which looks quite sinister, and answer questions from them about what it is. The presence of a strip club here clashes with our family values and desire to promote healthy and loving relationships between people.

- **The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality**

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

Having used the specialist services of SRASAC myself I can say first hand that it is totally inappropriate to site a strip club at such close proximity.

The needs of young and extremely vulnerable people should be a priority over those of a branch of a multi-million international chain of strip clubs.

As the first city of sanctuary in the UK, Sheffield should be trailblazing for a cultural shift to champion equality of all kinds by abolishing all strip clubs.

Women in Britain suffer disadvantages in all areas of life. Recently the topic of the gender pay gap has come to light at national level coinciding with the "Me Too movement on an international scale. In my view the club, Spearmint rhino embodies and promotes both of these illegal and divisive phenomena. Sheffield City Council should not renew this club's licence.

I sincerely hope you take my objections on board when considering this licence renewal.

With best wishes





Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

13/05/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”ⁱⁱⁱ

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

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(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

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The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

12th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

This is evidenced by the following report from the Sheffield Star on 16th January 2018:

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

In particular, your attention is drawn to the following extracts:

Speaking at a business conference at Cutlers' Hall on Thursday, Edward Highfield, Sheffield City Council's director of city growth, said the city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years.

Coun Mazher Iqbal, the council's cabinet member of business and investment, said increasing the number of people living in the city centre was "very important" to the council.

He said: "It's good to see the number of people living in the city centre is on the rise but I hope we can double it... There is a really good mix in the city centre. We have got students, young professionals and now we have got families too.... The city centre is about people that come and visit it, visitors who come and see our attractions, people who work in the city centre and then those who live in the city centre. It's the same as any other neighbourhood - we have to get the mix right."

Sheffield Central MP Paul Blomfield said: "I think it's hugely important and very positive that we have more people choosing to live in the city centre. It means we have to rethink the modern city centre - balancing out the need to live, work, shop and indeed study and that's a radical change for the city centre compared to the one that I knew when I was kid in Sheffield."

Further evidence is provided by the following article from the Sheffield Telegraph regarding the development of the CIQ through an increase in residential and commercial properties -

<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/property/new-build-to-revitalise-steel-city-s-ciq-1-8881810>

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

These include the following:

Showroom Cinema

The Work Station

A regular fun fair at the train station

Festival Square

Sheena Amos Youth Trust

Sheffield Hallam University and Student Union

The Leadmill

Sheffield Train Station

Sheffield Bus Station

The Site Gallery

Ofo bike docking station

Sheffield University Technical College

The Great Escape Game

Red Tape Central

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

These include the following:

Showroom Cinema

Yorkshire Art Space

Rutland Arms pub

The Hubs

Steelworks Studios

Sheffield City Archives

Millennium Galleries

The entire CIQ

APG Works

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

These include the following:

The Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC

Freeman College

Showroom Cinema

The Workstation

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

These include the following:

Festival Square now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square

Porter Brook Pocket Park.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

These include the following:

Sheffield Rape Crisis

Sheena Amos Youth Trust

Addaction Sheffield

Together Women Project

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter.

In a positive move toward more joined-up thinking in the Council on such matters, I am pleased to note that Nalin Seneviratne, Director-City Centre Development has also submitted an objection along similar lines.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality.

Through my role as a Senior Caseworker to a local MP, I have anecdotal evidence that lapdancers who work at Spearmint Rhino are expected to provide "extras to punters". This is an assertion that is replicated elsewhere in the country as exemplified by this report in The Huddersfield Daily Examiner – 6 Aug 2017 by Lauren Ballinger

<https://www.examiner.co.uk/news/yorkshire-news/former-stripper-reveals-what-life-13440024>

Upon questioning a former lapdancer about how many times in an average week she would get propositioned, she received the following reply:

"Very nearly every night - numerous times a night. They wanted to take us to hotels or meet up after work. I never did, but some girls were silly, especially the younger ones, and they did but it didn't go down well with management.

It could be quite scary sometimes, especially if they were loitering about outside when the club had shut, but again security or management sorted it, and as we left we stuck together as a pack, but that didn't happen often.

Nine out of 10 times if you politely declined they accepted it. It seemed to be the older men that were persistent."

I understand that Sammy Woodhouse intends to speak of her own experience of working at Spearmint Rhino and trust that her direct knowledge will be given the consideration it is due.

In 2017, the Licensing Sub-Committee received reams of evidence from women who felt vulnerable and frightened in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino.

In a recent call for evidence on sexual harassment of women and girls in public places, the following submission to the Women and Equalities Select Committee was made:

A group of men on their way to a lapdancing club in a shopping precinct harassing my cousin and myself in front of my [under 10] niece. They specifically cited the lapdancing club in their harassment, asking my cousin and I to perform for them to save them the cost of entry to the club.

The effects of these attacks on me have included:

Feeling obliged to go to the council's licensing committee meeting to ask that the lapdancing club which had resulted in my cousin and I being harassed while out shopping should have its licence revoked. I was told that I should have gone to the police about the harassment but the club owner later said that the local police held social events there. If the police are openly participating in an industry which objectifies women how could my cousin and I have expected our harassment experience to be taken seriously?

The full submission can be found here -

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/women-and-equalities-committee/sexual-harassment-of-women-and-girls-in-public-places/written/79596.pdf>

You will be aware that the entire Council is required to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and this is exemplified by the role of the DACT and other partners in supporting the 'Know the Line' campaign against sexual harassment, which launched in Sheffield in November 2017.

<https://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/uncategorized/know-the-line-campaign-against-sexual-harassment-launches-in-sheffield/>

At the event, Superintendent Paul McCurry, South Yorkshire Police said:

"Combatting sexual harassment of women and girls in any city, in any situation, is our shared purpose. Nobody should feel afraid to walk along the street, or go on an evening out with friends, in case they are subjected to verbal, sexual or physical abuse, but this is sadly an increasing concern and reality for many women and girls.

"Street harassment can be an incredibly upsetting experience and impactful for its victims, and this campaign aims to educate individuals on what behaviour is 'over the line' and how what may be considered by some to be an innocent act or joke, may be a crime and have significant and detrimental consequences on the victim subjected to that behaviour.

"We also hope this campaign and its important message empowers bystanders to call out those engaging in sexual harassment and to show solidarity with women and girls subjected to it."

Also at the event, Louise Haigh MP criticised the decision by Sheffield Council panel not to cap the number of sex venues in the city, a verdict that prompted cries of 'shame' from those gathered for the campaign launch at the Quaker Meeting House, such is the strength of feeling on the matter.

Dr Alan Billings, the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner, said he felt there was a huge cultural shift occurring across the Western world. "If that's true that really is something we need to understand and capitalise upon. For 3,000 years we've had a patriarchal society with sexual hierarchy."

Since then, Dr Alan Billings has updated the South Yorkshire's Police and Crime Plan so that it makes reference to tackling misogyny, and is supportive of local campaigners who are working towards recognition of misogyny as a hate crime.

With support from the SYPCC, local MPs and Superintendent to make Sheffield a safer place for

everyone, and recognising how misogyny, sexual harassment and sexual objectification of women relates to that, I would urge the Licensing Sub-Committee to refuse the license renewal for Spearmint Rhino on the grounds that it does not fulfil any of the following requirements of the PSED:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

Finally, the link between sexual objectification of women and violence is well documented and whilst there is numerous research to back this up, of particular interest in the submission by Dr Heather Brunskell-Evans to the APPG Inquiry into links between pornography and sexual violence. Pornography and lapdancing are both forms of sexual objectification of women and therefore, the findings are pertinent to this license renewal application. Details of 3 major studies about the way that sexual objectification contributes to a conducive context for sexual violence can be found on her website - <http://www.heather-brunskell-evans.co.uk/body-politics/submission-to-appg-inquiry-into-links-between-pornography-and-sexual-violence/> - and whilst these studies are focused on young people, their results are of relevance in light of the number of students that are targeted to participate in the sexual objectification of women with drinks offers, and 241 dances at Spearmint Rhino as evidenced below:



The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

Furthermore, a recent FOI request to South Yorkshire Police unveiled the following incidents in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino:

Year	IncidentTitle	Details
2017	CONCERN	Male in drink, unconcious on the ground.
2017	CONCERN	Security measures discussed and recorded by a organisation in the area.
2017	ILLNESS/INJURY	Male in drink, Ambulance dealing.
2017	CONCERN	Male unconscious. Ambulance dealing.
2017	THREATS RECD	Threats made by male towards staff.
2017	DISTURBANCE/FIGHTING	Males fighting
2017	CONCERN	Male in drink, refused ambulance
2017	STREET DRINKING	Male refusing to move on outside a business.
2017	CONCERN	Male refusing to leave
2017	CONCERN	Female reporting an assault the previous day
2017	CONCERN	Reporting person drinking who will be driving later
2017	DISTURBANCE/FIGHTING	Groups of people fighting outside the location
2017	OTHER SUSP INC	Males acting suspiciously in the area.
2018	SUSP PERSON	Suspicious males dealing drugs at the location
2018	OTHER SUSP INC	Passer by reporting a female being assaulted
2018	CONCERN	Concerns for male in drink
2018	INDECENT EXPOSURE	Indecent exposure

I refer the Licensing Sub-Committee to the previous comments about evidence of sexual objectification of women contributing to a conducive context for sexual violence. No doubt the inclusion of alcohol in the equation only serves to exacerbate the problem.

Whilst supporters of Spearmint Rhino argue that without it, lapdancing would be “forced underground” (despite there being no evidence of this, unless the argument is to equate Spearmint Rhino with brothels which raises even more questions) - the image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club serves to normalise both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. Treating women as sexual objects for men’s pleasure is not “normal”.

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2018 12:00
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

12th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I am a frequent visitor to Sheffield city centre, with my family living close by. I do not think Spearmint Rhino should be allowed to continue to operate in its current location, right next door to a university, opposite the Showroom Cinema and near lots of organisations for vulnerable and young people. If my grandchildren decide to go to Sheffield Hallam University, what message does it send to them about gender equality and respect that there is such a club right next door?

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

- 1. the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;**

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[i] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"^[ii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."^[iii]

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^[iv]

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^[v]

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" ^[vi]

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" ^[vii].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."^[viii]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy ^[xi] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^[xiii]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xiv]. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

[i] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

[ii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

[iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

[iv] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

[v] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

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- [vii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [viii] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
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- [x] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- [xi] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- [xii] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- [xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- [xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2018 12:00
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Objection for the following reason:

It is my belief that having a strip club sexualises and objectifies women and goes against the Council's public sector equality duty to foster good relations between the genders.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2018 12:42
To: licensingservice
Subject: Rhino club

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Can I register my disapproval at renewing the licence for this club. It's an unwelcome addition to the City Centre which otherwise is attractive and welcoming to everyone equally.

[REDACTED]

65

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2018 15:51
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service

Block C, Staniforth Road Depot

Staniforth Road

Surrey Street

S9 3HD

By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

13/05/18

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

- a. **the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;**

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and "... designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

a. schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

b. parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

c. hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

d. any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."¹⁴

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, **Page 362** to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

- i Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ii Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- iii Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- iv Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- vi Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- vii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- viii Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ix Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

xi Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

xii Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

xiii Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

xiv 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

66

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By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE

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(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

NAME and ADDRESS which will be redacted

References

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

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Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot,
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Councils Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual abuse strategy.
- Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Councils obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
- Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area that is now undergoing major and extensive re development. The area has become increasingly residential with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.
- SIGNED
PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

Bower Claire

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 08:20
To: licensingservice

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
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 By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

13th May 2018

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I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I work as a maths tutor in and around the Sheffield area. The presence of clubs such as Spearmint Rhino in our city centres sends out a message starkly contradictory to the one we should be sending to our young people.

At a time when we are encouraging more young women to enter STEM related careers permitting Spearmint Rhino to continue doing business next door to a university with an excellent record of increasing participation is shockingly inappropriate.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

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i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[1] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in

itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London^[iii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."^[iii]

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^[iv]

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^[vi]

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" ^[vi]

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" ^[vii].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club." ^[viii]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs. ^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing ^[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy ^[xi] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017." ^[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^[xiii]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xiv]. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

[1] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

[1] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

[1] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

[1] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

[1] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[1] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[1] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

[1] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

- [1] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- [1] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- [1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- [1] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>
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- [i] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- [ii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- [iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- [iv] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- [v] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- [vi] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [vii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [viii] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- [ix] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- [x] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- [xi] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- [xii] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- [xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
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Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 14 May 2018 08:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to license for Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.

Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 08:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino license

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

To whom it may concern

I wish to state my objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino license. The club premises are close to the student's union, the Site Art Gallery where activities for young people will take place, and the Showroom/Workstation. There are many young people, I'm particularly thinking about young women, living, working and socialising in the area and the club exerts a negative influence for them.

Such establishments are demeaning to women and men. They commodify women's bodies for commercial purposes which is not in keeping with the aim of the cultural industries quarter. Sheffield can be better than this.

Please do not renew the license.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 09:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Renewal of licence of Spearmint Rhino club

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service, Sheffield City
Council,
C
aniforth Road
Depot,
Road
FIELD
S93HD

Block

St

Staniforth
SHEF

email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not

consistent with the Council's Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.

- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual abuse strategy.
 - Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
 - The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
 - Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area that is now undergoing major and extensive re development. The area has become increasingly residential with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.
- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

s

[REDACTED]



Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike with the development of Alsop Fields.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Workstation are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children. In addition, the premises is close to the University Technical College, which is a school for children aged 14-19 and I see pupils walking past the premises every day on their way to and from the College.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is just completing a major expansion and which will re-open in September. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international event locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions. Both DocFest and the CMC have international reputations and attract delegates from around the world.

The club is also right next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”

parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential. As a result, the space is ugly and neglected and is not a pleasant place to walk through after dark.

hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is in a central position within the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is an empty gesture approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites in the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" .

I am a self-employed woman and my work means that I am mostly based at the Workstation and Sheffield Technology Parks on Arundel Street. I am often in one or other of these locations after dark and late into the evening and need to walk alone past the premises to return to where I park my car. It is not a pleasant experience.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

- (b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is

10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”

I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[Faint, illegible text]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 10:18
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino License

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
 C
 Depot,
 Road
 3HD
 to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

Block
 Staniforth Road
 Staniforth
 SHEFFIELD S9
 email

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Councils Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim Blaming) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual abuse strategy.
- Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting

negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

- Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area that is now undergoing major and extensive re-development. The area has become increasingly residential with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14.5.18.

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but

it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

“Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area”.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men

hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Licensing Service -Sheffield City Council,
 Block C , Staniforth Road Depot,
 Staniforth Road
 SHEFFIELD S9 3HD

Email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip and lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought and treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising: if the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from this control over her which is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe experiencing psychological harm as a result of this. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their minds and feelings from their bodies in order to cope. Often it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experience of women who have left abusive relationships.
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just to the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Council's duty under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women and to attribute responsibility (victim blaming) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus, in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
- Many women have informed the Council's Licensing Department that they feel unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. There should be no no-go areas for women and no woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council has stated explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. Strip and lap dancing clubs do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacts on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. This is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010
- Spearmint Rhino is situated in an area that is now undergoing major and extensive redevelopment. The area has become increasingly residential and several sites of major cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable young people, education providers

and recreational areas are situated nearby. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.
- Why does the council support having an SEV so near many educational establishments?
- SEV's show poor modelling of adult behaviour to young people.

SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS:

DATE 14th May 2018

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 10:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS.

As a woman living in Sheffield I feel demeaned and intimidated by the presence of this club in the middle of our centre. I avoid walking past it, which is difficult given I often go to the Showroom Cinema and I attend events at the Hallam Students Union and in the Workstation. I also visit Site Gallery.

Why do I feel so strongly? Strip clubs are based on treating a woman as a commodity. Strippers are dehumanised - their purpose is to pleasure men.

There is always the threat of violence if a woman does not comply. So what do the men who visit the Spearmint Rhino club think of me, if they come out and I am walking down the street? When they have been encouraged to see women as less than human. Research again and again identifies the link that men who hold objectifying views of women as lesser than human are more likely to be violent to them.

You cannot close this abuse of women away behind darkened doors and believe it is ok. It is not. The women working in such places may say they are not harmed but many ex-strippers talk of the psychological harm they have experienced. There is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their mind and feelings from their bodies, which is required in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that they realise the harm caused to them by it, which is similar to the experience of women once they have left an abusive relationship.

Be licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. If the Council relicenses Spearmint Rhino you are promoting inequality between the sexes, which is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.

Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all and I ask you to decline Spearmint Rhino's license renewal. How proud we could then be to have a city that does stands up for women.

This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
 Block C
 Staniforth Road Depot,
 Staniforth Road
 SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
 email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern



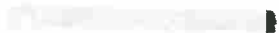


Once again, I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Councils Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual abuse strategy.
- Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- In view of the #ME TOO and #TIMESUP campaigns to continue to license such establishments which simply endorse and objectify women for financial gain is both absurd and not appropriate to a forward thinking city like Sheffield
- The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Councils obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
- Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area that is now undergoing major and extensive re development. The area has become increasingly residential with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas

in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all, as outlined in the Sheffield Fairness Commission's recommendations endorsed by full council in 2013. I was one of the Fairness Commissioners and as such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.
-

- SIGNED

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 12:19
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

To whom it may concern:

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I write this objection as a university of lecturer aware of the widespread harassment of female students in the vicinity of the university and the mother of teenage girls who frequent venues such as the Showroom Cinema, which is opposite the site. I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. As a member of the Labour Party, I am astonished that Sheffield Council seems unable to mobilise its collective principles behind this concern.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

a. the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

a. schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."iii[iii]

a. parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

a. hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

a. any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;
See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”iv[iv]

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that

Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.v[v]

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" vi[vi]

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" vii[vii].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."viii[viii]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.ix[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearingx[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy xi[xi]reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."xii[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license."^{xiii}^[xiii]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}^[xiv]. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

^[i]Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

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- ii[ii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project*
Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- iii[iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city*
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- xi[xi] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- xii[xii] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- xiii[xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
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Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 12:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino licence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Sir/Madam

I object in no uncertain manner to the parameters of this business. I have two children who I am bringing up to understand that sexuality should never be a consumer product, that men and women should not be used as sex objects, either to sell their physical attributes or use their physical attributes as a marketing tool. Please do not licence this obscene trade.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 14 May 2018 13:51
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 Sheffield City Council Block C
 Staniforth Rd Depot
 Staniforth Rd
 Sheffield S9 3HD

14th May 2018

To Whom It May Concern - I am a Quaker and am objecting in terms of our Testimony to Equality. I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Rd, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown St, Sheffield, S1 2BS on the following grounds-

Strip lap dancing clubs are promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.

Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that these men eroticise their power over the performer getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the absolute disregard for her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.

Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This trauma is caused by disassociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies in order to cope. Often it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experience of women leaving abusive relationships.

Condoning by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated in this way. This is not consistent with the Council's equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.

Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual Abuse strategy.

Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and that they avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.

The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving around the city. This is inconsistent with the Council's obligation under the Equality Act 2010.

Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area that is now undergoing major and extensive redevelopment. The area has become increasingly residential with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's licence renewal be declined.



Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 14:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino licence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with regards to the licence for Spearmint Rhino. I would like to object to the strip club's application for a licence for the following reasons:

- It does not foster good relations between the genders. This is because strip clubs, where women are objectified and sexualised, create an unequal relationship between the genders. As such the granting of a licence goes against the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty which requires the local authority to foster good relations between the genders.
- The location of Spearmint Rhino is totally inappropriate. It is right next to Sheffield Hallam University's Student Union. This makes the area unsafe for young people, especially young women who should be enabled to feel safe if they want to enjoy an evening at the Student Union. The University's plans for its City Campus mean that they will be forced to become the only university in the country with its own on-campus strip club.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 14:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to license application renewal for Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing Service

Re: License application renewal for Spearmint Rhino SEV

I object to the renewal of the license for the SEV Spearmint Rhino on the following grounds:

1. Spearmint Rhino fosters unequal relationships between the genders; this club sexualises and objectifies women, treating them as commodities to buy and sell. As a campaigner against the sexual harassment of women and girls, I am dismayed that the licensing committee does not think through the messages that this club sends and doesn't take their Public Equality Sector Duty seriously.

2. The club is located in our Cultural Industries Quarter, right next to the Sheffield Hallam University Students' Union, a location so wholly inappropriate that I fail to understand the council's reasoning in renewing a license on those grounds alone. Sheffield Hallam University's plans for its City Campus will mean they will become the only University in the country with its own on-campus strip club.

3. It's 2018. This club is a relic of outdated attitudes towards women. If you need evidence of that just look at the amount of press coverage the Presidents Club scandal generated where hostesses were put on show. The world has moved on and so should Sheffield City Council.

I am one of the many people who don't want to see SEVs in our city, and Sheffield City Council should have the courage to refuse this license.

Your sincerely

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 14:48
To: licensingservice
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Spearmint Rhino - SEV application

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing as a ward councillor to lodge a formal objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

In doing so, I wish to support residents and other businesses in City Ward who are adversely affected by the location of a lap-dancing club in the growing Cultural Industries Quarter.

Whilst Spearmint Rhino has been trading for a number of years, its location is becoming increasingly unsuitable for a lap-dancing club. The growing development of the Cultural Industries Quarter and the expansion of student accommodation and teaching locally are highly relevant to the appropriateness of the location. The premises are located on what is to be known as the Knowledge Gateway, recognising the enhancement of the area as a place of creative knowledge and progressive development. Furthermore, the location is adjacent to land earmarked for a major proposed expansion of Sheffield Hallam University.

A lap-dancing club is increasingly at odds with this vision. I note the application form does not attempt to address any of the licensing objectives except by stating it is a renewal application. Nor does it attempt to address the minimum legal duties of the authority in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

The nature of a lap-dancing club means there is significant difference in the treatment of the sexes. In particular, I understand the establishment treats the regular staff (mostly if not all, men) as employees but requires the dancers (i.e. women) to be self-employed, with correspondingly lower degrees of employment protection. This is not a matter of choice on the part of the dancers. The local authority must demonstrate it has due regard to the various principles in the public sector equality duty when considering the application, so as to comply with its own legal obligations.

If the authority is minded to grant the licence, I would support a condition requiring all workers, including dancers, to be engaged directly only under the terms of a written contract of employment.

I trust the Committee will take these views into account.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities related to the business. It emphasizes the need for transparency and accountability in financial reporting.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and techniques used to collect and analyze data, including surveys, interviews, and focus groups. It highlights the importance of using a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods to gain a comprehensive understanding of the market.

3. The third part of the document discusses the challenges and limitations of market research, such as sampling bias, response bias, and the difficulty of measuring intangible factors like brand perception and customer loyalty.

4. The final part of the document provides a summary of the key findings and conclusions drawn from the research. It emphasizes the need for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of market trends to inform strategic decision-making.

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 14:52
To: licensingservice
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to renewal application for Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: 180427 Letter of objection to Spearmint Rhino SEV licence.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached a letter from [REDACTED] to Steve Lonnia, Head of Licensing and Chief Licensing Officer, on the renewal application for Spearmint Rhino.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Yours sincerely,

—

[REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Follow [REDACTED] on Facebook  Follow Paul on Twitter 

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Steve Lonnia
Head of Licensing and Chief Licensing Officer
Licensing Service
Sheffield City Council
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

14 May 2018

Dear Steve,

Re. Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown St, Sheffield S1 2BS

We are writing to object strongly to the above application for reasons which correspond with the grounds for refusal as set out in Sheffield City Council's Sex Establishment Policy.

Primarily we would urge the Council to refuse the application based on an assessment of the relevant locality and to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put, as set out in Paragraph 12 of Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act. We will set out our objections according to Sheffield City Council's own Sex Establishment Policy and the discretionary grounds upon which the Council may refuse an application for the grant or renewal of a licence. We also believe that there is a strong reason for the Council to reject the application due to its legal duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Firstly, under the 'Discretionary Grounds for Refusal', Council policy states that "*the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put*". The Council will be aware that the premises of Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (SRASAC) and Sheena Amos Youth Trust are in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino. Given the nature of the work carried out by both organisations and the vulnerability of their clients, the continued presence of an SEV in the local area will continue to have an impact on the safety and wellbeing of their staff and clients.

We would also argue that the vicinity is an entirely inappropriate location on the grounds that it is directly adjacent to Sheffield Hallam University Students' Union, and is in close proximity to a significant concentration of student accommodation. We would contest the view in last year's 'Determination Notice' that the hours that students use the area do not coincide with the opening hours of Spearmint Rhino. Students frequent the area at all hours of the day and night, partly because of the Union Building and partly because of the student accommodation in the area.

Although the 'Determination Notice' noted that university students are over 18 and adult, they are living independently away from home for the first time in their lives and we therefore have a particular duty of care. Female students are particularly vulnerable to some of the risks or perceived risks that SEVs can engender.

In addition, there are other strong reasons to object to the location on the following grounds, as set out in the Council's own Sex Establishment Policy – *“the Act permits applications to be refused where the grant would be inappropriate having regard to other premises in the vicinity... the licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to the following:”*

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age

Sheena Amos Youth Trust offers educational and recreational activities for children from 11 years of age, whilst SRASAC supports victims from as young as 13 years old. In addition, the University Technology College and Sheffield College on Granville Road are nearby. Also, the Leadmill often has events for young people from the age of 14.

(The Act also permits applications to be refused where the grant would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality and this includes “the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families”.)

“c) places primarily used for religious worship;”

Christ Church Central meets weekly at the Workstation, 15 Paternoster Row, which is in the immediate vicinity.

(The Act also permits applications to be refused where the grant would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality and includes “the premises are sited near properties which are sensitive for religious purposes e.g. synagogues, churches, mosques, temples”.)

“d) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;”

In addition to SRASAC, Freeman College, an education and care centre for young people with special educational needs and disabilities, is in the immediate vicinity.

“e) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.”

The location is just yards from the central pedestrian route from the train station to the city centre and forms a gateway to the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ). As the Council points out, in the CIQ there are 16 listed buildings and several unlisted significant buildings such as the Showroom Cinema. Sheffield Hallam Students' Union is also a city landmark, attracting visitors from across and beyond the city. As outlined above, the significant concentration of art galleries such as the Site Gallery and Yorkshire Art space Persistence Works attracts many tourists to this area. The Leadmill is also an important cultural entertainment venue and tourist attraction in the city.

“g) the Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library);”

The location of Spearmint Rhino is in the Cultural Industries Quarter Conservation Area. The area is a “cultural hub”, housing the popular Showroom Cinema, which plays an important role in many city cultural festivals including Doc Fest, a number of art galleries, as well as popular bars and restaurants on neighbouring streets.

In addition, the City Centre as a whole is undergoing significant regeneration that includes the area in which Spearmint Rhino is located, also known as the Knowledge Gateway on which the Council undertook a consultation with the following description:

“This project seeks to transform the corridor running along the Lower Sheaf – Porter Valley, including the station to a similar high standard as the highly acclaimed Gold and Steel Routes in City Centre.

It will improve links between several key destinations and several potential development sites. For example links within and to the Cultural Industries Quarter, Digital Campus and Sheffield Hallam University and to the Railway Station. It will improve accessibility and safety as well as the environment in order to encourage new investment and jobs. Key locations such as Fitzalan Square and streets will be transformed as part of the initiative.

The project recognises that the station is Governments preferred location for an HS2 station which may be 10-15 years away. The station is a key gateway and this project seeks to improve the existing taxi queuing, movement of traffic and pedestrian access. This should all make this area, the corridor and indeed the City Centre much more attractive to inward investment.”

This example is relevant in terms of the discretionary grounds for refusal based on the character of the relevant locality, and backed up by recent case law from the case of *Thompson, R (On the Application Of) v Oxford City Council (2014)* wherein it was held by the Court of Appeal that:

“In making that assessment, the sub-committee was permitted to have regard to an imminent development of which it was aware [developments of student housing], even if there could be no certainty that it would be completed and operational within the period of the licence.”

This is an area that has been going through a period of redevelopment and one that the Council intends for further development in the coming months and years. The City Centre Masterplan, Knowledge Gateway, plans for HS2 and aspirations for an international Tech Hub are all evidence of this. Whilst it is still a number of years until HS2 is built, we feel it is important and necessary to consider the location of an Sexual Entertainment Venue within the proximity of the intended station, and the message that a lapdancing club sends to potential investors, business people, and tourists that will inevitably increase with the building of the new station. In addition, Creative Sheffield is also bidding for Channel 4’s national headquarters to be based in the city, with nearby vacant land in Sheaf Square earmarked for potential development.

There is also a strong argument for the Council to reject the application due to the legal duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their

activities. There is an increasing body of research that links sexual objectification of women to acts of violence, including a paper from the US, *Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women*, written in May 2016, and a paper *Link between sexual objectification and aggression* from the University of Kent written in January 2017. This research demonstrates the problem of Sexual Entertainment Venues, such as a Spearmint Rhino, for Councils that are committed to carrying out their legal duties in terms of equalities.

Sheffield City Council is known for going beyond the minimum requirements of its legal duties when it comes to promoting equality for women, with its support for the Women of Steel campaign, a gender-balanced Cabinet, strong female leadership, and a Women's Hub that is supported and facilitated by the Council to tackle sexual violence and sexual exploitation/sexploitation, amongst other issues. The city also has Purple Flag status for providing an "entertaining, safe and enjoyable night out," which will undoubtedly be of relevance and interest to female residents and tourists alike. The presence of a lapdancing club that sexual objectifies women is clearly counter to all of this.

We note that, in relation to employment conditions, last year's 'Determination Notice' noted that "the arrangements entered in place are legal and entered into with full knowledge and consent". However we would refer members to the powerful letter from Rotherham child abuse survivor Sammy Woodhouse to Sheffield City Council calling for a meeting to discuss her concerns around the lap dancing industry. In her letter Sammy, who worked in the industry for around nine years from the age of 18, writes that "taking my clothes off for men's sexual gratification... is degrading, disrespectful and I'm worth much more and so are other women." She says that although it was her choice to work in clubs she "had a low self-esteem and no respect for myself due to my abuse as a child." She also says: "Myself and others were treated very badly in the industry. I've never met a lap dancer that hasn't at some point in their life been abused mentally, sexually or physically and that's the reason why they are dancers. Their vulnerabilities allow them to become exploited." We believe that her powerful testimony should be considered.

We would urge the Licensing Committee to consider the strong grounds for refusing this application as outlined above. We would also hope that the Committee considers carefully the objections from local organisations and citizens, many of whom have raised strong concerns about the granting of this licence in previous years. In so doing, we hope that they will bear in mind the purpose behind the measures introduced by the Government in 2010 concerning Sexual Entertainment Venue licences, which give local people a greater say over where lap dancing clubs open and operate in their neighbourhood.

We look forward to receiving notification of the receipt of this letter of objection and of the date and nature of the hearing.

Yours sincerely

84

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 14 May 2018 15:01
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to licensing of Spearmint Rhino Strip Club
Attachments: Spearmint Rhino Objection 2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing,

I wish to register my objection to licensing this strip club - see attached.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Monday 14th May

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal 2018

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (the Policy) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and "... designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but

it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge

of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire

Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

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- ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- ^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- ^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
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- ^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
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- ^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 16:16
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

14 May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[i] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”^[ii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."^[iii]

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^[iv]

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace

and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^[v]

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^[vi]

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^[vii].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^[viii]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xi] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

References

^[i] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

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^[xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted] >
Sent: 14 May 2018 16:32
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection attached
Attachments: SpearmintRhinoObjection2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please find our objection attached.

Kind regards,

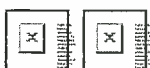
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[Visit our blog](#) to find out more about what our young people are doing



Element Society // Registration No: 08576383 // Charity No: 1157932 // UKPRN: 10047367

HQ: Element House, 113 Arundel Street, Sheffield, S1 2NT

We are a non-profit youth charity based in Sheffield, delivering development, social action and enterprise programmes to young people and vulnerable adults. Our aims are to empower young people to change their communities, raise their own aspirations and become role models to their peers.

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14/05/2018

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

References

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 17:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Fw: Application for a renewal of licence for Spearmint Rhino strip club

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2018 4:59 PM
To: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk
Subject: Application for a renewal of licence for Spearmint Rhino strip club

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women’s bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn’t need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Council’s Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual abuse strategy.
- Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.

- The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. SEVs of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
- Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area that is now undergoing major and extensive re development. The area has become increasingly residential with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.
- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

[Redacted]



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 14 May 2018 17:30
To: licensingservice
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to Licence Renewal for Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service

Block C, Staniforth Road Depot

Staniforth Road

Surrey Street

S9 3HD

Monday 14th May, 2018

Dear Licensing,

I am writing with regards to the application for license renewal for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I would strongly oppose the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy"):

Discretionary Ground d)

1. **i) Character of the relevant locality**

(a) The premises are sited within a residential area that is also the heart of the City's cultural quarter. There are a high number of young people (a lot who are living away from home for the first time) who walk along Brown Street at all hours of the day and night as well as a high number of people working close by. It is important that this unique thriving vibrant area is allowed to flourish in a location that should feel safe and diverse for all people including women.

The City Centre as a whole is undergoing significant regeneration that includes the area in which Spearmint Rhino is present, also known as the Knowledge Gateway. This is an area that has been going through a period of redevelopment and one that the Council intends for further development in the coming months and years. The City Centre Masterplan, Knowledge Gateway, plans for HS2 and aspirations for an international Tech Hub are all evidence of this. Sheffield City Council should take note of the recent case law from the case of Thompson, R (On the Application Of) v Oxford City Council (2014) held by the Court of Appeal which stated that:

"In making that assessment, the sub-committee was permitted to have regard to an imminent development of which it was aware [developments of student housing], even if there could be no certainty that it would be completed and operational within the period of the licence."

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."

The presence of Spearmint Rhino has an impact not only on women working in the club, women customers or 'vulnerable people' in the local area but on all women in the City. As someone who works close to Spearmint Rhino, the very presence of a lap dancing club has a negative impact everytime I walk past. I do not experience the same personal feelings of safety and freedom to that of a man walking past Spearmint Rhino as the very presence and purpose of the club is about gender based objectification and sexualisation.

There is an increasing body of research and evidence that links sexual objectification of women to acts of violence including a paper from the US -Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women. written in May 2016, and a paper entitled Link between sexual objectification and aggression from the University of Kent written in January 2017. This research clearly demonstrates the problem of Sexual Entertainment Venues, such as Spearmint Rhinos, for Councils that are committed to carrying out their legal duties in terms of equalities.

Therefore, I would urge you to refuse the renewal of this license application and I look forward to hearing from you with confirmation of receipt of this objection.

Yours sincerely

Bower Claire

From: Women's Equality Party - Sheffield <[redacted]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 18:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application
Attachments: Objection to Renewal Spearmint Rhino 2018 FINAL.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing Service,

Please see attached our objection to the current license application by Spearmint Rhino to continue their business at the premises on Brown Street, Sheffield.

Please ensure that the committee members on the panel for the day of the hearing are given enough time to read all the applications. At previous hearings the panel chair has opened the hearing by stating that he had not read all of the objection submissions.

Please also ensure that all of the objections are made available to us as soon as possible and at least 10 working days prior to the hearing.

I look forward to receiving details of the hearing. Please acknowledge receipt of this email and attachment.

Regards

[redacted]
[redacted]
Women's Equality Party Sheffield

[@WEPSheffield](https://www.facebook.com/WomensEqualityPartySheffield)



**OBJECTION TO APPLICATION FOR A RENEWAL OF
SPEARMINT RHINO'S SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE 2018
From The Women's Equality Party, Sheffield Branch**

Public Sector Equality Duty

1. Spearmint Rhino unashamedly promotes extreme sexual objectification of women. It is the essence of the business and at the core of its promotional publicity, as evidenced by photographs from the company's website and twitter (see attached).
2. The imagery and publicity of these clubs, particularly online, promotes misogyny and sexism, and 'celebrates' dysfunctional attitudes to women.
3. As a result of what has happened over the last year, with scandals in Hollywood and Westminster and the work of the 'Me Too' movement, many companies and institutions are reviewing ways to support women in employment and ensure that they avoid being objectified and harassed in the work place. Many are now prepared to reconsider whether an acceptance of the lap dancing industry is conducive to fostering better relations between men and women.
4. Sheffield City Council licensing committee should likewise review its responsibilities when having regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty.
5. This consists of a general equality duty, set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, to have due regard to the need to:
 - a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
 - b. Advance equality of opportunity between the sexes and
 - c. Foster good relations between the sexes.
6. Previously the assessment of risk (of women experiencing discrimination, harassment and victimisation from Spearmint Rhino's activities) has been narrowly applied and the extension of the SEV licence has been justified on the grounds that the club causes no trouble.

7. This takes no account however of the need to ensure that women and girls in the city are not the victims of the misogynistic behavior that is fostered by these kinds of clubs.
8. There is a pressing need to address women's lack of employment in all areas particularly science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Sheffield City Council should not be promoting lap dancing as a viable and fulfilling job opportunity given the nature of the dancers employment and their working conditions.
9. Whatever the apologists for this industry may say, lap dancers have no employment protection with many working on what can be best described as 'less-than-zero' contracts. A large number have to pay up front for their spot each night. Some have raised concerns about the pressures they feel under to do more than merely dance, in order to 'please the punter' and earn a living.
10. Lap dancing clubs can avoid paying tax, including VAT on the services supplied by the dancers, by not offering contracts of employment with attendant benefits such as holiday and sick pay, pension and NI contributions. We understand there is a degree of competition for better paying nights and this can increase uncertainty and financial pressure.
11. Spearmint Rhino make it clear that none of their dancers are directly employed by the company. The dancers pay a flat fee of approximately £140 per night and are paid £20 per dance of which £5 is 'raked' by the company. On some nights there can be as few as 10 customers.
12. At last year's hearing questions were asked by one committee member about the working conditions of the dancers at Spearmint Rhino and specifically about what happened if there was a slow night. Counsel for the applicant replied (having consulted with his client) that the dancers also had the opportunity to work at a club in Wakefield.
13. Regrettably this was not followed up with further questioning and we ask the committee to make proper enquiry of the club as to the precise relationship if any between Spearmint Rhino, its dancers and other clubs including the one referred to in Wakefield.
14. While we object to any renewal of the SEV licence, in our submission it is of paramount importance, if the club is allowed to continue, that the dancers are provided with full contracts of employment. This will make their relationship with the club transparent and their tax affairs can be openly regularized with HMRC under the PAYE system. It will also avoid discrimination between the dancers and those employed by the club such as managers and other staff.
15. The very purpose of current SEV licencing is to give City Councils greater control and discretion over this problematic industry which has higher risks of exploitation. At the last hearing Spearmint Rhino's

counsel informed the committee that a number of conditions could be imposed on the club to meet public concerns. In our submission this should include a direction that dancers must be put on the payroll to give them proper employment protection.

Locality and use of buildings

16. Since the April 2017 hearing in relation to Spearmint Rhino's SEV licence, there have been significant changes in the character of the relevant locality and the uses to which any premises in the vicinity are put.
17. At that hearing counsel for the applicant conceded that as the plans for the area developed there may need to be a reconsideration of the presence of a lap dancing club in that locality, namely Brown Street. It was the applicant's argument that such a moment had not yet arrived, but matters could develop.
18. Sheffield Hallam University has repeatedly objected to the application to renew the SEV licence at 60 Brown Street. It is our submission that in the light of the University's £220m development plans for the area it would be unreasonable for the Licensing Committee to continue disregarding the views of this major city developer any longer.

Sheffield Hallam University (SHU)

19. The Master Plan for the extended development of the locality has been recently unveiled. The proposals are significant, ambitious and will transform not just the University but the city as well. According to the Sheffield Telegraph (22nd February 2018) "a 'university green' with trees, lawn and seating will be laid out between the new blocks and drawings suggest Pinball Square ... would also be spruced up next to the union off Paternoster Square."
20. Vice-Chancellor Professor Chris Husbands has stated publicly:

"We are uniquely placed at the heart of the city to contribute to it's vibrancy and reputation and we want to encourage everyone, not just our staff and students, to enjoy the campus by creating attractive places... In a shifting and highly competitive landscape students expect exceptional teaching, in an outstanding environment with increased opportunities... This is a bold vision for the future of the university's estate which will enhance the presence and profile of the city region and support its wider regeneration and development."
21. In the light of these projects the continued presence of Spearmint Rhino is untenable and wholly out of step with the combined plans of the University and the Council.

22. It should be noted that Professor Husbands has given his backing to the objections being lodged by the University Estates department in relation to the current application and it would be illogical to ignore SHU's concerns.
23. At the last hearing the applicant's counsel suggested that the presence of a lap-dancing club near university buildings including student residential areas is not wrong in principle. He cited the proximity of Spearmint Rhino's venue in Tottenham Court Road, London to University College buildings as one example.
24. This is a false equivalence. Tottenham Court Road is in a busy London tourist area, with numerous restaurants, bars etc. Unlike the Sheffield venue, Spearmint Rhino's London club is not on a University campus and does not sit within an area increasingly occupied by museums, arts spaces, university halls of residence, student unions and academic buildings.

Site Gallery, Showroom and Yorkshire Arts Space

25. 60 Brown Street faces the 'Site Gallery', and is located near the 'Showroom and Workstation' and 'Yorkshire Arts Space'. These are three long established arts venues which host numerous events for people from all backgrounds including teenagers, each in substantial premises that dominate the area.
26. At the time of the last hearing the Site Gallery was about to close for a year while new building works commenced. The reopening is imminent and the presence of Spearmint Rhino's "Gentleman's Club" is undoubtedly a source of embarrassment to the gallery.
27. In proposing its new 'no limit' policy the council made it clear that it viewed the existence of lap dancing clubs as an important component of a thriving retail and entertainment quarter.
28. Even if you accept this principle it is illogical to allow a club like Spearmint Rhino to continue its business in a location such as Brown Street, which is quiet and well away from the general night-time economy of Sheffield in the West Street and Devonshire Green area.
29. It also contradicts the Council's plans for the area which are being developed in tandem with Sheffield City Region.
30. In a recent prospectus Sheffield City Region (SCR) has referred specifically to Brown Street as falling within the 'Knowledge Corridor'.

'Following the long-awaited renovation of the former head post office as Sheffield Hallam University's Sheffield Institute of Arts (SIA), Sheffield City Council is planning to upgrade the route from the Edwardian-era square along Pond Street to

Paternoster Row and Brown Street, the focus of the Cultural Industries Quarter as well as improving connections to the city centre and station.

The project aims to help unlock major development opportunities at Sheaf Square, Site Gallery, the site of the former Nelson Mandela building, the former sorting office on Flat Street and the Digital Campus.

These developments will create the setting for more than 4,000 new jobs over the next five years. The project will also aim to address road safety issues, increase pedestrian areas and reduce the number of buses using the area, and encourage safer walking and cycling and create space for events and seating.'

31. The Council has participated in the promotion of the SCR as it seeks to encourage investment in the city, create jobs and attract new industries. The SCR views job creation in the arts and in the creative industries as an integral part of its plans. However the credibility of those ambitions, and the prospects for development and expansion, are we submit undermined if these current and future arts projects are asked to continue sitting 'cheek by jowl' with a Sexual Entertainment Venue.
32. Sheffield Chamber of Commerce has also promoted a number of projects on its website to develop new accommodation sites in the Cultural Industries Quarter. It should be noted that developers describe the vicinity as part of Sheffield Hallam University campus when promoting its attractions.
33. In *R (on the application of Thompson) v Oxford City Council* [2014] EWCA Civ 94 the Administrative Court upheld the decision of Oxford City Council to refuse to renew a licence. In his judgement Mr Justice Haddon-Cave said as follows:

'As to the law, licensing decision-makers are entitled to take into account both the present and future "*character*" of an area. There is no reason to limit the reference to "*character*" in paragraph 12(3)(d) only to the present character of the area. Indeed, it would make no sense to do so in the context of prospective licenses which were to be granted for 12 months in the future. Prospective licenses required a prospective view. The fact that an area is developing and in a continued state of change is a relevant consideration to why renewal might be inappropriate'.

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Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield, UK ...

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Spearmint Rhino

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Conclusion

34. There are compelling reasons why the committee should prevent Spearmint Rhino continuing to operate from 60 Brown Street. The presence of this club at that location, or at all, adds nothing to the night-time economy of this city apart from promoting extreme sexual objectification and the application for renewal should be refused.

Women's Equality Party
Sheffield Branch
14th May 2018

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 18:54
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to renewal of licence for Spearmint Rhino 1
Attachments: Objection letter to Sheffield Council re Spearmint Rhino SEV License Renewal.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please find the attached letter objecting to the renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS

[REDACTED]

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot,
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14 May 2018

To Whom It May Concern

We wish to register our objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Council's Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual abuse strategy.
- Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
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charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such we would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

[Faint, illegible text]

Bower Claire

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 18:55
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to renewal of licence for Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service

Block C, Staniforth Road Depot

Staniforth Road

Surrey Street

S9 3HD

Monday 14th May, 2018

Dear Licensing,

I am writing with regards to the application for license renewal for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I would strongly oppose the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy"):

Discretionary Ground d)

1. **i) Character of the relevant locality**

(a) The premises are sited within a residential area that is also the heart of the City's cultural quarter. There are a high number of young people (a lot who are living away from home for the first time) who walk along Brown Street at all hours of the day and night as well as a high number of people working close by. It is important that this unique thriving vibrant area is allowed to flourish in a location that should feel safe and diverse for all people including women.

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"In making that assessment, the sub-committee was permitted to have regard to an imminent development of which it was aware [developments of student housing], even if there could be no certainty that it would be completed and operational within the period of the licence."

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
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This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."

The presence of Spearmint Rhino has an impact not only on women working in the club, women customers or 'vulnerable people' in the local area but on all women in the City. As someone who works in a volunteer capacity close to Spearmint Rhino, the very presence of a lap dancing club has a negative impact everytime I walk past. I do not experience the same personal feelings of safety and freedom to that of a man walking

past Spearmint Rhino as the very presence and purpose of the club is about gender based objectification and sexualisation.

There is an increasing body of research and evidence that links sexual objectification of women to acts of violence including a paper from the US -Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women, written in May 2016, and a paper entitled Link between sexual objectification and aggression from the University of Kent written in January 2017. This research clearly demonstrates the problem of Sexual Entertainment Venues, such as Spearmint Rhinos, for Councils that are committed to carrying out their legal duties in terms of equalities.

Therefore, I would urge you to refuse the renewal of this license application and I look forward to hearing from you with confirmation of receipt of this objection.

Yours sincerely

I _____

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 18:59
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal 2018 (2)
Attachments: Spearmint Rhino Objection 2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please find attached letter setting out the grounds for the refusal of the the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14 May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal 2018

We refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

We believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (the Policy) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but

it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge

of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

We believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative

impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

We look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 20:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

I am a resident of Sheffield, as such I would like to state my objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino Licence in our town centre.

I feel the location is poor, Sheffield Hallam university having such a club on their doorstep is a joke, such could be a negative influence on young students.

I work in the sexual health sector, I am far from a prude, but find it irresponsible of the council to normalise the commodification of women in this way. Granting the licence legitimises the gender imbalance that a democratic council should seek to redress.

Thank you for seriously considering the message that will be sent to the women of Sheffield by your decision.

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 20:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection letter re license renewal application for Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: Zero Option objection letter to Sheffield Council re Spearmint Rhino SEV License Renewal May 2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please find attached an objection letter from Zero Option Sheffield regarding the SEV license renewal application for Spearmint Rhino.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

--

Zero Option is a campaign to make Sheffield SEV free.

You can read more about us [here](#).

Licensing Service -Sheffield City Council,
Block C , Staniforth Road Depot,
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD

14th May 2018

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip and lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought and treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising: if the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from this control over her which is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe experiencing psychological harm as a result of this. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their minds and feelings from their bodies in order to cope. Often it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experience of women who have left abusive relationships.
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just to the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Council's duty under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women and to attribute responsibility (victim blaming) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus, in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
- Many women have informed the Council's Licensing Department that they feel unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. There should be no no-go areas for women and no woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council has stated explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. Strip and lap dancing clubs do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacts on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. This is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010
- Spearmint Rhino is situated in an area that is now undergoing major and extensive redevelopment. The area has become increasingly residential and several sites of major

cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable young people, education providers and recreational areas are situated nearby. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED : 

On behalf of Zero Option Sheffield



Bower Claire

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 21:14
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection letter re SEV license renewal for Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: Scan0010.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Madam or Sir

Please find attached a letter from [redacted] objecting to the SEV license renewal for Spearmint Rhino.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

--
Zero Option is a campaign to make Sheffield SEV free.

You can read more about us [here](#).

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
- Strip clubs promote the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating the performer as a commodity with no regard to her actual feelings, as if she were an object: if she really wanted to strip for whoever pays her she wouldn't need to be paid to do so. This is dehumanising and disempowering to the performer. The punter is eroticising his power over the woman and getting a sexual thrill from his control over her. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers have spoken of the psychological harm they have experienced as a result of working in strip clubs. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their mind and feelings from their bodies, which is required in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that they realise the harm caused to them by it, which is similar to the experience of women once they have left an abusive relationship.
- Licensing Spearmint Rhino gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this.
- Condoning, by licensing, a strip club which is set up solely to profit from the objectification of women is to effectively promote views and behaviours which are associated with male violence towards women and girls, stoking the misogynistic attitudes that lead to this violence.
- Research again and again identifies the link that men who hold objectifying views of women as lesser than human are more likely to be violent to them.
- Many women have written to the Council specifically stating how uncomfortable and unsafe they feel walking past Spearmint Rhino. Many try to avoid walking past it. No-one should feel unsafe in Sheffield and there should be no no-go areas for women.
- Thus, to relicence Spearmint Rhino would have the effect of promoting inequality between the sexes, which is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.
- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

Bower Claire

From: Zero Option <[redacted]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 21:19
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to SEV license renewal for Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: Scan0011.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Madam or Sir

Please find attached a letter from [redacted], objecting to SEV license renewal for Spearmint Rhino.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

--
Zero Option is a campaign to make Sheffield SEV free.

You can read more about us [here](#).

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

6.5.18.

To Whom It May Concern

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- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
- Strip clubs promote the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating the performer as a commodity with no regard to her actual feelings, as if she were an object: if she really wanted to strip for whoever pays her she wouldn't need to be paid to do so. This is dehumanising and disempowering to the performer. The punter is eroticising his power over the woman and getting a sexual thrill from his control over her. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
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- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 21:20
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

I dont beleive this licence should be renewed based on the fact that the premises are in the middle of town centre and not at all discreet. I beleive everyone of whatever gender or sexuality has the right to choose what they sell of themselves sexually but it is also questionable what constitutes choice. These supposed choices appear to be often exploited and Spearmint Rhino premises are currently opposite a vulnerable womens charity.

Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] n>
Sent: 10 May 2018 06:54
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

I am writing to voice my opinion about spearmint rhino. Having a strip club sexualizes and objectifies women and does not fulfil the Council's public sector equality duty to foster good relations between the genders. Please take my opinion into account
Thank you

Bower Claire

From: Zero Option <[redacted]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 21:24
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to SEV license renewal for Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: Scan0012.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Madam or Sir

Please find enclosed a letter from [redacted] objecting to SEV license renewal for Spearmint Rhino.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

--

Zero Option is a campaign to make Sheffield SEV free.

You can read more about us [here](#).

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

G. 5118

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
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- Licensing Spearmint Rhino gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this.
- Condoning, by licensing, a strip club which is set up solely to profit from the objectification of women is to effectively promote views and behaviours which are associated with male violence towards women and girls, stoking the misogynistic attitudes that lead to this violence.
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- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: Zero Option <zerooption@sheffield@gmail.com>
Sent: 14 May 2018 21:28
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to SEV licence renewal for Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: Scan0013.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Madam or Sir

Please find attached a letter from [redacted] objecting to SEV license renewal for Spearmint Rhino.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

--

Zero Option is a campaign to make Sheffield SEV free.

You can read more about us [here](#).

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

6.5.18

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

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- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 21:35
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal 2018
Attachments: Spearmint Rhino Objection 2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please find attached a letter of objection.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal 2018

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (the Policy) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city "housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but

it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge

of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative

impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: Sheffield Not Buying it <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 14 May 2018 22:16
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection - part 1/2
Attachments: NBIS SR Objection 2018.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing

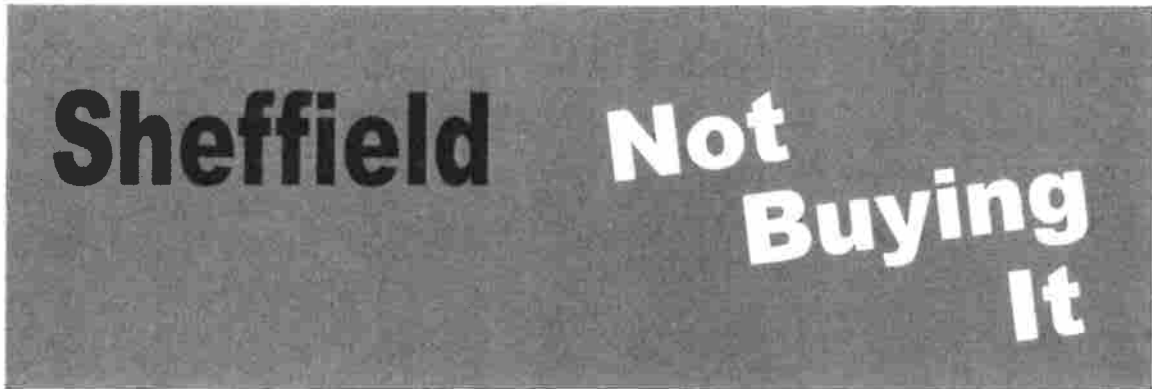
Please find attached our objection to the licence renewal of Spearmint Rhino.

We trust that this year, as back in 2015, the applicant's witness statement will be shared with all objectors beforehand, rather than on the day (2015) or not at all (2016 and 2017).

We would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this email and the attached objection.

Many thanks and kind regards

Not Buying It Sheffield



Email: [REDACTED]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

13th May 2018

Dear Licensing Service

Objection to Sonfield Developments application for Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

We are a Sheffield based grass roots activist organisation formed in 2017 and are the local branch of Not Buying It, a national pressure group founded by Dr Sasha Rakoff in 2016, founder of Object. Object were instrumental in the introduction of the legislation under which these venues are now licensed.

We refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

We strongly advocate that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years¹ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields

development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

This redevelopment is much needed and this expansion of the CIQ will increase footfall significantly along Paternoster Row and Brown Street. It was recently reported in the Sheffield Telegraph that:

*For many people, the [CIQ] area is defined by landmarks such as the Showroom Cinema and adjoining Workstation, Hallam University’s HUBs building, the Science and Technology Parks, the Leadmill and the Site Gallery. **But for all the progress, there is a sense that the CIQ has nowhere near reached its full potential.** In fact, the council has conceded that the CIQ has lost ground to similar clusters of creative businesses in other cities and that it needs to refresh and update – both its cultural and commercial offer and public space for a growing resident and business population. Albert Works, the first building to be completed at Alsop Fields, is now occupied by internationally recognised marketing company Jaywing Plc, so already daytime life is being added to the area.*ⁱⁱⁱ (emphasis added)

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children’s Media Conference in addition to the events which will be hosted by the Site Gallery upon its reopening.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom” which is open until midnight everyday.

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

It is in very close proximity to the Great Escape Game which also caters for children and families.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”^{iv}

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential. Circular arguments such as “no one uses this space” vs “the club’s presence is impacting on this space’s use and holding back its full development potential” have resulted in an impasse. However, as far back as 2013 it was acknowledged that this space was not used to its full potential in the following action plan:



4.5 CHARACTER AREAS

4.5.1 HEART OF THE QIG



Not achieving its full potential

4.5.1 HEART OF THE CIQ

HEART OF THE CIQ POLICIES

HCIQ1: PURPOSE OF THE AREA

The purpose of the Heart of the Cultural Industries Quarter is primarily to accommodate large scale cultural and educational activities alongside a number of office and residential developments. This area provides strong support to the knowledge industries which complements the cultural uses in the area, while encouraging investment, activity and footfall.

HCIQ2: APPROPRIATE LAND USES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

The following land uses will be supported and encouraged within the area:

- i. Cultural
- ii. Educational
- iii. Commercial - Small/medium scale offices
- iv. Leisure (Small scale cafes, restaurants, bars)
- v. Residential - Medium density

HCIQ3: DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO ARUNDEL GATE

Support will be given to development exceeding five stories in height which is adjacent to Arundel Gate as this is in keeping with the character of existing development alongside a major vehicular route.

HCIQ4: PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL ASSETS

The Heart of the Cultural Industries accommodates large scale cultural activities within the city. Support will be given to development that develops and preserves this cultural status.

HCIQ5: KEY SITE

This key site will provide high quality, bold open space and encourage activity due to its prominence complementing the surrounding cultural and educational uses.

KEY PROJECT SITE

As already indicated, the Key Project Site within this area is located in the current open space next to the Sheffield Hallam Students Union building. At present this open space has no landscaping, planting etc., and based on this Action Plan's research does not seem to be achieving its full potential.

The proposals for this site are therefore to revitalise and re-landscape this open space, whilst also creating a connection between it and Grinders Hill pedestrian route. In relation to the pedestrian route this will involve improving the quality of the public realm along this route, developing a connection with this route and the pedestrian route which is part of the City Living area's Key Project Site, and improving the lighting of the enclosed Grinders Hill section.

The open space's landscaping and public realm should be based on the style of Devonshire Green in the Devonshire Quarter, in order to demonstrate consistency between the public realm design and quality throughout the city (as demonstrated in the photographs below).



It is fair to say that the vision from 5 years ago has not been remotely achieved (see Appendix i for the full slides from the slideshare site).

In 2014, the Sheffield Telegraph featured an article declaring:

New gameplan on way for Pinball Square



The piece goes onto state:

Now Pinball Square - a reference to how it was shaped - is in line for a revamp, to create more of an attractive and welcoming green space as part of the Cultural Industries' Quarter. Part of the area will retain a hard surface for events, and so Sheffield Hallam University's HUBs building, the students' union that succeeded the NCPM, and venues such as the Showroom and Workstation can have tables and chairs there. But other sections will have a lawn and trees. There will also be new lighting and seats. One of the aims is to have "a flexible outdoor space for performances and events".^v

Four years on it is as if we are in a timewarp as there has most certainly not been anything akin to a revamp. Why is this? We could like the Sub-committee to address this as it comes up every year and we never receive a satisfactory response.

Furthermore, despite repeated assertions on an annual basis that Howard Street is the main throughfare/gateway, please refer to the four maps and suggested plotted walking routes overleaf showing how walking directly past the club (either through the square or along Brown Street) is inevitable following these routes to and from several key places as suggested by Walkit.com:

We use cookies to tailor content and ads, and to analyse traffic. We share data about your use of walkit.com with our advertising and analytics partners. You can [find out more here](#)



Sheffield walking directions from 26 Leadmill Road to town hall
0.6 miles, 13 mins, 66 Cal (med pace)



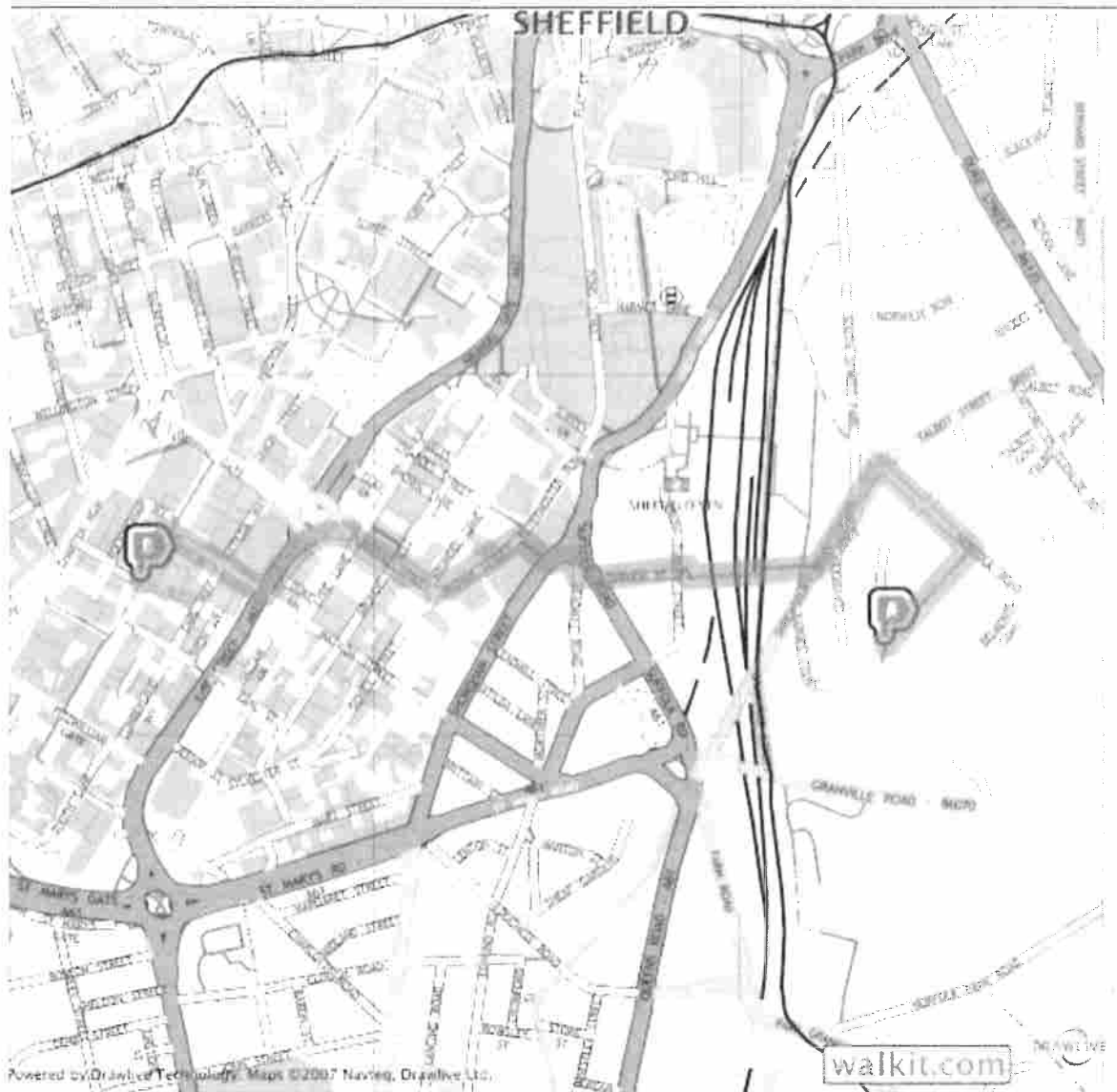
advertising and analytical partners. You can find out more here.



Sheffield walking directions from bus station to 199 Eyre Street
0.7 miles, 15 mins, 72 Cal (med pace)







(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the vicinity which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, including a specialist sexual violence service and a women's project which is situated directly behind the club, the same project a mother of a service user was quoted as saying she could not let her daughter access due to it being within feet of the club in 2017's objections.

Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

Addaction, the adult drug and alcohol service is also on Sidney Street with Paternoster Row and Brown Street as a direct access route from the railway station, bus station and bus stops on Arundel Gate coming in from the south of the City.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter and furthermore, designated to be at the heart of the CIQ. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity (with more being built on Sidney Street), which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is an obtrusive blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

As recorded in the case of R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014):

The committee noted the applicant’s offer in relation to signage and whilst recognizing attempts to address concerns was of the view that the premises could never be invisible.

It is manifestly preposterous that this was ever considered a solution to the presence of Spearmint Rhino; this does not make the club disappear and this “three wise monkeys” approach is misguided and does not address any of the issues raised here nor previously. All other buildings in the vicinity are signed and this was a poor attempt to minimise the impact this venue has. It is also a recognition by last year’s Sub-committee of the club’s incongruity and inappropriateness. The only other buildings in the area not clearly marked are for reasons of anonymity because of vulnerable service users accessing services.

As Sheffield Digital has highlighted on its website:

From a sectoral advocacy perspective, we think that better use could be made of that building, as it is in a prime location in the city’s major digital and creative cluster, especially as the area around it is about to further develop with the re-opening of the Site Gallery, the Knowledge Gateway improvements and the implementation of Sheffield Hallam University’s Master Plan.

We are concerned that its presence in that location doesn’t reflect well on the CIQ, and on Sheffield generally, as it sits directly opposite the Workstation and next to the Hubs which provide bases for thousands of delegates during

Docfest, the Children's Media Conference, ShAFF and other international events. It is also very close to the UTC Sheffield City, a secondary school that specialises in Creative and Digital Media, and feel that it does not present the best welcome for visiting parents deciding whether to send their children there.^{vi}

We agree that the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way and may encourage the use of the vacant premises next to it. Last year, it was however suggested that the building could be put to some other use during the day following the example of one of Bristol's strip clubs, Urban Tiger, which hosts life drawing classes during the day. We draw the Sub-committee's attention to this taken from Urban Tiger's Facebook page, promoting its "life drawing classes" and hope that this idea which was floated is not one that the Sub-committee would entertain.



Urban Tiger Bristol

10 September at 02:37

Life drawing is a relatively new stag activity that has very quickly grown in popularity! This class is excellent value for money at just £20pp, which includes a 1.5 hour session with one of our fantastic professional art tutors, one stunning nude female model for you to study, all art supplies, exclusive venue hire of one of our city centre venues, plus use of a fully stocked bar during the class! Pictured is one of our fantastic stag do's in an Urban Tiger life drawing clas... See more



Like Comment Share

3

Write a comment...



Further grounds for refusal

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The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

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The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many disturbing examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio, a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12). Others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^{viii}

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable^{ix}

Kolvin continues with:

If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage^x.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.^{xi}

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{xii}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^{xiii}.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xiv} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed in many testimonies of former performers. This is in addition to the misogynistic and sexist views espoused by many men (and some women) towards women working in the industry.

In a Daily Mail article about sexual assault in a "pop-up" strip club in Cheltenham, the following is a sample of the comments posted^{xv}: We ask the sub-committee how this fosters good relations between the sexes and why it is that these people believe that sexually assaulting lap dancers is not only to be expected but is acceptable and an "occupational hazard."



Toomuchtosay, Cambridge, United Kingdom, 5 hours ago

What the hell do these women expect??!

New



17



2



al1066, In the sticks, Belgium, 6 hours ago

What do you expect they do at a lap dance club. read the bible?

New



24



2



rubadub77, Koh Tao, Thailand, 6 hours ago

So women working in a seedy lap dancing club got groped, and?

New



27



2



Anglia, Hamilton, New Zealand, 6 hours ago

What do these girls expect? Stop playing victims, you choose to do this and getting paid for it!

New



40



0



alice, London, 6 hours ago

Of course they were going to be groped, all part of that particular job. BTW why shoehorn in yet another picture of the royals, nothing to do with this story.

New



20



2



winders67, Widnes, United Kingdom, 7 hours ago

Men will be men.

New



15



5



carrula, London, United Kingdom, 5 hours ago

So where are the 'MeTo' gang? why not having a go at these awful lap dancers/strippers, they do not do this job to attract females. (awful, i'm joking) for goodness sake, it's just boys being boys since time began.

New



31



0



Time for revolution, Stockton, United Kingdom, 15 hours ago

It's a LAP DANCING club....so what do they expect

New



891



15

1 reply [View all replies](#)



On a rant, Wales, United Kingdom, 5 hours ago

Prossies on street corners will be complaining about men approaching them next! #metoo

New



90



3



greatbrit, low now scot, United Kingdom, 16 hours ago

This is not new nor should it be classed as assault in their line of work.

New



527



15



Maybejustmaybe, Somewhere over the rainbow, United Kingdom, 16 hours ago

Woman who walks around in underwear and is paid to take her clothes off is surprised when a drunken man tries to touch her... hardly a ¿times up¿ style story is it?! Either you do that job so expect the consequences or if you don¿t like it-don¿t take your clothes off for a living.

New



1149



23

It is also no coincidence that many respondents to the new policy consultation conflated sex establishments (aka strip clubs) with “massage parlours” and brothels.

Proximity to areas with high levels of crime

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xvi}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the

two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

A bastion of male sexual entitlement nestling within the heart of the CIQ (or anywhere for that matter) poses a threat to all women. Those of us with experience in sexual and domestic violence services know only too well how male sexual entitlement underpins perpetrator behaviours in their violence against women and girls.

Anachronistic, sexist, outdated and passé

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xvii}. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found that 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture."

Matters for clarification

Customer Code of Conduct

Last year we were informed that customers were informed of the Code of Conduct upon entering the club and escorted to a banquette where they had to sit on their hands. However, the Spearmint Rhino Rules for Customers according to the one enclosed in the 2015 application, state that customers must have their hands by their sides. Perhaps these have been updated but they have not been included and/or shared in the last two licence renewal applications bundles. If they have been updated/changed, then they should be shared with objectors as should the applicant's witness statement which was shared with objectors back in 2015 but has not been done so since. There has been no explanation for this and we would be grateful if the Sub-committee could clarify the position on the disclosure of the applicant's witness statement.

SPEARMINT RHINO – RULES FOR CUSTOMERS

1. Customers must be seated before a dancer can commence a dance and the customer must remain seated during the dance with their hands at their sides.
2. There must be no touching of the dancers at any time during the dance except when paying the dancer a fee.
3. No propositioning the dancers.
4. Customers must not dance at any time.
5. The customer must remain fully clothed at all times.

Any breach of the above rules will result in the customer being excluded from the club.

Upon a search of Spearmint Rhino's website and social media, we could not find any reference to these rules, in fact the language and images convey quite the reverse. This is very concerning as it should be clearly stated on all promotional materials what the rules are to help mitigate against the kind of behaviours that pose a threat to the dancers. La Chambre, the other Sheffield sex establishment has its rules displayed on its website:

Club Rules

Whilst we try to keep rules to a minimum - relying on the common sense of our members - we have a number of rules in place to ensure the safety, comfort, and privacy of our members whilst on club premises:

Smart/Casual Jeans, No Trainers.

Dress code will be enforced. Management have the right to refuse admittance if the dress code is not adhered to. For more information about our dress code please see our Frequently Asked Questions.

No Drugs of any kind.

No drugs of ANY kind will be tolerated on the premises. Anyone found breaking this rule will have their membership terminated immediately and will be asked to leave the club.

Membership Cards.

No one will be admitted to the club without a membership card. Membership cards are strictly non-transferable. Gentlemen holding a couples card will only be admitted when accompanied by a female partner on Saturday's.

Bags & Valuables.

All large bags must be deposited in the changing rooms. We have lockers inside we recommend you to keep any valuables in them.

STRICTLY NO CAMERAS.

No cameras or recording devices of any kind are to be brought into the club except by prior arrangement with the management. This also includes mobile phones with built in cameras; you are welcome to leave them in a security box in Reception or in a locker.

Loss or Injury.

La Chambre shall not be held responsible for any loss or injury sustained by any club member whilst on the premises.

Smoking.

In accordance with present regulations La Chambre is a no smoking establishment but we do have a covered smoking area to the rear of the club which is secure and heated in winter.

Right of Entry.

Management reserve the right to refuse entrance to the club.

NO MEANS NO!

Given this man's post on Spearmint Rhino Sheffield's Facebook, there seems to be an expectation that sexual contact is part of the Spearmint Rhino experience:



Andy Blake reviewed Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield, UK – 1★

18 Sep 2016 at 21:04 • 🌐

Avoid the (██████████) girl. Complete scammer exploiting drunk men. If you pay by card she adds an extra £10 onto the bill calling it a "service charge". She also says you can touch her just to fool you into a dance. Does she heck. She doesn't even dance. She stands about 5 meters away and when you complain stating this isn't even a lap dance, she starts demanding more money and then "she will dance and let you touch her" if you pay her the same amount again. please sort her out management. Giving your club a bad name.

2 comments



Like




Comment




Share


Which is hardly surprising given the nature of the advertising with pictures of women appearing to be in the throes of orgasm heavily laden with the double entendre worthy of a Carry On film:





SPEARMINT RHINO

Spearmint Rhino this week, are you coming?

 6

 Like

 Comment

 Share

COME WITH ME. YOU WON'T REGRET IT

Don't take our word for it... just 'do it'

#sleemip

ib 6 10

imgflip.com

Like Comment Share

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES AT ALL TIMES AND

MUST BE READ SUBJECT TO ANY VARIATIONS

AGREED WITH STATUTORY AUTHORITIES ATTACHED

A. General Points and Dancer Attire:

1. Dancers must always sign in with the club management prior to commencing each shift.
2. At any time, dancers arriving or departing the club must be fully dressed in clean, neat and smart attire. Dancers must endeavour *always* to arrive at and depart from the club quietly, particularly during the evening and early morning.
3. Dancers are to arrive within adequate time to ensure that the dancer is ready on the main floor commensurate with the dancers shift or as designated by the Club management.
4. Except in an emergency, the use of mobile phones in public areas is prohibited.
5. After arriving at the Club and entering the dressing room, dancers are to change into appropriate attire as required by the club and remain so dressed unless providing a stage or table dance performance. On leaving the premises, dancers attire should be as indicated at (2) above.
6. Dancers appropriate attire shall include:
 - a) Floor length elegant gowns and high heel shoes as approved by the Club management. The Club reserves the right to specify what is and is not appropriate on a continual basis.
 - b) Shoes must retain a minimum of a 3" heel and be worn at all times while in any public area of the Club.

B. Dancer Conduct:

1. Dancers may *never* give out any personal information, including telephone numbers, or contact details away from the Club. Dancers *may* provide a customer with the days and shifts they or other dancers work at the Club.
2. Dancers may *never* accept any telephone number, address or any other contact information from any customer, except in the form of a business card, but may *not* make use of that information to contact the customer. Before leaving the premises, dancers *must* permanently surrender all such cards to a *member of management* (without copying any information).
3. Dancers are *never* to be in the company of a customer except in an area open to the public within the Club (for example, dancers are not allowed in the male toilets)
4. Dancers are *never* to enter or be in a roped-off V.I.P. dance area, *only* a floor supervisor or manager may open such a roped-off area.
5. Dancers are never to perform a nude table dance unless the dancer is in a supervised area
7. During the performance of a table dance:
 - a) Customers *must* be seated in an upright position against the back of the booth with their hands by their sides *before* a dancer can commence a table dance, customers must remain so seated during the entire dance.
 - b) For the purpose of restraint, dancers may only touch a customer above the customer's chest with only the dancer's hands.
 - c) Dancers must not sit on or straddle the customer.
 - d) Dancers must maintain one shoed foot on the floor at all times and not place their foot or feet on any furniture, seat or walls.
 - e) Dancers may not place their knee or knees on the booth seat.

- f) "Floor work" is prohibited with the exception that it may only be performed whilst performing stage shows on the Club's designated stages, as defined in the clubs plans lodged with the appropriate local authority
 - g) Dancers may not perform any act, which clearly simulates masturbation, oral sex or sexual intercourse, including the insertion of any object, including their own finger into any genital or anal opening or use any prop for such a purpose.
 - h) Dancers may not intentionally touch a customer at any time during the performance except as stated in (b) above, or unless accidentally caused by a third party.
 - i) Dancers may not use language of a sexually graphic nature at any time.
 - j) Dancers may not touch their own breasts, anus or genitals with their fingers, lips or tongue.
7. Customers are *not* permitted to dance at *any* time during the performance. Customers *must* remain *appropriately* clothed at *all* times. Neither customer nor dancer may remove any of the customers clothing during a performance.
8. If a customer attempts to touch, or speak to dancer inappropriately, the dancer must immediately stop the performance and explain the relevant rules. If necessary, ask for assistance from and cooperate with a floor supervisor, who will take appropriate action, which may include escorting the customer out of the Club.

With reference to 7 j above, why is it that one click on the link in the tweet below from the Spearmint Rhino Sheffield's Twitter account takes you to a photograph of a

woman touching her breasts clearly marked The Spearmint Rhino experience?



Tweet



Spearmint Rhino

@RhinoSheffield

Have you checked out



Spearmint Rhino

spearmintrhino.com

3:54 pm · 12 May 18





Spearmint Rhino

<https://spearmintrhino.com>

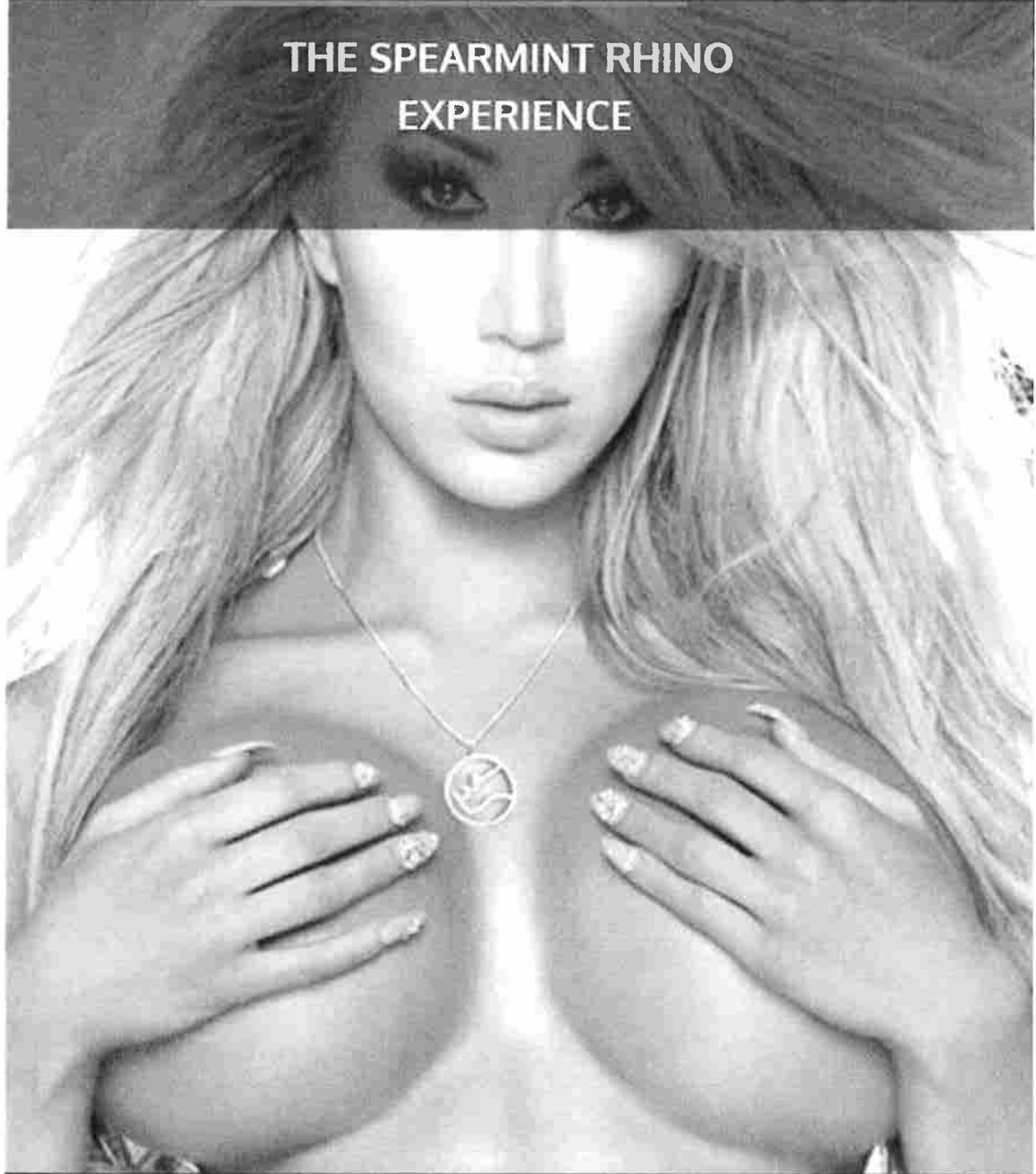
TWEET



SPEARMINT RHINO
GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS



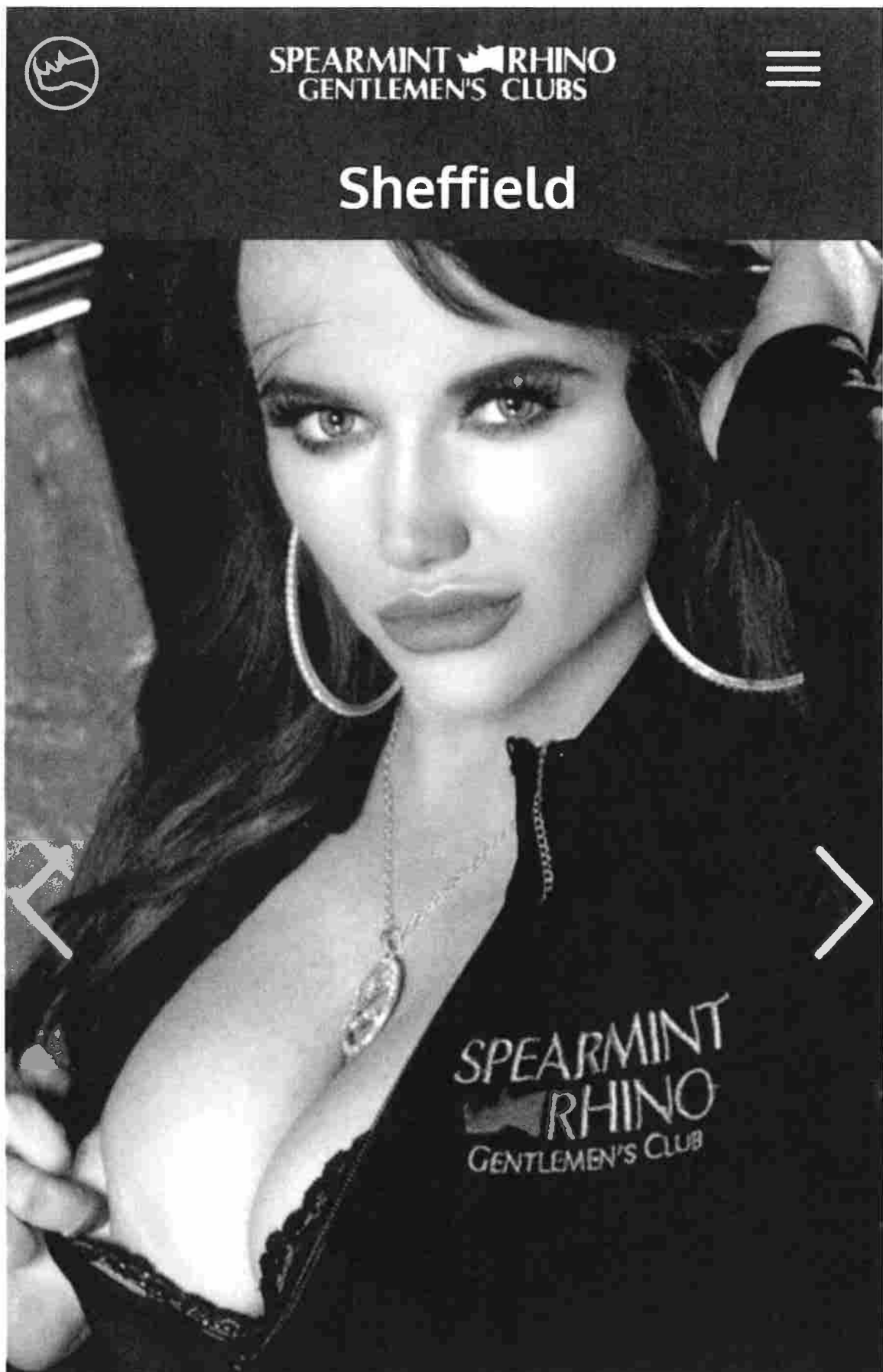
THE SPEARMINT RHINO
EXPERIENCE



FIND ME A CLUB!

BROWSE ALL LOCATIONS

The following from Sheffield Spearmint website which looks like a woman touching her nipple:



Similarly, a Facebook post shows Kat Minxy fondling her breasts and on the verge of digital masturbation, more than implying that such auto-erotic displays are part of the in-club performance.



9. Dancers are never to intentionally touch the genitals, anus or breasts of another dancer or to knowingly permit another dancer to intentionally touch their genitals, anus or breasts.
10. Dancers are *never* to engage in an act of *prostitution* (the receiving of gratuities or payments for any form of sexual favour or offer as such).
11. Dancers may not accept a customer's offer of payment in return for sexual favours (*solicitation*).
12. Dancers must not engage in communications that could be deemed as acts of prostitution or solicitation.
13. Dancers are *never* to intentionally meet any customer outside of the Club.
14. Dancers are never to agree to meet a customer outside of the Club.
15. Dancers must *never* engage in any unlawful activity within the Club.
16. Dancers may *never* leave the premises during a shift, except in the case of an emergency and then *only* with the express permission of the duty manager. In that event, dancers must sign out before leaving the premises. If a dancer leaves early, *for any reason*, the dancer will *not* be re-admitted during that *shift*.

.....

With regard to 9 above, is this still the case? As the photo overleaf is from last year's Facebook page and again conveys the message that dancers touching one another's breasts is part of the Spearmint Rhino experience.

Like

Comment

Share



1

Like

Comment

Share

B. Dancer Conduct:

1. Dancers may *never* give out any personal information, including telephone numbers, or contact details away from the Club. Dancers *may* provide a customer with the days and shifts they or other dancers work at the Club.
 2. Dancers may *never* accept any telephone number, address or any other contact information from any customer, except in the form of a business card, but may *not* make use of that information to contact the customer. Before leaving the premises, dancers *must* permanently surrender all such cards to a *member of management* (without copying any information).
 3. Dancers are *never* to be in the company of a customer except in an area open to the public within the Club (for example, dancers are not allowed in the male toilets)
- If as above, any contact/communication is prohibited between dancers and customers to the extent that customer business cards must be surrendered to management, does this extend to social media? The following shows interactions between dancers and customers:



Tweet



Natalya D. [redacted] · 13 Feb 17

#spearmintrhino #sheffield tonight guys

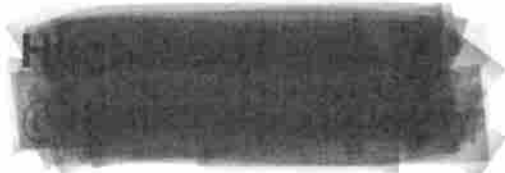
🤪 RT for a dance 🍷



💬 2

↻ 15

❤️ 49



Replying to @ [redacted]

utterly stunning. You are a goddess. Can I put this in my #WankBank? Keep up the good work, you are awesome

10:57 pm · 17 Mar 17



[Redacted]

Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield, UK –

5★

18 Jul 2015 at 23:37 · 🌐

Loves this page, my top favorite girl [Redacted]
[Redacted] posted a shout out... on her #instagram
and I'm here and I like what I'm seeing and
reading...



Like



Comment



Share



Tweet



Nice Hun. Can I book you in one?? This weekend? x



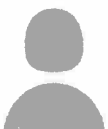
[Redacted] 30 Mar
yer babe come club n al meet u there
babe n we can go VIP xxx



[Redacted] 30 Mar
Cool thanks Hun. Let me know how
much \$ \$ \$ to bring x



[Redacted] @kayl... 30 Mar
it's 75 for 15 mins 150 half hour or 300 a
hour ... will try do discount if want longer
than 1 hour xxx



[Redacted] 30 Mar
Yeah, be longer than hour. DM me Hun x



Tweet your reply

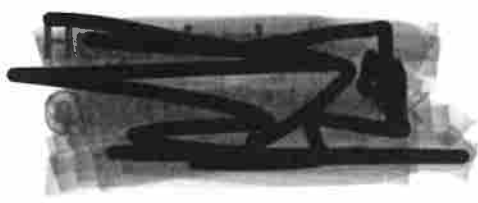


· 17 Dec 16

Who wants a lap dance 🙄🙄 RT if you do and I'll follow back xxx



Tweet



I like jerking off to



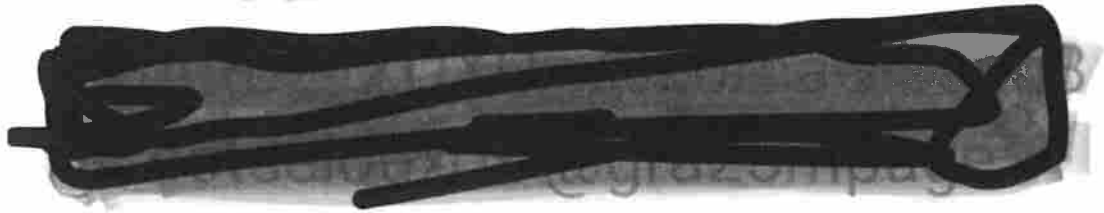
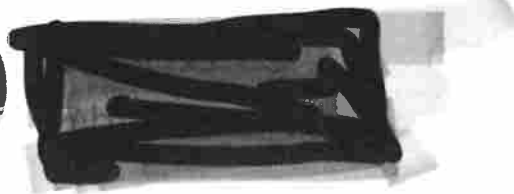
#JustSaying

9:50 pm · 13 Apr 17





Tweet



Arse Fuckers of the world Unite!!!!
Hee hee!!
Just a quickie to say hi, how are
we all?

8:26 pm · 07 Apr 17



- We note that private booths in the chain's "flagship branch" are banned and would like to know why this is.
- In previous years we have heard how the club is frequented by women, so why is it called a Gentleman's Club as this seems somewhat of a misnomer?
- A further misnomer, given the rule below, why is the term for this sexual entertainment "lap dancing"?

c) Dancers must not sit on or straddle the customer.

Matters arising from previous hearings that objectors had no right of reply to

- The club can in fact be seen from the Showroom, particularly from the space which is used for private functions (and open until late), events and meetings as per the picture below:



- Bristolians do object to the strip clubs in their city and are in fact calling for a nil cap backed by Thangham Debbonaire MP (news articles and minutes of hearings can be provided on request). Furthermore, Bristol Licensing Committee members pay site visits to the clubs.
- According to SHU student union's website, it is open weekday evenings.

The HUBS opening hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9am until 11pm

Friday: 8am - midnight

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Closed

How to find us:

Sheffield Hallam Students' Union is located in The HUBS which is on Paternoster Row, opposite The Showroom. We are a short 4 minute walk from Sheffield Train Station as documented in the graphic on the right. The nearest tram stop to us is also the train station.

The Sub-committee's role and wide discretion

As per the Policy,

There is a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court against decisions for the refusal to grant, renew, vary or transfer of a licence, the imposition of conditions and revocations may also be appealed.

Appeals must be made to the Magistrates Court within 21 days, starting from the date the applicant is notified of the Licensing Authority's decision.

It is important to note that appeals only lie against the mandatory refusals on the basis that the mandatory ground does not apply to the applicant/licence holder. Further, no appeal lies against the Licensing Authority's decision made on the discretionary grounds namely:

that it is inappropriate to grant or renew a licence on the grounds of the character of the locality or the number of premises in it; or the use of premises in the vicinity or the layout, character or condition of the premises.

The only discretionary grounds against which an appeal lies are those relating to the suitability of the applicant, the manager and/or the beneficiary of the operation

Yet two people, one a former councillor and one who worked for the Council tweeted in response to publicity about the forthcoming judicial review how the legal advice given to the Sub-committee was that if they refused the licence they would be taken to court and lose. This seems to be at odds with the above and a range of appeals to licensing decisions where with the exception of one that a Not Buying It researcher has found, all original refusals to grants/renewals and variations of licences were upheld.

For example, the Sub-committee is asked to note that in 2014 Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license."

In the case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

We ask that the Sub-committee do the same and takes a fresh look although is unequivocal that there have been incremental changes year on year with substantial changes during the past year and far greater changes to come, including hopefully, the arrival of a regional Channel 4 hub.

We look forward to the hearing and clarification on the matters and issues we have outlined.

Kind regards

Not Buying It Sheffield

References

-
- ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Telegraph 30th November 2017 *New build to revitalise Steel City's CIQ* Available from: <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/property/new-build-to-revitalise-steel-city-s-ci-q-1-8881810>
- ^{iv} Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- ^v Sheffield Telegraph 15th March 2014 *New gameplan on way for Pinball Square* Available from: <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/environment/new-gameplan-on-way-for-pinball-square-1-6496807>
- ^{vi} <https://sheffield.digital/posts/spearmint-rhino-legal-challenge/>
- ^{vii} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- ^{viii} *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^{ix} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^x Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{xi} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ^{xii} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^{xiii} Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^{xiv} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- ^{xv} Daily Mail 19th March 2018 *Drunken businessmen 'groped scantily clad women at a seedy lap-dancing club in Cheltenham hours after enjoying corporate hospitality at the races* Available from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5516067/Seedy-underbelly-Cheltenham-emerges-women-groped.html>
- ^{xvi} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- ^{xvii} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: Sheffield Not Buying it < >
Sent: 14 May 2018 22:18
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino objection - part 2/2
Attachments: Appendix i CIQ Area Action Plan.pdf

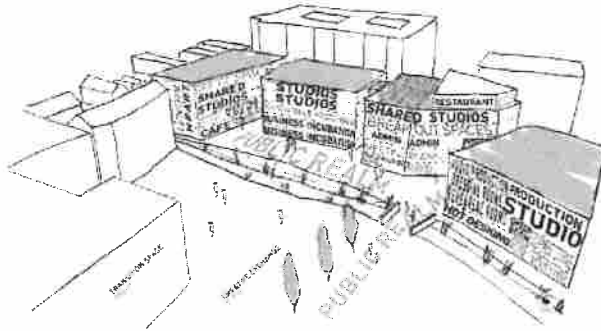
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please see previous email



CULTURAL INDUSTRIES QUARTER AREA ACTION PLAN



1

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CIQ location in relation to city's other quarters



CIQ boundary

2

SECTION 1: AREA INTRODUCTION

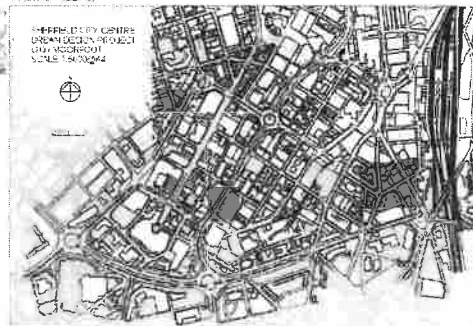
3

1.1 LOCATION



The Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) is located in a pivotal position within the City Centre, between the Sheffield Railway Station, the Heart of the City and the Moor. It covers an area 59 acres and includes 9 Listed Buildings and many more of historical and architectural significance. Originally, this area of the city played a key role in Sheffield's development as an industrial centre, providing the setting for small scale but thriving businesses associated with the steel, cutlery and tool making trades. In Feb of 2001 due to its special architectural and important historic interest, Sheffield's CIQ was designated a conservation area. The area is still home to a wide range of industries, many of which are traditional, but has evolved as a key focal point for the developments of the creative and digital industries in the city.²

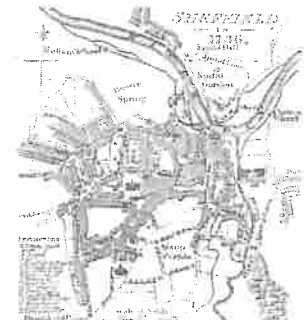
This 3/4 of a square mile area is home to more than 300 companies that work in the creative industries, as well as innovative art galleries like the Site Gallery, media education outlets including Sheffield Hallam University's Northern Media School, dedicated studio space for artists in Persistence Works and the largest independent film house outside London, The Showroom. As home to the largest concentration of creative production in Yorkshire and Humberside, this area of Sheffield is gaining international recognition. The quarter has been the subject of a number of general regeneration schemes over recent years, attempting to facilitate a 'repair and re-use' of some of the most significant and historic buildings within the CIQ, including most noticeably the Grade II* listed Butcher Works and the Grade II Sterling Works. The repair of such historic buildings in the CIQ has ensured their continued use and survival in the quarter alongside future new developments.¹



4

1.2 BRIEF HISTORY

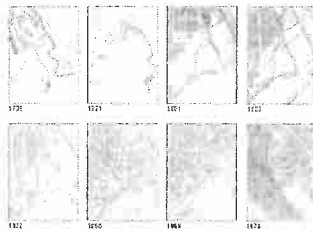
Before the development of the area now known as the Cultural Industries Quarter occurred, pre 1770, the area was known as Alsop Fields. Ancient hunting rights were claimed on this land by Thomas De Furnival from 1281 onwards until the early 1700s when the land was passed onto the Duke of Norfolk. By the mid 17th Century the Duke had transformed the deer park into a business enterprise consisting of farmland, collieries, and metal work foundries.



Above: Historic map of Sheffield in 1733
http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/city-hall/collections/1733_CIQ_Alsop_Fields.pdf

Industrialisation of the Alsop Fields was promoted by the Duke of Norfolk's agent Samuel Eyre as a prime location for a new elegant large scale residential area. Plans were discussed with streets proposed as far south as Matilda Street. Unusually for this time, these streets were laid out in a grid

pattern proposed by James Paine, still recognisable today, although diluted by late 1960s development. Sadly, Eyre's 'grand plan' did not materialise. This is mainly due to the fact that Sheffield's inhabitants did not want or could not afford the properties planned. Instead he created a grid of service alleyways set parallel to the main streets, allowing for expansion of the cutlery industry and workers to the area who required more modest dwellings that would combine both home and workshop.



Above: Historic maps showing development of the CIQ area
 Source: Sheffield CIQ Townscape Heritage Initiative 2012-07

During this time the Porter Brook River played a key role, feeding a number of dams relied upon by early metal forges and mills. Throughout the 1800s the area underwent its first phase of industrialisation seeing a considerable number of 'back to back' houses being built for industrial workers. In 1805 various sections of the Porter Brook were straightened to allow for further development. By 1851 OS maps detail some of the current buildings such as Turo Works and Butcher Works which can still be seen today. The

1870's saw the opening of the Midland Railway Station, manufacturers for the first time had a direct link to the rail network. Dams were filled in and the Sheaf and Porter Brook rivers culverted. Original metal works were also sacrificed to create space for new rail goods yards.

In the early 1980s the area found itself steadily declining, demand for cutlery had decreased significantly. The quarter's location had seen many of the traditional industries relocating to more suitable sites further out of the city in order to benefit from cheaper land and better access to networks. Throughout the 1960s large scale housing clearance of 'back-to-back' properties had left a patchwork of clear and derelict sites, the areas infrastructure was failing and investment in the area was almost nonexistent. The remaining character of the area was retained through the presence of the 19th century cutlery works. The area fell by the wayside as Sheffield's city centre began to thrive again. The building of Arundel Gate dual carriage way severed the cultural industries quarter from the 'Heart of the City' project and the quarter became almost a 'forgotten quarter' with dereliction and vacant shells of former works standing as testament of its former glory days.³



Above: 82a Arundel Street (left), Butcher Works (right).
 Source: Sheffield CIQ Townscape Heritage Initiative 2002-07

5

1.3 JUSTIFICATION

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACTION PLAN?

- Identify and analyse the existing state and identity of the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and its relevant supporting policies.
- From this analysis of the CIQ at present, generate a spatial vision and objectives for development in the quarter over the next 15 years, intended for use by both private and public sectors.
- Identify specific character areas within the quarter and the type of development, land uses, activities, and specific projects which should be encouraged and promoted within these areas.
- Develop a policy framework, to support and facilitate implementation of the vision and objectives for the quarter, considering the analysis of the quarter and its policies at present.
- Set out a phasing strategy for the implementation of the vision and objectives, focusing on three phasing periods over the next 5, 10 and 15 years.

WHY IS THIS ACTION PLAN NECESSARY?

This action plan is necessary for a number of reasons, the most important of which relate to:

- Policy
- Economic Context
- Change

The action plan is necessary in Policy terms because of the insufficient way that most existing policy relates to the area. As will be discussed in Section 2, some existing policy is outdated and does not provide the appropriate guidance and direction for the development of the CIQ area. In particular this Action Plan will fill the policy gap that the Cultural Industries Quarter Action Plan 2000 and Sheffield City Centre Master Plan no longer fill.

In Economic terms this Action Plan is necessary considering the current economic and market context. This demonstrates a need for re-stimulating economic growth and development in recovery from the national recession and property market bust. It requires the championing of area-appropriate development within realistic phasing and time-frames, and flexible mixed-use

development which will allow for future land use changes dependent on the local and national economy, all of which is addressed within this Action Plan.

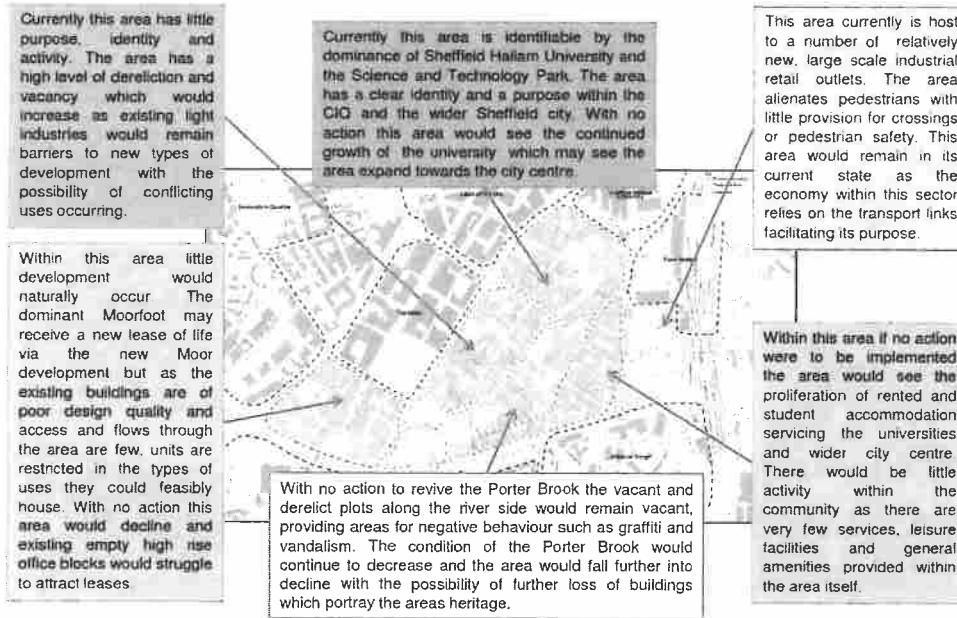
The necessity of the Action Plan in terms of Change relates to the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the area, and the way these have evolved considering the area's policy and economic context, creating new needs and altered roles of many area actors. The CIQ's history and the way it has become a 'forgotten quarter' lacking any strong or clear identity emphasises this, especially considering the potential it has due to its unique industrial heritage, accessibility and proximity to the city centre, and potential for further developing its cultural and knowledge-based industries.

As indicated when discussing its purpose, the role of this Action Plan in the development process will be to guide the area's development through a spatial vision, objectives, character area identification, general CIQ area policies, and Character Area specific policies. It is intended to be used by both the public and private sector, providing an outline for the phasing and delivery of development. The Area Actors involved in relation to different phases and projects, and monitoring of the development process.

6

1.3 JUSTIFICATION

Further justification for this Action Plan and the need to guide development within the CIQ area is demonstrated in the map below, which considers what would happen within the area if no action was taken.



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SECTION 2: AREA ANALYSIS

8

2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.1 LAND USE



A variety of uses exist within the CIQ, which can now be considered a mixed-use area, compared to its historic dominance of industrial uses contributing to Sheffield's industrial centre identity. Uses are mixed within some individual buildings (particularly newer developments such as residential blocks with office/business space below), as well as on different sites. There is no dominant land use within the quarter, yet **industrial/warehouse, residential, education, and cultural** uses all have a significant presence, as unfortunately does **car parking and vacant and derelict land**.

The most notable absence within the CIQ is that of **open space**, with only one small site identified next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union, which offers no green space, and a very small section in front of Showroom. In relation to **community space**, one church identified within the quarter.

A significant number of sites identified within the quarter are occupied by ground-level **car parking**, many of which are prominently located (e.g. alongside the Porter Brook, and next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union building),

More than 20 **industrial/warehouse** sites remain within the quarter, with 2 particular clusters, between Arundel and Sidney Street, and between Matilda Lane and Brittain Street.

Several prominent **warehouse/non-high street retail** uses are identified within the quarter, including Wickes, Decathlon, Staples, DFS and Wren. The location of DFS by the car showroom near the Eastern CIQ boundary could be considered appropriate due to its connection with the road networks, yet the location of the others does not seem to fit as well within the quarter and surrounding uses.

Vacant/Derelict land is identified throughout the CIQ, but is particularly concentrated around the Porter Brook, off Sylvester and Sidney Street. Many of the vacant and derelict sites are old works buildings which would have been occupied by industrial uses in the past. Although some sites are in a particularly bad, run-down condition, many of the buildings still demonstrate architectural merit, reflecting their industrial heritage.

Education uses are concentrated in the North of the CIQ, and the majority are occupied by Sheffield Hallam University and other groups associated with it. Their location in this area relates to its adjoining nature to the university campus, with some fairly newly developed buildings, specifically the architecturally iconic Students Union building. Some of these educational uses are related to the creative and cultural industries, such as Sheffield Hallam University's Northern Media School

2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.1 LAND USE CONTINUED

There are several significant **cultural** uses within the quarter, such as Showroom, the largest independent film house outside London (also a retail/leisure use) and BBC Radio Sheffield's building. The cultural uses are characterised by creativity and design, including film, art, dance and music activities.

An increasing prominence of **residential** uses has been identified in the CIQ, many of which are located south of the Porter Brook (notably along St Marys Road and Mary Street, and around the Leadmill Street/Road area). These uses are commonly in the form of modern 3-5 storey blocks with inner courtyard space and office/business or retail/leisure uses on the ground floor. Residential uses are also found close to the educational uses in the North of the quarter, particularly along Sidney and Arundel Street (where the renovated Butcher Works is located). One very tall (5+) mixed-use block including residential is Velocity Tower found on St Marys Gate.

The **office/business** uses identified within the quarter are varied in terms of both location and type. The majority of office-based businesses are fairly small-scale and independent, some of which have links with the **quarter's** cultural identity (e.g. small design consultancies), with larger-scale office space found in the Moorfoot area. Garages, car repair companies and car sales showrooms are examples of the non-office based business found within the quarter.

There are less **retail/leisure** uses than may be expected within a city quarter, yet this is due to

its proximity to the city centre and surrounding retail/leisure opportunities like the Moor. There are some small shops within the Moorfoot area though and a few cafes, pubs and leisure uses (including Showroom cinema) in the Northern section of the quarter, closest to the Sheffield Hallam campus. Leadmill club/bar is found on Leadmill Road next to the residential cluster.

The **Porter Brook** river is significant within the quarter, showing its only real type of environmental land use, yet at present much of the river is culverted, artificial, degraded, and hidden.



Left top: Sylvester Gardens Left bottom: Hallam SU
Right top: Showroom Right middle: Moorfoot
Right bottom: Porter Brook (2 images)

2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.2 BUILDING HEIGHTS



There is a variation in building heights with the CIQ, yet heights of 1-2 stories and 3-5 stories dominate the quarter, with only 10 buildings identified as being 5 or more stories. The majority of the tallest stories (within the 5+ category) are found in the Moorfoot area of the quarter, yet there are also several along the boundary on Arundel Gate, and 1 on Leadmill Road. All 5+ storey buildings are located close to the CIQ boundary, and there are large areas of the quarter from which they are absent and the height does not go above 5 storeys.

The 1-2 story buildings and 3-5 story buildings are spread throughout the quarter, with the exception that no 3-5 story buildings are identified in the Moorfoot area, in the west of the quarter.

Although clusters of each category of building height are found within the quarter (e.g. a group of 3-5 storey buildings between Charles Street and Matilda Street, and a group of 1-2 storey buildings by the Eastern boundary close to the rail station), they are well mixed, with no combination of different heights not evident.



Top: 5+ storey Jury's Inn hotel on Arundel Gate boundary
Middle: Mix of heights looking into CIQ from Arundel Gate
Bottom: View of 5+ storey Moorfoot area from Mary Street

2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.3 BUILDING CONDITIONS



Identifying the building conditions within the CIQ helps to identify priority regeneration and restoration locations within the area. The recent development and growth of Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield train station, and the Gold route from the station into the city has led to faster regeneration in the north of the CIQ, where the majority of buildings are in good physical condition. However the southern part of the area has been less successful at attracting investment and activities for change, meaning it contains a number of poor quality buildings which are in urgent need of restoration.

Although derelict, poor quality buildings are a weakness within the area, they do provide the opportunity for completely new development which can significantly improve the quality of the built environment and public realm. The Moorfoot building is an example of a significant building within the area that requires change and renovation, but financial restrictions within the current economic climate relating to demolition and construction costs, create the need for more resourceful approaches to such large-scale building improvements within the area.



Top: View of Exchange Works
Middle: Substation on Arundel Street
Bottom: Derelict works building off Sylvester Gardens

2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.4 LISTED AND CHARACTER BUILDINGS

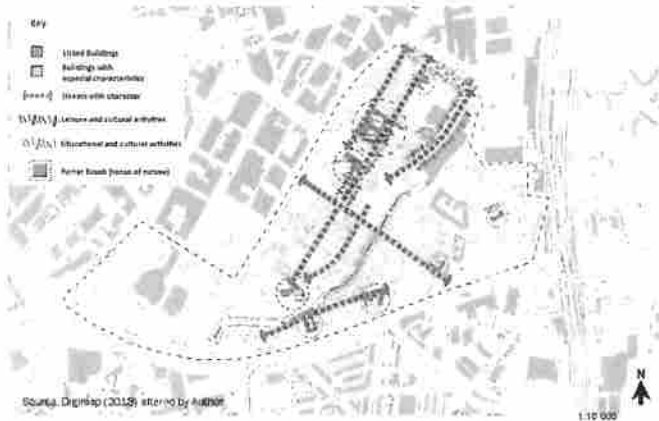
As identified in the map, in addition to the existence of a certain number of listed buildings within the CIQ area, the grid pattern of the streets, and certain activities and uses within the area (particularly leisure, cultural and educational activities) also contribute to the unique character of the CIQ. The northern part of Arundel Street and Mary Street are already recognised as significant character areas within the Urban Design Compendium 2004.

Despite not being designated as such in the same way as Arundel Street and Mary Street, other streets such as Matilda Street and Sidney Street have special architectural types and features, and urban form, that should be respected and improved as part of future developments. The Showroom Cinema and NCPM are examples of buildings that have developed during a number of regeneration projects, which have now become an intrinsic part of the CIQ's unique character and identity.

There are also other types of buildings within the CIQ area that may be in fairly poor condition, but which carry meanings and memories with them, and reflect specific aspects of the area's heritage. It is therefore essential that any development proposals are as sensitive and sympathetic as possible to all character buildings within the area and not just to those which are officially listed. It is true to say that certain activities within buildings, including art works, studios, galleries, university buildings and education facilities, and cinemas, also contribute to and create a special atmosphere and character within this area.

The following are the **Listed Buildings** (on the British Listed Buildings Register) within the CIQ area:

- The Butcher's Wheel
- Stirling works
- 92 & 92a Arundel Street
- 113 Arundel Street
- Sylvester Works
- Venture Works
- Truro works
- Colombia space



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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

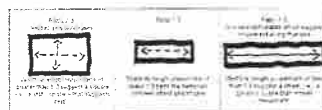
2.1.5 MORPHOLOGY

This map highlights the remaining historical grid pattern within the CIQ which has been undermined by a number of modern interventions. Where the grid patterns still exists so do the historical proportions. The majority of the historical street enclosures are composed of a 1:1 ratio or larger, with building heights often exceeding the width of the street. This is not a negative characteristic of the area as it reinforces its historical character and is accompanied by strong sight lines exceeding a ratio of 1:5, drawing people through the space when there is activity in the area.

Modern interventions, primarily to serve the car, include the introduction of the major road network surrounding the CIQ, surface car parking and large warehouse retail units, all detracting from the character of the area.

It is also noticeable that courtyard development is prominent in the area, something that should be encouraged as it is a primary characteristic. The strong sightlines from North East to South West are key to the success of this part of the City Centre and with the reinforcement of the grid pattern could provide a valuable opportunity to encourage activity through the area.

A significant weakness identified by the morphology map is the surrounding road network which physically segregates this area by creating a barrier.



Above: Proportions on Plan of Squares and Streets
Source: Booth, N.K (1983) Basic Elements of Landscape Architectural Design, Oxford: Elsevier, Chapter Three⁴

Source: D.gimlap (2013) altered by Author



Left: Historic grid pattern of streets and urban grain

Below: Morphology Map



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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.6 MOVEMENT

CYCLING

Even though cyclists can move on most sidewalks, the length of dedicated cycle lanes is limited and far from being an integrated network. Most cycle lanes are located along the Ring Road and become more scattered in the inner areas of the CIQ. There is, however, a signed cycle route along the route Sylvester Street - Sydney Street - Brown Street which connects the southern section of the area to the train station.

Cycle stands are located mostly in the Moor, the vicinity around SHU and the train station, yet are absent in the rest of the CIQ area, which highlights a significant area for improvement in order to encourage cycling within the area.

WALKING

The study area benefits from its proximity to the Gold Route and the proposed Steel Route where walking activities are concentrated. The Sheffield Hallam University is also a walking catalyst when students move in, out and around the campus. The presence of student walking along Matilda Street, Arundel Street, Sydney Street and Shoreham Street to their student accommodation creates an opportunity to upgrade the much neglected streetscapes and public realm of these routes

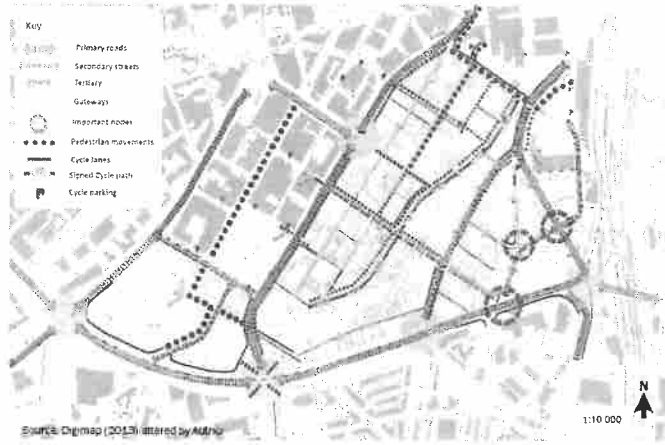
Along the edges of the area walking activities are significantly discouraged by the wide and

vast Ring Road and Eyre Street, which does not create a safe or favourable pedestrian environment.

This map also identifies the potential to improve the east to west pedestrian flows through the CIQ area from the train station.

VEHICULAR MOVEMENT

The CIQ area is surrounded by the arterial paths of the Ring Road and Eyre Street, which have a significant impact on its spatiality. These roads act both as a significant movement axes and a pedestrian obstacle due to the walking environment and streetscape quality.



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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.6 MOVEMENT

In addition, many roads in the area are one-way. On the one hand, this helps to reduce congestion but on the other, it results in difficulties in navigation and business viability improvement, particularly in the south-eastern area of the CIQ.

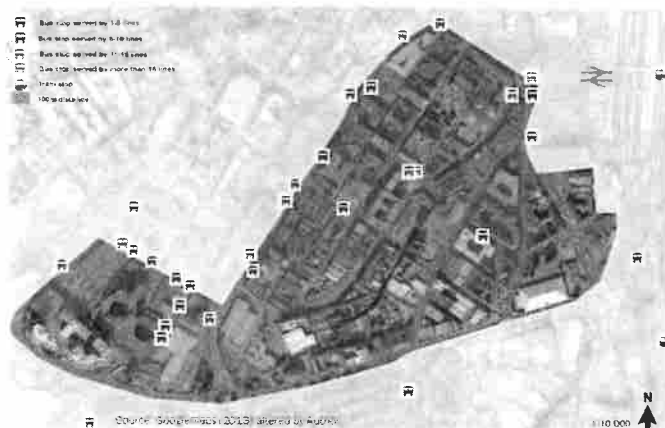
PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The study area benefits from the nearby bus

interchange and the train station to the north-east, as it acts as a gateway for Sheffield linking it to different regions and core cities. Moreover, the proposed high speed rail line will potentially call at Sheffield station, which would greatly contribute to the prosperities of this area.

The study area is well serviced by bus routes, and most of the bus stops can be reached

within a 5 minute walk; however, they are not evenly distributed. Bus stops concentrate at the train station and on the access loop around the Moor, which identifies the potential to upgrade the bus accessibility in the south-east of the CIQ area. Tram services, however close, have little benefit to the area as they are hindered by the railways.



Top Left: Cycle parking Top right: View of Showroom Cinema Bottom: Funnival Square Roundabout

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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.7 LEGIBILITY APPRAISAL

Legibility studies deal with the perceptual dimension of an urban environment, with a method to examine legibility suggested by Kevin Lynch⁵. The more legible an area is the easier it is for someone to navigate and orientate themselves within it.

LANDMARKS

Landmarks are features that help people to find their way within an area, and are also the anchor points in a person's mental image of an urban area. There are number of structures that can be recognised as landmarks in the CIQ, as identified in the map. Depending on the extent of their visibility, they can function at different scales from an urban block to a city.

ROADS

Roads or paths are the first features that shape the image of an area, and are the corridors that connect the CIQ area together and provide access. Some of the paths are more important in terms of their function, visual characteristics and/or their level of accessibility. Eyre Street and St.Mary's Gate are the Arterial paths that also form the edges of the CIQ area, and Arundel Street, Furnival Street, and Sidney Street are locally recognised within the area.

NODES

Nodes are the places where paths, activities

or events are concentrated, and as identified in the map, the gateways in the south of the CIQ are nodes which are visually very important in providing an entrance to the area.

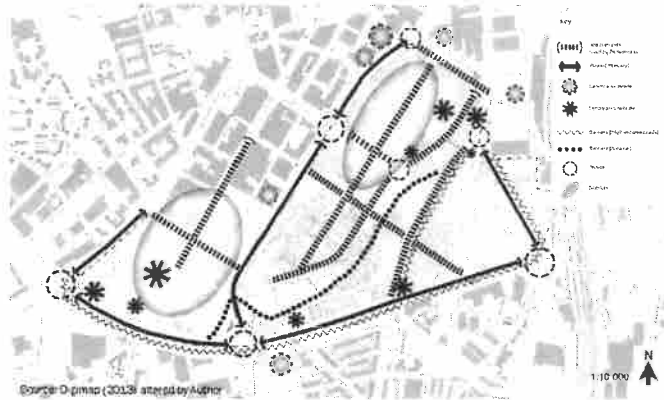
EDGES/BARRIERS

Edges are identified as limits or boundaries, where high volume streets are barriers for pedestrian, activity and decrease the accessibility to other parts of the city. The Porter Brook river also constitutes a

natural barrier which has shaped an organic form in the middle of the street grid pattern.

DISTRICTS

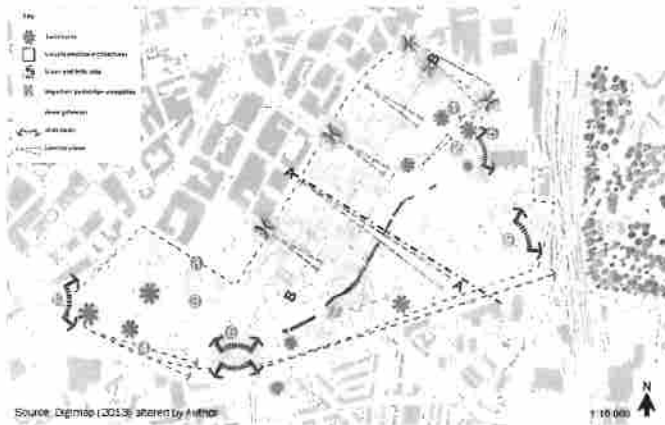
Areas with similar characteristics, such as Arundel Street with its special architectural character of listed and metal works buildings Moorfoot, a commercial pedestrianised area in the city centre, can be considered as districts.



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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.8 VIEWS AND VISTAS



The Cultural Industries Quarter has a number of significant buildings that are considered as landmarks and visible from certain parts of the area. These landmarks are demonstrated in the map.

The natural slope of the area has created specific views from the west to the east of the area, and the grid pattern of the streets contributes to the sharp corridor view into the green hills above the station. There are some important view points that are strategic for enhancing the character of the area, most of which are located on main access points to the area.

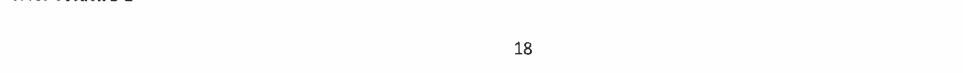
The main gateways at the southern and eastern boundaries are important for improving the brand of the area, which could be achieved by developing high buildings with modern architecture and unique characteristics, and could contribute in the attraction of new businesses and investment into the area.

The photographs on the following page correspond with each numbered point on this map.

Cross Section A-A



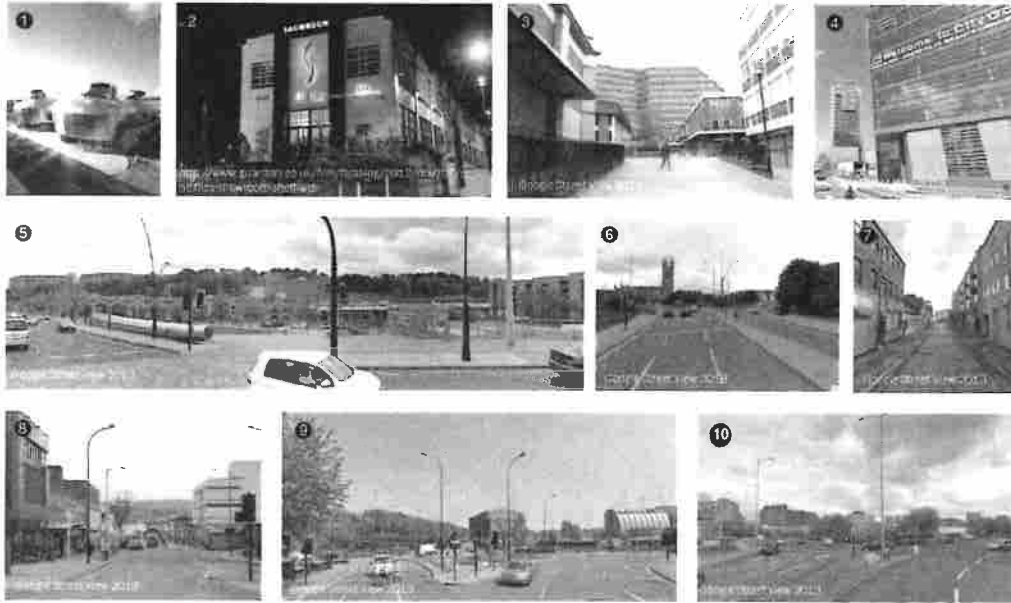
Cross Section B-B



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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

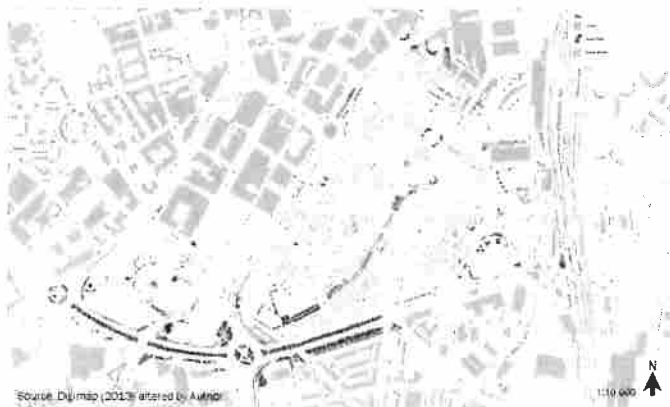
2.1.8 VIEWS AND VISTAS CONTINUED



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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.9 VEGETATION AND WATERCOURSES



Green vegetation and trees are almost absent in the inner areas of the CIQ, except in limited amounts at the Porter Brook, the open space next to the Sheffield Hallam Students Union, and the DFS site. Grass and clusters of trees and bushes are found in slightly greater supply along the periphery of the CIQ area, including the Ring Road, Eyre Street, Moorfoot, Sheffield Hallam University Square, and the train station.

The limited vegetation along the Ring Road and Porter Brook, however, is either hidden behind buildings or isolated by vehicular movement, therefore providing benefit little to the public.

The Porter Brook is the area's only watercourse, but its surface is hidden and covered by bushes, with most parts of the river culverted and behind buildings, again hidden from public view.

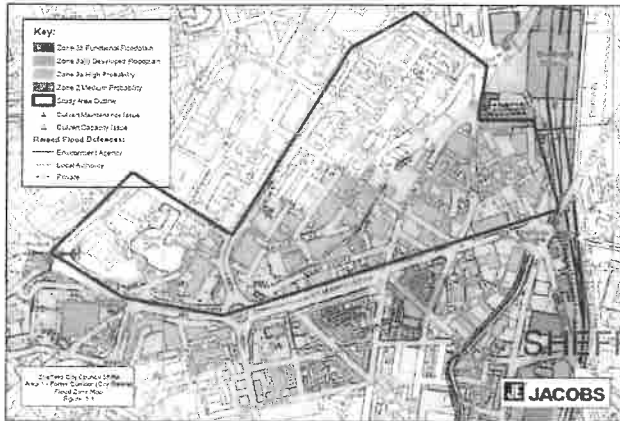


Top: Vegetation barrier on St Marys Gate
Top right: View of Hallam Union from Palemaster Row
Bottom: View of Porter Brook from Matilda Street

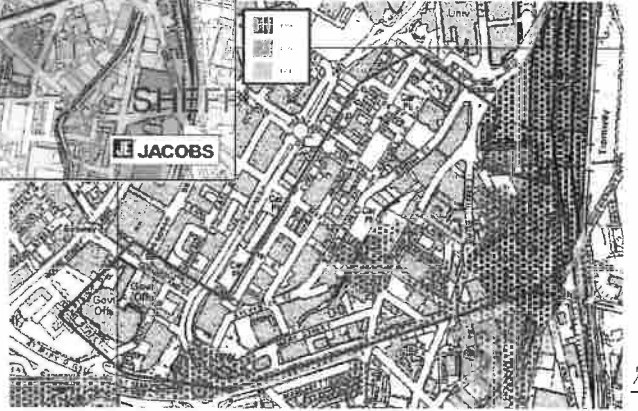
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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.10 FLOOD RISK



The Porter Brook River originates on the moors above Sheffield, flowing 10km into the heart of the city and through the centre of the CIQ area. Currently the flood risk for the majority of the CIQ Area Action Plan area is of a high probability of flooding with the exception of the NORTH? And East of the site surrounding Sheffield Hallam University and the Government Offices, where there is higher terrain. The City Council commissioned a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which will provide the baseline information required for designing flood defences and new built development on the Porter Brook.



This work is due for completion in late July and will be vital to inform designs to de-culvert the Brook, re-naturalise the river banks and encourage biodiversity. The bottom map indicates the extent of the floods in 1958, 1973 and 1991. All three previous floods have affected the area around Fornham Street, Turner Street and Suffolk Road.

Flood Risk Map:

Source: Sheffield City Council, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2015

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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.11 CONSERVATION

The Cultural Industries Quarter Conservation area is situated between the City Centre and the Clives Train Station. The area is bounded to the west by Arundale Gate and Eyre Street, arterial routes into the City Centre and a section of the ring road to the South. The eastern boundary is formed by Leadmill Road, Cross Turner Street and Sheaf Street and includes Howard Street to the North next to Sheffield Hallam University. The area contains the remaining 18th Century development on the Duke of Norfolk's estate and the later expansion along the Porter Brook.

There are various special elements that justify the designation of the conservation area, including:

- Surviving elements of the grid pattern and street hierarchy
- 6 distinctive character areas which make up the CIQ as a whole
- Characterised by numerous examples of 'Little Mesters' (craftsmen in cutlery and tool making) in mixed residential and small scale industrial workshop buildings often arranged in courtyard form
- Several unlisted significant buildings i.e. the distinctive former 1930s Art Deco styled 'Kenning's car garage' now Showroom Cinema and Workstation offices

- Important metal trades area of Sheffield
- Surviving industrial chimneys add interest to rooflines
- 3 - 4 storey buildings with back of pavement boundaries characteristic of the area
- Historic floorscapes and distinctive red brick used as main building material
- Archaeology around Porter Brook provides evidence of early water powered mills in area*
- 16 listed buildings, for e.g. the Grade II* Butchers Wheel, and Grade II Stirling Works⁶

Below: CIQ Conservation map, Source:

Source: Sheffield City Council, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2015



Top: Butchers Works
Middle: Stirling Works
Bottom: Hawk Works

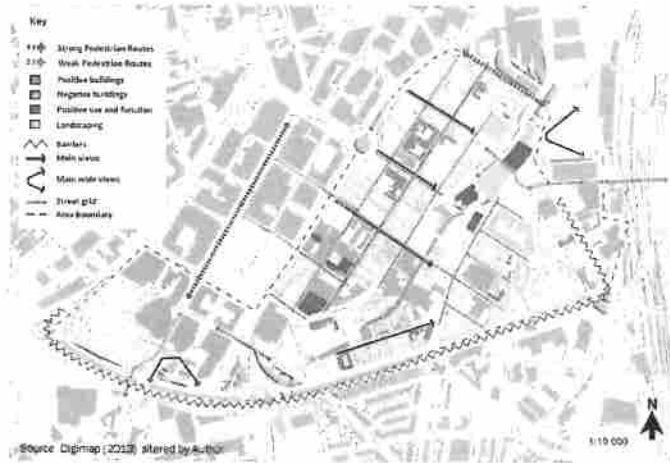


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2.1 PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.1.1.2 TOWNSCAPE APPRAISAL

- The historic grid pattern of the area remains within certain areas of the site. This pattern combines perpendicular streets and curved pathways, creating strategic points for the general visual characteristics of the CIQ.
- Current pedestrian accessibility is low within the area, however there are good potential access points in need of improvement.
- The historic grid pattern of the area remains within certain areas of the site. This pattern combines perpendicular streets and curved pathways, creating strategic points for the general visual characteristics of the CIQ.
- The topographic slope from west to east across the site combined with long, straight, street corridors created by Furnival St. and Matilda St. create important corridor views that lead to areas of green space such as that found behind the station. Having said that, however, there are some sections of the streets that are not as enclosed losing the continuous nature of the area.
- Revitalisation and restoration of some of the sites listed buildings such as Butcher Works, has helped preserve the historic industrial character and nature of the CIQ adding to Sheffield's rich industrial history..



- The architectural style of these and other works in the area are reminders of the past history of the city.
- Retail warehouses such as Decathlon, Wicks and Staples are solid big plots that affect permeability and accessibility within the area and also affect movement between adjacent urban blocks to the South West.
- The poor condition of some vacant and derelict buildings without functions, negatively affects the CIQ and is detrimental to the quarter's role within the wider city.
- The ring road bordering the area provides good vehicular access to the city and wider city region via motorways, however pedestrian links in this area (South) are very poor.

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2.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

2.2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

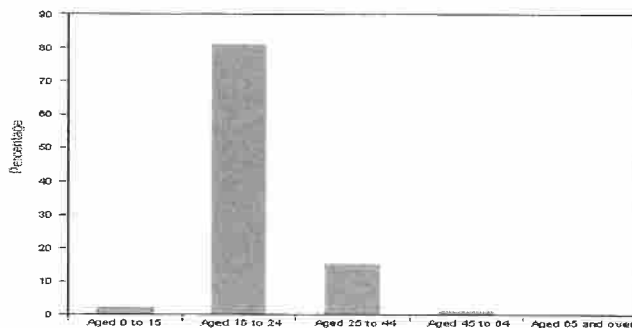
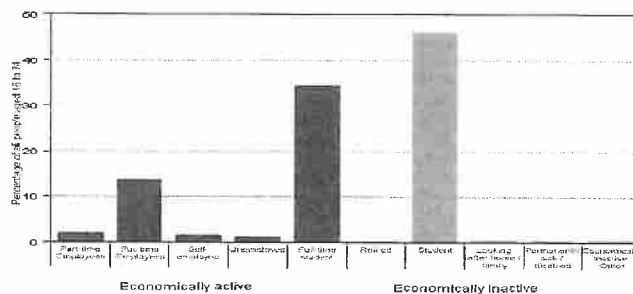
The map below shows the Northfield East Super output area within the Ward of Sheffield. The Sheffield 042G sub-region boundary roughly correlates to the CIQ boundary relating to this Area Action Plan.

Data from the 2011 census provides an indication of the CIQ's demographic make-up, demonstrating that the CIQ and surrounding area is home to a young population, where the majority are 16-24 years old.

This correlates to the breakdown of the Labour Market Status for the area indicating that the vast majority of residents are full-time students with over 40% of those being economically inactive.



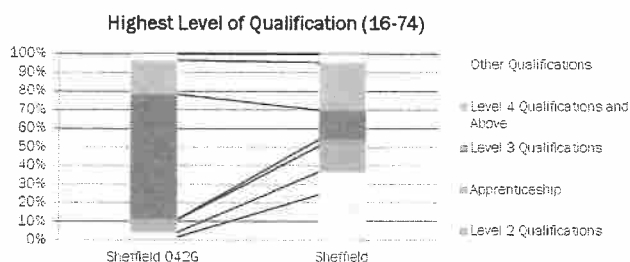
All demographic data taken from 2011 census ONS, 2011



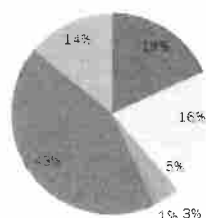
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2.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

2.2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUED...



Household Composition



- One Person Household
- One Family Only, Married/Cohabiting Couple, No Children
- One Family Only, Married/Cohabiting Couple, with Dependent Children
- One Family Only, Lone Parent
- Other Household Types, With Dependent Children
- Other Household Types, All Full-Time Students
- Other Household Types, Other

The prominence of the young population within the CIQ area, identified in the previous page, should be seen as an advantage for the area, as a young educated and enthusiastic population will be support and contribute to the strategies for reviving the CIQ and promoting cultural and digital industries.

Undergraduate students within the area, demonstrated as holding Level 3 qualifications in the first graph on the left, contribute to this high demographic quality of the CIQ, which is greater than Sheffield city's average.

The young population within the area also contributes to the labour market, as some students hold part-time positions in Sales, Customer Service or Elementary Occupations,

The prominence of the young population within the CIQ area is also reflected in household composition within the area, shown in the second graph on the left. 43% of the household composition within the area, which is significantly dominant in comparison to the other groups, includes full-time students, whereas only 1% consists of those with dependent children which suggests that the area is not currently desirable to or accommodating for families.

All demographic data taken from 2011 census (O18, 2011)

2.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

2.2.2 ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

The main business types identified within the CIQ area are; light industrial manufacturing, industrial/commercial repair workshops, commercial warehousing units, commercial small scale offices (many of which are related to media, technology, educational and cultural uses), small and large scale retail units, and leisure (mainly cafes and pubs). Of these business types, no one type is significantly dominant, yet the industrial and warehousing related types (and associated employment opportunities) seem to be declining with reduced success within the area, whereas the media, technology, educational and cultural related businesses are beginning to thrive. These thriving business types relate to the business and economic context of Sheffield city which is now considered.

It is important to reflect on the role of the CIQ area within the wider context of Sheffield City and acknowledge its contribution to the identity and development of the city region. The presence of Sheffield Hallam University buildings within the CIQ demonstrates a particular specific contribution to the wider city, considering the role that Sheffield.

Hallam and the University of Sheffield play in attracting investment and development It demonstrates the way development of the educational opportunities in the area would contribute to the city's economic recovery and growth.

Similarly, the cultural identity and opportunities within the CIQ relate it to the wider city, where culture is 'a vital part of the city's identity and a central element of the city's national and international reputation'⁷ The State of Sheffield 2013 report indicates that annually Sheffield invests more than £35 million in its cultural features, including the Showroom, creative workspaces, international cultural events and festivals, and arts and cultural related businesses. The cultural potential of the CIQ, contributing to the cultural qualities of the city region, exemplify the economic divergence which is becoming evident in the UK's core cities (Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield) aiming to overcome the recent economic struggles resulting from the national recession⁸ This divergence also relates significantly to the emergence of knowledge and educational based industries which will help a post-

Industrial city like Sheffield begin to prosper again, with opportunities for such industries evident and beginning to be exploited within the CIQ area. Digital industries are also emerging as very important in the economic growth of Sheffield, and bear some relation to potential business development opportunities considering the CIQ area's proximity to Sheffield's new digital industries quarter.

Considering the Sheffield city region "Sheffield's economy has been significantly transformed over the last 20 years, as shown by the increased exports to emerging economies. Much of this change has come from the diversification of the business base, as the city's economy has moved from a declining post-industrial city to a growing knowledge-based economy with a wide range of business sectors."⁹

As well as the CIQ providing cultural and education/knowledge based industry opportunities which relate to the wider city's development focus and emerging reputation, the CIQ also contributes to Sheffield by reflecting aspects of its industrial heritage and providing environmental value in relation to the Porter Brook river corridor

2.3 POLICY ANALYSIS

There is a wide range of existing policy at the European, national and local level, which is relevant to the CIQ as identified below.

EUROPEAN:

- EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC
- EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC
- Habitat and Species Conservation Directive 1992/43/EEC
- European Spatial Development Perspective 1999

NATIONAL:

- National Policy comprises the National Planning Policy Framework 2012, and will also include any subsequently produced guidance.
- Flood Risk Regulations
- National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England

LOCAL:

- Sheffield Development Framework Core Strategy 2009
- Sheffield City Strategy 2010-2020
- Sheffield Unitary Development Plan 1998
- Humber River Basin Management Plan 2009
- Sheffield Rivers and Running Water Habitat Action Plan 2002
- Cultural Industries Quarter Action Plan 2000
- Sheffield City Centre Masterplan Review 2008
- Sheffield Development Framework: City Policies and Sites Consultation Draft 2010

- Sheffield First City Strategy
- Urban Design Compendium 2004

This analysis will be broken down into policy themes, discussing the relevant policies to the CIQ within that theme at all scales. The policy themes are as follows:

- Heritage
- Environmental
- Regeneration
- Design
- Transport
- Economic

HERITAGE

Heritage policies are especially important to the CIQ area considering the Cultural Industries Quarter Conservation Area demonstrated in Section 2.1. There is no heritage policy significantly relevant to the CIQ area at the European Level.

At the national scale the **NPPF** bears up-to-date relevance to the CIQ area, particularly **paragraphs 17.10, 126, and 137**. **Paragraph 17.10** is a core planning principle relating to broad conservation of heritage, which is relevant to the CIQ considering the industrial heritage features it possesses (including its red brick building materials, street hierarchy and grid pattern, workshop buildings with courtyard form and industrial architecture, and listed and

significant buildings), and should therefore act as an overarching guide to the specific heritage-related policies produced in this Action Plan

The key aspect of **paragraph 126** which makes it relevant to the CIQ area is considering ways heritage makes a *"positive contribution to local character"*, where industrial heritage is a significant aspect of the CIQ's character and identity which can be conserved through its industrial architecture and building materials. This should be reflected in this Action Plan's policies by a series of specific design-related policies for historic industrial buildings and adjacent buildings, to contribute towards this sense of character and place. This is linked with the relevance of **paragraph 137** emphasising the significance of the conserved heritage within the area.

At the local scale **Sheffield Unitary Development Plan 1998** is key in relation to the CIQ area, and despite being introduced 15 years ago sections **BE15, BE16, BE19 and BE20** are still important within the area and must be addressed in this Action Plan's policy framework. Their significance relates to listed and historically/architecturally important buildings, and conservation area development. Discussion of the preservation and enhancement of important architectural heritage to Sheffield in **BE15** should be replicated in this plan's policies, as is also true of **BE16** which emphasises the need for detailed proposals for any conservation area development (relevant to the majority of our CIQ area). The requirement for detailed proposals should also be introduced in relation to listed and identified character

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buildings, alongside the content of policy **BE19** discussing *"Development affecting Listed Buildings"*, which should be clearly reflected in this Action Plan's policy framework without much need for alteration. **BE 19** is particularly significant to the CIQ considering the poor condition of several listed and significant industrial heritage buildings within the area. **BE 20's** requirement for retaining non-listed but important *"historic buildings"* is crucial considering the number of significant non-listed historic buildings within the CIQ, so will be incorporated into the Action Plan policy framework with a policy stating that non-listed buildings assigned with character status should receive the same treatment as listed buildings.

Policies **G5, G7** and **EBH2** of the **Sheffield Development Framework: Emerging Options for City Policies for Informal Consultation 2006** all relate to the CIQ area and demonstrate some resemblance with the **UDP** policies.

G7 is important due to its emphasis that heritage conservation has to be weighed against other values like sustainable development and community benefits, which should be reflected in producing policies that provide an extent of flexibility in relation to what and how heritage should be conserved within the CIQ. This being said, there are certain core heritage focus points within the CIQ which should not be compromised by other policy.

EBH2 presents similarities with **BE 16** of the **UDP**, and highlights the considerations that must be made when undertaking conservation area development, which must be reflected in this Action Plan's policy framework.

It has become evident that although existing

heritage policies may not be entirely up-to-date in relation to the year they were published, their approach to heritage conservation remains relevant, where the types of use and level of renovation may be their only aspect requiring review considering the altered economic climate and reduced investment opportunities. The heritage policies produced as part of this Action Plan may also aim to provide more area-specific guidance.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Environmental policies relevant to the CIQ area can be found at the European scale in the **EU Water Framework Directive, EU Floods Directive, and Habitat and Species Conservation Directive**, yet their relevance to CIQ is in very broad terms related to river basin management, flood risk, and river species, where they guide the more specific national and local scale policies (which are more directly applicable to the CIQ area).

At the national scale, the **NPPF, Flood Risk Regulations, and National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England** are relevant. Within the **NPPF paragraphs 17.6 and 17.9** and **Chapters 10 and 11** demonstrate direct relevance to the CIQ area, albeit at a broad scale. **Paragraph 17.6** indicates *"taking full account of flood risk"*, which should be reflected in this Action Plan's general policy framework, but specifically in relation to the identified Porter Brook Corridor Character Area, requiring new development to consider and undertake flood risk mitigation approaches.

Considering the importance of increasing open space provision within the CIQ area, paragraph

17.9 is particularly relevant to the CIQ, acknowledging the varied benefits open space can have within an area. Open space provision requirements should be reflected within this Action Plan's policy framework relating to the whole CIQ area, as well as requiring specific provision in areas such as the Porter Brook Corridor. These policies should reflect the different types of required open space and their associated benefits e.g. flood risk mitigation, increasing biodiversity, as in **17.9**.

Chapter 10's focus on addressing flood risk within the context of climate change is particularly relevant to the CIQ area considering the presence of the Porter Brook and the extent of flood risk identified in the maps in **Section 2.1**, and as well as being reflected in local level existing policy, specific measures for taking account of flood risk will be outlined within this Action Plan's policy framework. *"Conserving and enhancing the natural environment"* is the focus of **Chapter 11, and Paragraphs 109 and 117.3** are especially significant to the river habitat of Porter Brook, which should receive policy attention in this Action Plan's policy framework (specifically relating to the Porter Brook Character Area) in order to encourage its restoration, improvement of its biodiversity, and make it a high-quality natural feature forming part of the identity of the CIQ.

The **Flood Risk Regulations and National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England** set out the roles of different authorities and groups, both bearing broad relevance to the CIQ area, yet are more significant to the formulation of existing local policies than the policy framework of the Action Plan itself.

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A number of existing policies are relevant to the CIQ in environmental terms at the local level including: the **Humber River Basin Management Plan**, **Sheffield Development Framework Core Strategy**, **Sheffield Unitary Development Plan**, **Sheffield Rivers and Running Water Habitat Action Plan**, **CIQ Action Plan 2000**, and **Sheffield City Centre Masterplan Review 2008**.

Within the **SDF Core Strategy** policies **CS63**, **CS67** and **CS73** are particularly significant, where **CS63** and **67** relate to managing flood risk and should be reflected in this Action Plan's policy framework in the requirement of sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate, particularly relevant to the Porter Brook Corridor area. **CS73**'s requirement to "enhance the provision of good quality paths and network links to and along river corridors" should be replicated in the policies developed here for the Porter Brook Corridor Character Area, considering the current hidden and neglected nature of the river within the CIQ site, as should the de-culverting emphasised in **CS67**.

The Sheffield UDP bears some very general relevance to the CIQ area, despite having been introduced in 1998, yet the severity of economic challenges has increased greatly within the context of climate change, and environmental technologies have also developed greatly since its inception. This being said, policies **BE4**, **GE10**, **GE11**, **GE17**, **GE20**, **GE22**, **GE26** and **GE27** all relate at some level to the CIQ area, and particularly to the Porter Brook Corridor area. Linked with the **SDF Core Strategy's CS73**, **GE10** is important for the Porter Brook Corridor area, and the desire to create a green pedestrian corridor should be reflected in the Action Plan policy framework.

Similarly, **GE17**'s focus on the naturalisation and enhancement of the rivers should be reflected in the Porter Brook Corridor Character Area specific policies, as should the requirement for on-site flood protection where appropriate, from **GE20**, and focusing on "water quality of waterways" as identified in **GE26**.

Policy **GE27** focuses on energy and low carbon and renewable technologies, and although its discussion is somewhat outdated, the principle remains extremely relevant to the CIQ area (as to all areas within Sheffield city), so should be reflected in the policy framework of this Action Plan. Incentivisation may need to be considered in relation to this though considering the added cost it creates for development within the current economic climate.

Although the **Sheffield Rivers and Running Water Action Plan** was developed in 2002, within a less concerning environmental context, it is still particularly relevant to the Porter Brook Corridor character area, especially **Objectives 1, 3 and 4**. Its emphasis on removing river culverting, improving the quality of river corridors, and especially raising "awareness of the value of Sheffield's rivers and the habitats and species associated with them" should be reflected in the Porter Brook Character Area's policies, encouraging making the river more visible and accessible, yet without compromising flood mitigation measures.

The **Sheffield City Centre Masterplan review 2008** has a significant emphasis on sustainability, and measures to make Sheffield more sustainable, and in this sense it should guide the overarching aim of this Action Plan's environmental policy framework.

This environmental policy analysis has emphasised two main points, which are the inter-relation and overlap between the existing environmental policies relevant to the CIQ, and the fact that despite some policies being outdated in terms of their introduction date, their environmental focus and aims are more relevant than ever to the CIQ area, and the Porter Brook Corridor Character area, considering increasing environmental concerns within the context of climate change. The broad environmental relevance of existing policies is evident, so the Action Plan policies must provide more specific detail of the environmental requirements for the CIQ area.

REGENERATION

Regeneration policies are crucial within the CIQ area considering the current condition of many buildings and aspects of industrial heritage within the area. There are no relevant European scale policies, but at the national scale, **paragraph 21** of the **NPPF** identifies that investment for regeneration is restricted by a number of financial aspects within the current economic climate. Specifically it notes that "Planning policies should recognise and seek to address potential barriers to investment, including a poor environment or any lack of infrastructure, services or housing". This is relevant to the CIQ area, and specifically to Moorfoot and the area surrounding Newton Lane, considering the vacancy and poor existing condition and impression of these areas. As such, this Action Plan's policy framework should identify land-use specific regeneration priorities in the form of Character area policies, aiming to guide limited investment into the most appropriate forms with the highest benefits and success opportunities.

The **SDF Core Strategy** and **Sheffield City Centre Masterplan Review** both demonstrate relevance with regeneration in the CIQ area. Within the **SDF Core Strategy** policy **CS6** is particularly significant, addressing "Manufacturing and the City Centre – Transition Areas", where areas within the CIQ are identified as transition areas due to still containing industrial uses. The requirement for such industrial uses to relocate "providing suitable alternative sites and premises are available in the city" should be reflected within this Action Plan's policies so as to facilitate the growth of cultural, commercial and education/knowledge based land uses in areas where light industrial uses and vacancy and dereliction rates are currently inhibiting this.

The main relevance of the **Sheffield City Centre Masterplan Review** is its emphasis on the quality of regeneration within the city to maximise investment opportunities and economic contribution. This applies to the CIQ considering many of its areas which are neglected and beginning to fall into disrepair, especially surrounding declining light industrial uses. The regeneration policies of this Action Plan should therefore emphasise striving for the highest quality regeneration possible within the constraints of the current economic climate to stimulate investment and revitalisation throughout the city, whilst also protecting and reflecting its industrial heritage.

Whilst the existing regeneration-focused policies identified here are rather broad, they are still very relevant to the CIQ area and provide the opportunity to guide more focused regeneration policies.

DESIGN

Design is a vital area of policy within the Action Plan for any area. Due to the wide variation in design approaches, there is no identified European scale design policy relevant to the CIQ area.

At the national scale the **NPPF** contains relevant design-related policies to the CIQ area, found in **Section 7 "Requiring Good Design"** including **paragraphs 56-58**. This section of the **NPPF** emphasises how good design can contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and successful place-making. In line with **paragraph 57** and providing design guidance at varied scales, this Action Plan's policies will address design requirements at the general CIQ area level whilst also identifying aspects related to specific character areas and locations within the CIQ. **Paragraph 58** is particularly relevant considering its identification of the aims of design policies, which will be reflected within this Action Plan's policies (including; high quality public realm, facilitation of flexible mixed uses, and portrayal of the unique character and industrial heritage of the CIQ area).

Innovation and uniqueness is an important feature which should be demonstrated within the CIQ area considering the need to retain its industrial heritage and combine it with its cultural and education-focused nature. **Paragraph 60** is therefore particularly relevant to the area with its indication of the need to "seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness". Flexibility in the type of design supported within the CIQ area is therefore an important aspect of the design policies which will be included in this Action Plan.

The final significant aspect to highlight here is

the indication that design policy "should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment", which is particularly relevant to the CIQ area considering its heritage, and the need to increase activity and movement within the area, which could be achieved by being considered within design-related policy. Despite demonstrating fairly broad relevance to the CIQ area, the identified policy aspects of the **NPPF** will help to guide the formulation of more specific design-related policy in this Action Plan.

At the local level the **SDF Core Strategy** and **Urban Design Compendium 2004** are both relevant to the CIQ area. Within the **SDF Core Strategy** policy **CS64** is particularly relevant here and should be reflected in this Action Plan's policies by requiring design within the CIQ to be sustainable in relation to buildings and spaces, and facilitate energy efficiency as a result, especially within the context of increasing concern surrounding climate change. **CS74** is also important, and very relevant to the CIQ considering the importance of strong design principles in all areas, but particularly within Sheffield considering its "distinctiveness". It highlights the importance of good design in relation to the cities physical features (e.g. rivers and topography), the "views and vistas to landmarks and skylines into and out of the City Centre and across the city to the surrounding countryside", the city's townscape and building features, and "the distinctive heritage of the city", all of which are important within the CIQ area and should be reflected in its policies. All of these aspects should therefore be reflected in this Action Plan's design policies.

Although the policies within the **SDF Core Strategy** make reference to the RSS (which has

now been abolished) and are out-dated in this sense, design principles remain fairly robust and consistent over time, and they still provide important design guidance which must be followed within this Area Action Plan's policies.

The relevance of the **Urban Design Compendium 2004** to the CIQ area is relatively broad, found in **section 4.3** of the document which is devoted to the Cultural Industries Quarter. Within the Vision of this section perhaps the most applicable aspect to this Action Plan is the aim that *"The industrial heritage of the city will be represented through the adaptive reuse of the historic built form, while public realm improvements will further enhance the importance of this industrial legacy"*. This will be reflected as an overarching principle to the Action Plan's specific design policies.

TRANSPORT

Transport approaches vary greatly within different countries, so as with design policy there is no European scale transport policy identified as relevant to the CIQ area.

At the national scale the NPPF is significant, setting out a holistic sustainability-themed approach to transport strategies, prioritising public transport in order to reduce congestion and emissions, and including the integration of accessibility, land-use and parking within its transport considerations. **Paragraphs 29, 30, 35, 37, 38, 39 and 40** are particularly relevant. In paragraph 29 it is indicated that *"the transport system needs to be balanced in favour of sustainable transport modes"*, which is significant to the CIQ considering that it already has strong bus connections with the area and the city centre, and should be reflected in this Action Plan's policies by prioritising and

emphasising the importance of pedestrian and cycling routes within the CIQ area. This is linked with the emphasis on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and congestion within **paragraph 30**. **Paragraph 35.2** also specifically mentions the prioritisation of pedestrian and cyclist travel modes which has been indicated will be replicated within the transport policy framework within this Action Plan.

At the local scale although the **CIQ Action Plan** is rather outdated it still bears some relevance to the CIQ area, albeit rather general, referring to specific policies within the **Sheffield UDP 1998**. **Section 10** focuses on *"Access and Transport: Pedestrians, Cycling, Public Transport, Parking and Traffic"*. In relation to *"Pedestrian Access/Movement"* UDP policies **T7** and **T8** are highlighted, emphasising a focus on facilitating walking and cycling and *"aims to create a pedestrian-friendly network"*, which will both be reflected within this Action Plan's transport policies. This will link with the Plan's design policies, improving the public realm in order to make it a high-quality, attractive and safe environment for pedestrian use. Another particular feature within this section which is directly relevant to the CIQ area is the requirement for the CIQ to be *"well sign-posted and legible"*, which has not been achieved to date and must therefore be a policy priority. The discussion of CCTV, lighting and *"The night time environment"* is also important, and significant to the CIQ area considering the desire to create 24-hour activity and use within the area.

The **CIQ Action Plan** also makes reference to policy **T10** of the **UDP** which discusses the prioritisation of cycling within the CIQ area, and the transport policy should reflect this particularly in relation to the provision of adequate cycle parking facilities throughout the

area.

Considering that the CIQ is in very close proximity to a well-serviced area of Sheffield in terms of bus services, particularly along the northern boundary of the CIQ area, public transport related policies are less of a priority for this Action Plan. However there is room for improvement along the area's southern boundary, so this does not mean that it will not be important to aim for improvements in this area, reflecting aspects of the Public Transport section of the **CIQ Action Plan**. Considering the land use change in the CIQ area since the **CIQ Action Plan** was produced in 2000 its parking related discussion is no longer as applicable to the CIQ area, so this Action Plan's transport policies for parking will be guided more by the physical analysis of the area.

Within the **SDF Core Strategy** policies **CS51 – CS61** demonstrate some relevance with the CIQ area. **CS54** and **CS 55** are particularly relevant to the CIQ area and should be reflected in this Action Plan's transport policies due to their focus on pedestrian and cycle routes, which are currently in need of improvement within the CIQ. **CS59** discusses the improvement of roads, including the aim to *"improve the movement of public transport, cyclists, or pedestrians"* and as already discussed, this is something which should be reflected in this Action Plan's transport policies. Considering the pedestrian focus which is desired for the CIQ area, policy **CS61** is also particularly relevant, discussing *"A Pedestrian Priority Zone in which a high-quality environment will allow priority for the safe, convenient and comfortable movement of pedestrians within and through the area"*, and is something that should guide the pedestrian focused policies developed as part of this Action Plan.

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ECONOMIC

Economic related policies are not easily transferable between different countries, so European scale policy is not relevant here.

At the national level the **NPPF** is very relevant, as the economic pillar of sustainability (alongside environmental and social) is an integral locus of the document, where the planning system's economic role is described as: *"contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy..."*. **Section 1** is particularly relevant, including paragraphs **18-22**, emphasising the importance of facilitating and achieving economic growth and the need to *"meet the development needs of business and support an economy fit for the 21st century"* (**paragraph 20**). The indication in **paragraph 21** that policy should not be too restrictive for business investment and help to overcome various investment barriers, is particularly relevant to the CIQ area considering the renewed investment interest it requires, inhibited by vacancy dereliction and poor public realm conditions in certain areas. As such, the economic policies of this Action Plan should reflect this by demonstrating flexibility in the land use, business types and investment opportunities supported in order to achieve the maximum investment levels possible.

Considering the decline of light industrial and manufacturing businesses in the CIQ area and the emergence and growing success of cultural and knowledge based industries, **paragraph 21.3** is especially significant in its emphasis on flexibility of policy to accommodate emerging and rapidly changing business needs within the area. This flexibility will be incorporated as a significant element of the economic policy within this Action Plan.

Despite highlighting **21.3** as an overarching principle to economic policy, all sub-paragraphs within **paragraph 21** are crucial to the CIQ area and will be reflected in different aspects of the economic policies developed here.

This Action Plan's economic policies should also undertake and reflect the aspects discussed in **Section 2 "Ensuring the vitality of town centres"** (including **paragraphs 23-27**), particularly considering for example identifying *"a range of suitable sites to meet the scale and type of retail, leisure, commercial, office, tourism, cultural community and residential development needed in town centres"*, which will be undertaken in the Character Area specific policies. It is evident that although national policy provides a broader policy framework for specific areas, the NPPF is very relevant guide to the economic policies required for the CIQ area. The NPPF is also particularly significant considering that it was introduced within the same economic context that we are currently in, so focuses on ways to re-stimulate economic growth.

At the local scale the **SDF Core Strategy** and **Target policy: An economic growth strategy for Sheffield 2012** bear some relevance to the economic and employment context of the CIQ area. **Paragraph 2.12** highlights the challenge of *"Economic transformation"* in Sheffield indicating that a *"key challenge in the face of decline of the older metal and related industries is to move from recent economic recovery to real transformation and so secure jobs for the future"* which will be reflected in this Action Plan's policies in the encouragement of emerging industries and businesses. This relates to the **Core Strategy's** objective for Sheffield as *"A city that will be economically prosperous and attractive to business and new*

investment and will sustain employment for all who seek it". **Chapter 6** within the **SDF Core Strategy "Promoting Economic Prosperity and Providing Sustainable Employment"** contains very relevant policies to the economic context of the CIQ area. Considering the negative influence of many light industrial businesses within the CIQ area, and the need to eventually relocate them out of the CIQ area **policies CS5 and CS6** are significant, detailing areas like the Don Valley as ideal locations for such businesses and highlighting the CIQ as a 'transition area' which will be reflected within this Action Plan's economic policy as a good way to encourage economic growth and support emerging businesses within the area.

Aspects of the **Target policy: An economic growth strategy for Sheffield 2012** relate specifically to the CIQ area, particularly the vision for the city's economy of demonstrating *"World-class, high-tech sectors built on Sheffield's distinctive economic strengths..."* and *"An enhanced reputation locally, nationally, and internationally with Sheffield known as a creative, inventive, energetic city that is a great place to live, work, invest and visit"*, which will be reflected in the economic policies of this Action Plan by focusing on supporting and encouraging the cultural and knowledge-based emerging industries within the area and encouraging its evolution into a 24 hour area where people live, work, socialise and visit throughout the day and night. The importance of developing the area as *"a skilled and productive workplace"* will also be reflected in this Action Plan's policy, using the support of knowledge-based industries and the university's presence and investment within the area to help to achieve this.

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SECTION 3: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES & THREATS

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STRENGTHS

The CIQ's main strengths are evident in the central location of the quarter, and its historic character, existing grid pattern, industrial architecture and characteristic red brick building materials. The emerging digital and design industries within the quarter represent significant CIQ strengths, and the Porter Brook also provides a strong identity for the quarter, yet this is currently lost due to its culverted, hidden and underused nature. A summary of the significant strengths of the CIQ are as follows:

- Development, regeneration and investment prospects in relation to the quarter's proximity to the new Moor development.
- Accessibility in relation to:
 - Good Public transport links
 - Connection with major road networks
 - Strong pedestrian links into city centre.
- Highlighted as a 'Gateway Site' within Sheffield City.
- Existence of educational activity cluster around Sheffield Hallam University in Northern part of quarter, with some of this activity related to the creative, cultural and digital industries
- Existence of cultural activities and uses within the quarter (including the arts, design and music industries).
- Existence of some digital industries within the quarter, particularly related to Sheffield Hallam University, and close proximity of the quarter to Sheffield's Digital Industries Campus.
- Diversity and mix of uses within quarter, including office/business, residential, cultural, educational, and retail/leisure.
- Presence of Showroom cinema in Northern section of quarter (which is the largest independent cinema outside London).
- Presence of Listed and significant character buildings within the quarter, such as Butcher Works, Colombia Place, Elliot House (all listed), and the Showroom Cinema
- Presence of the Porter Brook river running through the quarter
- Designated Cultural Industries Quarter conservation area, which occupies the majority of the CIQ addressed in this Area Action Plan, except the Moorfoot area.



*Right: Top: The Moor Foot area;
Second: Open section of the Porter Brook;
Third: Hawk Works;
Fourth: The Showroom Cinema.*

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- ## WEAKNESSES
- Limited range of facilities and services (e.g. convenience food) located within the quarter
 - Lack of open green space, where the only significant identified open space is the small site next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union.
 - Vacancy and Dereliction is evident throughout the quarter, particularly on sites which formerly had industrial/warehouse uses, as is the poor condition of existing buildings.
 - Loss of character in certain areas, especially where there is a lot of vacancy and dereliction.
 - Loss of identity and purpose of the CIQ considering the decline in traditional industry, where a cultural identity has not been well developed through the entirety of the quarter.
 - Culverted nature of the Porter Brook, meaning it is hidden and neglected, without the appropriate maintenance. Its prominence and significance within the CIQ is not realised.
 - Lack of biodiversity within the quarter, considering the lack of green open space, and general neglect for the Porter Brook.
 - Diluted nature of cultural uses, which are not made as prominent or important within the quarter as they should be.
 - Incompatible land uses and building heights, meaning that although there is a lot of mix evident within the quarter, the mix of uses and heights do not complement or interact well with each other and their surroundings.
 - Lack of legibility throughout the CIQ and poor quality of the public realm, with no consistency.
 - Poor/Absent night time activity within the majority of the quarter.
 - Poor pedestrian flow and footfall through certain parts of quarter, due to a lack of attraction with poor active frontages, vacancy and dereliction.
 - Lack of recent investment attraction in certain area, with no incentives for re-development.
 - Presence of conservation area can be an obstacle to change as it requires higher investment and tighter development controls.
 - Urban form in certain areas (e.g. Site 5) presents another obstacle to investment and redevelopment within the CIQ
 - Low parking density in the quarter despite large areas occupied by ground-level parking.
 - Variety of landowners can make it more difficult to co-ordinate their support and action for development and change within the quarter.
 - Unsuitable street lighting and poor/non-existent signage throughout the quarter.
 - Safety concerns, particularly in areas with vacancy and dereliction.

*Left Top: CIQ from Eyre St. Multi Storey;
Second: Derelict plot in the CIQ;
Third: Russell Bros. works;
Bottom: View down Sylvastor Street.*

OPPORTUNITIES

The opportunities within the CIQ are numerous and wide-ranging. The relocation of existing businesses would enable a more connected and diverse mix of uses to prosper within existing historical and new buildings, and building on the quarter's existing strengths could help to develop the CIQ to its full potential, considering the following specific opportunities.

- Porter Brook provides great potential to introduce green infrastructure, develop green open spaces and encourage biodiversity in the quarter, improving its natural environment.
- Porter Brook also provides the opportunity to create riverside activity and flows through the quarter, acting as an environmental attraction and contributing to the CIQ's unique identity.
- There is significant potential for investment and redevelopment within the quarter due to its proximity and accessibility to the following areas within the city:
 - The Moor, Sheffield Hallam University, City Centre, Train station and Sheffield's Digital Industries Campus.
- It will be possible to improve the continuity and quality of the quarter's public realm and reinforce its integration, continuity, and links with the city by replicating the public realm and landscaping evident in surrounding areas such as the Gold Route and new Moor development.
- The existing diversity of uses could be developed, and in some cases relocated, to facilitate a more compatible, well integrated mixed-use quarter, which encourages activity throughout the day and night.
- Related to the quarter's existing cultural foundations and its diversity of uses, there is an opportunity to introduce some temporary uses in order to immediately revive vacant and derelict areas, increase attraction and footfall, and encourage more 24hour activity.
- Building on the CIQ's existing cultural foundations, character and industrial heritage, there is a great chance to create a distinctive identity and function for the quarter within the city. This should have particular relation to the production and consumption of the arts, design and music industries, as well as the quarter's proximity to Sheffield's Digital Industries Campus, without losing touch with its industrial heritage.
- There is a chance for the CIQ to accommodate some of the growth of Sheffield Hallam, forming an educational hub which could help to attract knowledge-intensive and digital industries, and would also present a good way to increase attraction to the quarter, and footfall and activity through its entirety.
- Repair and re-use of significant and historic buildings will ensure their continued use and survival in the quarter, alongside new and future developments, whilst also contributing to the area's unique identity and attraction.

- The discussed opportunities would not only be beneficial in themselves, but would also help to develop the quarter's role within the city region economy.

*Top: Sheffield Hallam Union building;
Middle: Niche Nightclub on Sydney St.;
Bottom: Moorfoot area.*



THREATS



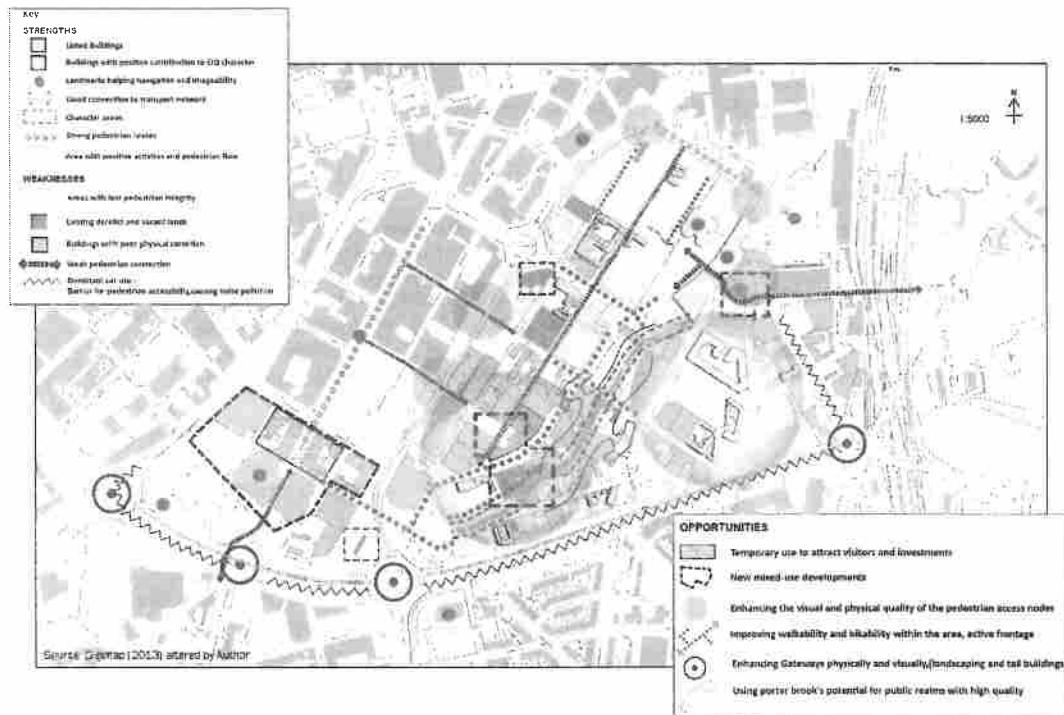
Despite the current strengths of the CIQ and the associated opportunities which have been identified there are also a number of threats which must be considered. These threats reflect difficulties associated with the quarter's opportunities, and the roles of different actors/stakeholders, and could inhibit or complicate the potential success of the quarter if not adequately addressed and planned for.

- Balancing provisions of the social and environmental needs and opportunities of the area, with the needs of the local economy, and within the current economic climate, presents a difficult challenge which could limit what can be achieved in the quarter (especially in the short term).
- Inadequate funding available from the public sector in the current economic climate will stall redevelopment/regeneration plans for the quarter, and could limit what can practically be achieved.
- A tendency for passive land owners/speculators to retain land without development, can be detrimental to area improvement attempts in the short term.
- Poor planning and regulation of the mixed-use nature of the CIQ could result in incompatibilities and a lack of integration between different uses, negatively effecting the overall coherence, success and identity of the quarter.
- Excessive growth of Sheffield Hallam University, beyond the support capabilities of the CIQ (particularly relating to the potential development of an educational hub in the North of the quarter) could see the area become too large of a campus site with large areas of studentification, and an over-dominant impact on the CIQ's identity.
- An absence of strong branding to coherently define the CIQ's unique identity and image could be detrimental to its overall success.
- Strong retail competition from the bordering Moor redevelopment area could result in pedestrian flows altering, and may have negative implications for the attraction to and flows through the CIQ.
- Heightened flood risk caused by naturalisation of the Porter Brook is a serious impediment to riverside development, and could limit attempts to improve the natural environment and biodiversity levels within the quarter.
- Loss of light and space surrounding the Porter Brook if building heights are not limited to 3-5 storeys, could also occur, contradicting the aims of naturalisation.
- Loss of historic grid pattern to development is a significant concern, where it has already been lost in areas towards the West of the quarter.
- **Without an all-encompassing, holistic approach towards action for the CIQ, development of different areas of the quarter will not be coherent or well integrated, and its existing identity could be even further confused or lost altogether.**

*Left Top: Sheffield Hallam Students Union
Second: Sidney Street Third: Porter Brook
Bottom: Vacant site by Porter Brook*

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The following map provides a visual representation of some of the main strengths, weaknesses and threats identified for the CIQ.



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SECTION 4: CIQ VISION

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4.1 VISION STATEMENT

This section of the Action Plan sets out a spatial vision for the CIQ in 15 years, along with more specific objectives which support and facilitate the achievement of this vision. It is intended to provide private and public sector guidance for appropriate land uses and types of development, urban design principles, and infrastructure within the quarter.

VISION:

The CIQ will exhibit a strong identity relating to; its industrial heritage, the presence of the Porter Brook and a high quality natural environment, its cultural activities (in terms of both production and consumption), and its educational opportunities (especially in the cultural industries). This identity will be reflected in the quarter's innovative and creative design and architecture, making a unique and valuable contribution to Sheffield city whilst integrating well within it. Pedestrian access, movement, and use will dominate the vibrant quarter, with its mix of uses facilitating activity, flexibility, and sustainability.



Porter Brook



Butchers Works



The Moor, neighbouring Moorfoot

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4.2 OBJECTIVES

Identity and Industrial Heritage

- Retain the CIQ's industrial heritage whilst promoting its cultural, natural, commercial and educational identity, contributing to the sustainability, flexibility and vibrancy of the quarter.
- Enhance the character and distinctiveness of the CIQ to create a unique destination with high quality, creative and imaginative use of public spaces.
- Protect and enhance the existing historic urban fabric and listed and significant buildings within the quarter, to contribute to its unique identity.

Porter Brook

- Animate and promote the Porter Brook riverside and reconnect it to the city centre with wider pedestrian links up and downstream, and an extended range of high quality developments and activities (beyond retail), which could include temporary creative uses with a cultural/design focus.
- Uncover the hidden nature of the Porter Brook within the CIQ by naturalising the river corridor, and developing it as one of the quarter's main attractions.

Investment potential

- Bring forward vacant and derelict sites to achieve a high quality of mixed-use development, and promote sites throughout the area for innovative and creative temporary uses to kick start development and attract investment and people to the area.
- Stimulate economic development generally, and particularly relating to cultural, leisure and educational business services throughout the CIQ, to encourage 24hour activity and diversify and enhance the quarter's purpose and mixed-use nature.

Cultural Activities

- Create a strong cultural and commercial centre within the CIQ, with a more concentrated primary cultural core and secondary residential developments.
- Focus on encouraging both cultural production (e.g. art/design/music/drama studios) and consumption (e.g. galleries, theatres, exhibitions) within the CIQ.

Innovative and creative design and architecture

- Guide the design and development principles on the key sites and areas within the quarter, with the production of design related policies for specific areas and the quarter as a whole.

- Highlight significant buildings within the CIQ, whose design and architecture should reflect the quarter's high quality and innovative nature.

Mixed Use, vibrant, flexible and sustainable quarter

- Provide high quality pedestrian networks into and throughout all areas of the CIQ, particularly around and through the Porter Brook Corridor. These networks should provide a consistent, high quality public realm that attracts and guides pedestrians through the quarter, emphasising an attractive, safe image, pedestrian priority, and good access to enjoy the natural environment of the Porter Brook Corridor.
- Create well connected clusters of mixed-use activity based on the key opportunity sites highlighted within the CIQ's 6 character areas.
- Promote mixed-use residential development within the City Living Hub, providing retail/leisure activities for both residents and visitors to the area.
- Encourage light industry and industrial retail towards the Industrial Business Fringe, which offers improved transport links, creating development space within the centre of the quarter.

4.3 CHARACTER AREA VISION

This map illustrates the broad vision for the CIQ area, identifying its 6 character areas; Heart of the CIQ, Porter Brook Green Corridor, Cultural Commercial Hub, City Living Core, Moorfoot, and Industrial Business Fringe. These character areas will be examined in detail in Section 4.5 where their land use changes will be indicated, alongside area-specific policies, and suggestions for key projects that could be undertaken within them supported by best practice examples from other cities.



4.4 AREA ACTION PLAN POLICIES

The AAP Policies provide guidance for the whole CIQ area which will help to achieve the Objectives and overall Vision, where policies specific to the 6 character areas are identified for each individual area (in Section 4.5).

The general AAP policies are divided into the following themes:

- Heritage and Conservation
- Environmental
- Regeneration
- Design
- Transport and Movement
- Economic

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

AAP1: Reflecting Industrial Heritage

Wherever possible, new development should reflect the industrial heritage of the CIQ area by preserving and incorporating the following features:

- Traditional red brick building materials
- Traditional street hierarchy and grid pattern
- Traditional courtyard form (which still remains in some areas)
- Traditional industrial architecture

Where it is not possible to retain such original features, or where relating to new build development, proposals which demonstrate some reflection of the area's industrial heritage and are sympathetic to it will be supported and encouraged.

AAP2: Architectural Features

Alongside AAP1 in order to reflect the industrial heritage of the CIQ area new development which preserves and enhances the important architectural features of buildings which demonstrate industrial heritage will be supported and encouraged. This should include, but is not limited to:

- Arched doorways
- Arched window designs

AAP3: Listed Buildings

Detailed plans and proposals for all development and changes related to listed buildings must be provided, which will only be permitted where the proposed changes are entirely sympathetic and beneficial to the building itself as well as the character of the surrounding area.

AAP4: Landmark and Character Buildings

Proposals relating to buildings identified within the physical analysis maps of this Action Plan as Landmark or Character buildings should provide detailed plans and proposals for all development. As with listed buildings, the development will only be permitted where they are sympathetic and beneficial to the building

And character of the area.

AAP5: Conservation Area Development

Proposals relating to development within the CIQ Conservation Area should provide detailed plans, be sympathetic and beneficial to the building and character of the surrounding area, and conform with existing conservation area policies set out in the Sheffield UDP.

AAP6: Character and Identity of Area

New development which positively contributes to the character and identity of the area (particularly its industrial history) will be supported and encouraged.

AAP7: Heritage and Conservation Flexibility

Whilst the preservation and conservation of the CIQ's heritage must be a crucial development consideration within the area (particularly within its conservation area), some flexibility in the level of heritage conservation will be permitted in special circumstances. These special circumstances relate specifically to situations where certain development would provide significant sustainable development and community benefits for the area.

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ENVIRONMENTAL

AAP8: PORTER BROOK NATURALISATION

Support will be provided for opening up and de-culverting of the Porter Brook river corridor, naturalising the river corridor environment (including planting appropriate vegetation and trees and clearing any overgrown vegetation), and increasing and improving the river's biodiversity and water quality.

Development within the Porter Brook character area should contribute to this naturalisation of the river corridor environment where possible. This is important due to its contribution to the improvement of the natural character of the CIQ area.

AAP9: FLOOD RISK

Within high risk flood probability areas (as identified in the Physical Analysis flood risk map) proposals for new development are required to address and consider the flood risk associated with the development and outline flood risk mitigation approaches where required. Depending on the location of the site and its proximity to the Porter Brook, on site-flood protection measures may be required, which may qualify to receive some level of funding and incentivisation.

New development within flood risk areas must conform with existing national and local policy guidance as well as the specific requirements within this Action Plan.

AAP10: GREEN OPEN SPACE

New development throughout the CIQ area will be required to provide, facilitate, or contribute to the provision and facilitation of green open space within the area.

The type of green space provision required and encouraged within the different character areas of the CIQ will vary considering the varied benefits which open space can provide, including flood risk mitigation, increasing naturalness and biodiversity, and improving the public realm and pedestrian environment.

AAP11: RIVERSIDE PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

Support and encouragement will be provided for the development of a high quality pedestrian route on at least one side of the Porter Brook along the entirety of the length of the river. Development within the Porter Brook Corridor character area should be set-back from the river to facilitate this (detailed fully in the character area specific policies)

AAP12: IMPROVING THE CIQ'S NATURAL CHARACTER

Improvement of the natural character of the CIQ relates to policies AAP8, AAP10 and AAP11, and development which undertake any form of this will be supported and encouraged. All development proposals should include high-quality natural landscaping, regardless of the amount of green open space they provide.

AAP13: SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE

The provision of sustainable urban drainage systems within new development will be supported and encouraged where applicable.

AAP14: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

New development may consider the incorporation of alternative renewable energy sources such as solar panels, however this will be limited and very dependent on the site's

specific location within the conservation area and its levels of industrial heritage and character.

AAP15: RAISING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

It is crucial to increase the awareness about the environmental character of the CIQ area, particularly the presence of the Porter Brook. This could be partially achieved by the naturalisation of the Porter Brook through policy AAP8, but other innovative ways of achieving this will be welcomed and encouraged (including the provision of information signs about the river and its natural species along the riverside pedestrian route).

REGENERATION

AAP16: INDUSTRIAL USE RELOCATION

Regeneration of the CIQ area is currently restricted by the location of existing light industrial/manufacturing uses, so in order to facilitate the most successful regeneration for the area possible, these uses will be encouraged to relocate temporarily to the Industrial Business Fringe character area (with the possibility of permanent relocation to Don Valley), and will be fully supported throughout this process.

AAP17: HIGH QUALITY REGENERATION APPROACHES

Proposals for regeneration within the area must be to a high-quality in terms of both design and heritage reflection and preservation.

AAP18: DEVELOPMENT MAINTENANCE

All development within the CIQ area must be well-maintained into the future, with like for like

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material replacement to maintain the high quality nature of the regeneration.

DESIGN

AAP19: DESIGN PRINCIPLES

All new development must contribute positively to the CIQ area by contributing to its:

- i. Permeability
- ii. Legibility
- iii. Connectivity
- iv. Adaptability

AAP20: HIGH-QUALITY, INNOVATIVE AND UNIQUE DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE

New development which demonstrates high-quality, innovative, and unique design and architecture, will be encouraged provided it makes a positive and meaningful contribution to the CIQ area. Developments of poor design and architectural quality, which impact negatively on the area will not be permitted under any circumstances.

AAP21: DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURAL CONSISTENCY

Alongside the requirements of policy AAP20, new developments that demonstrate some form of consistency within the area will be supported and encouraged, particularly in relation to preserving its industrial heritage, yet this should not compromise their innovative and/or unique nature.

AAP22: RETAINING CHARACTER AND HERITAGE OF CIQ AREA

Linked with policy AAP21 the design and

architectural aspects of new development should ideally retain aspects of the character and heritage of the area, which can be achieved through providing a level of consistency with the existing built environment.

AAP23: USE OF HIGH-QUALITY MATERIALS

New development must incorporate high-quality building materials, where the use of poor quality materials that do not have longevity and/or impact negatively on the image of the area will not be permitted.

AAP24: BUILDING HEIGHTS

Flexibility will be practised in relation to the heights of new development which are permitted, as there is potential to increase heights in many areas within the CIQ in order to create landmark buildings and improve the area's legibility. This being said, there will be a strict maximum building height of 5 storeys in the Porter Brook character area due to the desire to open up the river and naturalise and improve the biodiversity and quality of the natural river corridor environment.

AAP25: PUBLIC REALM

Public realm improvements will be encouraged and supported throughout the area, which should demonstrate consistency within the CIQ area and beyond it within the context of the rest of the city. High-quality materials should be used (which will receive like-for-like replacement when required), and lighting and signage should be increased and improved. Natural landscaping will also be encouraged where appropriate.

AAP26: ACTIVE STREET FRONTAGES

Considering the need to increase activity and

footfall in many areas of the CIQ area, new development should not be set back from the street unless in exceptional circumstances.

AAP27: PROVIDING A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT

Design of new development which contributes to and facilitates the provision of a safe and secure pedestrian environment will be supported and encouraged, relating particularly to the design of the public realm discussed in policy AAP25.

AAP28: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

The sustainable design of new developments which facilitate energy efficiency, a positive environmental impact, and longevity, will be encouraged throughout the CIQ area.

AAP29: DESIGN FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABLE BUILDINGS

Alongside the encouragement of sustainable design in policy AAP28, design which provides flexibility and develops adaptable buildings will be supported. This type of design will contribute to the sustainability of the area by providing spaces which can accommodate different uses depending on the economic context and the market demand within the area.

TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT

AAP30: SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Sustainable transport modes and approaches will be encouraged within the CIQ area, focusing particularly on facilitating pedestrian and cyclist movement, making improvements to the existing bus service provision, and discouraging use of the car. This will create environmental benefits for the area by reducing

greenhouse gas emissions and reducing traffic congestion will also be beneficial for pedestrian safety within the area.

AAP32: PRIORITISING PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING MOVEMENT

Pedestrian and cyclist movement will be prioritised and encouraged within (and into and out of) the area, which should be achieved by focusing on improving the area's pedestrian and cycle routes alongside the public realm improvements and safety focus discussed in policies AAP25 and AAP27.

As well as improving the cycling routes within the area, increased cycle parking provision will be another important approach in prioritising cycling movement within the area.

AAP33: SIGNPOSTING

Contributing to the effectiveness of policy AAP32, and improving the legibility and permeability of the area, increased sign posting will be encouraged within the CIQ area. Information boards which reflect the design of those throughout Sheffield City Centre would be most desirable in order to contribute to the high-quality nature and consistency of the public realm.

AAP34: CAR PARKING

New surface car parking development will be strongly discouraged within the CIQ area, yet a small number of high-quality, well-designed multi-storey car parks will be permitted (particularly within the Moorfoot and Industrial Business Fringe character areas) as an alternative. This will act to reduce the proliferation of car use and traffic flows throughout the entirety of the area.

Alternative land-use development will also be encouraged on existing surface car parking (where multi-storey development could accommodate the parking spaces lost from this). This will also act to limit the areas of the CIQ in which cars use occurs, to encourage pedestrian and cycling movement alongside safety and environmental improvements.

AAP35: NIGHT-TIME MOVEMENT

The provision of improved street lighting, CCTV and other measures will be encouraged to enhance the safety of the area for night-time use, linked with the public realm improvements in policy AAP25.

AAP36: BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Although the bus service provision is very good along the northern boundary of the CIQ, increasing and improving services along the southern boundary a possibility which would be encouraged, although this may be limited by the busy nature of St Marys Road with high car traffic levels.

ECONOMIC

AAP37: EMERGING BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES

Emerging business and industry development (particularly related to the cultural, media and knowledge-based industries) will be encouraged and supported within the CIQ, helping to contribute to attracting investment to the area and contributing to Sheffield City's development of economic resilience. This does not mean however, that other business types will not be permitted if appropriate to and making a positive economic contribution to the area.

AAP38: MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT

Flexible mixed use development will be supported and encouraged throughout the CIQ area as a way of stimulating economic growth, linked with design flexibility and adaptable buildings discussed on policy AAP29.

AAP39: INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS RELOCATION

Alongside the prioritisation of the development of emerging businesses and industries within the CIQ area in policy AAP40, light industrial businesses will be supported to temporarily relocate to the Industrial Business Fringe character area, with the long term aim to move to the Don Valley.

AAP40: LAND USE FLEXIBILITY

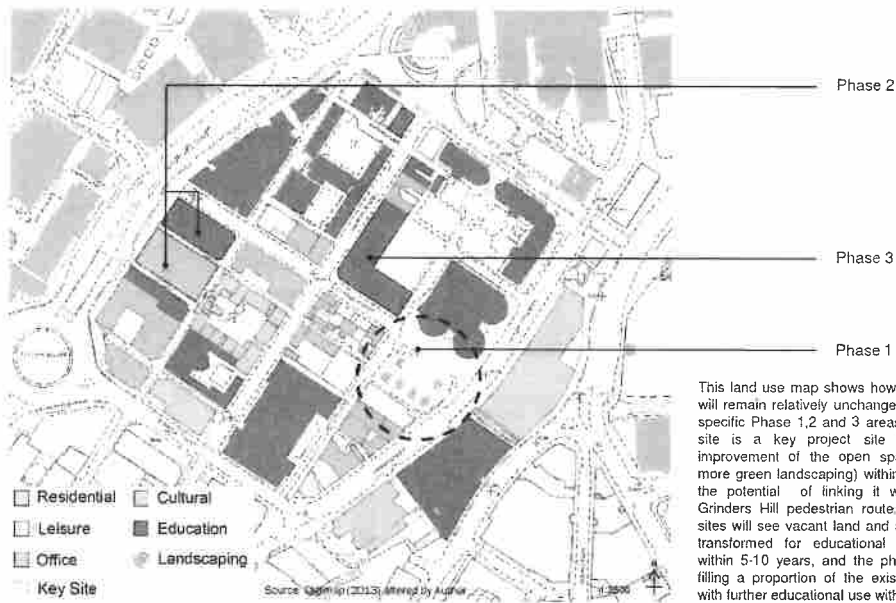
Despite policies AAP40 and AAP42, flexibility will be demonstrated in the land uses and businesses types supported and permitted within the CIQ area where required in certain circumstances, in order to achieve the maximum and most appropriate investment within the area and address market demand within the difficult current economic climate.

AAP41: 24 HOUR ACTIVITY

Support and encouragement will be provided for new development and investment which contributes to the evolution of the CIQ area into a vibrant, active, 24-hour area.

4.5 CHARACTER AREAS

4.5.1 HEART OF THE CIQ



This land use map shows how the area's uses will remain relatively unchanged apart from the specific Phase 1, 2 and 3 areas. The Phase 1 site is a key project site which will see improvement of the open space (introducing more green landscaping) within 1-5 years, with the potential of linking it with opening up Grinders Hill pedestrian route. The Phase 2 sites will see vacant land and a car park being transformed for educational and office use within 5-10 years, and the phase 3 site sees filling a proportion of the existing car parking with further educational use within 10-15 years.

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4.5.1 HEART OF THE CIQ

HEART OF THE CIQ POLICIES

HCIQ1: PURPOSE OF THE AREA

The purpose of the Heart of the Cultural Industries Quarter is primarily to accommodate large scale cultural and educational activities alongside a number of office and residential developments. This area provides strong support to the knowledge industries which complements the cultural uses in the area, while encouraging investment, activity and footfall.

HCIQ2: APPROPRIATE LAND USES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

The following land uses will be supported and encouraged within the area:

- i. Cultural
- ii. Educational
- iii. Commercial - Small/medium scale offices
- iv. Leisure (Small scale cafes, restaurants, bars)
- v. Residential - Medium density

HCIQ3: DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO ARUNDEL GATE

Support will be given to development exceeding five stories in height which is adjacent to Arundel Gate as this is in keeping with the character of existing development alongside a major vehicular route.

HCIQ4: PRESERVATION OF CULTURAL ASSETS

The Heart of the Cultural Industries accommodates large scale cultural activities within the city. Support will be given to development that develops and preserves this cultural status.

HCIQ5: KEY SITE

This key site will provide high quality, bold open space and encourage activity due to its prominence complementing the surrounding cultural and educational uses.

KEY PROJECT SITE

As already indicated, the Key Project Site within this area is located in the current open space next to the Sheffield Hallam Students Union building. At present this open space has no landscaping, planting etc., and based on this Action Plan's research does not seem to be achieving its full potential.

The proposals for this site are therefore to revitalise and re-landscape this open space, whilst also creating a connection between it and Grinders Hill pedestrian route. In relation to the pedestrian route this will involve improving the quality of the public realm along this route, developing a connection with this route and the pedestrian route which is part of the City Living area's Key Project Site, and improving the lighting of the enclosed Grinders Hill section.

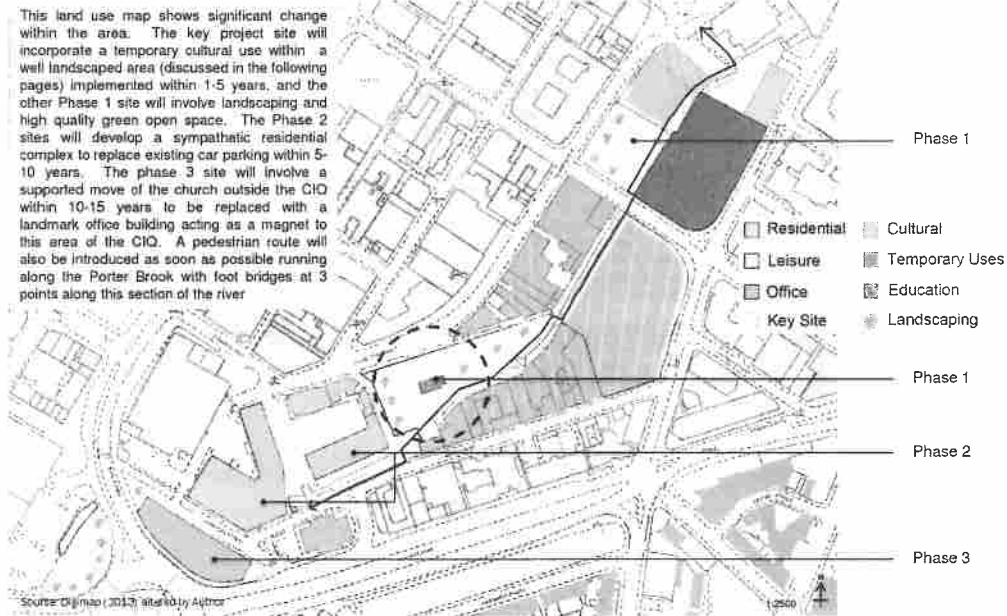
The open space's landscaping and public realm should be based on the style of Devonshire Green in the Devonshire Quarter, in order to demonstrate consistency between the public realm design and quality throughout the city (as demonstrated in the photographs below).



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4.5 CHARACTER AREAS

4.5.2 PORTER BROOK CORRIDOR



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4.5.2 PORTER BROOK CORRIDOR

PORTER BROOK CORRIDOR POLICIES

PB1: PURPOSE OF THE AREA

The Porter Brook Corridor Area will demonstrate the natural character of the CIQ by promoting a high quality riverside environment, and a good footpath link to encourage movement activity throughout the CIQ area. Riverside development within the area will complement and promote the river as an accessible natural feature and attraction, and temporary riverside use in certain areas will act as a magnet drawing people into the area, and through it as a means of moving through the whole CIQ area.

PB2: APPROPRIATE LAND USES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

The following land uses will be supported and encouraged within the area:

- i. Residential
- ii. Leisure (Cafes, restaurants, coffee shops, bars)
- iii. Commercial – small scale offices

Commercial and leisure uses will be supported and encouraged on the ground floor of new development bordering Porter Brook, with the aims of creating active frontages to increase footfall in the area, and locating less vulnerable uses on the ground floor considering flood risk.

PB3: BIODIVERSITY AND RIVER NATURALISATION

Any new riverside development must contribute to the restoration and biodiversity of the river, including naturalisation of the river, development of fish channels through the river's weirs, measures to slow the river's current where possible, and on-going maintenance of riverbank vegetation. In conjunction with this, all new development must be set back a minimum of 3 metres of the riverbank.

Provision of information boards and signage along the river pathway(s) will be encouraged, providing both information on the biodiversity and species in the river habitat and location points and directions to other areas within the CIQ and the city. This signage should reflect the design of those provided throughout the city centre (in order to create a level of consistency in the public realm).

PB4: PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

Pedestrian access to the river must be facilitated by all new riverside development, and should not be restricted by any new development within the area.

PB5: TEMPORARY USES

Proposals for temporary uses within the area will be supported and encouraged, and should especially be facilitated where permanent use/development is not currently viable. Cultural activities including art (and street art), design, music and drama are particularly encouraged as

types of temporary use within the area, in order to remain in-keeping with the CIQ identity and existing character of the area.

PB6: GREEN OPEN SPACE PROVISION

New proposals will be required to provide and facilitate on-site green open space within the area, particularly located backing on to the river itself. In the minimum of 3 metres between the river bank and new development, there should be sections of green space and planting.

PB7: FLOOD POLICY COMPLIANCE

All new development must be compliant with existing flood policy, outlined in **Section 2.1 Policy Analysis**. Design proposals for all new development must acknowledge, respond to, and attempt to mitigate flood risk in the area, and the heightened risk their development may make.

PB8: RETAINING INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

Where possible traditional industrial architecture in existing buildings (e.g. red brick buildings with arched windows and doorways) must be retained when regeneration and renovating existing buildings within the area, unless it is in a condition where it would be structurally unsafe to retain it. This is in line with an encouragement of heritage preservation in the area (as throughout the whole CIQ), and is particularly relevant to the cobbled Mary Street where there are several

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4.5.2 PORTER BROOK CORRIDOR

previous works buildings (e.g. Hawk Works).

New development must be in-keeping and sympathetic with existing building materials and character, unless the deviation would positively contribute to the character and identity of the area.

KEY PROJECT SITE

The Key Project Site within this area centres around the vacant/derelict site which runs alongside the Porter Brook off Sylvester Gardens, which contains the crumbling shell of an old industrial works building which is now covered in graffiti and street art, and a 3 storey vacant/derelict brick building (see following photos).



It is proposed that this site area (apart from the building above) be demolished so that the area can be well landscaped to provide some green open space and a pedestrian path along the riverside. The landscaping of this part of the site should reflect the high-quality design and style of the Devonshire Green public realm, as already discussed in relation to the Heart of the CIQ area.

To introduce a cultural identity to this character area to complement its environmental qualities it is proposed that the remaining 3 storey be renovated to accommodate a temporary cultural use. To reflect the street art and design focused identity of this area at present its renovation should make a unique and innovative contribution to this identity, with the idea of covering the outside of the building itself with high-quality street art. Its temporary use would reflect this by housing design and art space (for both producing and displaying work) with the possibility of this being rentable on a daily basis.

The inspiration for this comes from Metekova City in Ljubljana, Slovenia, a city which is well known for its urban art and cultural production, and

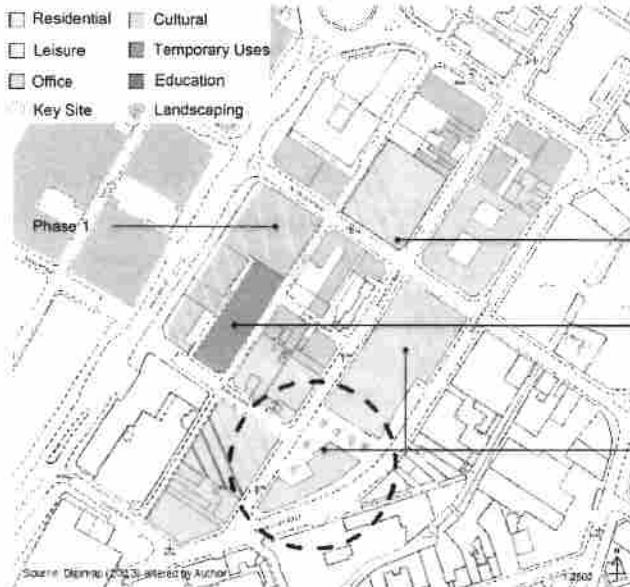
particularly the building it contains whose exterior is covered by street art and whose interior provides rentable office and studio space (shown in the following two photographs)¹⁰



This Key Project site could also host outdoor events (especially related to urban art and culture), as occurs in Devonshire Green, and its temporary use could potentially act as a catalyst for more permanent cultural activities within the area.

4.5 CHARACTER AREAS

4.5.3 CULTURAL COMMERCIAL HUB



This land use map shows significant change within the area. The temporary use phase 1 site will be divided into a small row of individual cultural production and consumption spaces within the existing buildings e.g. design studio, design gallery etc. implemented within 1-5 years. The other phase 1 site will provide the opportunity for varied mixed use incorporating offices residential and an active leisure frontage. The phase 2 key project site will incorporate landscaping and a cultural landmark building acting as a magnet to this part of the area, within 5-10 years.

The phase 3 site (currently vacant) will facilitate flexible mixed use residential, cultural and office space within 10-15 years. A similar flexible mixed use opportunity will be located opposite the key project site incorporating educational, office and residential use.

4.5.3 CULTURAL COMMERCIAL HUB

CULTURAL COMMERCIAL HUB POLICIES

CCH1: PURPOSE OF THE AREA

The purpose of the Cultural Commercial Hub is primarily to accommodate cultural activities and small scale offices mixed alongside residential development. These uses will encourage footfall and activity.

CCH2: APPROPRIATE LAND USES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

The following land uses will be supported and encouraged within the area;

- i. Cultural
- ii. Commercial - Small/medium scale offices
- iii. Leisure (Small scale cafes, restaurants, bars)
- iv. Residential - Medium/high density

CCH3: TEMPORARY USES

The temporary uses will be encourage where long term development is not currently viable and it can be demonstrated to have positive impacts upon the cultural commercial hub, particularly supporting small scale, independent cultural industries.

CCH4: DEVELOPMENT ADJACENT TO EYRE STREET

Support will be given to development exceeding

five stories in height which is adjacent to Eyre Street as this is in keeping with the character of existing development alongside a major vehicular route.

CCH5: KEY SITE

Iconic and innovative architecture will be encouraged within the key site making a bold statement which will improve legibility and demonstrate the purpose of the cultural industries quarter. This site will also draw activity into the area, providing open, landscaped space for the public to enjoy.

KEY PROJECT SITE

The Key Project Site within this area is on the corner of Sylvester and Arundel Street, currently an industrial/warehouse building which in very poor condition. It is proposed that once its use has been relocated to the Industrial Business Fringe area, this building be demolished and replaced with a landmark building, demonstrating iconic and innovative architecture, which will act as a magnet to this part of the CIQ area.

This building should accommodate cultural uses related to both cultural production and consumption, and its layout should be flexible enough to facilitate slight changes in use throughout the phasing stages. It would provide a good link with the Porter Brook Corridor area and its temporary cultural use within its Key Project Site, and should benefit from this and help to further develop the cultural identity of this part of the CIQ area.

The landscaping of the green open space on the site, as already discussed in relation to the previous two areas, should reflect the high-quality design and style of the Devonshire Green public realm, contributing further to the continuity of the public realm within the city.

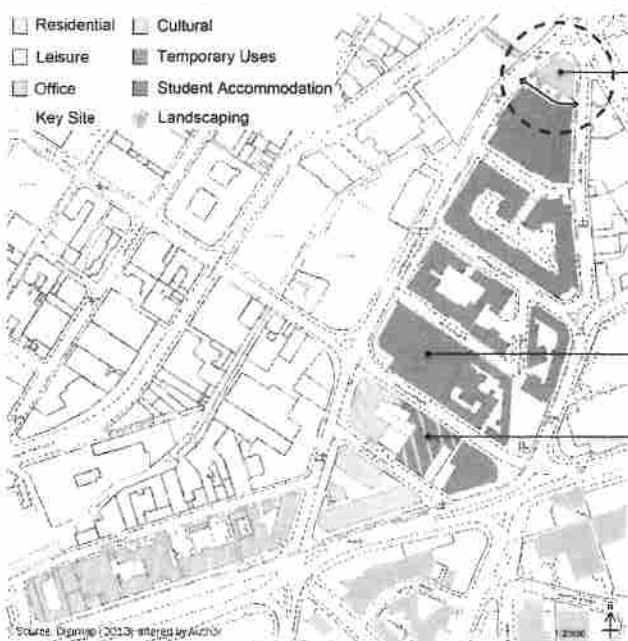
Although the architectural design of the landmark building is flexible and will depend on the design and investment interest in the site, demonstrating its iconic and innovative nature will be very important, as is demonstrated by the Winter Gardens and Information Commons within the city for example (see photographs below)



4.5 CHARACTER AREAS

4.5.4 CITY LIVING HUB

- Residential
- Cultural
- Leisure
- Temporary Uses
- Office
- Student Accommodation
- Key Site
- Landscaping



Phase 1

This land use map demonstrates few but significant land use changes within the area. The Phase 1 key project site (discussed in detail in the following pages) will involve introducing a cultural land use to a vacant building with heritage qualities, and opening up and landscaping of a pedestrian route alongside it to create a linked route with Grinders Hill and the green open space in the Heart of the CIQ area, within 1-5 years.

Phase 2

Phase 3

The phase 2 and 3 sites, to be implemented in 5-10 and 10-15 years, demonstrate the conversion of existing industrial uses (which should be transferred to the industrial business fringe) into mixed use residential-leisure complexes (including bars, cafes and restaurants). They should offer active frontages, and reflect a similar approach to the West One Complex within Devonshire Quarter.

4.5.4 CITY LIVING HUB

CITY LIVING HUB POLICIES

CLH1: PURPOSE OF THE AREA

The purpose of the City Living Hub is primarily to accommodate students and those looking to adopt the city centre living lifestyle alongside a mix of small scale office and residential developments. This area provides support to the knowledge industry accommodating students from Sheffield Hallam University encouraging investment and activity within the area.

CLH2: APPROPRIATE LAND USES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

The following land uses will be supported and encouraged within the area:

- i. Student Accommodation
- ii. Residential - Medium and high density
- iii. Commercial - Small/medium scale offices
- iv. Leisure (Small scale cafes, restaurants ,bars)
- v. Cultural

CLH3: STUDENT ACCOMODATION

Support will be given to proposals for student accommodation within this character area to restrict excessive sprawl across the CIQ and to encourage security within the student community while limiting negative impacts associated with student living upon surrounding land uses.

CLH4: KEY SITE

Support will be given to proposals within the key site that accommodate sensitive design towards the existing building, while providing a cultural statement and encourage footfall into the area with the provision of an attractive thoroughfare.

KEY PROJECT SITE

The Key Project Site within this area relates to the vacant building on the corner of Shoreham Street and Leadmill Road which was originally a leadmill in the 18th century which was later developed into the city's tram depot in around 1910, then became a bus garage, before being partially demolished with the surviving section of the building now being vacant.¹¹

Within the project it is proposed that the building be used to accommodate a cultural use, perhaps related to film, media, or as some form of gallery/studio. This is appropriate due to the site being in such close proximity to the Workstation and Showroom buildings, so could help to contribute to the cultural focus within this part of the CIQ area, whilst also reflecting its industrial heritage in the architecture and design of the building.

The other part of the project alongside reintroducing use into the building would be to create a pedestrian route with green landscaping behind the building, through the archways which are currently boarded up (as indicated in the following photograph).



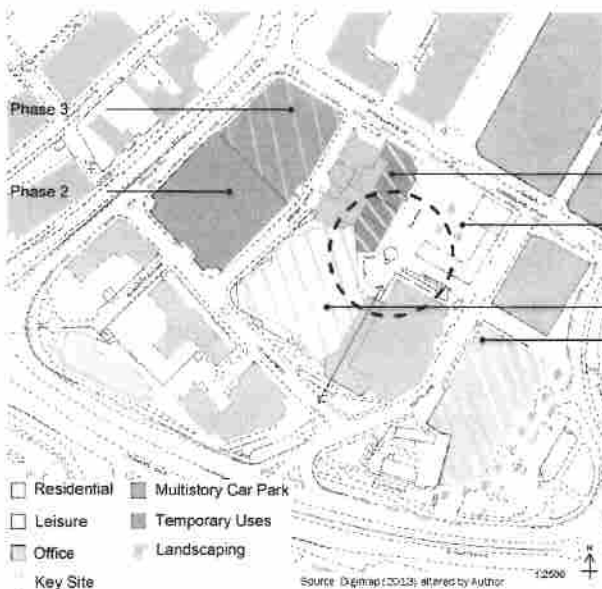
As already discussed in relation to the Key Project Site in the Heart of the City area, this pedestrian route would ideally be connected with the Grinders Hill route and the re-developed open space area next to the Sheffield Hallam Students Union building.

The pedestrian route and green landscaping aspect of the project should reflect the design of the Key project site in the Heart of the CIQ area, again demonstrating continuity with the high quality public realm of Devonshire Quarter (see photo below)



4.5 CHARACTER AREAS

4.5.5 MOORFOOT



This land use map demonstrates significant changes. The phase 1 changes (in 1-5 years) include introducing temporary leisure uses within a vacant part of the Moorfoot building, demolishing, redeveloping and landscaping previous retail buildings (creating a more open high quality public space as a view and magnet from the Moor), and introducing flexible mixed use leisure and office space in part of the Moorfoot building, (with the government offices relocated with in the other half).

- Phase 1
- Phase 1
- Phase 1
- Phase 3

The phase 2 site involves developing a well-designed multi-storey car park, freeing up land in other CIQ areas which currently provide ground level parking, in 5-10 years. The phase 3 changes (in 10-15 years) involve relocating Wickes replacing it with flexible office space and parking, and relocating Staples and Mothercare replacing them with a flexible mixed-use residential, leisure, office complex. The key project site relates to development/improvement relating to the Moorfoot building and its surrounding area, and re-opening the pedestrian route between its sections

4.5.5 MOORFOOT

MOORFOOT POLICIES

MF1: PURPOSE OF THE AREA

The Moorfoot character area is suitable for a range of large scale, active uses which can serve the Moor shopping corridor in the day and maintain activity in the area during the evenings. Proposals for high density residential development mixed amongst large scale leisure and office development will be encouraged.

MF2: APPROPRIATE LAND USES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

The following land uses will be supported and encouraged within the area:

- i. Residential - High Density
- ii. Commercial - Large Scale Offices
- iii. Leisure (Cafes, restaurants ,bars)

MF3: TEMPORARY USES

Proposals for temporary uses within the Moorfoot Building will be supported and encouraged, particularly where permanent use is not currently viable. These units provide an opportunity to support start up businesses and highlight the potential of the area.

MF4: KEY SITE

Support will be given to proposals that provide a long term purpose for and renovation of the iconic Moorfoot building, supported by temporary uses where appropriate. Support will be given to the

reconfiguration of this building through selective demolition and renovation to encourage investment and accommodate long term, appropriate uses. Public realm and open space to the North East must be of high quality and accommodate cafes and restaurants to serve the Moor.

MF5: CAR PARKING PROVISION

Support will be given to proposals for high quality multistorey car parks where they replace inappropriate retail warehouse development. This parking provision is key to the regeneration of the wider area and must be sufficient in scale to replace surface car parking within the CIQ area serving the city centre, particularly the Moor and CIQ.

KEY PROJECT SITE

The Key Project Site within this area focuses around the Moorfoot building and its surrounding area, involving renovating and redesigning the public realm area as an extension of the Moor, and reconfiguring the Moorfoot building itself through selective demolition and renovation. The phase 1 developments for creating temporary pop-up shop uses in part of the Moorfoot building and demolishing and redeveloping the buildings opposite these temporary uses, also relate to the Key Project Site, all contributing to the revitalisation for the area as an extension of the Moor and an attractive magnet for pedestrian activity.

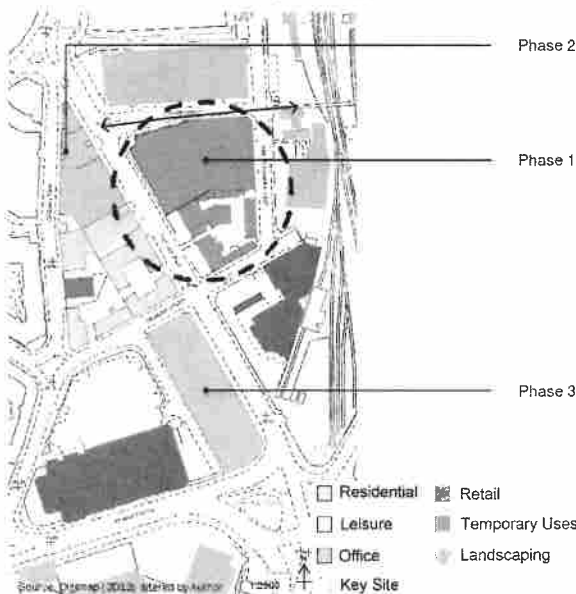
The West One complex in the Devonshire Quarter (see the photograph below) exemplifies the type of high quality, vibrant, mixed-use space that would be attempted to be achieved within this site, where the possibility of balconies and first floor leisure activities is one possibility that could be integrated into the staggered exterior of the Moorfoot building with some restructuring work.



Another important aspect of this site would be the opening up of the pedestrian route through the Moorfoot building (which is currently closed off), which would increase the area's permeability and provide further extension from the Moor. Their would also need to be improved landscaping behind the Moorfoot building to improve the public realm that would border this pedestrian route.

4.5 CHARACTER AREAS

4.5.6 INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS FRINGE



This land use map demonstrates a few significant changes within this area. The Phase 1 change (to be implemented within 1-5 years) involved transforming previous parking, industrial warehouse and vacant land into temporary use sites for light industrial uses. This constitutes the Key Project Site for the area, and will accommodate those light industrial uses which have been re-located from other areas within the CIQ (e.g. within the Cultural Commercial Hub and City Living Hub). The long term aim for these types of uses (phases 2, 3 and beyond) is relocation out of the CIQ area to other more suitable areas of the city such as the Don Valley, however it is important this is a gradual process in order for it to be as successful as possible. Once the light industrial sites have moved out of the area this space will be available for a number of different potential uses flexible to meeting market demand.

The phase 2 change (within 5-10 years) will consist of creating high quality small to medium scale office space, and the phase 3 change (from 10-15 years) will involve providing a flexible office complex capable of facilitating a range of business types.

A pedestrian route with high quality realm will be developed along Turner Street to create a stringer pedestrian access point to the area and connection with the City Living Hub and Grinders Hill routes.

4.5.6 INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS FRINGE

INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS FRINGE POLICIES

IBF1: PURPOSE OF INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS FRINGE AREA

The Industrial Business Fringe Area should provide designated space within the CIQ for light industrial uses which are relocated to the area. Although it will provide relocation space for such uses rather than immediately eliminating them from the CIQ entirely, it is identified that other areas within the city (particularly Don Valley Industrial Business District) could provide them with more suitable long-term locations.

IBF2: APPROPRIATE LAND USES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT

Linked with policy MF2 concerning the transition of existing land uses in Moorfoot, the following land uses will be encouraged and supported to relocate to within the Industrial Business Fringe (considering its proximity to major road networks and some existing similar uses):

- i. Commercial – Warehouse Retail Outlets
- ii. Light industrial – Manufacturing
- iii. Industrial/Commercial – Repair workshops

Despite the encouragement of light industrial-related land uses, mixed use within the area will still be supported and encouraged, particularly related to the following uses:

- i. Leisure – Cafes and Coffee shops
- ii. Commercial – Small scale offices

New residential development will not be encouraged or supported within this area due to

the neighbouring City Living Hub designed to accommodate residential uses, and safety issues relating to the traffic and road networks.

IBF3: CAR PARKING PROVISION

Multi-storey car park development will be supported within the area considering its proximity to major road networks and its light industrial uses.

IBF4: STREET FRONTAGE

Proposals which create active street frontages in the area will be supported and encouraged, to stimulate more activity and footfall in the area, with a presumption against new development that is set back from roads.

IBF5: PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY

Proposals which include and improve designated pedestrian routes will be supported and encouraged, in order to improve pedestrian safety and access to and movement through the area.

KEY PROJECT SITE

The key project site in this area is the temporary accommodation of light industrial uses which will have been re-located from other parts of the CIQ area, particularly from the Cultural Commercial Hub, within the first development phase (1-5 years). The Northern part of this project site that currently accommodates car parking should will require new construction for such light industrial uses which should be to a high-quality and provide flexibility so that new uses will be able to accommodate it without too much alteration once the temporary industrial uses have relocated to Don Valley in later development phases.

The vacant W.W. Laycock & Sons Ltd. vacant buildings on the southern part of the project site (see photograph below), reflect good industrial character and heritage of the previous manufacturing/industrial uses within the CIQ area. These buildings should if possible, be restored and renovated so they are able to temporarily accommodate the re-located light industrial uses.

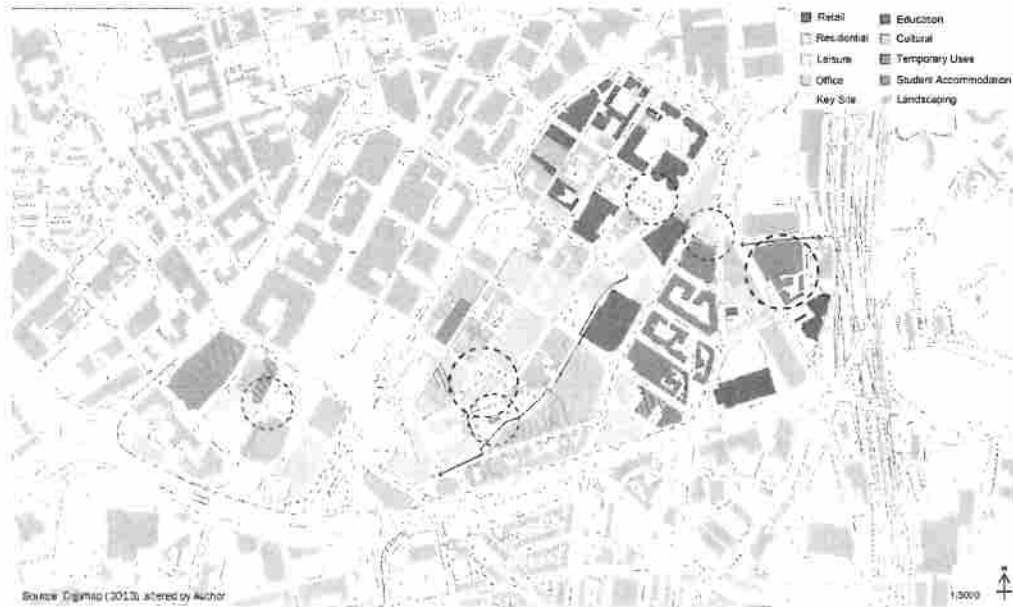


Following the re-location of the light industrial uses to the Don Valley in later phases it is hoped that these renovated buildings will then be able to accommodate other business/mixed uses whilst still retaining some reflection of industrial heritage and architecture within the area.

Public realm and pedestrian route improvements will need to be incorporated within this key project to help to facilitate and encourage increased activity around the site and throughout the character area.

4.6 OVERALL CIQ VISION

Having identified the vision for the six identified character areas, this map provides the overall vision for the CIQ area, identifying specific land uses and highlighting the key project sites which will be embarked upon within each character area.



SECTION 5: TEMPORARY USES

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TEMPORARY USE EXAMPLES

Temporary uses are one way of attracting investment, people and activity into otherwise forgotten spaces. Temporary uses can be free standing or set up within existing buildings as a stop-gap between development phasing, filling vacant or abandoned shops. They work by creating interest and attracting people into areas creating a more dynamic, safer and attractive environment. By increasing activity new economic development and cultural opportunities arise and areas become more attractive to investors. Temporary uses are also a way of injecting a community hub into city living areas or improving the appearance of a vacant site. Temporary uses can also provide potential incubators and important foundations for start-up businesses, community organisations and non-profit groups, examples of which can be seen in the following photographs.



1) Location: London, UK (below)

A recent example can be found on Finchley Street, London. It has been recently redesigned to accommodate individuals or groups requiring temporary work space. Formerly a restaurant the building now boasts booths, desks and a small computer suite. An area can be rented for £10 per person per day or £250 per person per month. The space is highly versatile with a variety of working areas and is popular with start-ups, creative's and community focused groups.



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2) Location: San Francisco

Technically, it's a stalled development site but this small plot of land earmarked for housing is currently host to a new collection of pop-up businesses operating on a temporary basis out of metal shipping containers (see photographs). This clever and flexible form of urbanism makes use of vacant or stalled development sites in a way that costs little while providing a practical space for local businesses and here creates a new space for

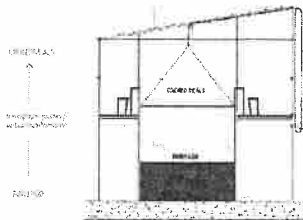
the community. These temporary outlets are part of a two-block temporary project called 'Proxy', developed by a local firm - Envelope Architecture + Design. The initiative aims to cycle retailers in and out, making a space that is continually changing and able to meet a variety of demands. The whole concept is a unique approach to addressing the often years-long processes that precede the actual opening of development projects.



3) Location: East London's Ridley Road market, UK

Ridley's is a temporary restaurant set up and designed by The Decorators. The system is based on dinners being able to browse the shopping list on the restaurant's blackboard, purchase an ingredient from the surrounding market and swap it for their lunch, with enough left over to serve an evening meal (see photographs).

The aim of the design is to visualise the processes involved. The ground floor is where raw food is prepared and cooked, the second floor is a fixed seating area. The Decorators came up with a table that could be winched up from the ground floor kitchen to the first floor dining room.



All photographs from www.dezeen.com/2013/01/18/suzanne-decorators-the-decorators-design-for-a-10-minute-movie/



SECTION 6: AREA ACTORS

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European Union

The EU can influence multi-faceted agendas in the CIQ in terms of social, economic and environmental issues. However, their channels are mainly through funding and cooperative efforts instead of direct interventions.

South Yorkshire Integrated Transport Authority

SYITA is a regional body responsible for formulating policies for public transport and provides resources for services which require financial support. Their policies therefore have an influence on public transport strategies for the CIQ.¹³

Transportation Service Providers

First, Stagecoach, TM Travel, FreeBee, S C T, and Hulleys of Baslow are the bus operators that serve the CIQ, in which the first three are dominant services providers. Only with their participation could any public transport strategies become possible.¹⁷

National Government

The role of the national government is evident in the planning system's centralised nature, and NPPF. However their influence is reducing due to moves towards a more bottom-up planning approach, exemplified by the introduction of the Localism Act 2011.

Yorkshire Water

The agency responsible for assessing flood risks and reviewing policies particularly regarding the upstream areas of the Porter Brook. Current estimated risk is once in 100 years so flood mitigation must be carefully considered in making revival plans for the Porter Brook. They work in partnership with the Environment Agency.¹⁴

Highways

The Highways agency plays an important role in assessing developments close to or affecting the Strategic Road Network (SRN), against publically published protocols.¹⁵

Sheffield City Council

The Council takes the leading role in planning processes through its departments and initiatives by making plans and considering plans and development applications. The Council also works closely with other organisations in funding, co-ordinating and mediating often various interests in the CIQ.

English Heritage

The governmental advisory body oversees the management of historic environment in the CIQ. Application for consent must be acquired before any changes that might affect the interests of listed buildings are made. The English Heritage is also responsible for funding and educational activities for promotion of the buildings' historical values.¹⁶

Integreat Plus

A regional social enterprise that participates and provides services in place making for the CIQ. It is involved in the redesigning of the open space next to the Sheffield Hallam Union building, and cultural and digital industry initiatives with the Cultural Quarter Agency.¹⁹

Environment Agency

A UK government agency concerned mainly with rivers, flooding, and pollution. It provides information to local authorities and developers about Land contamination, Water Framework Directives and Flood risks among many others, and makes sure that any developments in the concerned areas conform to the policies.¹²

Cultural Industry Quarter Agency

A local agency responsible for regeneration, investment and development projects in the CIQ. It aims at building networks through the Creative Exchange, South Yorkshire and Sheffield Community Network programmes to promote creative and digital industries.¹⁸

Creative Sheffield

The UK's first city development company acts as a marketing hub to promote investments in the city, target better infrastructure achievements, and improve Sheffield's image and reputation as an international destination for science, creativity and culture. The CIQ is thus put in the representative position of these strategies.²⁰

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The Public

General public are the driving force and play a central role as consumers, participants and beneficiaries of all services in the CIQ. Any changes made in the CIQ's spatiality must recognise the public voice in order to attain and sustain the effectiveness.

Passive Landowners

Passive landowners take no particular steps to release their land for development, even though they may intend to do so in the not too distant future. They rarely attempt to overcome constraints in an attempt to make land more suitable or marketable for development. Passive owners therefore contribute little to the planning process if they refuse to sell land that has development potential. As compulsory purchase is rare, passive owners act as constraints in the development process. (Urban Planning And The Development Process By David Adams, 1994)

Educational Institutes

Sheffield Hallam university buildings are heavily present in the area currently. The AAP should take into account its probable expansion in terms of educational buildings and possible accommodation buildings, where the university could be one of the main private investors in development within the CIQ. Other educational institutes include; Freeman College, the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Technology Park.

Existing Residential Communities

Students and young professionals as the major residents play an important role in supporting and consuming cultural and economic services in the CIQ. Plans for the Porter Brook have to take into account the enthusiasm and spending ability of these local targets.

Active Landowners

Active landowners are those who develop their own land or make it available for purchase. Active landowners may try to overcome site constraints possibly by applying for planning applications or improving infrastructural complaints. Active behaviour may be politically or financially motivated. Active landowners tend to get heavily involved during the preparation of local statutory plans. Active landholders help to determine the pattern of future urban development. (Urban Planning And The Development Process By David Adams)

Building Occupiers

Occupiers of commercial properties are the face of social and economic activities in the CIQ and vary in types and scales; they cater and reflect the needs of the area's residents and visitors. The occupiers are on the demand end of the property market; positive signals from these actor can motivate the investors, developers and land owners.

Friends of Porter Brook

The newly established non-profit organisation is interested in community development activities to raise awareness and seek for reciprocal actions for the revival of Porter Brook. However, at the moment the organisation is operating informally and needs more professional and financial efforts to ensure a longer agenda.

Developers

Most development occurs through actions of private developers following approval of a development application. Developers have a key role in providing housing stock as well as other privately owned facilities. As applicants, developers have rights under planning legislation, such as appeal rights against some planning decisions. Developers have an incentive to push the boundaries of planning principles in order to maximise returns on investment. This can lead to conflicts about development proposals.

Estate Agencies

Act as the intermediate between tenants and housing providers. As the majority of residents are students, estate agencies are crucial and active in matching tenant-owner needs within the area. They can play a role in balancing the demographics within the area.

Charity Organisations

Charity organisations are potential actors in the revival of the Porter Brook, especially in the implementation of temporary use projects which would involve creating public art spaces and other community events.

Investors

Investors are motivated within the CIQ area to achieve profits in the form of rent from land occupiers and increases in the capital value of their properties. Investment interest dictates the type of building development which occurs in the area.

Local Businesses

Local Businesses are crucial to reviving the CIQ area, and attracting and increasing investment in the area. They will also be involved in developing temporary use spaces. However business uses which conflict with the area's vision could prove problematic and will require support during re-location phases.

SECTION 7: PHASING & DELIVERY

7.1 PHASING STAGES

PHASE 1 (1-5 years)	PHASE 2 (5-10 years)	PHASE 3 (10-15 years)
<p>Development involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing temporary uses Simple land use changes (e.g. on vacant land) Development activity to attract investment and interest (e.g. creating active frontages) Addressing vacancy, dereliction, and buildings in a critical condition Upgrading cycling and pedestrian routes Naturalising, opening up, and improving Porter Brook river corridor <p>Public realm improvement areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earl Street, Matilda Street, Arundel Street, Shoreham Street (station end) and riverside pedestrian routes (specific sections) <p>Key Actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary uses: CIQ Agency, City Council, Charity Organisations, Landowners, Creative Sheffield, Developers, and a new CIQ Temporary Urbanism Group (created in line with this Action Plan as a collaborative non-profit organisation) Attracting investment: Sheffield Hallam University, City Council, Land Owners, National Government funding, CIQ Agency, Creative Sheffield, and CIQ Temporary Urbanism Group Porter Brook improvements: Environment Agency (EA), Friends of Porter Brook, National Government, City Council, Land Occupiers, Yorkshire Water, Developers Travel route improvements: National Government, City Council, Highway Authority Addressing vacancy/dereliction: City Council, Land Owners, English Heritage, Local Businesses, Estate Agencies 	<p>Development involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More complicated land use changes where there is already an occupier/existing use (e.g. transition of light industrial uses out of areas and encouraging more cultural uses) Developing multi-storey car park in Moorfoot to free up sites occupied by parking in other areas Naturalising, opening up, and improving Porter Brook River Corridor and maintaining existing improvements <p>Public realm improvement areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sylvester Street, Connecting Hereford Street with Moorfoot area, and riverside pedestrian routes (including further sections) <p>Key Actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use changes: City Council, Land Owners, Land Occupiers, CIQ Agency, Charity Organisations, Creative Sheffield, CIQ Temporary Urbanism Group, Sheffield Hallam University, Developers, and Local Businesses Multi-storey car parking development: City Council, Land Owners, Land Occupiers, Highway Authority, and Developers Porter Brook improvements: Environment Agency (EA), Friends of Porter Brook, National Government, City Council, Land Occupiers, Yorkshire Water, Developers 	<p>Development involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult land use changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where it is difficult to find suitable re-location for an existing use Where existing occupiers have long term leases including Decathlon, Staples and Wickes Where it relates to a significant large scale development such as a landmark/magnet site Naturalising, opening up, and improving Porter Brook River Corridor, and maintaining existing improvements <p>Public realm improvement areas:</p> <p>Having already identified specific areas of focus within phases 1 and 2, phase 3 should address public realm in all remaining areas, as well as focusing on maintaining improvements from the previous phases to a high quality, with like-for-like replacements where necessary</p> <p>Key Actors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use changes: City Council, Land Owners, Land Occupiers, CIQ Agency, Developers, Creative Sheffield, CIQ Temporary Urbanism Group, and Local Businesses Porter Brook improvements: Environment Agency (EA), Friends of Porter Brook, National Government, City Council, Land Occupiers, Yorkshire Water, Developers

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7.2 PHASING MAP

This phasing map is not extensive, but provides a visual impression of the main developments that will be undertaken within the 3 phases, including the Key Project Sites for each character area and the other most significant developments. Other projects alongside the indicated developments will be undertaken, as well as the public realm improvements discussed on the previous page.



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SECTION 8

MONITORING & REVIEW



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MONITORING AND REVIEW

MONITORING

Considering the scale of the development set out for the CIQ over the next 15 years, development detailed within this Action Plan, the varying aspects of development within the CIQ and each of the 6 character areas, and the complex roles and relationships of the different actors involved, it is crucial that sufficient monitoring is undertaken during each phase of development. The importance of monitoring is amplified by the current economic climate and market conditions within which this Action Plan has been produced, which makes it even more important that development towards the vision for the area is closely observed to ensure it is feasible, achievable and stimulating the desired level of investment and interest in the area.

Rather than putting the responsibility of monitoring solely on Sheffield City Council, the most effective way for this monitoring to be undertaken is by splitting it between different relevant area actors, with the City Council acting as the broad overseeing Actor who others report to (whilst also being responsible by monitoring certain aspects). As such the following significant actors from each of the phasing stages, alongside the City Council, will be involved:

PHASE 1

Temporary/Cultural uses:

- CIQ Temporary Urbanism Group
- CIQ Agency

Environmental/Porter Brook improvements:

- Environment Agency
- Friends of Porter Brook

Travel Route Improvements:

- Sheffield City Council

Addressing vacancy/dereliction:

- Sheffield City Council

PHASE 2

Land Use Changes:

- Sheffield City Council
- CIQ Agency

Multi-storey car parking development:

- Sheffield City Council
- Highways Authority

Environmental/Porter Brook improvements:

- Environment Agency
- Friends of Porter Brook

PHASE 3

Land Use Changes:

- Sheffield City Council
- CIQ Agency

Environmental/Porter Brook improvements:

- Environment Agency
- Friends of Porter Brook

Throughout each phase the public realm improvements identified in the Phasing Stages the responsibility of monitoring will fall to the City Council, with the possibility of involvement from the Highways Authority too.

REVIEW

Review is also very important in relation to the CIQ area's development, working towards achieving the vision for the area in 15 years. The most crucial aspect of review is the evaluation of land-use allocations and specific policies within each character area, in order to ensure they are aligned with the economic and market context for the CIQ area, which is likely to alter throughout the three phases of this Action Plan.

The following main Actors will be involved in this process of review.

- Sheffield City Council
- CIQ Agency
- CIQ Temporary Urbanism Group
- Environment Agency.

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Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 14 May 2018 22:45
To: licensingservice
Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO OBJECTION 2018
Attachments: SpearmintRhinoObjection2018 (1).docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

To the licensing service Sheffield,

Included and attached in this email is my objection.

Kind regards,

Object to strip club Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield, Licensing Renewal

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14/05/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student

accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative

impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

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^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 22:56
To: licensingservice
Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO OBJECTION 2018
Attachments: Licensing Service.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

SPEARMINT RHINO OBJECTION 2018

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

12/05/18

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

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The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

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^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 23:24
To: licensingservice
Subject: Not Buying It Sheffield
Attachments: lap dancing licence.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please find attached my **Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal**.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Not Buying It Sheffield

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14/05/2018

Dear Licensing

I have previously worked within the lap dancing industry for 10 years. I began working in a club the month commencing my 18th birthday. As a vulnerable and impressionable young female I was not aware of the damaging implications such work would have upon my development and self-image over the coming years. I was a young mother when I began working in the industry and had endured an abusive childhood. My traumatic experiences as a child had already significantly impacted upon my self-confidence and low self-esteem. I saw the opportunity to work within the industry as a chance to earn an extra income to support myself and my child, and albeit naïve, a means of enhancing my confidence and sense of empowerment. On reflection, I realize that my years of work actually had the opposite effect.

Amongst many unfavorable experiences whilst working in the industry, I experienced firsthand the overwhelming aspect of inequality as a dancer working for powerful clubs, such as Spearmint Rhino. An example was one occasion when the management refused to exchange the large amount of 'dancing chips' I had spent the entire evening earning, for cash, and kept the money for himself. This incident took place in the small office with the manager, his assistant and a door supervisor, their presence felt intimidating and I was then told point blank that I would not be given my earnings and could either have the option of leaving with nothing or continue working with the small incentive of a one off commission free night. When disputing this proposition I was told that if I did not hand the 'chips' over they would be taken from me and the CCTV would be wiped so that I couldn't report the incident.

My other experiences working in these clubs are ones of sexual assault, harassment, verbal abuse and intimidation. These experiences were perpetrated by customers, staff and other dancers. Girls were often left unsupervised and were left open to sexual assault by customers with no reasonable method of seeking help or support when entering the private dancing quarters. Furthermore, when such incidents were reported to management or door staff, they had the attitude that 'you're a dancer, what do you expect'.

On one occasion a door supervisor had brought his trained attack dogs in a van to work with him and threatened myself and my colleague whilst we were outside, and threatened to unleash his dogs. When reporting this matter to the management, we were told to 'get back to work', and the matter was not addressed. Many of the clubs I have worked in put large amounts of dancers on to ensure that they increase their revenue, however this tactic creates hostile and competitive work environment, which alone could be argued to be a reasonable business strategy. However, this tactic often leaves many dancers with the desperate option of offering extra services, of a sexual nature, with full knowledge of the management and supervisory staff. Many of the women I have met whilst working in the industry were in abusive relationships and often forced in to work and their earnings confiscated. I have witnessed women been attacked by other female dancers whilst in the changing rooms, when this has been reported, management refuse to intervene.

This statement is only a fraction of my lived experiences working within the industry, and I am sure only just begins to scratch the surface of the detrimental impacts and unlawful activities that take place within this industry. I believe in equality and the right to work without been assaulted, abused and victimized,

and whilst these lawful employment rights are practiced and adhered amongst all other working environments, the lap dancing industry seems to be an exclusion zone, exempt of these rights.

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

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ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

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The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting

SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip

clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

-
- ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- ^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- ^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- ^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- ^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: | [redacted]
Sent: 14 May 2018 23:28
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino licence renewal
Attachments: Letter of Objection SR (DECSY).docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

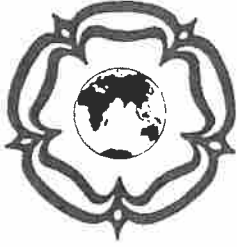
Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing Officers,

Please find objection letter attached.

Kind Regards

[redacted signature]



Development Education Centre

(South Yorkshire)

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation: 1153377)

email: !

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14th May 2018

Dear Licensing Officers

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

1) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike. A high number of young students (18+) who walk close the entrance to the SEV on their way back to their flats at Leadmill Point. A further large complex of student flats is has just been completed on Suffolk Road. Many of these students are away from home for the very first time, are female and a very high number are from overseas and some may be vulnerable to misunderstanding the behaviour and intentions of SEV customers. Education students from SHU also come down Charles Street, Grinders Hill, Shoreham Street to Leadmill Road to take part in our activities, and those of CRESST at Scotia Works. I contend that an SEV in the CIQ area is turning a vibrant part of the city with a cinema and music venue frequented by young people, many under the age of 18, into something of a red light area particularly attractive to SEV customers and dancers, prospective dancers and potentially prostitutes and their customers. This impacts the character of the area and the quality of the environment and also potentially contravenes Unitary Development Plan, 1, LR2 by undermining 'the vitality and viability of the evening economy of the City Centre.'

(b) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The area is actively frequented by young people, many below the age of 18. I am aware that children from 14-18 years from the neighbouring UTC on Shoreham Street also pass close by to the entrance of the venue. This potentially unsupervised children passing the SEV on a daily basis.

As tenants of Scotia Works, also known as the Centre for Learning, Development and Citizenship, my organisation, along with others in the building, is committed to the education and well-being of young people. To this end we, and others at Scotia like 'CRESST' and 'Sheena Amos Youth Trust' hold periodic or regular events for young people (with or without family members or teachers present). Although our entrance is on Leadmill Road, a couple of streets away from the entrance of the SEV, our young people are still likely to encounter the SEV and everything it implies about the role of women in society. I believe this is unacceptable.

The Leadmill club organises regular (100 per year) evening youth (14+) events. Here is another inevitable opportunity for under 18 year olds to encounter SEV customers. This may carry even higher risks than for the school children because the time in the evening when The Leadmill events take place is more likely to coincide with SEV customers leaving the venue (who may be intoxicated with alcohol and whose behaviour may be influenced by their very recent experience of sexual entertainment). However tightly Spearmint Rhino seek to manage their activities inside the venue, they cannot control their customers (or dancers) once they leave the premises. I would argue that allowing an SEV to continue in this area is likely to contravene section 4 of The Licensing Act 2003 with regard failure in 'The protection of children from harm'. Heightened awareness of issues of child sexual exploitation locally, following the Jay Report, is likely to make those responsible for the well-being of children and young people particularly sensitive to the potential behaviour of adults around an SEV. Whilst in some cases this might reduce the risk to children, it will certainly impact on people's quality of life.

(c) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

The Showroom and Leadmill Road are part of the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) recognised by Core Strategy 17 as a key growth cluster for the creative and digital industries.

Core Strategy 20 recognises how much the two universities have invested in the public realm and have contributed to the knowledge economy, this is particularly the case for Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) in the CIQ area.

Core Strategy 54 aims to promote pedestrian routes and following the Heart of The City developments and the improved gateway into the city from the main railway station (five minutes walk from the site of the SEV). As a result many visitors to the city will turn left at the top of the water cascades outside the station to visit the Showroom, Leadmill, other venues, and will encounter the SEV.

2) People's privacy

There are residential properties in the vicinity of the proposed SEV. In addition to the Unite Student accommodation at Leadmill Point, Columbia Works, which also faces Leadmill Road and Suffolk Road, has approximately 70 flats, Leadmill Court on Leadmill Street has over 80, Liberty Works and others add to this number. There a number of young families now living at Columbia Place and Leadmill Court. The nature of the activity at the SEV is particularly unsuited to the privacy of young families.

3) Employment, local economy

Although it is argued that the SEV supports employment, it is hard to see how it won't continue to

affect the local economy, including other employment prospects elsewhere in the immediate locality. This could include UNITE and the owners of other accommodation or offices who lose tenants or profit and feel obliged to reduce staffing.

4) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

6) Further grounds for refusal

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Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.ⁱⁱ

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This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that: ". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."v

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.vi Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearingvii.

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According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in Englandxi. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and makes investors and developers. At a time when we

are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.
I look forward to hearing from you.

In conclusion, I would argue that no amount of further conditions or restrictions on the opening hours etc on the SEV would alter the fact that this SEV continues to affect the character and impact the quality of life of the area, primarily because of the number of under 18 year olds who use it on a daily basis.

Yours sincerely



(South Yorkshire)

ⁱ Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

ⁱⁱ *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearment Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearment-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

ⁱⁱⁱ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{iv} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^v Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{vi} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^{vii} Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{viii} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{ix} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^x Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xi} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 14 May 2018 23:32
To: licensingservice; [Redacted]
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal
Attachments: SRObjectionltr.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Hello Licensing

Please find attached letter of objection.

Best wishes, [Redacted]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14 May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I object to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

The location is inappropriate for the Cultural Industries Quarter. I am aware the arguments have been expounded at length in other objections as to why this is so.

A lap dancing club is entirely at odds with any measure of progress. It is an embarrassing remnant of a patriarchal system which we need to supplant if we wish to be taken seriously on the issue of equality of the sexes.

Cllr Douglas Johnson highlighted in his objection letter of 2017 that the local authority were failing in their Public Sector Equality Duty in allowing this club to treat men and women working in the club so differently. He pointed out that men in the club are employees and have all the statutory rights their status affords them. Whereas women (the dancers) are self employed and have no entitlements, no holiday pay, sick pay, etc. How can the local authority condone such disparity and inequality of opportunity? Surely this would not be acceptable in a pub or a nightclub, that all the male bartenders have a written contract of employment but the female bartenders be considered 'self-employed' and have an hourly rate with zero protection of their employment rights?

We must create a level playing field for men and women. If lap-dancing really is a job like any other, the authority must demand that women performing at the lap-dancing club be given proper employment contracts. Anything less is compounding women's inequality. Therefore, I strongly urge you to refuse the licence, on these grounds, as you can be sure Spearmint Rhino is not an equal opportunity employer.

Yours faithfully,

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
 Block C
 Staniforth Road Depot,
 Staniforth Road
 SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
 email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15 MAY 201

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Councils Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual abuse strategy.
- Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Councils obligations under the Equality Act 2010.

- Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area that is now undergoing major and extensive re development. The area has become increasingly residential with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

- SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

109

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot,
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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- SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council, Block C
Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield

14 v 18

Email:licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence 2018 for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought; treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
- Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships.
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Councils Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus, in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual Abuse strategy.
- Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women. It actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Councils obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
- Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area now undergoing extensive re development. It is increasingly residential, with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.
- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED
PRINT NAME & ADDRESS



Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council, Block C
Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield

Email:licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15 MAY 2018

To Whom It May Concern

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Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield

Email:licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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- SIGNED
- PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2018 06:34
To: licensingservice
Subject: SR hearing documents
Attachments: Objection letter to Sheffield Council re Spearmint Rhino SEV License Renewal.docx;
Objection letter to Sheffield Council re Spearmint Rhino SEV License Renewal.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

I will be depositing 11 signed letters at Town Hall (for transmission to licensing) before 7.30 am today.

Please note that [Redacted] letter 1 has asked me to make explicit mention of street harassment directed to her including requests for sex for money whilst living on the streets in Sheffield and has provided other personal testimony, summarised in my submission (attached).

In letter 2 [Redacted] declined to give address stating bad experiences of personal details being disclosed in the context of a criminal matter of which she was the complainant

Attached submission a) from [Redacted] and b) myself, [Redacted]

Thank you for your help in this matter

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot,
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

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Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot,
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SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.
- SIGNED

_____ in a personal capacity

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

NOTE FROM _____

_____ spoke with me at length Saturday 12th may and on request I provided him with further information by email.

I received a message on Monday 14th May confirming that he wished me to sign the letter on his behalf and provided further information to be incorporated into my personal submission.

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 07:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection - Spearmint Rhino license

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Hi,

I am writing to object to Spearmint Rhino being granted a license for their sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city centre. Please consider the points below when making the decision on this license.

- Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders
- strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
- Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell.
- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
- the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 08:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal
Attachments: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal (Brian Lewis).pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Sir / Madam

Please find attached my letter regarding the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino. Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Email: | [REDACTED]

15 May 2018

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
Sheffield
S9 3HD

Dear Sir / Madam

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Workstation are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children, including the Children’s Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.” It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion and is shortly to reopen. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of

proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: DocFest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf, etc, all of which are tourist attractions. The location of the club is not only incongruous, but seriously impacts on the other businesses in the cultural quarter. The club is also next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (a city landmark building).

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments.

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas - subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections. For example, one woman gave up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace; a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." Others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing. I personally know of several women (artists, students, educators) who have had to either change their routes from work / through town while the club is open, or avoid working nearby during the club's opening hours.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2018 22:00
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

I am a student in Sheffield. I object to the continued licence of the strip club Spearmint Rhino because of the misogyny and sexism these kind of clubs perpetuate.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Bower Claire

From: [redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2018 10:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Fwd: Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

From: [redacted] >
Date: 15 May 2018 at 10:29:17 BST
To: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

15th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London” for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d)the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to

educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage".

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license."

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." I ask that the

Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2018 10:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: SR Objection
Attachments: SR Objection 2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing Service,

Please find attached my letter of objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino SEV licence.

Many thanks,

Advocacy tel: [Redacted]
Mobile [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]
Secure email: [Redacted]

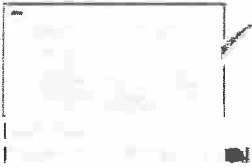
Please note I work two days at [Redacted]
My usual working days are Tuesday and Friday

Confidential Freephone helpline: [Redacted]
Text support:- [Redacted]
Email Support:- [Redacted]

Registered Charity Number:- [Redacted]

SARSVL is proud to be a member of Rape Crisis England and Wales

[If you would like to sign up to our mailing list click here](#)



LOTTERY FUNDED

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15th May 2018

Dear Licensing Service

Objection to Sonfield Developments application for Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

As a regular visitor to the city of Sheffield in both a leisure and business capacity I strongly advocate that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike. As Sheffield's city population continues to grow it is more than likely that this area will become even more residential.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference in addition to the events which will be hosted by the Site Gallery upon its reopening.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom” which is open until midnight everyday.

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

It is in very close proximity to the Great Escape Game which also caters for children and families.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area.

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(b) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the vicinity which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, including a specialist sexual violence service and a women’s project which is situated directly behind the club, the same project a mother of a service user was quoted as saying she could not let her daughter access due to it being within feet of the club in 2017’s objections.

Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

Addaction, the adult drug and alcohol service is also on Sidney Street with Paternoster Row and Brown Street as a direct access route from the railway station, bus station and bus stops on Arundel Gate coming in from the south of the City.

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter and furthermore, designated to be at the heart of the CIQ. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity (with more being built on Sidney Street), which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is an obtrusive blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

As recorded in the case of R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014):

The committee noted the applicant’s offer in relation to signage and whilst recognizing attempts to address concerns was of the view that the premises could never be invisible.

All other buildings in the vicinity are signed and this was a poor attempt to minimise the impact this venue has. It is also a recognition by last year’s Sub-committee of the club’s incongruity and inappropriateness. The only other buildings in the area not clearly marked are for reasons of anonymity because of vulnerable service users accessing services.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;

- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.ⁱ

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many disturbing examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio, a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12). Others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.ⁱⁱ

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortableⁱⁱⁱ

Kolvin continues with:

If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage^{iv}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.^v

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{vi}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^{vii}.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{viii} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed in many testimonies of former performers. This is in addition to the misogynistic and sexist views espoused by many men (and some women) towards women working in the industry.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{ix}. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found that 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture."

It is clear in the current context that the presence of a lap dancing club in Sheffield is detrimental to all of its residents and contravenes the Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Duty.

I ask that the committee take all of the above into account when deciding on the licence application and consider the continued impact on the city and its residents of renewing the licence.

Kind regards

References

ⁱ Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women,

and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

ⁱⁱ *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from:

<https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

ⁱⁱⁱ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{iv} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^v Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{vi} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^{vii} Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{viii} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{ix} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 10:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Hi All

Hope you're well

I'd just like to add my objection to the Spearmint Rhino application on the grounds of the venue being in an unsuitable location in the heart of the city center and less than 2 minutes walk away from the proposed new Channel 4 Headquarters.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 15 May 2018 11:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: [redacted] Objection Letter to Spearmint Rhino Licence Application
Attachments: [redacted] to Sp Rhino Licence App 14May18.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please acknowledge receipt of the attached letter objecting to the licence application by Spearmint Rhino.
Thank you,

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Tel: +44 [redacted] [redacted] ext line]
Mobile: [redacted] ext: [redacted] Fax: [redacted]
e: [redacted]
w: [redacted]



[redacted] is a Registered Charity No: 1092661 and a Company Reg No: 4405173

For advice and information about domestic and sexual abuse, ring the Sheffield Helpline on: [redacted]
or visit the Council's Domestic Abuse Co-ordination Team website at: www.sheffielddact.org.uk

Head of Licensing & Chief Licensing Officer
Block C
Staniforth Road
Sheffield S9 3HD
email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

vida
life without abuse

formerly
Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum

14 May 2018

**Re: Application for Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence
by Spearmint Rhino**

Dear Licensing Department,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and Vida Sheffield call for the council to refuse it.

We believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy. Sheffield City Council also has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. We believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women and girls, which contributes to their objectification in other areas of society.

Our general terms of objection are as follows:

- the part of the city that the club is situated is unsuitable due to it being in the 'cultural heart' of the city. The Sexual Entertainment Venue is situated in the cultural heart of Sheffield, and within the area of the railway station, the main gateway and welcome point to the city, and the pedestrianised walkway to the town centre;
- the club is situated directly next to the SHU Students Union, a hub for young impressionable people, often away from home for the first time and very vulnerable;
- when walking around this area, which you encourage as a Council due to the other businesses and services in the area, women and girls feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour to take account of it. For example, having to check to see if there are men coming out of the SEV, and taking a different route to the centre of town so that they do not risk walking past an SEV – women and girls should not have to adapt our lives in this way in our city;
- the Council's own promotion is of 'Sheffield – where everyone matters' – this should include the female citizens of the city, who should not have their city normalising and promoting their sexualisation and objectification;
- the image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue, in a very busy social hub of the city, giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and Sheffield's own widely publicised belief that Sheffield is 'a city where everyone matters.'

- granting a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest festival for International Women's Day, the One Billion Rising flash dance event to combat Violence Against Women & Girls, the Equalities Hubs bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the Council and the city.
- the City Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

The law on SEV licensing states that Local Authorities have a duty to consider their legal obligations with regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) when considering license applications. Public Sector Equality Duty decisions should have due regard to fostering good relations between men and women, and this involves tackling inequality. Has the Council, in keeping with their own policy, carried out a thorough Equality Impact Assessment?

In their consultations, Sheffield City Council appear to agree that Sexual Entertainment Venues involve the objectification of women. In allowing the licensing of even one SEV in the city, the Council is effectively endorsing and facilitating the objectification of women and undermining efforts to promote healthy sexual practices, by the Council or your partners.

This normalisation of harassment and discrimination against women creates a hostile environment for women and girls in Sheffield, and contributes to the appalling levels of sexual and domestic violence and abuse, with the devastating impacts that we see daily in our Eva Therapy Service for women and girls affected by abuse and trauma.

We would respectfully but strongly urge the Licencing Committee to refuse this licence application by Spearmint Rhino.

The City Council is asked to note that in the last few years other councils have successfully defended a refusal to renew SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council [2014] – it was held that a council can 'take a fresh look' despite no changes to the character of locality.

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council [2014] was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could 'take a fresh look' at any application for renewal.

If the panel/committee feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, Vida would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

Vida will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge mounted in reaction to refusal of this licence application.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Vida

on behalf of the Vida Sheffield Management Committee and staff team

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 11:24
To: licensingservice
Subject: Application for licence - objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Councillors and licensing staff,

I have spent many years in Sheffield, supporting women (professionally and personally) who have suffered from rape and sexual abuse. In view of the levels of everyday sexual harassment which have been highlighted by the recent MeToo campaign, I find it hard to believe that I'm still having to explain my objections to licensing lap dancing clubs in Sheffield, but here goes.

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds:

- The Council has stated explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. Strip clubs are the epitome of this objectification. Encouraging men to see women as objects can contribute to increasing levels of domestic violence.
- Women work in strip clubs because they are paid. But they also suffer lasting psychological harm. Surely this is not in accordance with the Council's Equality Policy?
- I regularly use the area in which Spearmint Rhino is sited to visit the Showroom and other cultural venues. I feel personally intimidated walking near it. The site is close to buildings used by students. Other women using the area are much younger and more vulnerable than myself. Nor do I wish young men to see this as a 'normal' entertainment in the city.

I want this to be a city I can be proud of. I don't want a strip club to be one of the first things visitors see when they leave the station and start exploring. I don't want to live in a city which fails to protect women from degradation and abuse.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

122

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 13:29
To: licensingservice
Subject: Letter of Objection - SEV - Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street
Attachments: Letter of Objection - SEV - Spearmint Rhino 2018.pdf

Please find attached a letter of objection regarding the SEV licence application for 60 Brown Street. I would be grateful if you acknowledge receipt.

Kind regards

--

Social Enterprise Exchange
The Social Enterprise Exchange is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020

Sheffield City Council
Licensing Section
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

Date: 15th May 2018

To whomever it may concern,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on two grounds:

Ground c):

"the number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality."

The grounds go on to state that "Nil may be an appropriate number for the purposes of (c)"

Ground d):

"the grant or renewal of a licence would be inappropriate, having regard -

(i) to the character of the relevant locality: or

(ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put: or

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises; vehicle; vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made."

Sheffield City Council also has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

Furthermore Schedule 3 1982 Act provides specific grounds to refuse/renew license:

e) "cultural hub of city"

f) "central gateway to the city....or tourist attraction"

Our general terms of objection are as follows:

- the part of the city that the club is situated is unsuitable due to it being in the "cultural heart" of the city. The Sexual Entertainment Venue is situated in the cultural heart of Sheffield, and within the area of the railway station, the main gateway and welcome point to the city, encompassing the pedestrianised walk way up to town centre.

- the club is situated directly next to the Hallam Students Union, a hub of young impressionable people, sometimes vulnerable and often away from home for the first time.

- the club is situated in close proximity to the Workstation, a conference facility that hosts events such as the Children's Media Conference, Sheffield Documentary Festival.

- the club is situated in close proximity to The Showroom, an independent cinema that promotes 'Young Cinema', a programme that encourages children and young adults to engage in film, and 'Kicstart', a programme for children with autism and their families.

- the club is situated in close proximity to a number of organisations which support vulnerable children and adults

- when walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city.

- the Council's own promotion of the city is "Sheffield - where everyone matters" - this includes the female citizens of the city who should not be subjected to their city promoting and normalising the sexualisation and objectification of them

- this image or a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and Sheffield's own widely publicised belief of Sheffield being a city "where everyone matters."

- granting a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city,

- the council has a duty under the Equality Act to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality.

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

123

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 15 May 2018 13:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino objection
Attachments: SW Spearmint Rhino objection.docx; ATT00001.txt

Can you please email me when received.
Thanks

ATT00001

Sent from my iPhone



Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15th May 2018

Dear Licensing Service

Objection to Sonfield Developments application for Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

About me and why I am objecting

I have already been in contact with Sheffield Licensing about the lap dancing industry, at the time of writing I haven't received a response (see appendix).

My name is [REDACTED]. I am an author, fundraiser, campaigner, public speaker and mother of 2, I am also the child abuse survivor that exposed the Rotherham child abuse scandal with The Times news reporter Andrew Norfolk. My work is now focused on and around child/adult exploitation and I work with agencies such as police, councils and government not to only give professionals a better understanding of exploitation but around changing policies, legislation and laws to better the lives of our countries most vulnerable, which brings me to my point of why I am objecting to the licensing renewal of spearmint rhinos.

Lapdancing is exploitation. Due to my work around exploitation I have previously met with then Prime Minister David Cameron, Victims commissioner, Ministry of Justice, Home Office and the lapdancing Minister Victoria Atkinson, I continue to have a working relationship with these individuals and agencies and have or will be discussing my views that I am sharing with you in this objection to improve or abolish lapdancing in the UK. I am also going to have another meeting with the Home Office about the industry.

I am also a former lapdancer so I speak with first hand experience and. I started lapdancing around the age of 18 and danced in the industry for around 9 years all over the UK including clubs in Sheffield.

As a child I was groomed and abused for many years in my home town of Rotherham, this led me to have many issues in life, my self esteem was very low as well as my self respect and I viewed myself as nothing more but an object for men, I believed I was the one in control and felt empowered, I realise now that this is nonsense. I wasn't in control and taking

my clothes off for strangers is not empowering it is degrading, I was in fact being exploited by these men and the clubs and the councils that allowed them to operate when I was at my most vulnerable.

Lapdancing is exploitation and is putting women at risk, I have lost count how many times I was touched, grabbed, assaulted physically and sexually and managements response was that it was my job and need to expect it, also we wasn't allowed to report it to police as it would go against the clubs licensing renewal. I was on occasions threatened by managers and on one occasion I was held at a club against my will and told I was getting kidnapped and because they knew where I lived they also threatened to kill my children, the management also sacked every girl that I was friends with.

I have also been assaulted by staff too in order to not report issues within the clubs. Often I was not even paid my wages at the end of the night and told cctv would be deleted to ensure it looked like I was never even in the premises.

This happened often and around the clubs in the Uk. The club owners and management also knew that majority of dancers don't declare they are working or there earnings to HM revenues and take advantage treating the girls badly as they know the girls cant report it for that reason. There is a lot of crime happening also such as drugs and drug dealing, prostitution, fraud, money laundering and trafficking.

In the industry I met some of the most strongest and incredible women, however every dancer I had met in the industry had all experienced some kind of abuse in life like myself emotionally, physically or sexually and most didn't even recognise it as abuse as most don't but they felt they couldn't really do much else. As lapdancers we are viewed very badly. I was constantly called names such as slag, whore and a piece of shit, I was viewed and treated like a second class citizen and not just in 1 club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.

In one club in particular the atmosphere is very tense, girls are not nice in fact they were very bitchy, they were extreme amounts of girls on which makes it harder to make money but ensures the club makes money as there was a house fee and percentage to pay and if you wanted to work the weekend you had to work during the week also there were student nights which meant we had to do free dances to students etc.

On one occasion I was ill so asked if I could leave early, I was told to go and wait in the changing rooms so I did, whilst I was waiting for the manager I put my coat and boots on as not only was I ill but there was some kind of water leak in the changing rooms and there was water all over the floor, the manager came in and asked me why I had put my coat and boots on without his permission, I was then sacked for doing so and escorted off the premises which was very unfair, the changing room was in extremely poor conditions and I was ill.

The management had favourite dancers so the other girls got treated differently which is common in most clubs. I would also like to point out the dancers dancing in one particular club I'm told still are extremely "dirty" with a lot of contact and spreading of the legs making it even harder to make money as a "clean dancer". I also saw staff bending girls over as if they was having sex with them in a 'joking' way, the girls would just laugh.

On one occasion I went into this particular club as a customer I went outside for a cigarette when I was surrounded by a group of very angry male customers, they was very abusive towards me as they thought I was one of the dancers calling me a slag, whore and telling me my children will hate me and be ashamed of me, it was that bad my friend had to escort me to

a taxi to ensure I wasn't attacked physically, unfortunately this happens on a regular basis in fact it is the reason why dancers have to change their name as it protects their real identity being exposed.

The Lapdancing industry is absolutely horrific and needs to be shut down. There should be no such place in our communities for this kind of behaviour and our licensing department should not be condoning it.

In addition to my experiences of the industry, and as a regular visitor to the city, I strongly urge the Council to refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference in addition to the events which will be hosted by the Site Gallery upon its reopening.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom" which is open until midnight everyday.

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

It is in very close proximity to the Great Escape Game which also caters for children.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club, including specialist sexual violence services. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

Addaction, the adult drug and alcohol service is also on Sidney Street with Paternoster Row and Brown Street as a direct access route from the station and the bus station.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter and furthermore, designated to be at the heart of the CIQ. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity (with more being built on Sidney Street), which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

As recorded in the case of R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014):

The committee noted the applicant’s offer in relation to signage and whilst recognizing attempts to address concerns was of the view that the premises could never be invisible.

It is manifestly preposterous that this was ever considered a solution to the presence of Spearmint Rhino; this does not make the club disappear and this “three wise monkeys” is misguided and does not address the issues raised here nor previously. All other buildings in the vicinity are clearly marked and this was a poor attempt to minimise the impact this venue has and also a recognition by last year’s Sub-committee of its incongruity and inappropriateness. The only other buildings in the area not clearly marked are for reasons of anonymity because of vulnerable service users accessing services.

The building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way and may encourage the use of the vacant premises next to it.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{iv}

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the

Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

As I said in my introduction based on my experiences of this industry, I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.^v

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

I know that in previous years many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio, a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^{vi}

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable^{vii}

Kolvin continues with:

If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into

account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage^{viii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.^{ix}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^x

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^{xi}.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xii} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed in many testimonies of former performers. This is in addition to the misogynistic and sexist views espoused by many men (and some women) towards women working in the industry.

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies.

Anachronistic, sexist, outdated and passé

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiii}. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture."

The Sub-committee's role and wide discretion

As per the Policy,

There is a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court against decisions for the refusal to grant, renew, vary or transfer of a licence, the imposition of conditions and revocations may also be appealed.

Appeals must be made to the Magistrates Court within 21 days, starting from the date the applicant is notified of the Licensing Authority's decision.

It is important to note that appeals only lie against the mandatory refusals on the basis that the mandatory ground does not apply to the applicant/licence holder. Further, no appeal lies against the Licensing Authority's decision made on the discretionary grounds namely:

· that it is inappropriate to grant or renew a licence on the grounds of the character of the locality or the number of premises in it; or · the use of premises in the vicinity or the layout, character or condition of the premises.

The only discretionary grounds against which an appeal lies are those relating to the suitability of the applicant, the manager and/or the beneficiary of the operation

Yet two people, one a former councillor and one who worked for Council tweeted in response to publicity about the forthcoming judicial review how the legal advice given to the Sub-committee was that if they refused the licence they would be taken to court and lose. This seems to be at odds with the above and a range of appeals to licensing decisions where with the exception of one that a Not Buying It researcher has found, all original refusals to granting/renewals and variations of licences were upheld.

For example, the Sub-committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”

In the case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

We ask that the Sub-committee do the same and takes a fresh look although is unequivocal that there have been incremental changes year on year with substantial changes during the past year and far greater change to come, including hopefully, the arrival of a regional Channel 4 hub.

Kind regards

References

ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^v Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

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- ^{vi} *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{viii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{ix} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ^x Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^{xi} Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^{xii} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- ^{xiii} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Appendix



My name is [REDACTED], I am author of *The Sunday Times* best seller 'Just A Child' released 19/4/18, a national speaker, campaigner & fundraiser. I am one of the 1,400 survivors who were groomed, abused and failed in Rotherham.

I was groomed and abused mentally, sexually and physically for many years, made pregnant twice and gave birth to my son when I was 16 years old.

Not only was my rapist psychologically, sexually and physically abusing me, he was also grooming me to commit crime.

In July 2013, I contacted Andrew Norfolk at The Times newspaper and handed over evidence that proved I was abused and also failed by authorities. My story was published, naming Hussain and the deputy leader of Rotherham council in August 2013. This triggered the Professor Alexis Jay report, the inquiry exposed the cover up of 1,400 children being abused and how many authorities had failed in Rotherham and South Yorkshire. I was also the survivor provoked the police investigation (Operation Clover) into my abuse and all other non-recent child abuse cases in Rotherham.

In February 2016, Arshid Hussain was found guilty and sentenced to 35 years in prison.

When I was 18 years old I went to work in the Lap dancing industry. I worked around the UK as a lap dancer for around 9 yrs. I'd like to make clear that I was not forced to work in clubs, it was my own choice. I had a low self-esteem and no respect for myself due to my abuse as a child. I thought at the time I was taking back control and empowering myself, I realise now that taking my clothes off for men's sexual gratification isn't these things but in fact it is degrading, disrespectful and I'm worth much more and so are other women.

Myself and others were treated very badly in the industry. I've never met a lap dancer that hasn't at some point in their life been abused mentally, sexually or physically and that's the reason why they are dancers. Their vulnerabilities allow them to become exploited.

Within the industry there is money laundering, fraud, trafficking, prostitution and drugs. This is the reason I will begin a national campaign. Other dancers are also willing to speak out about the treatment they endure in the industry. I aim working and aiming to abolish the Lap dancing industry from the UK.

I'd like to ask men, what if your daughter, mother or grandmother were a lap dancer, would you be ok with it? Women are viewed as sex objects, how many women compared to men are on page 3 or pornographic magazines? How many women, compared to men, are working in Lapdancing clubs? How many women, compared to men, are working in brothels?

I have recently met with the Lap dancing Minister and Home Office about my concerns and we will be working together to tackle the industry.

I would like to meet with yourself to discuss these issues further, as I'm aware there is a Lap dancing venue in your area.

My status includes

- Triggered the Professor Alexis Jay report, which exposed the cover up of 1,400 children being abused and failed in Rotherham. Opening the largest investigation of our time.
- Significant media representation, raising awareness on a worldwide scale.
- Private meetings with PM David Cameron, DfE, Victims Commissioner, a working relationship with MoJ and the Home Office as well as other government officials.
- Secured £3.1million to Barnardo's, from KPMG, RMBC and DFE as well as securing funding for other charities.
- Assisted in training and consultation sessions with multi agencies around the UK and NI including Bedfordshire, Metropolitan police, Tact Fostering, NSPCC, NHS, NCA and Education.
- Supported the development of the commissioned services.
- Participated in the government NHS CSE training film.
- Consultations with leaders and head of children's services at RMBC and Rotherham Commissioners.
- Working alongside RMBC and government amending licensing policies and procedures nationally.
- Nominated for most positive role model award UK, Best Community Safety Award UK, winner of Suzy Lamplugh Safer Campaign award UK.
- Campaigns so far includes - counselling services, mandatory education, CICA, Sammy's Law, licensing, employment changes, legal action against councils, Loose Women's never too late to tell campaign, court system and training for all professionals.

I recently met with the HO and Minister Victoria Atkins to discuss issues around the Lap dancing industry that I have witnessed throughout clubs in the UK such as fraud, money laundering, prostitution, trafficking, drugs and the overall treatment of women within the industry.

I would like to meet with you face to face as I am launching a campaign, with the support of national media, to abolish or at least improve the industry and bring it to the fore front. I feel that with the proliferation of lap dancing clubs it is accepted by society and the use of the women has become a very normalised yet unsafe industry. I believe if we work together we will have a strong chance of achieving my aims.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

~~Samy Carter~~

Objection to Sheffield Spearmint Rhino Licensing Renewal by [REDACTED], Not Buying It

Recommendations:

- Refuse this license on grounds of locality and breach of PSED
- Provide Exit Strategies for women working at the Club
- This to be funded by ending costly court proceedings to justify the licensing of the industry
This must be running close to £100,000). Use this money instead to support performers with training, placements, encouraging flexible work options at other businesses etc.

If not, Impose Additional Conditions (as other councils have done):

- All dancers to be PAYE with guaranteed minimum wage and employment rights
- NO Private booths or areas of any sort
- A maximum dancer : punter ratio
- Implement other conditions
such as Proper changing facilities/ separate exit door from punters/escorted out of premises at end of shift/ direct anonymous channel of complain and whistle blowing to council or other authority etc????

I visit Sheffield with meetings at The Showroom which is like Grand Central – everyone seems to meet everyone there. It is a few minutes from the railway station and almost directly opposite Spearmint Rhino.

I have been challenging the organised sex industry, including strip clubs, for many years because of the high level of harm associated with it. I previously ran the pressure group Object, which ensured law change to stop strip clubs being licensed like cafés or other leisure venues. During this time I have spoken with many women who have left the industry and am aware of a wealth of evidence as to the harm of this industry.

All the evidence and information given here can be found at:
<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 14:04
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License - Please Acknowledge Receipt
Attachments: SR Objection Not Buying It Rakoff.pdf; ATT00001.htm; ATT00002.htm

Please find attached my objection to the licensing renewal of Spearmint Rhino

Please acknowledge receipt of this email

Thank you



Location breaches Licensing Policy

Members considered whether or not the premises was inappropriate having regard to the locality and determined that it is not. Spearmint Rhino Written Determination Notice 2017

No doubt you have heard in depth evidence from locals, familiar with the area, as to exactly how inappropriate this strip club's siting is in terms of its location – where it is clearly in breach of your own licensing policy, on every count. So it is seems somewhat staggering that Council members are able to twist this breach into compatibility.

The premises is well run with no complaints known to the licensing authority or the premises.

Again this seems very carefully worded. Surely objections at licensing hearings are 'complaints'? And they have been 100s of objections over the years about this venue.

Legally Binding Equality Duties

Here, I would like to focus on the council's *legally binding* Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED):

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/technical_guidance_on_the_psed_enland.pdf
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/essential-guide-public-sector-equality-duty>

Under this Councils must have due regard to:

- **ELIMINATE harassment, discrimination and victimisation' of women**
- **Advance Equality of Opportunity between men and women**
- **Foster Good Relations between men and women**

In addition:

- **The greeter the relevance and potential impact, the higher the regard for the duty**

Obviously, when considering the lap dancing industry, this duty is particularly high.

The Right to Look at Licensing Applications with ‘Fresh Eyes’

The Council has already *conceded* that it had *breached* the PSED because of the manner in which it previously granted Spearmint Rhino strip club a license. It is therefore, clearly imperative that the Council revisits how it arrives at its licensing decision this time or it will again be acting unlawfully.

In other words, the Council **MUST look at its licensing decision ‘with fresh eyes’**. In fact the PSED technical guidance specifically states:

The duty requires relevant bodies to tackle the consequences of **past decisions** which failed to give due regard to **the equality aims**.

I know that barristers representing the strip industry like to inform Councils ‘that if a license has previously been granted, it must be re-granted’ but this is not even an accurate reflection of licensing law, let alone the PSED.

Councils may ALWAYS revisit past licensing decisions. All they need do is take into account that a license was previously granted. And this has been confirmed in law on more than one occasion, including by licensing expert Philip Kolvin QC, who frequently serves as representative for Spearmint Rhino and other strip club chains :

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be **exercised afresh**, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an **opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.**”

Case law also confirms this right. A review of recent judgements for the Local Government Lawyer website by Philip Kolvin, QC, and two other eminent barristers concludes:

‘In two recent decisions the courts have affirmed the wide powers enjoyed by licensing authorities to **refuse renewals** of licences for lap dancing clubs’

http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17968%3Alap-dance-no-more&catid=49%3Acomment-a-analysis-articles&Itemid=1

This is again confirmed by Mr Justice Turner:

‘It is, in my judgment, an inescapable fact that the Act of 1982 expressly contemplates the possibility that the circumstances in which a licence had been granted or renewed might change; hence the provisions of paragraph 12 of the 3rd Schedule, which apply not just in respect of the grant but, more importantly, also on the **renewal** of a licence. Thus the **proposition that an existing licence holder can expect that he will be granted a licence in perpetuity for any given set of premises is plainly wrong**’.

Furthermore, license renewal applications may be refused even when there has been **no change to** either the licensee or the surrounding area:

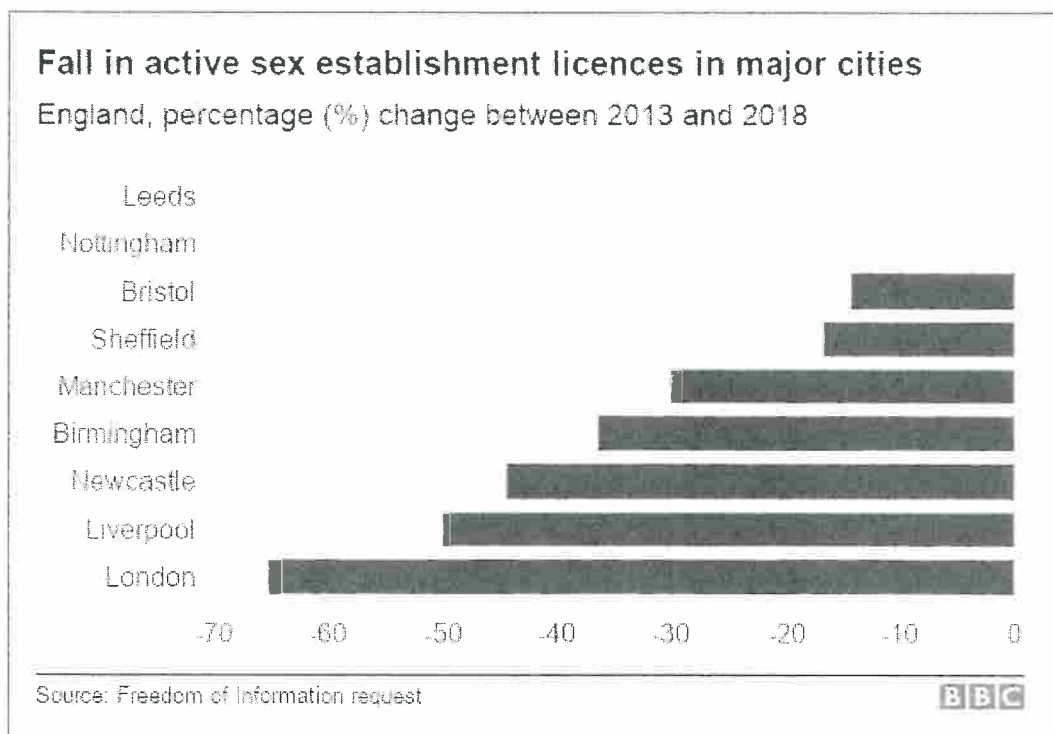
licensing authorities are entitled to 'have a fresh look' at an application for renewal of an SEV licence, and may refuse to renew even when there is no material change in circumstance.'

http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17968%3Alap-dance-no-more&catid=49%3Acomment-a-analysis-articles&Itemid=1

Again, given that Council has conceded that its previous licensing decision to grant the club a license was *made illegally*, the Council is now absolutely beholden to look at this license with new eyes.

Other Councils are **NOT** re-granting Licenses

Furthermore a precedent for *not* re-granting licenses has been set on numerous occasions since a great many other councils now have not re-granted strip club licenses. In fact, the number of licenses of strip clubs and sex establishments is reported to have fallen by 1/3: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842> :



In the overwhelming majority of cases, this has passed without incident, ie without legal challenge by strip club operators.

In fact, Sheffield seems to be the only city I know of that currently seems intent on introducing a 'no limit' policy, likely to substantially *expand* its lap dancing industry.

Unfounded Fear of Legal Challenge by the Strip Industry

It has become obvious over the years, that one of the reasons Councils grant strip club licenses is because of fear of legal challenge by strip industry operators.

Even an ex-Sheffield Councillor has stated that the legal advice given to councilors was to automatically grant license or they would be taken to court and lose.



Geoff Smith
@geoffforrookes

Replying to @NotBuyingItSaf and @NikoNetheridge

Interesting to see what happens. Our legal advice as councilors was always that if we refused to renew the licence it would be challenged and we would lose the case.

2:09 pm · 26 Apr 18

However, we have not found a SINGLE case where a strip club operator has mounted a successful legal challenge against a council for failing to grant a license. This includes numerous occasions where licenses have not been *re-granted*:

Camden: Camden Council vs The Red Rooms

Camden Council took The Red Rooms strip club to High Court to argue its right to allow no private areas. Council won.

Leeds: Bean Leisure vs Leeds City Council [2014]

Two clubs lose in High Court challenge to Council's refusal to renew licenses

Leicester: Lily's Lounge Leicester [2016]

SEV took council to court for refusing to renew license. SEV no longer operating.

Oxford: 'The Lodge' Thompson, R (On the Application Of) v Oxford City Council [2014]

Court of Appeal upholds Council decision not to renew license.

South Bucks: R (KVP ENT LTD) v South Bucks DC [2013]

SEV not even given leave to go to Judicial Review when license was not renewed

The only incident where a Judge ruled in favour of an SEV (strip club) was on a technicality (too many councilors had been involved in the decision):

Cheshire: Bridgerow Ltd, R (on the application of) v Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council [2014]

In fact the judge explicitly pointed out that in all other respects he agreed *with* the Council. The club in question shut within a year of this case.

Breach of the PSED – Disregarding Concerns as ‘Moralistic’

The Council appears to have been largely guided by evidence and research from highly biased sources, from strip club operators (problematic as outlined throughout) to pro-industry researchers, including self-professed fans of the strip industry like Colosi, PhD.

These researchers, without fail, denigrate genuine concerns for the sex and strip industry as ‘moralistic’. Even researchers like Sanders, who expose the abuse within the industry, still assert that the opposition that might reasonably arise from these findings is driven by ‘morality’ rather than the fact that it could reasonably be concluded that the industry itself is corrupt and incompatible with equality and human rights.

But crediting concerns with the industry as merely ‘moralistic’ was a key reason Judicial Review was granted against Sheffield City Council’s previous decision to re-license Spearmint Rhino:

.. There is a tenable basis for the Claimant’s inference that the Defendant [Sheffield City Council] has **wrongly ignored objections** based the potential impact on gender equality treating them as **moral objections** and irrelevant.”

Judge’s observation when granting permission for Judicial Review,
Honourable Mrs Justice Nerys Jefford, DBE, Justice at High Court Queen’s Branch Division, 2015

Surely the council needs to now exercise considerable caution not to make the same mistakes again – and must not treat genuine, tangible and demonstrable concerns over the harm of lap dancing as ‘moralising’. Similarly it must take heed to take into account the bias of pro-industry ‘morality’ of many sex industry advocates.

Breach of the PSED - Poor Understanding of the Reality of the Industry

Another reason Councils grant licenses is because of a serious lack of understanding of the industry and an apparent refusal to listen to the large body of evidence of harm across the industry. **This lack of understanding also gives grounds to challenge under equality law.** It also means the council is putting young dancers at particular risk.

That is why, again, it is imperative Sheffield City Council strives to understand the reality of this industry. I have been concerned that the information and research that the council is relying on appears to have come entirely from advocates of the strip industry and sex trade – whether from industry representatives or academics. Just two examples of misinformation are given below:

‘lap dancing is not sexual’

When SEV licensing was first being considered, strip industry reps were lining up claiming *‘lap dancing is not sexual’* in the press and even at Parliamentary Select Committee Hearings. You must remember that this industry twists the truth or openly lies at every opportunity.

Likewise, one of the only major studies of the industry in the UK exposed how all strip club operators claimed their establishments were perfectly well run, while pointing the finger at every other as being poorly run and constantly rule breaking:

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf> .

Breach of the PSED – Discriminatory Working Conditions

Members considered the representations raised that the dancers at Spearmint Rhino are suffering as a result of unfair and unequal working conditions. The arrangements in place are legal and entered into with full knowledge and consent. Spearmint Rhino Written Determination Notice 2017

Members further considered the three aims under PSED and determined that they needed to ensure that the worker's rights were being enforced, and especially that equality of opportunity between different groups is being advanced.

They had a statement from the Safeguarding Board saying that there were no concerns about welfare and no complaints had been received however thought it proportionate to condition that the premises be subject to quarterly inspections to ensure these are being complied with. This would be evidence that could be used at the next renewal application.

Lap dancers (women) are the only workers at strip clubs who are 'self employed' and do not receive any work security or rights, unlike all other staff (the overwhelming majority of whom are men)

These working conditions are:

- **Pay to work in the venue**
- **Pay a portion of takings back to the venue**
- **Buy expensive 'house clothes'**
- **Fines at every opportunity**
- **Being forced to buy drinks**
- **Far too high a ratio of performers to punters (making it hard for any individual to earn enough money to even break even by the end of her shift)**
- **No sick pay/maternity or other PAYE benefits**
- **No job security or guarantee of income**

"I frequently was only making enough to cover the house fee, train tickets and the cost of a bed and breakfast with no extra profit for myself " Liz

www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip

70% of lap dancers make no money by the end of their shift

Sanders:www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/assets/files/research/Regulatory_Dance/FINALSUMMARYJAN2012.pdf

Do members of the council think these conditions are *fair*? Do they think any individual who was *genuinely empowered* would enter into work conditions like this with full *knowledge and consent*? Do they think leaving a shift in debt or having made no money is not *suffering*? How can *quarterly inspections* eradicate the basic working model of strip clubs – these are businesses which only exist because of young women ('product') and yet treats them in the most financially abusive manner imaginable.

These employment conditions are clearly unfair and unequal and can be seen as a breach of the PSED. They are also a driving force for the far more sinister abuse found across the industry – coercion, sexual abuse and exploitation.

Breach of the PSED – Abuse and Exploitation in Clubs

Members further considered the three aims under PSED and determined that they needed to ensure that the worker's rights were being enforced, and especially that equality of opportunity between different groups is being advanced. They had a statement from the Safeguarding Board saying that there were no concerns about welfare and no complaints had been received however thought it proportionate to condition that the premises be subject to quarterly inspections to ensure these are being complied with. This would be evidence that could be used at the next renewal application.

Lap dancing is synonymous with harassment and victimisation of performers ie breach of the PSED:
<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip>:

“Customers .. would touch me and grab me and one even bit me during a dance”

Liz

“Sexual contact becomes the norm. You start to sell yourself out.

Vicky

“There’s a rule regarding distance. You’re allowed to get closer than they say in the contract. It’s supposed to be three feet .. That is broken instantly” Sarah

This has been exposed in two major academic studies of the UK strip industry; countless testimonies from women who have left the industry; undercover journalists and even current lap dancers such as members of the East London Strippers Collective. It is revealed by police reports; press reports; comments from punters and even by strip club operators.

The largest research study ever conducted into the strip industry highlighted how half lap dancers reported frequent verbal harassment and unwanted touching from customers (in other words, sexual assault).

Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. University of Leeds

“I’m frequently asked how much I charge for sex – it seems to be taken as read that, as a lap dancer, I offer services outside the club”

Journalist reveals the constant verbal and physical harassment she was subjected to when undercover as a stripper: <https://londonist.com/london/features/this-is-what-it-s-like-being-a-lap-dancer-in-london>

Much of this has been collated here: <http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip>

Given that research suggests that students are believed to make up 1/3 of lap dancers and Spearmint Rhino is in the middle of the University, the Council has a particular duty to pay heed to the harm associated with the industry. If it does not it is responsible for putting young female students, often teenagers, at risk: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01425692.2013.854596>

Breach of the PSED: Fostering Poor Relations Between the Sexes

Lap dancing is the antithesis of 'fostering good relations between the sexes'. This too is a breach of the PSED.

The largest study of the industry ever conducted in the UK revealed that 1/3 of performers said the job had effected their view of men: Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

"It's screwed up my view of men. Every time I see a man now, I just see him as a punter. There's only so many bad experiences you can have before you start hating them all . . ."

"You start to see men as nothing more than their wallets, idiots to be fleeced for as much as you can. You start to despise them for believing you when you flutter your eyelashes and tell them they're the most interesting customer that you've ever talked to."

"I always thought of the customers as vermin and, ironically, that is what they thought of me."

149. **ladivina69**
8 Feb 2012 09:26

My daughter is a dancer and its not harmless fun. In order to bear dealing with this degrading and soul destroying work the girls drink too much and endure the worst aspects of male nature. She has become cynical, jaded and doesnt have relationships any more. She thinks that men are all untrustworthy and only after what they can get away with. Its not really a job to be proud of.

↑ 73 ↓ 43

The intense competition between performers, nurtered by clubs which ensure far too high a ratio of lap dancers to customers, also does not foster good relations with other members of the female sex.

And of course, this is as nothing compared to the attitudes clubs foster by men towards women. Obviously the impact of this is far more concerning as men carry these attitudes around with them in a society where 10 million (1 in 3 women) experience male violence, in most part *because* of men's attitudes towards women.

In a study of customers of strip clubs it was found that over half of the men interviewed stated that their motivation for visiting lap dancing clubs was to **escape** from what they perceived as a code of conduct which 'restrained' them.

Journal of Sex Research 40:1, 61-75, 2004

"You can go in there and shop for a piece of meat , quote unquote , so to speak. I mean, you want to see a girl, you can see a girl run around naked. Have her come over, pay her to do a dance or two or three and walk away and not even ask her her name" Frank, K.

'Just trying to relax': Masculinity, masculinizing practices, and strip club regulars" *Journal of Sex Research* 40:1, 61-75, 2003

Recent Incidences

This situation is so bad that a quick Google search of press reports exposes how close to a dozen clubs have been shut in the few years alone. The true level of incidence is obviously like to be considerably higher. This is collated here: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Strip%20Sleaze%20Recent.pdf

It includes Villa Mercedes, a branch of which was nearly licensed by Sheffield City Council

Bing, West Bromwich 2017

Shut down after a brawl led to GBH. Police also expressed grave concerns about prostitution, the use of possibly under age Romanian girls and the possibility that they may have been trafficked:

Hanley's, Staffordshire 2017

Shut down after years of concerns over inappropriate touching, offers of prostitution, drugs and drink spiking.

Jack of Diamonds, Bristol 2017

Closed for inappropriate touching.

Legs 11, Birmingham 2017

License suspended for trafficking. Sexual contact observed and under cover trading officers offered 'sexual services' in VIP rooms.

Angels, Leicester 2016

Fondling and touching viewed on CCTV. Several dancers undocumented and suspected of being underage.

Villa Mercedes, Harrogate 2015

Shut down after repeated breach of licensing conditions including physical contact with dancers and 'audience participation'. (Appeal by operator to license refusal was withdrawn).

Bentley's, Doncaster 2017

Performer assaulted outside after refusing sex with punter.

Diamonds Dolls, Glasgow 2017

License suspended immediately when a half dressed, drunk and unconscious dancer was dragged out of the club by management and dumped onto the street (performer in question refused to speak to police, presumably out of fear of retaliation by management).

Cleopatra's Lounge, Huddersfield 2016

Man smashes club window when dancer refuses to 'meet up' with him outside of the club:

<http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/man-smashed-lap-dance-club-11379793>

X in The City, Liverpool 2015

Punter attacks lap dancer and steals her purse after she refused to give oral sex in a private booth.

Punter: "I said 'are you going to suck my **** upstairs?' and she said 'yes'. Obviously that was the whole purpose."

Platinum's, Stoke 2017

Loses its license: 'Exploitation' of punters, including violence and drink spiking.

Silks, Manchester 2017

Several incidences of brawls and violent behavior

Charlie Brown's London 2014

Breach of Frequency Exemption & Illegal Activity

Diamond Dolls & clubs across Scotland 2014

Massive police sting

Breach of the PSED – Private Booths

“There is only one reason why you have a cubicle. It’s because touching is going on and all sorts”
manager of Club Crème, Bristol

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Sheffield City Council’s allowing of private booths is a case in point.

Legs 11, Birmingham, had its license suspended in 2017 with under cover officers being offered sexual services in private rooms.

“From a police perspective it would make life and enforcement easier if we did not have the VIP rooms”
Police Officer

“If anything’s going to go wrong, it will be in the VIP or private rooms. You have to trust the integrity of the person who is in charge of security, but you can never be sure a blind eye is not going to be turned. Most venues have a VIP room, because it promotes intrigue to the customer who will go there and maybe look for something more, because of the secrecy” Police Officer

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Camden Council has had a policy against ‘private’ areas of any description in its clubs since SEV licensing was introduced. It has even gone to the High Court (successfully) to ensure this. This policy applies to Spearmint Rhino in Camden.

The reason for this is the high levels (and likelihood) of harassment, coercion and abuse in private booths. I would suggest allowing Spearmint Rhino private booths is in and of itself a breach of equality law as it is extremely likely to lead to ‘harassment and victimisation’.

Over 50% of dancers reported having received harassment ‘lots of times’ or a ‘a few times’, nearly half reported frequent verbal harassment and unwanted touching from customers. This was reported more widely in clubs with private dancing than those with only stage shows. Error! Bookmark not defined.

Private Booths: many dancers felt that the way in which private booths were set up also made them vulnerable and also allowed standards to be lowered by dancers offering more than is allowed in the dances.

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

This paper that we submitted to Camden Council for its High Court proceedings outlines the high levels of harm associated with private areas in strip clubs and is quoted from throughout this submission:

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Breach of the PSED – Simplistic Acceptance of Statements from Management

Again it is a breach of equality duty if the Council is not properly considering and analysing the information before them. This means evidence from management and even performers needs to be scrutinised with caution, rather than being simplistically taken at face value.

'It was clear to me ... that many owners and managers create a context in which the buying and selling of sexual services would be likely to happen. Club owners tend to absolve themselves of any responsibility if sexual services are found to be on offer, or being arranged on the premises, yet at the same time the dancers are encouraged to project an air of sexual availability to customers.'

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Our paper to Camden Council references how statements from management of 'excellent' operating conditions and performers well being simply cannot be taken at face value, for surely obvious reasons. Management have a clearly highly vested interest for abusive work conditions and prostitution, as this is how they will earn the most money. .

And if strip club operators are prepared to tell Parliament that 'lap dancing isn't sexual' then any statements they make surely have to be treated with extreme caution.

Besides, management and their legal team are adept at 'phrasing' information to ensure they are not lying but certainly misleading.

This includes constant statements by John Specht (Spearmint Rhino UK Vice President) in his witness statement to the Council for this licensing hearing that '**no complaints have been received**'. But this belies the fact that 100s of objections (*complaints*) actually have been received over years of licensing hearings. And yet this 'lack of complaint' is then re-iterated by Sheffield City Council's own licensing committee.

Management also, very deliberately, puts a 'Chinese wall' between it and any wrong doings at the club. An atmosphere is carefully cultivated that touching and full-blown sex acts are available yet when it happens management is able to claim no knowledge and instead fire the dancer as responsible.

The fact that a great many punters and members of the public view lap dancers as *de facto* prostitutes has been evidenced many times to the council (including by Not Buying It Sheffield at this licensing review).

In Conclusion

'A number of factors contribute to the possibility of the dancers being pressurised into offering, or agreeing to, sexual services without direct instruction from management.'

'The clubs [are] run in a way that implicitly encourages the customers to expect and seek sexual services from the dancers.'

'It can be concluded, from the body of evidence that some lap dance club owners and managers create conditions in which prostitution is likely to occur.'

'So long as club managers assure the police and others that any dancer found to be offering or engaging in sexual services will be dismissed, places the onus for behaviour onto the dancer. There has been a tendency, as highlighted through tribunals and police evidence, that club owners who either encourage dancers to engage in sexual activity, or merely 'turn a blind eye' are not held responsible for allowing that to happen.'

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Breach of the PSED – Simplistic Acceptance of Statements from Lap Dancers

Equally the Council needs to scrutinise statements from performers, rather than simplistically taking these at face value <http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf> :

Several journalists have confirmed that the conduct of staff, dancers and customers is affected when they are aware they are being observed

'I found that no one except the management, who were excited by the idea of newspaper coverage, wanted to talk to me, and I was viewed with suspicion. Everything seemed controlled, and I had a sense that I was not seeing the true picture.'

Of course, no lap dancer can openly expose problems within clubs, including breach of the 'no touching rule' or sex acts, because if she does she is will then fired and black listed amongst other clubs. Or worse.

Of course, if a club operator 'asks' his performers to sign statements supporting 'perfect practices' within their club, they will do exactly that. As again referenced in our report on Private Booths, the women working in the clubs often operate under a culture of fear and intimidation <http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf> :

This can be so extreme that performers who have been assaulted by club operators still will not talk, even to the police:

When a performer was dragged out on to the street by management, drunk, half naked and unconscious, she refused to talk to police even though this incident was so severe that the club's license was immediately suspended.

It can extend beyond performers to those researching the industry, as this journalist attested:

'for the record, one club owner telephoned me after our meeting and made what I took to be a veiled threat'Error! Bookmark not defined.

Women from the industry have told me in conversations that:

'if management tells you to do something, you do it'

This includes Sammy Woodhouse (former lap dancer who blew the lid on the Rotherham child sex abuse scandal, who I believe is also providing an evidenced-based objection to Sheffield City Council). I have also been told by her and others, including Stacey Clare, founder of The East London Strippers Collective that they:

'know of women being coerced by management into signing statements in support'

Stacey Clare is currently writing a book to, yet again, expose working conditions for lap dancer and this evidence was given to Camden City Council in a High Court case that upheld its decision to ban private areas in its clubs.

Even Women who have *left* the industry *still* feel intimidated

"The shadowy world behind some clubs is not something that you would want to go up against"

"I'd rather not say what I am doing these days, for the same reason that I won't tell you my real name. These are people [the club owners] you don't want to mess with. I am genuinely afraid of them. Who knows exactly what goes on behind the scenes, but I'd still rather not mess with it."

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

'A New Reality'

"Often if a person has asked about my experience as a dancer I have responded with a socially desirable answer, and simply asserted that I enjoyed dancing, that I made a lot of money but in the end dancing was not for me. This explanation has in no way conveyed the extremity of emotion and mental distress I have experienced as a dancer and in no way conveys the sexual degradation and humiliation I have experienced and observed during my short dancing career " Liz former lap dancer

http://notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/LAP%20DANCING%20testimony_Liz.pdf

Of equal significance, is the fact is that a 'new reality' very quickly sets in when you start working in stripping. As numerous women state once they have left the industry. This includes lying to yourself that 'all is well' as a coping mechanism and because your entire sense of self-worth is wrapped up in the industry – so to admit that anything might be wrong with it becomes unthinkable. And it includes genuinely not even recognising that being constantly harassed and groped or even paid for sexual acts is untoward or is not normal. A 'new reality' sets in, as researcher shows:

'These women, as you would expect, are keen to defend the work they do and furious that what they regard as patronising feminists seem bent on turning them into sex workers.'

".. for a time, it is possible to convince yourself that everything is OK. "No one in the club would express any uncertainty about what they are doing - they're too busy competing for work - so even if you do feel bad about it, you wonder if you are the only one. You convince yourself that your perception of what the job would be like is the same as what the job is, even though there is a quite weird gap between the two. It's only when you have made the decision to leave that you realise how insane it all was."

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Breach of the PSED – in the Vicinity of Clubs

Members heard how some women felt threatened and unsafe walking past the premises during the day knowing that the premises was there and that it triggered memories of past events for them. The premises will now essentially be 'invisible' during the day which will aim to mitigate this.

The Council has heard countless examples of how women and others feel unsafe in the vicinity of the club in objections made to licensing renewals. The club operator has even taken pictures outside of the club showing little traffic during its operating hours. This, of course, was used to suggest 'no one uses the street'. However it could equally mean that the club has in effect created a '**no go zone**'.

The Council's solution? Stop exterior signage outside the club. But Sheffield is a small city and local people know full well that the club is there even during the day when not open. If anything, a black unsigned building seems even more sinister.

And this does *not* address the club during its opening hours. The council has also heard countless evidence from objectors over years that they avoid the area during the night. Students (many of whom are teenagers, some as young as 17), of course, have *no choice* but to use the area given the club is next to halls of residence.

Whether or not the venue is open during the day or 'blacked out' is irrelevant when considering the PSED. It has been confirmed numerous times that the very presence of a strip club can amount to a breach of equality law by making women feel vulnerable, unsafe and causing them not to use the street or nearby facilities.

And strip clubs undoubtedly do make women feel threatened and uncomfortable (ie harassed and victimised) in their vicinity as highlighted by the Royal Town Planning Institute:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing clubs **make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"**

This is elaborated upon as:

' . . . women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'

A considerable number of witness statements provided to Sheffield City Council at Spearmint Rhino licensing hearings and at policy review clearly demonstrate this strip club's presence shows that the free movement of women and others with protected characteristics is being prevented by the club:

- Women running LGBT groups
- Disabled Women
- Those running support centres for marginalised young people
- Those accessing services for vulnerable women
- Women using work space

This feeling of intimidation and avoidance measures women take, goes far beyond when a club is operating at night. As highlighted in the journal *Criminal Justice Matters*:

“.. women also reported **avoiding** certain streets and **feeling frightened** in the **day time**, when the clubs are closed. It is the **existence** of the clubs that **causes women to feel alienated in public space at all times**, and fearful of the threat of violence posed by the sexual objectification of women.”

Jackie Painiotti & Kay Standing (2012) License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres. *Criminal Justice Matters* 88.1 10-12.

The Institute goes on to explain that if women *feel* threatened and uncomfortable by the presence of a strip club then **their very presence amounts to a form of discrimination**, as it prevents full access and freedom of movement by women in the borough:

“If a woman, **whether objectively justified or not**, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to **discrimination**, in that her access to the public **infrastructure** of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought **properly to be taken into account by authorities** at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the **policy-making stage**”

¹ Royal Town Planning Institute 'Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice' Note, 2010, p. 87

Local Authorities have a **legal duty** to prevent all of this. By not doing so they can be challenged in court. Thus if the PSED is given due consideration it becomes increasingly hard for Local Authorities to justify the presence of any Sexual Entertainment Venues and to consider anything other than a 'zero policy' on SEVs.

It is NOT Pro Equality to license clubs to stop them 'Going Underground'

The Council appears to be under the illusion that they *are* upholding their equality duties by granting strip club licenses because by not licensing clubs the industry will 'go underground'. A circular argument surely as by that logic the Council has to license everything and anything in order to stop it 'going underground'.

On top of this there is absolutely no evidence that *not* granting licenses drives the industry 'underground'.

I have contacted several Councils with a 'zero policy' and no clubs. Not one has found any evidence of 'underground activity'.

In fact, Sheffield City Council appears to be basing its 'going underground' argument from a research paper by a lap dance enthusiast (R Colosi) in which she cites a book about New York:

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-446-52571-8>

It should be pointed out that this book is not academic research – it is a book about New York, written by a man who has also co-authored books with Erin Brokovitch and Barry White! Besides many of the clubs dubbed 'illegal' might not be 'illegal' (as in unlicensed), but rather operating in breach of that license.

Besides it is surely disingenuous to compare a small city like Sheffield with a heaving metropolis like New York.

And where illegal clubs set up they can always be found and shut down. If punters can find them, so can the authorities, as has happened across the USA:

Atlanta: Man busted for running illegal strip club in his home:

<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/dekalb-county/man-60-accused-of-running-illegal-strip-club-in-home/473973225>

<https://www.11alive.com/article/news/crime/illegal-strip-club-busted-next-to-daycare-church-in-dekalb/85-362385752>

San Jose: Illegal clubs being shut after press reports:

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2015/12/08/san-jose-police-illegal-strip-clubs-crackdown/>

Phoenix, 'stripper cage fighting', openly advertised on Facebook, shut by authorities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DuR1EwaXJI>

But most importantly, the core premise that not licensing the industry will drive it underground is, I would suggest, on its head: **It is actually the legitimising of the sex trade that drives a substantial underground sector – as has been found in every country that has legalised or decriminalised prostitution.**

It is NOT Pro Equality to License Strip Clubs to ‘Keep Women Out of Poverty’

Another argument that is often made to justify licensing the strip industry is that if it is not licensed lap dancers ‘will be put out of work and into poverty’. Again this is a circular argument of the sort used to justify sweat shops.

This analogy is particularly apt given that it is the strip industry which actually tends to *put women into poverty* and lead them into future *unemployment* – not just because of its poor pay and work conditions but because it can be hard for women when they do leave to then find employment (because of low self esteem, stigma or lack of qualifications).

If the Council is really so concerned by keeping women out of poverty, why hasn't it enforced proper pay and employment conditions on Spearmint Rhino (as given in the recommendations), as many other councils have done?

And instead of licensing strip clubs, why doesn't it offer exit plans for lap dancers – supporting them into other work with proper employment – with respectful pay and working conditions and minimal risk of sexual exploitation (as also outlined in the recommendations)?

I would also point out that most lap dancers are ‘itinerant’ – working in many different clubs across the country. This was also acknowledged by Philip Kolvin, QC, at the last Spearmint Rhino licensing hearing. If one club closes, women are not ‘put out of work’ they merely move to another club.



Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 14:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: SEN licence renewal for Spearmint Rhino

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
 - Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
 - Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships
 - Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Councils Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
 - Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual abuse strategy.
 - Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
 - The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Councils obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
 - Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area that is now undergoing major and extensive re development. The area has become increasingly residential with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.
-
- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.
 - SIGNED

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 15:03
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Sexual Entertainment Licence for Spearmint Rhino

Licensing Service -Sheffield City Council
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD
S9 3HD

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

Strip and lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought and treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising: if the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.

Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from this control over her which is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.

Many ex-strippers describe experiencing psychological harm as a result of this. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their minds and feelings from their bodies in order to cope. Often it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experience of women who have left abusive relationships.

Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just to the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Council's duty under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.

Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women and to attribute responsibility (victim blaming) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus, in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

Many women have informed the Council's Licensing Department that they feel unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. There should be no no-go areas for women and no woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.

The Council has stated explicitly that it is committed to reducing the normalisation of the objectification of women. Strip and lap dancing clubs do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the objectification of women and actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacts on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. This is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010

Spearmint Rhino is situated in an area that is now undergoing major and extensive redevelopment. The area has become increasingly residential and several sites of major cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable young people, education providers and recreational areas are situated nearby. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.

Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

15 May 2018

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2018 15:37
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Sonfield Developments application for Spearmint Rhino licence renewal
Attachments: SR Objection 2018.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing Service,

Please find attached a letter of Objection to Sonfield Developments application for Spearmint Rhino licence renewal.
Kind regards,

Confidential Freephone Helpline:- [Redacted]
Text Support:- [Redacted]
Email Support:- [Redacted]

Registered Charity Number:- 1139555

SARSVL is proud to be a member of Rape Crisis (England and Wales)



Rape Crisis
Professionally Approved



www.iustgiving.com/sarsvl



LOTTERY FUNDED

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15th May 2018

Dear Licensing Service

Objection to Sonfield Developments application for Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

As a regular visitor to the city of Rape Crises Centre in Sheffield I strongly advocate that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike. As Sheffield's city population continues to grow it is more than likely that this area will become even more residential.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference in addition to the events which will be hosted by the Site Gallery upon its reopening.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom” which is open until midnight everyday.

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

It is in very close proximity to the Great Escape Game which also caters for children and families.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area.

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(b) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the vicinity which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, including a specialist sexual violence service and a women’s project which is situated directly behind the club, the same project a mother of a service user was quoted as saying she could not let her daughter access due to it being within feet of the club in 2017’s objections.

Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

Addaction, the adult drug and alcohol service is also on Sidney Street with Paternoster Row and Brown Street as a direct access route from the railway station, bus station and bus stops on Arundel Gate coming in from the south of the City.

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter and furthermore, designated to be at the heart of the CIQ. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity (with more being built on Sidney Street), which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is an obtrusive blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

As recorded in the case of R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014):

The committee noted the applicant’s offer in relation to signage and whilst recognizing attempts to address concerns was of the view that the premises could never be invisible.

All other buildings in the vicinity are signed and this was a poor attempt to minimise the impact this venue has. It is also a recognition by last year’s Sub-committee of the club’s incongruity and inappropriateness. The only other buildings in the area not clearly marked are for reasons of anonymity because of vulnerable service users accessing services.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;

- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.ⁱ

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many disturbing examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio, a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12). Others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.ⁱⁱ

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortableⁱⁱⁱ

Kolvin continues with:

If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage^{iv}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.^v

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{vi}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^{vii}.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{viii} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed in many testimonies of former performers. This is in addition to the misogynistic and sexist views espoused by many men (and some women) towards women working in the industry.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{ix}. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found that 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture."

It is clear in the current context that the presence of a lap dancing club in Sheffield is detrimental to all of its residents and contravenes the Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Duty.

I ask that the committee take all of the above into account when deciding on the licence application and consider the continued impact on the city and its residents of renewing the licence.

Kind regards

████████████████████

References

ⁱ Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women,

and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

ⁱⁱ *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from:

<https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

ⁱⁱⁱ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{iv} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^v Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{vi} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^{vii} Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{viii} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{ix} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2018 15:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection letter
Attachments: Strip clubs.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

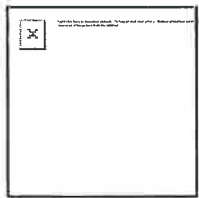
Hi

Please see attached objection letter to the renewing of the spearmint rhino licence.

With regards

[Redacted signature block]

Tel: [Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]



R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014) Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15 May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike. Apna Haq regularly facilitates training and awareness sessions on issues of violence against women and girls within the Sheffield area, a number of these sessions have been held at the workstation. Within these sessions numerous young women ie students from the universities have shared about how uncomfortable they feel with spearmint rhino being located so near their daily life haunts. They have shared that they have felt unsafe as a result of knowing the type of establishment it is.

Also in relation to the next paragraph a number of women have shared how potential new businesses that had young women as target audiences have decided not to be based in Sheffield on seeing Spearmint Rhino being present, this is as they did not want to be associated with such an establishment as they felt it would lessen their customer base of women.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renowned Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage"^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the

CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license."^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[Faint, illegible text, possibly a signature or stamp]

References

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

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- ^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- ^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- ^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [redacted] >
Sent: 15 May 2018 16:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: SpearmintRhinoObjection2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing Service

Please find attached my representation with regard to Spearmint Rhino's licence renewal application. Could you please confirm receipt?

Many thanks and kind regards

[redacted]
[redacted]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15th May 2018

Dear Licensing Service

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

1. Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre’s residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”ⁱⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

Last year, members determined that “from the evening onwards Brown Strete [sic] is very quiet with minimal footfall” – the Alsop Fields Development will increase footfall. There is also the Rutland Arms on the corner.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children’s Media Conference. The Site gallery is due to reopen and will be hosting regular events for young people:



YOUNG PEOPLE

Site Gallery attracts inquisitive and brilliant young people. They come to the gallery from all over Sheffield, from all backgrounds. They have divergent opinions and beliefs, and they spark off each other. They collaborate, create, discuss, challenge and respond. By getting stuck in and sharing their ideas, they help us create better arts opportunities for young people.

One of the main ways young people get involved in Site Gallery is through the [Society of Explorers](#).

"Site Gallery always puts together an exciting and enviable programme of activities for young people – and its Society of Explorers is one gang we'd love to be in, if only we could do our teenage years all over again." Our Favourite Places

The 'Explorers' is an art collective of 14-19 year olds from Sheffield that meets at Site Gallery. In Summer 2017, they launched their amazing Art Van – [On The Road](#). They helped the gallery team transform a white van into an exceptional mobile gallery and workshop space, commissioning architects and artists and putting their plans into action.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

As already mentioned, the Site Gallery which is directly opposite has just undergone a huge expansion, supported by the Council.

Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”^{iv}

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, including including Together Women and Element Society in the immediate vicinity. There are further charitable organisations in the area supporting vulnerable young people and adults which occupy a building within a very short distance from venue, including a specialist sexual violence support centre which supports children from the age of 13 upwards. With Brown Street and Grinders Hill as a direct access route from Arundel Gate and Charles Street where many buses stop and service users will alight from. Furthermore, there is the car park behind the HUBS which many service users of all the charities and organisations in the area are likely to use if driving into the city centre. one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel

Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i). This will be a central gateway to the Alsop Fields development and the newly established Jawing from both the train and bus stations.

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter although last year, the Sub-committee conceded that it was in the CIQ. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

Last year the determination notice stated “members heard how some women felt threatened and unsafe walking past the premises during the day knowing that the premises was there and that it triggered memories of past events for them. The premises will now essentially be ‘invisible’ during the day which will aim to mitigate this.” **I completely disagree, we all know what the club is and it sticks out like a sore thumb. No amount of “silk pursing” or “invisibilising” of this place will ever make women feel safer.**

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. It is not possible to make a venue of this nature “invisible.” Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

I would be absolutely furious if I discovered that the university I had decided to study at/accommodation I had decided to buy or rent had a strip club on the doorstep. This is a dishonest and disingenuous approach.

The building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way. For example a tapas bar in Bristol is now occupies the site of a former strip club and is a thriving business contributing far more to the local economy than its predecessor.

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”

In last year's determination notice, members determined that "the crime levels on Brown Street as a whole are very low", however Nikki Bond has some statistics on this which are provided in her objection so I will not enclose them here.

2. Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^v

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (Objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^{vi}

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"^{vii}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{viii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{ix}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^x

In last year’s determination notice it was stated “members believe that if anybody wishes to attend the premises then they should be free to do so, but also believe that they should be free to enjoy other city centre entertainment without being exposed to leafletting. As such members determined to condition the licence to stop this activity.” I was under the impression that this was already not supposed to be happening. However, in addition to this, women have the right to go about our everyday business, travel in the city and access amenities and facilities and feel safe. Last year there was a very cavalier and dismissive attitude towards women who had shared their experiences of being excluded from the area because of Spearmint Rhino.

3. Gender stereotypes

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^{xi}.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xii} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

4. Other matters of concern for consideration by the Sub-Committee

4.1 Spearmint Rhino promotional materials

I have been objecting to Spearmint Rhino (and other proposals for new clubs) for several years. In 2015, the club’s Dancer Rules were enclosed in the Agenda Pack although they haven’t been since. Upon revisiting these, there are several rules in place which dancers must abide by, one of which is that are not permitted to touch their breasts.

However, there are a number of advertising images which contradict this (Not Buying It Sheffield has covered some), including video footage on the following site:

<https://www.welovesheffield.uk/reviews/videos.html?m=rJ00C>

Sheffield Directory & Reviews [▶](#) Food & Drink [▶](#) Bars, Pubs & Clubs [▶](#) Spearmint Rhino



Spearmint Rhino

visited by: We Love Sheffield!



0 0 0



[Compare](#) [Add Media](#) [Write Review](#) [Claim this listing](#) [Add to favorites](#)

LOCATION

Area City Centre
Address 60 Brown St, Sheffield
Postcode S1 2BS

CONTACT

Telephone 0114 279 8092
Website <http://www.spearminrhino.com/microSiteUK.php?pld=22>

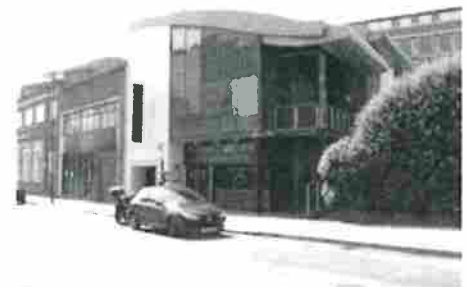
Popular gentlemen's club, situated on Brown Street, Sheffield.

Spearmint Rhino probably needs no introduction. A popular club for drink and gentlemen's entertainment, open 7 nights a week.



PHOTOS

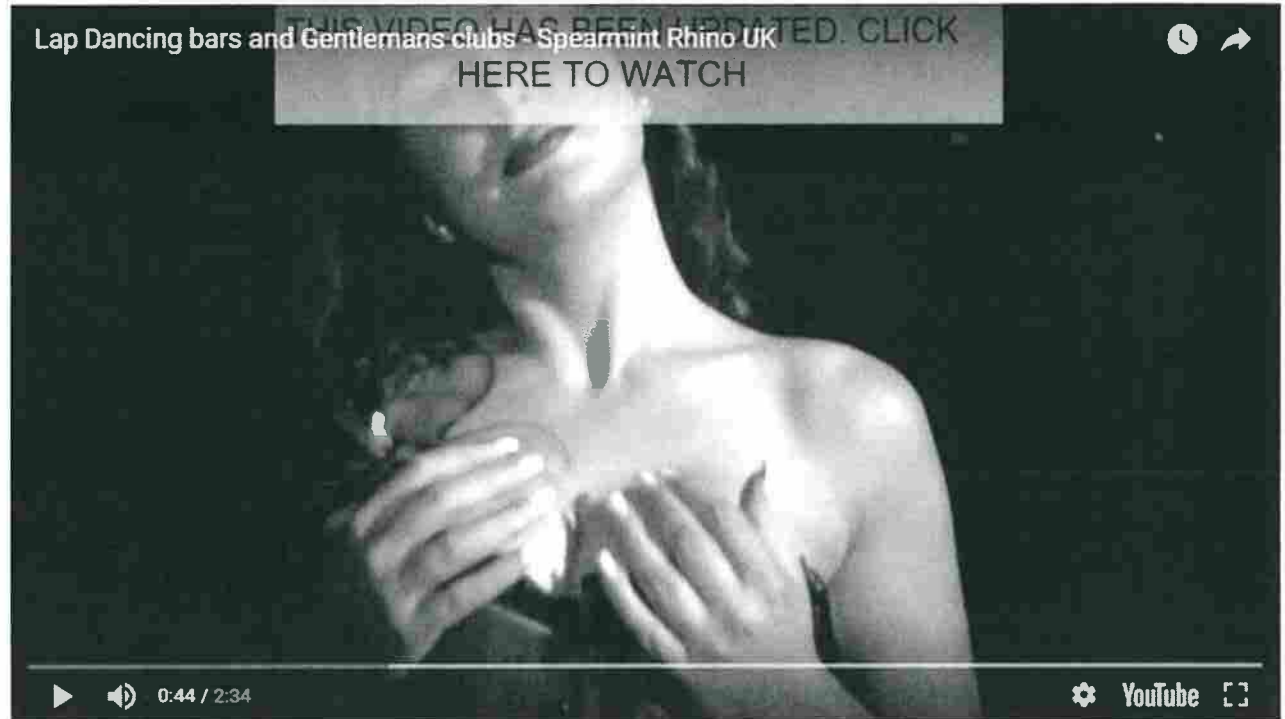
[All Photos \(2\)](#)



Spearmint Rhino: VIDEOS

Lap Dancing bars and Gentlemans clubs - Spearmint Rhino UK

◀ Spearmint Rhino Add Media



July 28, 2013 - Duration: 02:35 - More by We Love Sheffield!

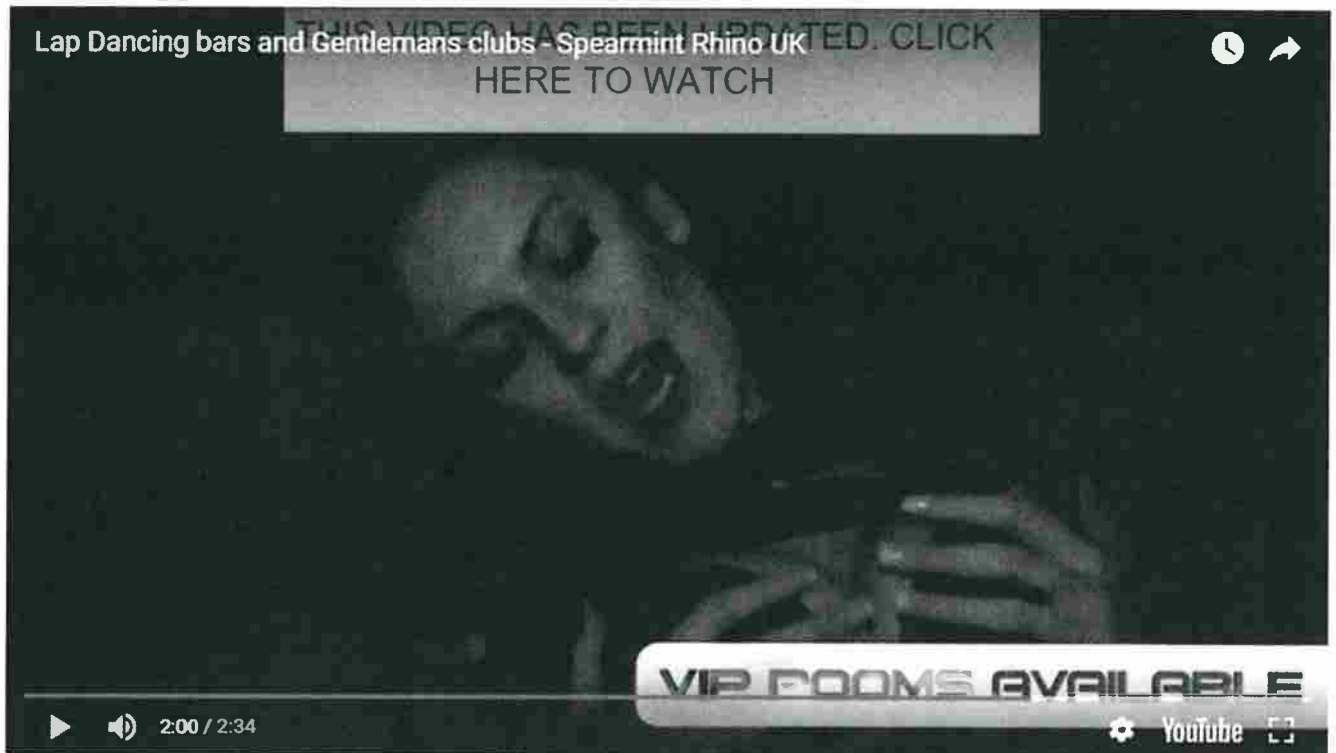
1996 views

Spearmint Rhino - The finest lap dancing bar in the UK and un-scale adult entertainment. Locations around the world are open 7

Spearmint Rhino: VIDEOS

Lap Dancing bars and Gentlemans clubs - Spearmint Rhino UK

◀ Spearmint Rhino Add Media



According to the same dancer rules submitted in 2015, with regard to contact of dancers between dancers, it states:

9. Dancers are never to intentionally touch the genitals, anus or breasts of another dancer or to knowingly permit another dancer to intentionally touch their genitals, anus or breasts.

Presumably this applies to breast on breast contact? If not then the following image in addition to the ones above are very misleading in terms of what customers can expect. They also give contradictory messages to the dancers themselves who sign up to a set of rules which the promo images and videos do not reflect.



This image is arrived at from clicking on the link in a tweet in the Sheffield Spearmint Rhino Twitter account and is one of several images. This type of advertising raises customers' expectations and leads to incidents such as this reported on 23rd April 2017 in the Daily Mail (the Sheffield Star link on this is down at the time of writing):

A stripper who was punched in the face by a middle-aged racist clubber claims he had pestered her for sex all night.

Anastasia Frances, 21, suffered a shattered cheekbone and broken eye socket due to the sickening blow while trying to break up a fight with the thug and her boyfriend.

The mother-of-one from Leeds said her attacker offered her cash for sex at the strip club where she worked in Doncaster.

When she turned him down the brute left - but lurked outside for her, followed her to a taxi rank and began calling her boyfriend a 'n****r'.



Customer reviews

Reviews on this site: <https://lustnames.com/spearmint-rhino-sheffield> suggest physical contact which goes against the dancer rules and that one reviewer talks about “extras” although in this case he didn’t get his “extras” but there is an expectation that they are part of the package. Also, is Spearmint Rhino a “white only” dancer club? The dates these reviews were posted are not clear but to the right of the reviews, it states that they joined in January 2017 so one assumes them to be relatively recent?



Strip clubs → Europe → England → Sheffield → Spearmint Rhino



Spearmint Rhino

★★★★☆ (10)

Add review

+44 (0)1142 798 092

60 Brown Street

Prices and features

Club type: Nude Dancers

Atmosphere: 3

Dancers Ethnicity: White

Dancers: 3

Features: Beer and Wine, Full Bar, Bikini Dancers Only, Topless Dancers, Nude Dancers, Bikini Lap Dances

Value: 3

Dance price: 20

Overall: 3

Drink price: 3

Boyztime cover: 10

Comments and reviews

Atmosphere: ★★★★★

Dancers: ★★★★★

Value: ★★★★★

Overall: ★★★★★

100% (10) (10)

I went on the tuesday, as it is a student night, meaning free entry with a student card!

10 pounds all night for dances were also really good value, and I ended up spending about 90 pounds, all in all it was very worth it and the girls were very attractive. You also get sambucca and tequila shots for a pound each which is great if you are looking to get a bit merry.

The club is a very good environment, and is as non-sleazy as a strip club could possibly be, and the girls are actually interested, and dont look bored out of their faces like most places ive been.

I have had a private dance before, and the girl was very good and naughty :) Would definitely recommend spending some extra cash!



anonfig

2014-05-12

Visit Day: Tuesday



Visit Time: After

0 0 0

This one has contact with the reviewer's groin:

Atmosphere: ★★☆☆☆ Dancers: ★★☆☆☆ Value: ★★☆☆☆ Overall: ★★☆☆☆




Another visit to Spearmint Rhino sheffield, this time a little bit better than the last, Ventured in on a monday a little bit before 10pm and it was v. quiet as I expected. However, there were certainly more girls on this time than my sadly lacking previous visit. The prices are always very reasonable here, the £40 for 15 minutes is certainly one of the best deals around as the VIP rooms where you get taken are very plush, private and the girls are straight into the action. However, sometimes I feel 15 minutes without a break is a bit too long and my mind tends to wander, although it soon comes back again when some of these girls pummel there behinds into your groin, I swear it was almost painful a few times!!! In general the girls are pretty good looking but not stunning, they are pleasant enough and won't rush you and as usual for Spearmint Rhino the club is managed pretty well.

 kally71 2005-10-13 Visit Day: Unknown Visit Time: 0  

This same reviewer seems to agree with objectors about the location:

Atmosphere: ★★☆☆☆ Dancers: ★★☆☆☆ Value: ★★☆☆☆ Overall: ★★☆☆☆

Fantastic looking club (as usual for SR) but in completely the wrong place - student hell! Went there on a wednesday about 11pm and it was dead. There were only six girls on (I spoke to the manager who said there should have been 12!) so it was really difficult to get dances - do they not want my money! Had three dances and at £40 for 15 minutes they were pretty good value by UK standards. I'm told the place is buzzing at weekends and on tuesday night (student night) but I'm not sure how sustainable the club is. Having said that if you want a relaxing low pressure time, I would recommend it.

 kally71 2004-11-20 Visit Day: Unknown Visit Time: 0  

5 Conclusion

I reiterate that the Policy states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

It is time that the Sub-committee faced up to the reality that Spearmint Rhino is not welcome in Sheffield. This has nothing to do with "killjoys" nor being "anti-sex" which are frequent accusations. If we were "anti-sex" then we would be meeting you annually at La Chambre hearings which we are not.

Nor is this an issue about women being "put out of work" as is another accusation. Last year, Mr Kolvin informed the Sub-committee that the dancers are peripatetic and one night will dance in Sheffield and another in Wakefield. By his own admission, therefore, the dancers will not lose their livelihoods although this is also not a consideration for Licensing.

Formula One racing has stopped using "grid girls" and the Sub-committee also needs to recognise that in addition to all the points raised by me and others that strip clubs are at odds with modern day social norms and gender equality.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱSheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱSheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ<http://www.sitegallery.org/youngpeople/>

^{iv}Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^vWright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^{vi}*Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from:

<https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vii}Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii}Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{ix}Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^xSafe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^{xi}Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xii}Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 17:37
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Strip Club
Attachments: Licensing Service Rhino Spearmint club.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please find attached letter of objection to the club.

Thank you

Licensing Service

Block C, Staniforth Road Depot

Staniforth Road

Surrey Street

S9 3HD

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15/05/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

Whilst Spearmint Rhino has been trading for a number of years, its location is becoming increasingly unsuitable for a lap-dancing club. The growing development of the Cultural Industries Quarter and the expansion of student accommodation and teaching locally are highly relevant to the appropriateness of the location. The premises are located on what is to be known as the Knowledge Gateway, recognising the enhancement of the area as a place of creative knowledge and progressive development. Furthermore, the location is adjacent to land earmarked for a major proposed expansion of Sheffield Hallam University.

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

A lap-dancing club is increasingly at odds with this vision. I note the application form does not attempt to address any of the licensing objectives except by stating it is a renewal application. Nor does it attempt to address the minimum legal duties of the authority in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

The nature of a lap-dancing club means there is significant difference in the treatment of the sexes. In particular, I understand the establishment treats the regular staff (mostly if not all, men) as employees but requires the dancers (i.e. women) to be self-employed, with correspondingly lower degrees of employment protection. This is not a matter of choice on the part of the dancers. The local authority must demonstrate it has due regard to the various principles in the public sector equality duty when considering the application, so as to comply with its own legal obligations.

If the authority is minded to grant the licence, I would support a condition requiring all workers, including dancers, to be engaged directly only under the terms of a written contract of employment.

I trust the Committee will take these views into account.

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 18:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licensing
Attachments: SR Objection Not Buying It Rakoff.pdf; ATT00001.htm; ATT00002.htm

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Additional Information just received:

I just received this from a woman working in the industry, who wishes to remain anonymous. Please can this be added as an appendix to my original objection (also attached). Thank you:

"I was 27 when I started lap dancing. I was introduced to it by my husband at the time. After the first dance I was physically sick. I rang my husband and told him I wanted to come home but he said I needed to make money before I came home. It is a degrading job.

You think your in control but that's not true. I was then introduced to cocaine when I worked at Rhinos it blocked out the reality of what I was actually doing. The more I worked the more cocaine I took.

These clubs are aware of the drug taking that goes on and they turn a blind eye. I was introduced to a lot of nasty people while I was dancing because these clubs allow drug dealers and gang members to come in. This is because of the money they spend. I am now 45 and would be devastated If my daughters were to choose this job. It ruins lives and I am proof of this."

Former Lap Dancer, [REDACTED]



Objection to Sheffield Spearmint Rhino Licensing Renewal by [REDACTED], Not Buying It

Recommendations:

- Refuse this license on grounds of locality and breach of PSED
- Provide Exit Strategies for women working at the Club
- This to be funded by ending costly court proceedings to justify the licensing of the industry
This must be running close to £100,000. Use this money instead to support performers with training, placements, encouraging flexible work options at other businesses etc.

If not, Impose Additional Conditions (as other councils have done):

- All dancers to be PAYE with guaranteed minimum wage and employment rights
- NO Private booths or areas of any sort
- A maximum dancer : punter ratio
- Implement other conditions
such as Proper changing facilities/ separate exit door from punters/escorted out of premises at end of shift/ direct anonymous channel of complain and whistle blowing to council or other authority etc???

I visit Sheffield with meetings at The Showroom which is like Grand Central – everyone seems to meet everyone there. It is a few minutes from the railway station and almost directly opposite Spearmint Rhino.

I have been challenging the organised sex industry, including strip clubs, for many years because of the high level of harm associated with it. I previously ran the pressure group Object, which ensured law change to stop strip clubs being licensed like cafés or other leisure venues. During this time I have spoken with many women who have left the industry and am aware of a wealth of evidence as to the harm of this industry.

All the evidence and information given here can be found at:
<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip>

Location breaches Licensing Policy

Members considered whether or not the premises was inappropriate having regard to the locality and determined that it is not. Spearmint Rhino Written Determination Notice 2017

No doubt you have heard in depth evidence from locals, familiar with the area, as to exactly how inappropriate this strip club's siting is in terms of its location – where it is clearly in breach of your own licensing policy, on every count. So it is seems somewhat staggering that Council members are able to twist this breach into compatibility.

The premises is well run with no complaints known to the licensing authority or the premises.

Again this seems very carefully worded. Surely objections at licensing hearings are 'complaints'? And they have been 100s of objections over the years about this venue.

Legally Binding Equality Duties

Here, I would like to focus on the council's *legally binding* Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED):

https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/technical_guidance_on_the_psed_england.pdf
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/essential-guide-public-sector-equality-duty>

Under this Councils must have due regard to:

- **ELIMINATE harassment, discrimination and victimisation' of women**
- **Advance Equality of Opportunity between men and women**
- **Foster Good Relations between men and women**

In addition:

- **The greeter the relevance and potential impact, the higher the regard for the duty**

Obviously, when considering the lap dancing industry, this duty is particularly high.

The Right to Look at Licensing Applications with 'Fresh Eyes'

The Council has already *conceded* that it had *breached* the PSED because of the manner in which it previously granted Spearmint Rhino strip club a license. It is therefore, clearly imperative that the Council revisits how it arrives at its licensing decision this time or it will again be acting unlawfully.

In other words, the Council **MUST look at its licensing decision 'with fresh eyes'**. In fact the PSED technical guidance specifically states:

The duty requires relevant bodies to tackle the consequences of **past decisions** which failed to give due regard to the equality aims.

I know that barristers representing the strip industry like to inform Councils 'that if a license has previously been granted, it must be re-granted' but this is not even an accurate reflection of licensing law, let alone the PSED.

Councils may ALWAYS revisit past licensing decisions. All they need do is take into account that a license was previously granted. And this has been confirmed in law on more than one occasion, including by licensing expert Philip Kolvin QC, who frequently serves as representative for Spearmint Rhino and other strip club chains :

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an **opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.**"

Case law also confirms this right. A review of recent judgements for the Local Government Lawyer website by Philip Kolvin, QC, and two other eminent barristers concludes:

'In two recent decisions the courts have affirmed the wide powers enjoyed by licensing authorities to refuse renewals of licences for lap dancing clubs'

http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17968%3Alap-dance-no-more&catid=49%3Acomment-a-analysis-articles&Itemid=1

This is again confirmed by Mr Justice Turner:

'It is, in my judgment, an inescapable fact that the Act of 1982 expressly contemplates the possibility that the circumstances in which a licence had been granted or renewed might change; hence the provisions of paragraph 12 of the 3rd Schedule, which apply not just in respect of the grant but, more importantly, also on the renewal of a licence. Thus the proposition that an existing licence holder can expect that he will be granted a licence in perpetuity for any given set of premises is plainly wrong'.

Furthermore, license renewal applications may be refused even when there has been **no change** to either the licensee or the surrounding area:

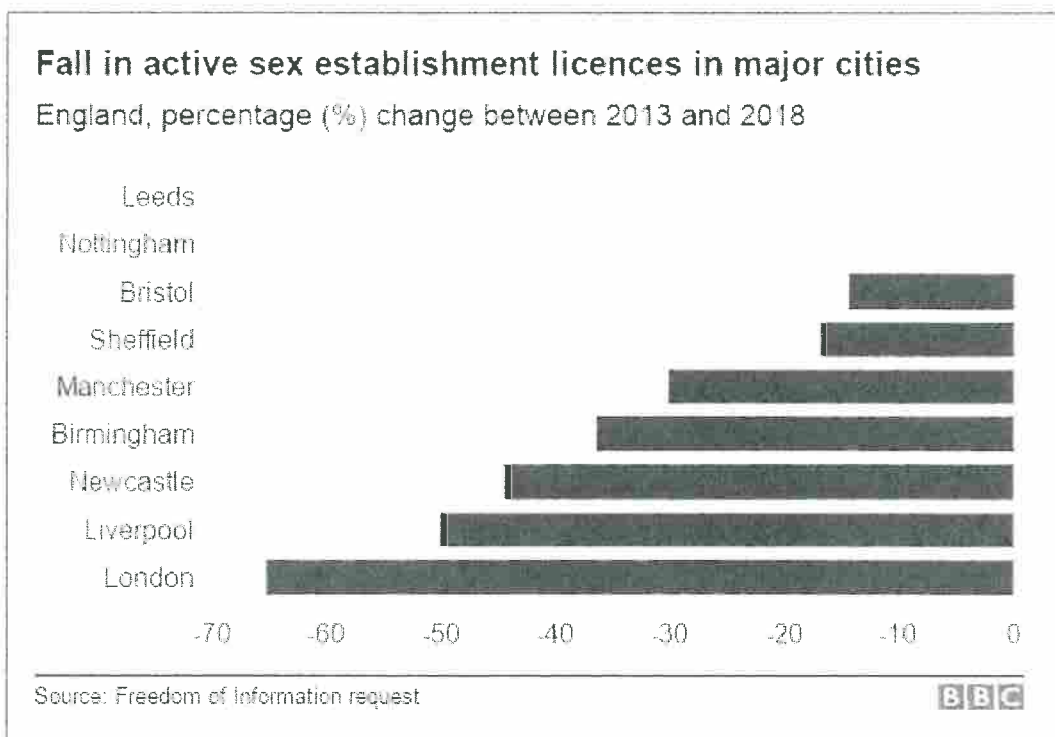
licensing authorities are entitled to 'have a fresh look' at an application for renewal of an SEV licence, and may refuse to renew even when there is no material change in circumstance.'

http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17968%3Alap-dance-no-more&catid=49%3Acomment-a-analysis-articles&Itemid=1

Again, given that Council has conceded that its previous licensing decision to grant the club a license was *made illegally*, the Council is now absolutely beholden to look at this license with new eyes.

Other Councils are **NOT** re-granting Licenses

Furthermore a precedent for *not* re-granting licenses has been set on numerous occasions since a great many other councils now have not re-granted strip club licenses. In fact, the number of licenses of strip clubs and sex establishments is reported to have fallen by 1/3: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842> :



In the overwhelming majority of cases, this has passed without incident, ie without legal challenge by strip club operators.

In fact, Sheffield seems to be the only city I know of that currently seems intent on introducing a 'no limit' policy, likely to substantially *expand* its lap dancing industry.

Unfounded Fear of Legal Challenge by the Strip Industry

It has become obvious over the years, that one of the reasons Councils grant strip club licenses is because of fear of legal challenge by strip industry operators.

Even an ex-Sheffield Councillor has stated that the legal advice given to councillors was to automatically grant license or they would be taken to court and lose.



Geoff Smith
@geoffforcrookes

Replying to @NotBuyingItShef and @Nik14NetherEdge

Interesting to see what happens. Our legal advice as councillors was always that if we refused to renew the licence it would be challenged and we would lose the case.

2:09 pm · 26 Apr 18

However, we have not found a SINGLE case where a strip club operator has mounted a successful legal challenge against a council for failing to grant a license. This includes numerous occasions where licenses have not been re-granted:

Camden: Camden Council vs The Red Rooms

Camden Council took The Red Rooms strip club to High Court to argue its right to allow no private areas. Council won.

Leeds: [Bean Leisure vs Leeds City Council](#) [2014]

Two clubs lose in High Court challenge to Council's refusal to renew licenses

Leicester: [Lily's Lounge Leicester](#) [2016]

SEV took council to court for refusing to renew license. SEV no longer operating.

Oxford: ['The Lodge' Thompson, R \(On the Application Of\) v Oxford City Council](#) [2014]

Court of Appeal upholds Council decision not to renew license.

South Bucks: [R \(KVP ENT LTD\) v South Bucks DC](#) [2013]

SEV not even given leave to go to Judicial Review when license was not renewed

The only incident where a Judge ruled in favour of an SEV (strip club) was on a technicality (too many councillors had been involved in the decision):

Cheshire: [Bridgerow Ltd, R \(on the application of\) v Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council](#) [2014]

In fact the judge explicitly pointed out that in all other respects he agreed *with* the Council. The club in question shut within a year of this case.

Breach of the PSED – Disregarding Concerns as ‘Moralistic’

The Council appears to have been largely guided by evidence and research from highly biased sources, from strip club operators (problematic as outlined throughout) to pro-industry researchers, including self-professed fans of the strip industry like Colosi, PhD.

These researchers, without fail, denigrate genuine concerns for the sex and strip industry as ‘moralistic’. Even researchers like Sanders, who expose the abuse within the industry, still assert that the opposition that might reasonably arise from these findings is driven by ‘morality’ rather than the fact that it could reasonably be concluded that the industry itself is corrupt and incompatible with equality and human rights.

But crediting concerns with the industry as merely ‘moralistic’ was a key reason Judicial Review was granted against Sheffield City Council's previous decision to re-license Spearmint Rhino:

.. There is a tenable basis for the Claimant's inference that the Defendant [Sheffield City Council] has **wrongly ignored objections** based the potential impact on gender equality treating them as **moral objections** and irrelevant.”

Judge's observation when granting permission for Judicial Review:

Honourable Mrs Justice Nerys Jefford, DBE, Justice at High Court Queen's Branch Division, 2016

Surely the council needs to now exercise considerable caution not to make the same mistakes again – and must not treat genuine, tangible and demonstrable concerns over the harm of lap dancing as ‘moralising’. Similarly it must take heed to take into account the bias of pro-industry ‘morality’ of many sex industry advocates.

Breach of the PSED - Poor Understanding of the Reality of the Industry

Another reason Councils grant licenses is because of a serious lack of understanding of the industry and an apparent refusal to listen to the large body of evidence of harm across the industry. **This lack of understanding also gives grounds to challenge under equality law.** It also means the council is putting young dancers at particular risk.

That is why, again, it is imperative Sheffield City Council strives to understand the reality of this industry. I have been concerned that the information and research that the council is relying on appears to have come entirely from advocates of the strip industry and sex trade – whether from industry representatives or academics. Just two examples of misinformation are given below:

**'lap dancing
is not sexual'**

When SEV licensing was first being considered, strip industry reps were lining up claiming *'lap dancing is not sexual'* in the press and even at Parliamentary Select Committee Hearings. You must remember that this industry twists the truth or openly lies at every opportunity.

Likewise, one of the only major studies of the industry in the UK exposed how all strip club operators claimed their establishments were perfectly well run, while pointing the finger at every other as being poorly run and constantly rule breaking:

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf> .

Breach of the PSED – Discriminatory Working Conditions

Members considered the representations raised that the dancers at Spearmint Rhino are suffering as a result of unfair and unequal working conditions. The arrangements in place are legal and entered into with full knowledge and consent.
Spearmint Rhino Written Determination Notice
2017

Members further considered the three aims under PSED and determined that they needed to ensure that the worker's rights were being enforced, and especially that equality of opportunity between different groups is being advanced.

They had a statement from the Safeguarding Board saying that there were no concerns about welfare and no complaints had been received however thought it proportionate to condition that the premises be subject to quarterly inspections to ensure these are being complied with. This would be evidence that could be used at the next renewal application.

Lap dancers (women) are the only workers at strip clubs who are 'self employed' and do not receive any work security or rights, unlike all other staff (the overwhelming majority of whom are men)

These working conditions are:

- **Pay to work in the venue**
- **Pay a portion of takings back to the venue**
- **Buy expensive 'house clothes'**
- **Fines at every opportunity**
- **Being forced to buy drinks**
- **Far too high a ratio of performers to punters (making it hard for any individual to earn enough money to even break even by the end of her shift)**
- **No sick pay/maternity or other PAYE benefits**
- **No job security or guarantee of income**

"I frequently was only making enough to cover the house fee, train tickets and the cost of a bed and breakfast with no extra profit for myself " Liz

www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip

70% of lap dancers make no money by the end of their shift

Sanders: www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/assets/files/research/Regulatory_Dance/FINALSUMMARYJAN2012.pdf

Do members of the council think these conditions are *fair*? Do they think any individual who was *genuinely empowered* would enter into work conditions like this with full *knowledge and consent*? Do they think leaving a shift in debt or having made no money is not *suffering*? How can *quarterly inspections* eradicate the basic working model of strip clubs – these are businesses which only exist because of young women ('product') and yet treats them in the most financially abusive manner imaginable.

These employment conditions are clearly unfair and unequal and can be seen as a breach of the PSED. They are also a driving force for the far more sinister abuse found across the industry – coercion, sexual abuse and exploitation.

Breach of the PSED – Abuse and Exploitation in Clubs

Members further considered the three aims under PSED and determined that they needed to ensure that the worker's rights were being enforced, and especially that equality of opportunity between different groups is being advanced. They had a statement from the Safeguarding Board saying that there were no concerns about welfare and no complaints had been received however thought it proportionate to condition that the premises be subject to quarterly inspections to ensure these are being complied with. This would be evidence that could be used at the next renewal application.

Lap dancing is synonymous with harassment and victimisation of performers ie breach of the PSED:
<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip>:

“Customers .. would touch me and grab me and one even bit me during a dance”

Liz

“Sexual contact becomes the norm. You start to sell yourself out.

Vicky

“There’s a rule regarding distance. You’re allowed to get closer than they say in the contract. It’s supposed to be three feet .. That is broken instantly” Sarah

This has been exposed in two major academic studies of the UK strip industry; countless testimonies from women who have left the industry; undercover journalists and even current lap dancers such as members of the East London Strippers Collective. It is revealed by police reports; press reports; comments from punters and even by strip club operators.

The largest research study ever conducted into the strip industry highlighted how half lap dancers reported frequent verbal harassment and unwanted touching from customers (in other words, sexual assault).

Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. University of Leeds

“I’m frequently asked how much I charge for sex – it seems to be taken as read that, as a lap dancer, I offer services outside the club”

Journalist reveals the constant verbal and physical harassment she was subjected to when undercover as a stripper: <https://londonist.com/london/features/this-is-what-it-s-like-being-a-lap-dancer-in-london>

Much of this has been collated here: <http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip>

Given that research suggests that students are believed to make up 1/3 of lap dancers and Spearmint Rhino is in the middle of the University, the Council has a particular duty to pay heed to the harm associated with the industry. If it does not it is responsible for putting young female students, often teenagers, at risk: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01425692.2013.854596>

Breach of the PSED: Fostering Poor Relations Between the Sexes

Lap dancing is the antithesis of 'fostering good relations between the sexes'. This too is a breach of the PSED.

The largest study of the industry ever conducted in the UK revealed that 1/3 of performers said the job had effected their view of men: Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

"It's screwed up my view of men. Every time I see a man now, I just see him as a punter. There's only so many bad experiences you can have before you start hating them all . . ."

"You start to see men as nothing more than their wallets, idiots to be fleeced for as much as you can. You start to despise them for believing you when you flutter your eyelashes and tell them they're the most interesting customer that you've ever talked to."

"I always thought of the customers as vermin and, ironically, that is what they thought of me."

149. **ladivina69**
8 Feb 2012 09:26

My daughter is a dancer and its not harmless fun. In order to bear dealing with this degrading and soul destroying work the girls drink too much and endure the worst aspects of male nature. She has become cynical, jaded and doesnt have relationships any more. She thinks that men are all untrustworthy and only after what they can get away with. Its not really a job to be proud of.

73 43

The intense competition between performers, nurtered by clubs which ensure far too high a ratio of lap dancers to customers, also does not foster good relations with other members of the female sex.

And of course, this is as nothing compared to the attitudes clubs foster by men towards women. Obviously the impact of this is far more concerning as men carry these attitudes around with them in a society where 10 million (1 in 3 women) experience male violence, in most part *because* of men's attitudes towards women.

In a study of customers of strip clubs it was found that over half of the men interviewed stated that their motivation for visiting lap dancing clubs was to escape from what they perceived as a code of conduct which 'restrained' them.

Journal of Sex Research 40:1, 61-75, 2004

"You can go in there and shop for a piece of meat , quote unquote , so to speak. I mean, you want to see a girl, you can see a girl run around naked. Have her come over, pay her to do a dance or two or three and walk away and not even ask her her name" Frank, K.

'Just trying to relax': Masculinity, masculinizing practices, and strip club regulars" *Journal of Sex Research* 40:1, 61-75, 2003

Recent Incidences

This situation is so bad that a quick Google search of press reports exposes how close to a dozen clubs have been shut in the few years alone. The true level of incidence is obviously like to be considerably higher. This is collated here: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Strip%20Sleaze%20Recent.pdf

It includes Villa Mercedes, a branch of which was nearly licensed by Sheffield City Council

Bing, West Bromwich 2017

Shut down after a brawl led to GBH. Police also expressed grave concerns about prostitution, the use of possibly under age Romanian girls and the possibility that they may have been trafficked:

Hanley's, Staffordshire 2017

Shut down after years of concerns over inappropriate touching, offers of prostitution, drugs and drink spiking.

Jack of Diamonds, Bristol 2017

Closed for inappropriate touching.

Legs 11, Birmingham 2017

License suspended for trafficking. Sexual contact observed and under cover trading officers offered 'sexual services' in VIP rooms.

Angels, Leicester 2016

Fondling and touching viewed on CCTV. Several dancers undocumented and suspected of being underage.

Villa Mercedes, Harrogate 2015

Shut down after repeated breach of licensing conditions including physical contact with dancers and 'audience participation'. (Appeal by operator to license refusal was withdrawn).

Bentley's, Doncaster 2017

Performer assaulted outside after refusing sex with punter.

Diamonds Dolls, Glasgow 2017

License suspended immediately when a half dressed, drunk and unconscious dancer was dragged out of the club by management and dumped onto the street (performer in question refused to speak to police, presumably out of fear of retaliation by management).

Cleopatra's Lounge, Huddersfield 2016

Man smashes club window when dancer refuses to 'meet up' with him outside of the club:

<http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/man-smashed-lap-dance-club-11379793>

X in The City, Liverpool 2015

Punter attacks lap dancer and steals her purse after she refused to give oral sex in a private booth. Punter: "I said 'are you going to suck my **** upstairs?' and she said 'yes'. Obviously that was the whole purpose."

Platinum's, Stoke 2017

Loses its license: 'Exploitation' of punters, including violence and drink spiking.

Silks, Manchester 2017

Several incidences of brawls and violent behavior

Charlie Brown's London 2014

Breach of Frequency Exemption & Illegal Activity

Diamond Dolls & clubs across Scotland 2014

Massive police sting

Breach of the PSED – Private Booths

“There is only one reason why you have a cubicle. It’s because touching is going on and all sorts”
manager of Club Crème, Bristol

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Sheffield City Council’s allowing of private booths is a case in point.

Legs 11, Birmingham, had its license suspended in 2017 with under cover officers being offered sexual services in private rooms.

“From a police perspective it would make life and enforcement easier if we did not have the VIP rooms”
Police Officer

“If anything’s going to go wrong, it will be in the VIP or private rooms. You have to trust the integrity of the person who is in charge of security, but you can never be sure a blind eye is not going to be turned. Most venues have a VIP room, because it promotes intrigue to the customer who will go there and maybe look for something more, because of the secrecy” Police Officer

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Camden Council has had a policy against ‘private’ areas of any description in its clubs since SEV licensing was introduced. It has even gone to the High Court (successfully) to ensure this. This policy applies to Spearmint Rhino in Camden.

The reason for this is the high levels (and likelihood) of harassment, coercion and abuse in private booths. I would suggest allowing Spearmint Rhino private booths is in and of itself a breach of equality law as it is extremely likely to lead to ‘harassment and victimisation’.

Over 50% of dancers reported having received harassment ‘lots of times’ or a ‘a few times’, nearly half reported frequent verbal harassment and unwanted touching from customers. This was reported more widely in clubs with private dancing than those with only stage shows. Error! Bookmark not defined.

Private Booths: many dancers felt that the way in which private booths were set up also made them vulnerable and also allowed standards to be lowered by dancers offering more than is allowed in the dances.

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

This paper that we submitted to Camden Council for its High Court proceedings outlines the high levels of harm associated with private areas in strip clubs and is quoted from throughout this submission:

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Breach of the PSED – Simplistic Acceptance of Statements from Management

Again it is a breach of equality duty if the Council is not properly considering and analysing the information before them. This means evidence from management and even performers needs to be scrutinised with caution, rather than being simplistically taken at face value.

'It was clear to me ... that many owners and managers create a context in which the buying and selling of sexual services would be likely to happen. Club **owners** tend to absolve themselves of any responsibility if sexual services are found to be on offer, or being arranged on the premises, yet at the same time the dancers are encouraged to project an air of sexual availability to customers.'

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Our paper to Camden Council references how statements from management of 'excellent' operating conditions and performers well being simply cannot be taken at face value, for surely obvious reasons. Management have a clearly highly vested interest for abusive work conditions and prostitution, as this is how they will earn the most money. .

And if strip club operators are prepared to tell Parliament that 'lap dancing isn't sexual' then any statements they make surely have to be treated with extreme caution.

Besides, management and their legal team are adept at 'phrasing' information to ensure they are not lying but certainly misleading.

This includes constant statements by John Specht (Spearmint Rhino UK Vice President) in his witness statement to the Council for this licensing hearing that '**no complaints have been received**'. But this belies the fact that 100s of objections (*complaints*) actually have been received over years of licensing hearings. And yet this 'lack of complaint' is then re-iterated by Sheffield City Council's own licensing committee.

Management also, very deliberately, puts a 'Chinese wall' between it and any wrong doings at the club. An atmosphere is carefully cultivated that touching and full-blown sex acts are available yet when it happens management is able to claim no knowledge and instead fire the dancer as responsible.

The fact that a great many punters and members of the public view lap dancers as *de facto* prostitutes has been evidenced many times to the council (including by Not Buying It Sheffield at this licensing review).

In Conclusion

'A number of factors contribute to the possibility of the dancers being pressurised into offering, or agreeing to, sexual services without direct instruction from management.'

'The clubs [are] run in a way that implicitly encourages the customers to expect and seek sexual services from the dancers.'

'It can be concluded, from the body of evidence that some lap dance club owners and managers create conditions in which prostitution is likely to occur.'

'So long as club managers assure the police and others that any dancer found to be offering or engaging in sexual services will be dismissed, places the onus for behaviour onto the dancer. There has been a tendency, as highlighted through tribunals and police evidence, that club owners who either encourage dancers to engage in sexual activity, or merely 'turn a blind eye' are not held responsible for allowing that to happen.'

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Breach of the PSED – Simplistic Acceptance of Statements from Lap Dancers

Equally the Council needs to scrutinise statements from performers, rather than simplistically taking these at face value <http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf> :

Several journalists have confirmed that the conduct of staff, dancers and customers is affected when they are aware they are being observed

'I found that no one except the management, who were excited by the idea of newspaper coverage, wanted to talk to me, and I was viewed with suspicion. Everything seemed controlled, and I had a sense that I was not seeing the true picture.'

Of course, no lap dancer can openly expose problems within clubs, including breach of the 'no touching rule' or sex acts, because if she does she is will then fired and black listed amongst other clubs. Or worse.

Of course, if a club operator 'asks' his performers to sign statements supporting 'perfect practices' within their club, they will do exactly that. As again referenced in our report on Private Booths, the women working in the clubs often operate under a culture of fear and intimidation <http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf> :

This can be so extreme that performers who have been assaulted by club operators still will not talk, even to the police:

When a performer was dragged out on to the street by management, drunk, half naked and unconscious, she refused to talk to police even though this incident was so severe that the club's license was immediately suspended.

It can extend beyond performers to those researching the industry, as this journalist attested:

'for the record, one club owner telephoned me after our meeting and made what I took to be a veiled threat'^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}

Women from the industry have told me in conversations that:

'If management tells you to do something, you do it'

This includes Sammy Woodhouse (former lap dancer who blew the lid on the Rotherham child sex abuse scandal, who I believe is also providing an evidenced-based objection to Sheffield City Council). I have also been told by her and others, including Stacey Clare, founder of The East London Strippers Collective that they:

'know of women being coerced by management into signing statements in support'

Stacey Clare is currently writing a book to, yet again, expose working conditions for lap dancer and this evidence was given to Camden City Council in a High Court case that upheld its decision to ban private areas in its clubs.

Even Women who have *left* the industry *still* feel intimidated

"The shadowy world behind some clubs is not something that you would want to go up against"

"I'd rather not say what I am doing these days, for the same reason that I won't tell you my real name. These are people [the club owners] you don't want to mess with. I am genuinely afraid of them. Who knows exactly what goes on behind the scenes, but I'd still rather not mess with it."

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

'A New Reality'

"Often if a person has asked about my experience as a dancer I have responded with a socially desirable answer, and simply asserted that I enjoyed dancing, that I made a lot of money but in the end dancing was not for me. This explanation has in no way conveyed the extremity of emotion and mental distress I have experienced as a dancer and in no way conveys the sexual degradation and humiliation I have experienced and observed during my short dancing career" Liz former lap dancer

http://notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/LAP%20DANCING%20testimony_Liz.pdf

Of equal significance, is the fact is that a 'new reality' very quickly sets in when you start working in stripping. As numerous women state once they have left the industry. This includes lying to yourself that 'all is well' as a coping mechanism and because your entire sense of self-worth is wrapped up in the industry – so to admit that anything might be wrong with it becomes unthinkable. And it includes genuinely not even recognising that being constantly harassed and groped or even paid for sexual acts is untoward or is not normal. A 'new reality' sets in, as researcher shows:

'These women, as you would expect, are keen to defend the work they do and furious that what they regard as patronising feminists seem bent on turning them into sex workers.'

".. for a time, it is possible to convince yourself that everything is OK. "No one in the club would express any uncertainty about what they are doing - they're too busy competing for work - so even if you do feel bad about it, you wonder if you are the only one. You convince yourself that your perception of what the job would be like is the same as what the job is, even though there is a quite weird gap between the two. It's only when you have made the decision to leave that you realise how insane it all was."

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/PrivateBooths.pdf>

Breach of the PSED – in the Vicinity of Clubs

Members heard how some women felt threatened and unsafe walking past the premises during the day knowing that the premises was there and that it triggered memories of past events for them. The premises will now essentially be 'invisible' during the day which will aim to mitigate this.

The Council has heard countless examples of how women and others feel unsafe in the vicinity of the club in objections made to licensing renewals. The club operator has even taken pictures outside of the club showing little traffic during its operating hours. This, of course, was used to suggest 'no one uses the street'. However it could equally mean that the club has in effect created a 'no go zone'.

The Council's solution? Stop exterior signage outside the club. But Sheffield is a small city and local people know full well that the club is there even during the day when not open. If anything, a black unsigned building seems even more sinister.

And this does *not* address the club during its opening hours. The council has also heard countless evidence from objectors over years that they avoid the area during the night. Students (many of whom are teenagers, some as young as 17), of course, have *no choice* but to use the area given the club is next to halls of residence.

Whether or not the venue is open during the day or 'blacked out' is irrelevant when considering the PSED. It has been confirmed numerous times that the very presence of a strip club can amount to a breach of equality law by making women feel vulnerable, unsafe and causing them not to use the street or nearby facilities.

And strip clubs undoubtedly do make women feel threatened and uncomfortable (ie harassed and victimised) in their vicinity as highlighted by the Royal Town Planning Institute:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing clubs **make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"**

This is elaborated upon as:

'... women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'

A considerable number of witness statements provided to Sheffield City Council at Spearmint Rhino licensing hearings and at policy review clearly demonstrate this strip club's presence shows that the free movement of women and others with protected characteristics is being prevented by the club:

- Women running LGBT groups
- Disabled Women
- Those running support centres for **marginalised** young people
- Those accessing services for vulnerable women
- Women using work space

This feeling of intimidation and avoidance measures women take, goes far beyond when a club is operating at night. As highlighted in the journal *Criminal Justice Matters*:

".. women also reported **avoiding** certain streets and **feeling frightened** in the **day time**, when the clubs are closed. It is the **existence** of the clubs that **causes women to feel alienated in public space at all times**, and fearful of the threat of violence posed by the sexual **objectification** of women."

Jackie Patinois & Kay Standing (2012) License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres. *Criminal Justice Matters* 88:1, 10-12.

The Institute goes on to explain that if women *feel* threatened and uncomfortable by the presence of a strip club then **their very presence amounts to a form of discrimination**, as it prevents full access and freedom of movement by women in the borough:

"If a woman, **whether objectively justified or not**, fears to use part of the town centre **characterised** by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to **discrimination**, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these **considerations** ought **properly to be taken into account by authorities** at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage"

¹ Royal Town Planning Institute 'Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice' Note, 2010, p. 87

Local Authorities have a **legal duty** to prevent all of this. By not doing so they can be challenged in court. Thus if the PSED is given due consideration it becomes increasingly hard for Local Authorities to justify the presence of any Sexual Entertainment Venues and to consider anything other than a 'zero policy' on SEVs.

It is NOT Pro Equality to license clubs to stop them 'Going Underground'

The Council appears to be under the illusion that they *are* upholding their equality duties by granting strip club licenses because by not licensing clubs the industry will 'go underground'. A circular argument surely as by that logic the Council has to license everything and anything in order to stop it 'going underground'.

On top of this there is absolutely no evidence that *not* granting licenses drives the industry 'underground'.

I have contacted several Councils with a 'zero policy' and no clubs. Not one has found any evidence of 'underground activity'.

In fact, Sheffield City Council appears to be basing its 'going underground' argument from a research paper by a lap dance enthusiast (R Colosi) in which she cites a book about New York:

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-446-52571-8>

It should be pointed out that this book is not academic research – it is a book about New York, written by a man who has also co-authored books with Erin Brokovitch and Barry White! Besides many of the clubs dubbed 'illegal' might not be 'illegal' (as in unlicensed), but rather operating in breach of that license.

Besides it is surely disingenuous to compare a small city like Sheffield with a heaving metropolis like New York.

And where illegal clubs set up they can always be found and shut down. If punters can find them, so can the authorities, as has happened across the USA:

Atlanta: Man busted for running illegal strip club in his home:

<https://www.wsbtv.com/news/local/dekalb-county/man-60-accused-of-running-illegal-strip-club-in-home/473973225>

<https://www.11alive.com/article/news/crime/illegal-strip-club-busted-next-to-daycare-church-in-dekalb/85-362385752>

San Jose: Illegal clubs being shut after press reports:

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2015/12/08/san-jose-police-illegal-strip-clubs-crackdown/>

Phoenix, 'stripper cage fighting', openly advertised on Facebook, shut by authorities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DuR1EwaXJI>

But most importantly, the core premise that not licensing the industry will drive it underground is, I would suggest, on its head: **It is actually the legitimising of the sex trade that drives a substantial underground sector – as has been found in every country that has legalised or decriminalised prostitution.**

It is NOT Pro Equality to License Strip Clubs to 'Keep Women Out of Poverty'

Another argument that is often made to justify licensing the strip industry is that if it is not licensed lap dancers 'will be put out of work and into poverty'. Again this is a circular argument of the sort used to justify sweat shops.

This analogy is particularly apt given that it is the strip industry which actually tends to *put women into poverty* and lead them into future *unemployment* – not just because of its poor pay and work conditions but because it can be hard for women when they do leave to then find employment (because of low self esteem, stigma or lack of qualifications).

If the Council is really so concerned by keeping women out of poverty, why hasn't it enforced proper pay and employment conditions on Spearmint Rhino (as given in the recommendations), as many other councils have done?

And instead of licensing strip clubs, why doesn't it offer exit plans for lap dancers – supporting them into other work with proper employment – with respectful pay and working conditions and minimal risk of sexual exploitation (as also outlined in the recommendations)?

I would also point out that most lap dancers are 'itinerant' – working in many different clubs across the country. This was also acknowledged by Philip Kolvin, QC, at the last Spearmint Rhino licensing hearing. If one club closes, women are not 'put out of work' they merely move to another club.

no@notbuyingit.org.uk www.notbuyingit.org.uk

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 18:59
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino license renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

14/5/18

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)**i) Character of the relevant locality****(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;**

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London" for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city “housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a far more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge

of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage” .

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”

In addition to an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, lap dancing clubs have fallen by a third in England. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuses to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

Finally, I would like to conclude that as a young woman, just recently turned 18, the implications of such a venue terrify and anger me. If the council was to permit this license application, what message would the council be sending to myself and all the other young adults of our city? This is our hometown; a place where we have the right to feel respected, safe and able to blossom to become good people. The fear is that the Spearmint Rhino will teach and enforce qualities that impede such a place of growth and amity. To agree to such a venue is to agree to the destruction of our vibrant, family community we have built in Sheffield, a place where everybody is welcomed and loved. I hope you consider the matter very carefully and that the council asks themselves what future they foresee for Sheffield.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 15 May 2018 19:23
To: licensingservice
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to granting a license to Spearmint Rhino
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged
Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Sir /Madam

On behalf of the Know the Line Campaign Sheffield, I wish to object most strongly to the decision to re license the strip club Spearmint Rhino. I am also dismayed by the Council's decision to allow unlimited numbers of SEVs in the city. This is clearly sending out a message to women and girls that their safety and dignity are not considered to be important.

Safer Streets Sheffield and the Know the Line Campaign comes out of the experiences of sexual harassment of women and girls in Sheffield. We are a collaboration of local groups and individuals who have come together to create a public awareness campaign about sexual harassment of women and girls in Sheffield and South Yorkshire.

We are all volunteers who feel strongly that women should feel safe to get on with their lives without fear of harassment or worse. We are making this submission as we believe that venues such as Spearmint Rhino contribute to the sexual harassment of women and girls.

Our campaign is supported by a number of local MPs, the Police and SCC as well as a wide range of front line services which help women who have been affected by violence and sexual harassment.

The council have a legal Public Equality Sector Duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders. There is no way that a strip club can be said to do this. Women in and around this venue are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship and this clearly does not foster good relations between the genders. Many women feel unsafe walking around this area because of the attitudes of the men, towards women, who attend the venue.

Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union. The existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with its own on-campus strip club. This does not help to make it a positive choice for many young women when considering which university to attend.

The area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

It is time to do the right thing and refuse to re license Spearmint Rhino.

[REDACTED], on behalf of
Know the Line Campaign Sheffield

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2018 19:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino 2018 OBJECTION

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

15/5/18

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S12BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London” for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d)the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children’s Media Conference.

(e)the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city “housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is

also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

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See (e) under (i).

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I look forward to hearing from you.

NAME and ADDRESS which will be redacted

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 19:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to license renewal of Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: SpearmintRhinoObjection 20180515.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please see attached my objection to the renewal of Spearmint Rhino's license. I am particularly appalled by the negative impact on the perception of women such establishments contribute. I am particularly conscious where this objectification of women in the so called softer side of the sex industry leads through my contact with women who have been trafficked and the experiences of women I know. Sheffield City Council in licensing this establishment has surely lost its way as a council which should protect the rights of all its citizens. At this particularly moment in time, with the Me too movement, Sheffield City Council will be standing on the wrong side of history if this license is renewed.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15 May 2018

Dear Licensing Services

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

Sheffield Hallam's Student Union, The Hubs, is frequented by young women, some of whom are vulnerable as a result of being away from home for the first time, and / or vulnerable after an evening out. Unfortunately, my experience of walking past Spearmint Rhino is that the people who frequent this establishment do not respect women, which is apparent by their behaviour.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^{iv}

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage”^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 15 May 2018 20:52
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

15th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I am a lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University and am deeply concerned by the impact this sex establishment has on the environment for students and young people living and studying in the area. I am concerned about their safety and well being and the message such an establishment sends to them and their families.

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[i] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"^[ii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational

establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱⁱ

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The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

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(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

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This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”^[viii]

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Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xi] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

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According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xiv]. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

^[i] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

^[ii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

^[iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^[iv] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^[v] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^[vi] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^[vii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^[viii] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^[ix] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^[x] Slideshow available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

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[xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

[xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

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Bower Claire

From: | [redacted] <[redacted]>
Sent: 15 May 2018 22:18
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal
Attachments: SpearmintRhinoObjection2018 .docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

--
Thanks,
[redacted]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15/05/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy and in accordance with the council's equality duties because it is completely inappropriate to have a strip club in that location, in such a central position within our city, close to so many educational and residential buildings and so many other things that should never have a strip club in their midst. This is both because of the direct damage that it causes having a strip club there and also because of the wider impact and message that it sends, having such a club, which is fundamentally based on outdated, stereotypical and harmful views of women, and assumptions that men are entitled to buy power over women's bodies.

I'm 16 years old, born and bred in Sheffield, and I'm amazed that in this day and age that something as old-fashioned and obviously discriminatory still exists, and has been actually approved each year by the council. In school I have learnt about the fundamental principle of respect- it is so vital for our society and the fact that this strip club still exists and promotes such derogatory and damaging views just utterly undermines the general message that we all are deserving of equal respect and rights.

I have several close friends in the LGBT+ community and it is because of places like Spearmint Rhino that I worry for their wellbeing- my friends do not conform to the archaic stereotypes which strip clubs promote, and could be subject to abuse by people who are influenced by the messages these places promote.

I'm currently thinking about my choices of where to go for University, and I would *never* choose a university which has a strip club in the middle of several of the main university buildings and literally next door to the student union.

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Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 22:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection
Attachments: Spearmint Rhino Objection 2018.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Please find attached a letter of objection for the Spearmint Rhino renewal.

Yours

[REDACTED]

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14th May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but

it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

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(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{IV}

This establishment being so close to a number of university buildings only strengthens the normalisation of sex establishments being an opportunity for young women/girls to enter into. This is a terrible message for Sheffield Council to give to its young people who come to the city to develop positively as citizens.

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"^{vi}

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage"^{vii}.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the

CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license."^{xiii}

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I myself have visited Sheffield on a number of occasions and have indeed felt uneasy, uncomfortable and violated. As a woman, to walk past Spearmint Rhino is extremely degrading and I am given a fundamental message that my worth is only built on my sexual availability.

Swansea Council, the local authority area where I live, has a **Licensing of Sex Establishment Policy**, and has set a **NIL** count for sex establishments within the city centre area, which is a large scale area including the shopping centre and a large surrounding residential area. I believe this is the only way to secure a safe, prosperous and equal place to live.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

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- ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- ^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- ^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^{viii} Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- ^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- ^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- ^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2018 22:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15th of May, 2018

Dear Licensing Service,

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S12BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council’s 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London” for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d)the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e)the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g)The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5).

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this

contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.

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This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

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The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England. The same report states that "a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture." |

ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours faithfully
[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]
[Address]

140

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 23:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to 'Spearmint Rhino' Sexual Entertainment Licence application

To: Licensing Service -Sheffield City Council

I should like to register my strong objection to the application by Sonfield Developments for renewal of their Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for Spearmint Rhino in Brown Street, Sheffield. Such a club is both damaging to the women it employs and corrupting to its male customers. The club in question, at a location in the heart of the city's cultural quarter and in a university area, is bad for the city's image, harmful to the good-quality development potential of central Sheffield, liable to prompt anti-social behaviour of various kinds, deeply unpleasant and uncomfortable for women wishing to use the neighbourhood's more civilised facilities, and contrary to the City's own well-publicised and well-considered policies on gender rights and equality.

I request that you give serious consideration to these objections.

Yours,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 23:22
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S12BS.

I strongly object to the renewal, for all of the reasons so clearly described in the form letter below. This is an regressive, dehumanising & deeply sexist institution that has been tolerated by the council for far too long. It's presence is an incitement to to sexual harassment & abuse of all girls & women

I believe that the Council should recuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)**i) Character of the relevant locality****(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;**

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London" for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d)the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e)the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

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See (e) under (i).

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(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

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The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

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"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 23:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
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S9 3HD
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and "... designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London" for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."

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The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

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(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

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(g)The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

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The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area". Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable"

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage".

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that "The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate":

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that "These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017."

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.” The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you

Kind Regards.

[Faint signature]

[Faint signature]

[Faint signature]

145

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@googlemail.com>
Sent: 15 May 2018 23:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal - Email 1 of 2
Attachments: SR Objection May 2018.docx; Walkit Cholera Monument to The Light Cinema.pdf; Walkit Sheffield College to Town Hall.pdf; Walkit Sheffield Interchange to Decathlon 199 Eyre Street.pdf; Walkit Unite Students Leadmill Point to Town Hall.pdf

Dear Licensing

Please see my attached letter objecting to the application for renewal of Spearmint Rhino's SEV licence, plus attachments:

4 x maps of walking routes from walkit.com

Area Action Plan for the Cultural Industries Quarter - **PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL FOLLOW IN A SEPARATE EMAIL**

Please can you acknowledge receipt.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to:
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14 May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I wish to object to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino at 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application because the locality and exact position in which the club is situated, and the uses of other premises in the area, have changed dramatically in recent years and it is now completely inappropriate to have a strip club there, specifically one which includes private rooms away from the main public area. I believe that to continue to license it in that location would cause unacceptable and unnecessary harm to the reputation and interests of the city and people of Sheffield as a whole, the Council as the licensing authority, the Cultural Industries Quarter, local residents, businesses/services and the individuals who go there.

I believe renewing the licence would also cause unacceptable and unnecessary harm to women and the public in Sheffield and more widely because of the directly discriminatory images and messages that the club actively promotes about women, about their bodies and appearance, about their sexual availability and about the entitlement of men to have power over women by payment of money, which is diametrically opposed to the Council's legal obligations to actively work to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, foster good relations between the sexes and people of different sexual orientations and advance equality of opportunity of women and others including by removing or minimising disadvantages they suffer.

Location and equality

I refer to the comments of others about the location of 60 Brown Street, and about the premises and wider uses and activities of people in the immediate vicinity, the surrounding area and Sheffield more widely.

In particular I refer to the comments of Sheffield Hallam University, as the way that SHU and the area around 60 Brown Street has developed means that Spearmint Rhino is now bang in the middle of the SHU city campus, including being literally next door to the students union but in fact even closer physically to the Cantor building which is one of the main SHU buildings housing over 240 staff and providing teaching space for more than 1600 students including the faculties of Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences.

I have used the Cantor building and other SHU buildings surrounding 60 Brown Street in my role as a trustee and Chair of Disability Sheffield, which is a membership and user-led organisation, run and controlled by disabled people, that promotes independence, equality and other human rights for disabled people. We have regular board meetings and SHU kindly gives us free room space for this. Most of the trustees have a disability, including learning disabilities, physical disabilities and other long-term conditions. As well as my voluntary role with Disability Sheffield my work centres on disability rights and throughout my career I have worked with disabled people and supported them to fight against discrimination and systemic disadvantages.

I am passionate about advancing equality and improving the lives of all people with protected characteristics, not just disabled people, and I am fully aware of how strong the duties are on public bodies such as the

Council to exercise all their functions in a way that works to proactively eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, foster good relations between people with different protected characteristics and advance equality of opportunity. As such I find it astonishing that the Council has continued to grant a licence to a strip club in such an incredibly central and prominent location, which is unquestionably retrograde in equality terms, promoting stereotypical images of women as objects and reinforcing rather than challenging assumptions of women's sexual availability and men's power over them.

If the Council had to consider granting a licence for business located in such a central part of Sheffield whose prime purpose was to present as entertainment a spectacle based on stereotyped views of disabled people, where non-disabled people were able to pay for the right to get the disabled people to behave in a certain way that conforms further to outdated and damaging assumptions – for example a display of people with dwarfism that presents them as toys – the Council would not dream of granting it. (Incredibly, however, there are strip clubs in other parts of the world that do operate just such a form of entertainment:

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/ottawa-strip-club-defends-dwarf-toss-after-event-raises-ire-of-critics-councillor>; <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2016/01/29/dwarf-tossing-topless-bar-little-people-of-america-dearborn/79539972/>.) This may seem like an extreme comparison but in equality terms it is no different than allowing such promotion of stereotypical, outdated and damaging images of women.

When attending Disability Sheffield meetings or going to the area of 60 Brown Street for other reasons such as with my children I am extremely aware of the imposing presence of the club and what it represents, and I feel it is an affront to the principles of equality that I and others fight so hard for that the Council has continued to actively support its presence each year given what it represents and what it does. The current context is very hard for disabled people, after years of cuts and austerity that have fallen disproportionately on them, and it feels like things are going backwards for disabled people in equality terms. As such I would prefer to have our meetings somewhere else where we do not have this striking reminder of the inequality that is still so rife for disabled people, women and other people with protected characteristics. But our resources are limited and so we need to make the most of SHU's generosity in hosting us.

Location including wider context

When considering the appropriateness or otherwise of the location, it is vital for the Council to understand why it is inappropriate not just in terms of the impact on individual local businesses or uses in close proximity to the building but in terms of how it fits into a wider picture, including the location:-

- within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ)
- in the middle of a specific sub-area of the CIQ that has been dubbed the 'Heart of the CIQ'
- relative to adjacent areas of the city, including being immediately between the main railway station (230 metres to the east of 60 Brown Street) and the Heart of the City area (180 metres to the west) (distances are measured on Google maps)
- on key pedestrian, cycle and other through routes between different areas of the city, for example:-
 - between the main residential area of the CIQ (the so-called 'City Living Hub', which is just 70 metres east from 60 Brown Street) and the Heart of the City area: see for example **appended** route on walkit.com between the Unite Students residential block at 26 Leadmill Road and Sheffield Town Hall;
 - between the east and west of the city, including the Moor : see for example **appended** route on walkit.com between the Cholera Monument (to the east of the railway station, next to the Norfolk Park area) and The Light, the new cinema complex on the Moor;
 - between Sheffield's main bus station (325 metres to the north-east) and the Moorfoot/Bramall Lane/London Road area and Sheffield's new £65m Chinatown

development: see for example **appended** route on walkit.com between the bus station and Decathlon (199 Eyre Street), one of the large retail units between Moorfoot and Bramall Lane;

- between the south-east of the city and the centre: see for example **appended** route on walkit.com between the Sheffield College Granville Road site (640 metres to the south-east of the club, which has a nursery that is open to all parents who live, work or study in the wider community, not just students at the College) and Sheffield Town Hall
- See also the attached Area Action Plan for the CIQ from 2013 including the maps on pages 7, 13, 15, 16, 18, 23 and 60 which shows how absolutely central and critically important the location of 60 Brown Street is in terms of:-
 - Streets and buildings with character, including listed buildings
 - Educational and cultural activities
 - The only signed cycle path in the CIQ
 - Pedestrian movements
 - Bus routes and bus stops serving **more than 15 lines** – the most in the whole area
 - Landmarks – it is literally in the middle of the cluster of four major outside landmarks in the Heart of the CIQ between the railway station and the centre of Sheffield
 - Nodes – i.e. ‘places where paths, activities or events are concentrated’ and that are ‘visually very important in providing an entrance to the area’
 - Corridor views and important pedestrian viewpoints
 - Position in the middle of ‘visually positive architectures’
 - Being next to the only open space in the whole CIQ
 - Key Project Sites

In all these respects, the location of the club is inappropriate and damaging, because of the actual impacts on local residents and other people and businesses nearby or passing through, including people experiencing harassment in that area or avoiding the immediate area because of concerns about increased crime or antisocial/abusive behaviour from people associated with the club or because of the tawdriness of the vicinity that the club’s presence perpetuates, and businesses avoiding that area because they do not want to be tainted or otherwise adversely affected by being near a strip club (for example the premises next door, 62 Brown Street, are, unsurprisingly, vacant), but also because of what it represents. This is a profound effect which is not mitigated by the fact that the club is closed and the signage blacked out in the daytime; it is caused by the club being there, being approved by the Council, and standing as a living monument to outdated views of and behaviour towards women, where all notions of equality and improvement of the lives of women can be left at the door.

This wider impact and awareness of such clubs and what they represent, regardless of signage or specific advertising, is highlighted by research in Leeds commissioned by a strip club in order to support its application for a licence. This research is summarised in the published case of Bean Leisure and Ruby May v Leeds CC [2014] EWHC 878 (Admin) in which the High Court upheld the decisions of Leeds City Council refusing to renew the SEV licence for two strip clubs (including the one that had commissioned the research) despite them having been licensed for a number of years previously. The research was based on 100 interviews with respondents who were 21 or over and either lived in the city centre or visited it at least once every two months. It found that 76% of respondents were aware of the presence of lapdancing clubs and many could name one or more of the clubs, including around a third of all respondents who could name the club that had commissioned the research despite the fact that the club had no signage, just plain windows with a dark curtain blocking the view into the premises. The judge held that:

‘Not least because of the gender split of the respondents (46 men/54 women) it is overwhelmingly unlikely that the 76% of all respondents who were aware of the presence of lap dancing venues were all or even preponderantly users or potential users of the clubs.’

He also commented that it was 'debateable' whether the club's presentation and lack of signage,

'which is itself a contrast to the buildings around it, most or all of which provide some indication of what they are... really anonymises the premises or does the opposite by suggesting the true nature of their use'.

I believe that the same is true of Spearmint Rhino at 60 Brown Street, and that the nature of the club and what it represents is extremely well known to people across Sheffield and very evident not just to people that use the immediate vicinity but more widely including to those who might be considering walking through or using facilities in that area, or setting up home or business in the immediate vicinity (for example in the vacant premises next door), or elsewhere in the Cultural Industries Quarter (for example in the almost entirely residential City Living Hub sub-quarter of the CIQ running from Leadmill Point (70metres from the club) to The Trigon where Shoreham Street meets the inner ring road), or elsewhere in Sheffield, but may think twice as a result of the prominent presence of a strip club in such a central location.

Some of these impacts can be clearly identified: for example my friend's 15-year-old daughter walks from her home in the Norfolk Park area east of the city centre to King Edward's School, south-west of the centre; her shortest route would go past 60 Brown Street, however she is not comfortable taking this route and diverts a longer way to the north via the railway station and Howard Street. Other impacts are less measurable, but they include the full range such as being a potential factor in decisions such as that of Channel 4 as to whether to move to Sheffield.

Impact on Festival/CIQ Square and pedestrian route from CIQ eastwards beyond the railway station

A specific illustration of how the locality has been adversely impacted by the inappropriate presence of a strip club at 60 Brown Street is the fate of the so-called CIQ Square (formerly Festival Square) which lies between 60 Brown Street and the SHU Students Union Building.

In the detailed Area Action Plan for the CIQ that was published in 2013 (see attached), this is identified as the only area of open space in the whole CIQ with huge potential to develop as a green space and focal point for development of the whole area. However it is also identified (page 48) that the open space has no landscaping, planting etc and 'does not seem to be achieving its full potential', moreover it is identified (page 23) as part of a **weak pedestrian route** connecting the Heart of the CIQ via Grinders Hill to the neighbouring City Living area of the CIQ, then to the Cultural Commercial Hub immediately south of the railway station, and beyond that to the east side of the station via the pedestrian bridge.

It is specifically identified (page 35) that the poor pedestrian flow and footfall through such parts of the CIQ is 'due to a lack of attraction with poor active frontages, vacancy and dereliction'.

The Area Action Plan sets as top priorities to be achieved **within the next 1-5 years** (i.e. by 2018) the need to 'revitalise and re-landscape this open space [next to 60 Brown Street], whilst also creating a connection between it and Grinders Hill pedestrian route', which 'will involve improving the quality of the public realm along this route, developing a connection with this route and the pedestrian route which is part of the City Living area's Key Project Site, and improving the lighting of the enclosed Grinders Hill section'.

The Area Action Plan also sets out in detail how temporary uses in outside areas such as that next to 60 Brown Street can be a vital way of 'attracting investment, people and activity into otherwise forgotten spaces'.

The Plan sets out a vision for CIQ Square being developed along the lines of Leopold Square or Devonshire Green. The vision is of a vibrant mixed use with development of green space, outside seating and special events to draw people and business in.

I agree wholeheartedly with this vision and it resonates particularly with me because I play in a gypsy jazz band and we are active in supporting the development of live music at different venues in Sheffield including

new and up and coming venues as well as more established venues both indoor and outdoor such as at Leopold Square. The other musicians in the band are extremely experienced having played for many years with people like Van Morrison, John Martyn and Peter Green. CIQ Square stands out as a potentially perfect location for the development of outside events, including gigs, that link in with the activities of the surrounding buildings such as the Showroom, the Site Gallery and SHU. I would love to see it develop in that way, as in the vision set out in the Area Action Plan 5 years ago.

Yet it is patently obvious that that vision and the specific plans that were to take place in the last 5 years have not happened. The open space next to 60 Brown Street is still deserted and devoid of activity or attractive landscaping. The pedestrian route is still weak and people avoid it. The extraordinary development in other parts of the CIQ in the last 5 years has completely bypassed this immediate area. It is patently obvious that the key factor in this has been the presence of a strip club, with a total lack of positive contribution to the frontage of the street, to the connection between inside and outside activity, and which puts people off renting the premises next door or using the outside space.

Inappropriate proximity to premises/areas with sensitive uses

There are many examples that others will no doubt give as to how Sheffield's CIQ and the area round 60 Brown Street has developed, and the dramatic increase in the number of nearby premises with sensitive uses, so that it is now completely inappropriate as a location for a strip club. Below are a few examples of nearby premises with sensitive uses that concern me and would undoubtedly be regarded by the vast majority of the public as activities/uses that a strip club should never be sited near, but I am in no way attempting to be comprehensive:-

- The club is less than 100 metres away from a business called The Great Escape which runs children's parties with themes like pirates and mad scientists for children at least as young as 7 and which my youngest child has attended - <https://thegreatescapesgame.co.uk/>
- Sheffield College has a number of nearby sites including several within the CIQ such as Sheffield College of Music at 12 Sidney Street (just 160 metres from 60 Brown Street), and its Eyre Street and Matilda Street sites; as mentioned above the College runs a nearby nursery which is open to all; and it provides a huge range of courses for different ages and needs, including computing and robotics camps for children aged 7+ at its Lego Education Innovation Studio
- Other local education establishments within the CIQ (the entirety of which covers only ¾ of a square mile), most of them either brand new or new in the last few years, include Freeman College, UTC Sheffield, and a drama school that runs acting courses for teenagers and adults: <http://www.standbymethod.com/acting-programmes/young-peoples-programme/>.
- The Showroom: This has grown into the largest independent film house outside London and it is a family cinema. I have taken my children there and attended special family events. My daughter went with other pupils from her primary school to attend an awards ceremony for their work on an eco film. If Sheffield City Council were to conduct research like that carried out by Leeds City Council as to the public's view of sensitive buildings that should never have a strip club near them, the response would unquestionably be that it is unacceptable for a strip club to be positioned within sight of a family cinema like the Showroom.

Inappropriate layout and character of the premises, including private rooms which contributes structurally to a culture of rule-breaking including rules against touching and offering sexual services

The location at 60 Brown Street is inappropriate for a strip club regardless of the layout and particular way in which such a club might be operated. However the layout of Spearmint Rhino and way the premises are used is particularly inappropriate in that location because it includes a number of private so-called 'VIP rooms'

where customers can pay much higher sums of money than in the main public lapdancing area (typically £300 per hour) in order to be able to have a private session with dancers.

This layout contributes directly to a culture of rule-breaking by dancers including breaking rules against touching and offering sexual services. The club states that there is CCTV in all such rooms but the problem is that there is no structural incentive on the management of the club to enforce these rules; on the contrary there are strong incentives on both dancers and management to break the rules in order to obtain the most profit.

Spearmint Rhino have confirmed in previous licensing hearings that the dancers at the club are not employed, indeed many (it is said) are not even local to Sheffield, but are 'peripatetic' self-employed workers who rent space from the club in order to ply their trade. The club is able to maximise its income by having a large number of dancers at the club on a given night, each paying a significant sum for the right to be there. Some nights for example during the week will be quiet and dancers may not make enough from individual dances to be able to cover their costs of being at the club; however the club will require dancers to attend on less profitable nights as a condition of being permitted to attend on more profitable weekend evenings.

Testimony from former dancers makes it clear that this system operates structurally to create intense competition between dancers for limited custom, and that those who are not prepared to break the rules will lose custom relative to those who are prepared to do so.

Having private booths where both dancers and the club can potentially make much more money from rule-breaking without the scrutiny and regulation of being in a public area is extremely problematic for this reason and as a result many local authorities will not license strip clubs containing private booths or rooms.

For all the above reasons I ask the Licensing Committee to refuse to renew the licence of Spearmint Rhino at this location.

The Committee should take a fresh look and take account of the huge changes that have taken place in the area and in Sheffield more widely, and it should take account of the views of its electorate that this club is totally inappropriate in this location.

I look forward to hearing from you.

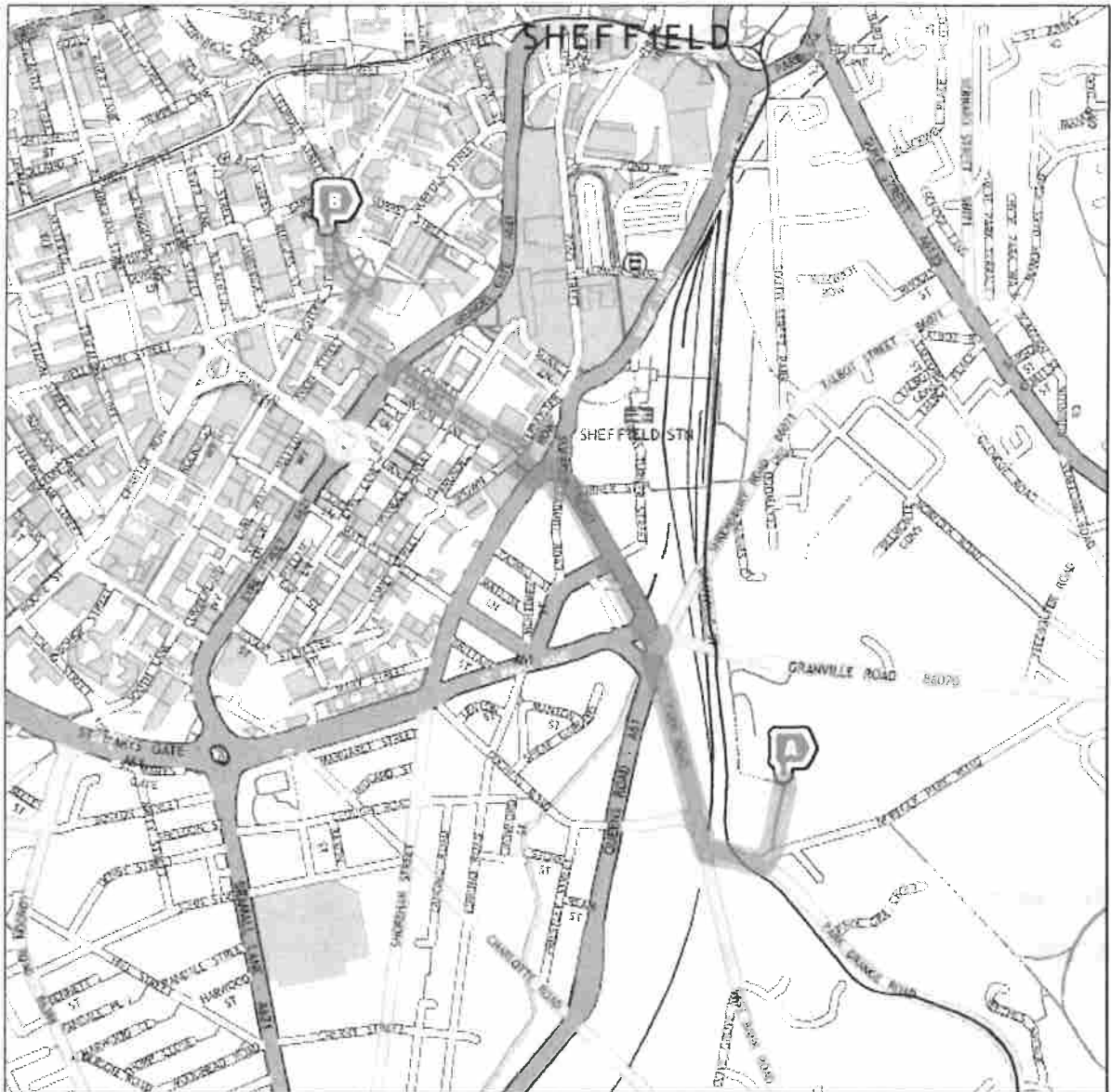
Yours sincerely

[PLEASE REDACT NAME AND ADDRESS]

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Sheffield walking directions from City Campus S2 2RL to Sheffield Town Hall
0.9 miles, 22 mins, 101 Cal (med pace)



1. Start out along COLLEGE DRIVE, heading south.

2. After 100 metres bear right onto NORFOLK PARK ROAD, heading south.

3. After 20 metres bear right onto PARK GRANGE ROAD, heading north.

4. After 100 metres bear right onto EAST BANK ROAD, heading north.

5. After 54 metres continue straight onto FARM ROAD, heading north.

6. After 250 metres continue straight onto GRANVILLE SQUARE, heading north.

7. After 6 metres bear right onto GRANVILLE ROAD, heading north.

8. After 13 metres turn left onto PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, heading north.

9. After 18 metres turn left onto GRANVILLE ROAD, heading west.

10. After 13 metres turn right onto SUFFOLK ROAD, heading north.

11. After 250 metres continue onto LEADMILL ROAD, heading south.

12. After 37 metres bear left, heading west.

13. After 25 metres bear left onto SHOREHAM STREET at the T-junction, heading south.

14. After 11 metres turn right onto GRINDERS HILL, heading north.

15. After 48 metres turn right onto PATERNOSTER ROW, heading north.

16. After 18 metres turn left onto CHARLES STREET, heading north.

17. After 250 metres continue straight onto PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, heading north.

18. After 20 metres continue straight onto CHARLES STREET, heading north.

19. After 25 metres turn right onto NORFOLK LANE, heading north.

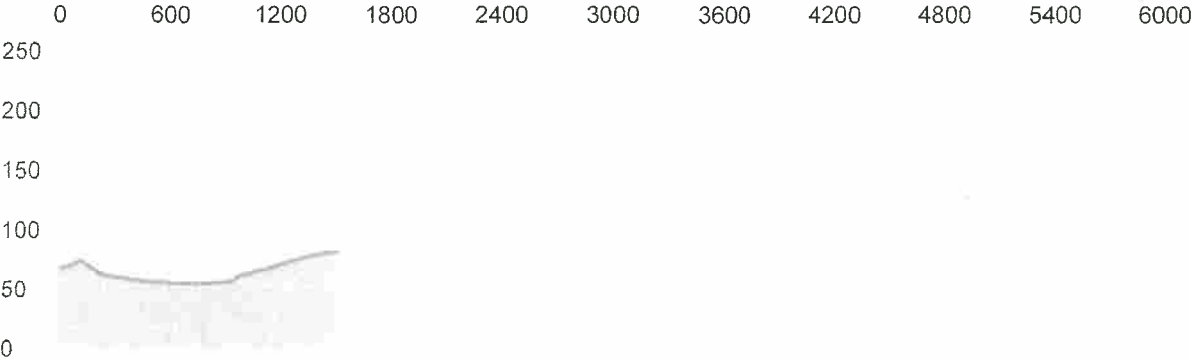
20. After 26 metres turn left onto CHARLES LANE, heading north.

21. After 47 metres turn right onto NORFOLK STREET, heading north.

22. After 55 metres turn left onto THE PEACE GARDENS, heading west.

23. You will reach your destination 100 metres along THE PEACE GARDENS.

Hill Profile

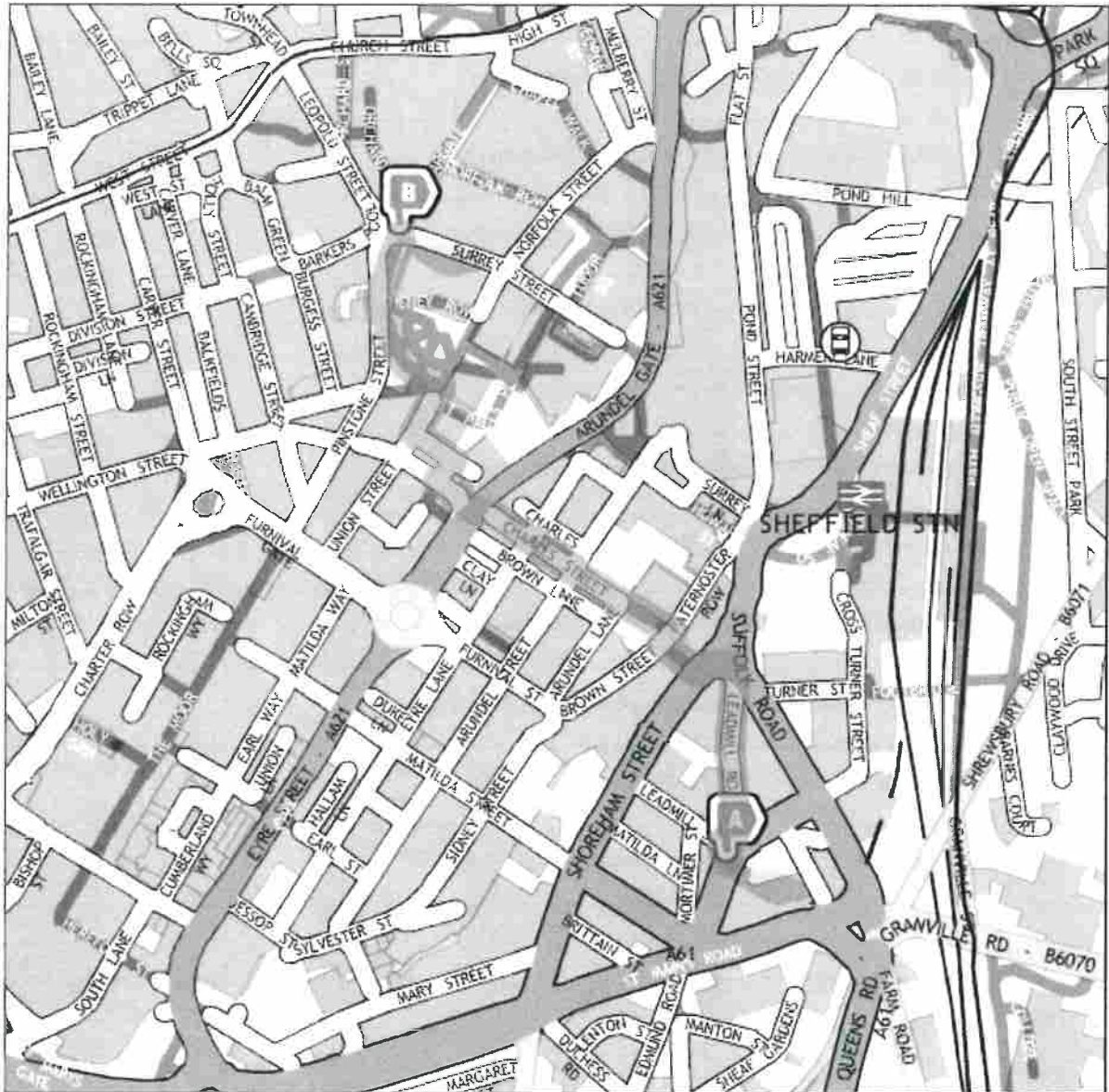


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Sheffield walking directions from 26 Leadmill Road to town hall

0.6 miles, 13 mins, 66 Cal (med pace)



1. Start out along LEADMILL STREET, heading north.

2. After 35 metres continue straight onto LEADMILL ROAD, heading north.

3. After 150 metres turn left, heading west.

4. After 25 metres bear left onto SHOREHAM STREET at the T-junction, heading south.

5. After 11 metres turn right onto GRINDERS HILL, heading north.

6. After 48 metres turn right onto PATERNOSTER ROW, heading north.

7. After 18 metres turn left onto CHARLES STREET, heading north.

8. After 250 metres continue straight onto PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, heading north.

9. After 20 metres continue straight onto CHARLES STREET, heading north.

10. After 25 metres turn right onto NORFOLK LANE, heading north.

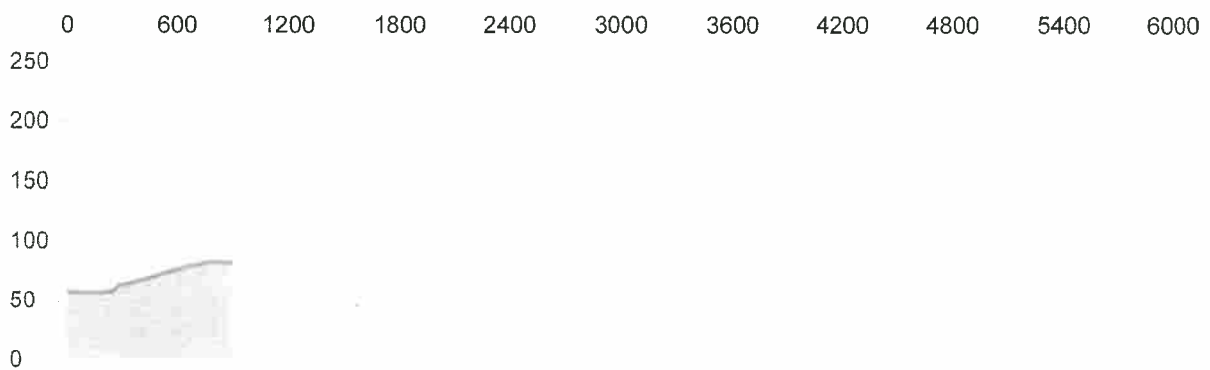
11. After 26 metres turn left onto CHARLES LANE, heading north.

12. After 47 metres turn right onto NORFOLK STREET, heading north.

13. After 55 metres turn left onto THE PEACE GARDENS, heading west.

14. After 100 metres bear right onto PINSTONE STREET, heading north.

15. You will reach your destination 100 metres along PINSTONE STREET.

Hill Profile

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Sheffield walking directions from cholera monument to 24 The Moor

0.9 miles, 20 mins, 90 Cal (med pace)



1. Start out along MONUMENT GARDENS, heading north.

2. After 150 metres turn left onto NORFOLK ROAD, heading north.

3. After 150 metres turn left onto SHREWSBURY ROAD, heading south.

4. After 150 metres turn right onto STEPS, heading west.

5. After 19 metres continue straight onto SOUTH STREET PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, heading west.

6. After 41 metres continue onto TRAMWAY CROSSING, heading west.

7. After 10 metres turn left onto GRANVILLE STREET (PATH ALONGSIDE TRAMWAY AT REAR OF STATION), heading south.

8. After 7 metres turn right onto FOOTBRIDGE, heading west.

9. After 100 metres continue onto STEPS, heading north.

10. After 29 metres continue onto TURNER STREET, heading west.

11. After 100 metres bear right onto SUFFOLK ROAD, heading north.

12. After 17 metres continue onto LEADMILL ROAD, heading south.

13. After 37 metres bear left, heading west.

14. After 25 metres bear left onto SHOREHAM STREET at the T-junction, heading south.

15. After 11 metres turn right onto GRINDERS HILL, heading north.

16. After 48 metres turn left onto BROWN STREET, heading south.

17. After 150 metres turn right onto FURNIVAL STREET, heading north.

18. Go to the left around FURNIVAL SQUARE roundabout, 150 metres on, and then turn off onto EYRE STREET, heading south.

19. After 100 metres turn right onto PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, heading north.

20. After 4 metres continue straight onto MATILDA STREET, heading north.

21. After 150 metres turn left onto THE MOOR, heading south.

22. You will reach your destination 100 metres along THE MOOR.

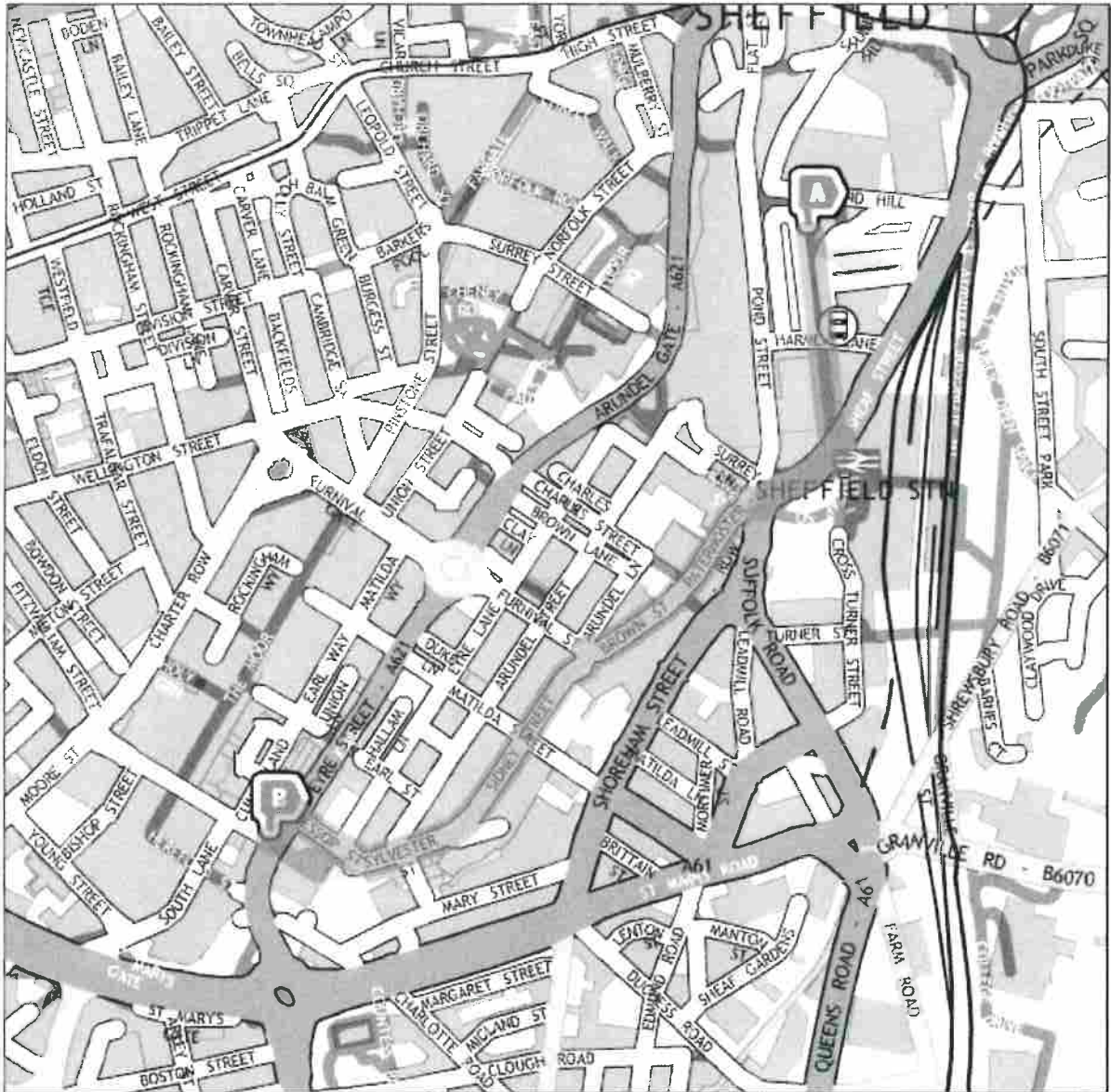
Hill Profile



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Sheffield walking directions from bus station to 199 Eyre Street
0.7 miles, 15 mins, 72 Cal (med pace)



Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 May 2018 23:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal - Email 2 of 2
Attachments: CIQ Area Action Plan.pdf

Please see further attachment in relation to my objection letter in my previous email - Area Action Plan for the Cultural Industries Quarter

On Tue, May 15, 2018 at 11:46 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:
Dear Licensing

Please see my attached letter objecting to the application for renewal of Spearmint Rhino's SEV licence, plus attachments:

4 x maps of walking routes from walkit.com

Area Action Plan for the Cultural Industries Quarter - **PLEASE NOTE THIS WILL FOLLOW IN A SEPARATE EMAIL**

Please can you acknowledge receipt.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

1. Start out along SHEFFIELD INTERCHANGE, heading south.

2. After 150 metres continue straight onto SHEFFIELD INTERCHANGE COVERED WALKWAY, heading south.

3. After 100 metres bear right onto SHEAF STREET, heading south.

4. After 100 metres turn right onto HOWARD STREET, heading north.

5. After 15 metres turn left onto PATERNOSTER ROW, heading south.

6. After 150 metres continue straight onto BROWN STREET, heading south.

7. After 150 metres continue straight onto SIDNEY STREET, heading south.

8. After 250 metres bear right onto SYLVESTER STREET, heading west.

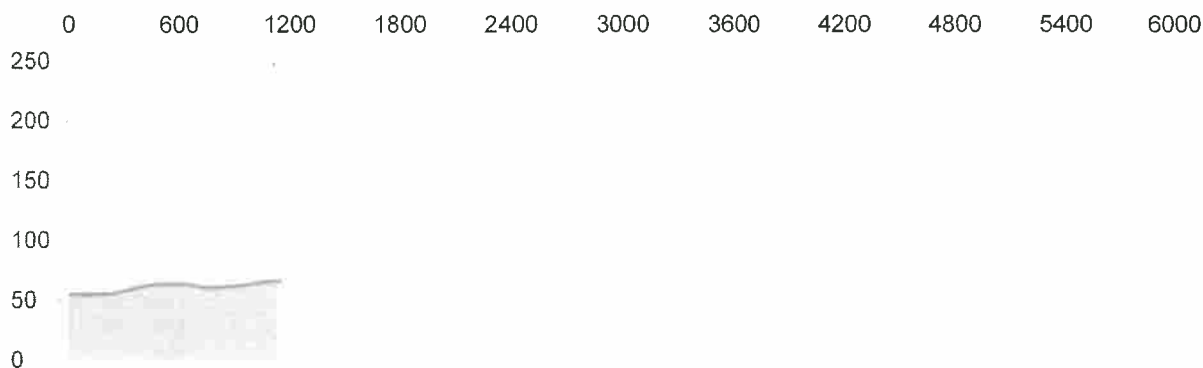
9. After 100 metres bear right onto JESSOP STREET, heading north.

10. After 100 metres continue straight onto PEDESTRIAN CROSSING, heading north.

11. After 9 metres turn left onto EYRE STREET, heading south.

12. You will reach your destination 42 metres along EYRE STREET.

Hill Profile



Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 15 May 2018 23:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Categories: Claire Bower

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

15th of May, 2018

Dear Licensing Service,

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S12BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and "... designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London" for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not

limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e)the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the

car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g)The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5).

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

“Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area”.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

“In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable”

Kolvin continues with:

“If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage” .

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

“ . . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.”

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

The Committee is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review: *R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)*

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014)* was also supported at Court of Appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in

the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you

[Faint, illegible text]



Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council, Block C
Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield

Email:licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence 2018 for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought; treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
 - Testimonies from men who admit to using such establishments demonstrate that those men eroticise their power over the performer, getting a sexual thrill from control over her. This is related to the negation of, and absolute disregard for, her feelings within the financial transaction. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
 - Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships.
 - Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Council's Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
 - Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus, in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual Abuse strategy.
 - Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
 - The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women. It actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
 - Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area now undergoing extensive re development. It is increasingly residential, with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.
 - In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.
 - SIGNED
- PRINT NAME & ADDRESS



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17 MAY

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PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

149

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
- Strip clubs promote the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating the performer as a commodity with no regard to her actual feelings, as if she were an object: if she really wanted to strip for whoever pays her she wouldn't need to be paid to do so. This is dehumanising and disempowering to the performer. The punter is eroticising his power over the woman and getting a sexual thrill from his control over her. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers have spoken of the psychological harm they have experienced as a result of working in strip clubs. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their mind and feelings from their bodies, which is required in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that they realise the harm caused to them by it, which is similar to the experience of women once they have left an abusive relationship.
- Licensing Spearmint Rhino gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this.
- Condoning, by licensing, a strip club which is set up solely to profit from the objectification of women is to effectively promote views and behaviours which are associated with male violence towards women and girls, stoking the misogynistic attitudes that lead to this violence.
- Research again and again identifies the link that men who hold objectifying views of women as lesser than human are more likely to be violent to them.
- Many women have written to the Council specifically stating how uncomfortable and unsafe they feel walking past Spearmint Rhino. Many try to avoid walking past it. No-one should feel unsafe in Sheffield and there should be no no-go areas for women.
- Thus, to relicence Spearmint Rhino would have the effect of promoting inequality between the sexes, which is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.
- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

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- Many ex-strippers describe psychological harm experienced as a result of the work. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating minds and feelings from their bodies, in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that the impact of that harm is realised. This is similar to the experiences of women leaving abusive relationships.
- Condoning, by licensing, a club which is set up to profit from the objectification of women gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this. This is not consistent with the Councils Equality duty to foster good relations between men and women.
- Research suggests that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent and to attribute responsibility (Victim blame) to women for violence perpetrated against them. Thus, in licensing Spearmint Rhino the Council may be compromising its own Domestic and Sexual Abuse strategy.
- Many women have advised the Council of feeling unsafe in the vicinity of Spearmint Rhino and avoid walking past it. No woman should feel unsafe anywhere in the city.
- The Council states explicitly that it is committed to reducing the objectification of women. SEV's of this type do not contribute to that aspiration. Spearmint Rhino actively contributes to the normalisation of objectification of women. It actively discriminates against women by promoting negative and limiting gender stereotypes and impacting on women's comfort and freedom in moving round the city. Neither is this consistent with the Councils obligations under the Equality Act 2010.
- Spearmint Rhino is situated in a residential area now undergoing extensive re development. It is increasingly residential, with sites of cultural interest, charities providing support to vulnerable people, education providers and recreational areas in the vicinity. This gives further basis for refusal of the licence on the discretionary grounds available.
- In conclusion Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.
- SIGNED
- PRINT NAME & ADDRESS



Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council, Block C
Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield

Email:licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence 2018 for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip/lap dancing clubs are a form of violence against women, promoting the idea that women's bodies can be bought; treating performers as commodities. This is dehumanising. If the performer really wanted to strip she wouldn't need to be paid to do so.
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Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield

Email:licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

17 MAY 2018

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- SIGNED
PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

[Redacted signature]

IT EXPLOITS
WOMEN!!!

Appendix E

Meeting Invites

Licensing Service
Block C Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield, S9 3HD

Tel: 0114 2734264
E-mail: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk
Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/licensing



Date:

Name
Address
Address
Address
Postcode

IMPORTANT: NOTIFICATION OF A LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING

Sexual Entertainment Venue – Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield

LEGISLATION: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

LICENCE TYPE: Sexual Entertainment Venue (Renewal)

I refer to the above and an application for the renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence.

This matter has been referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee of Sheffield City Council for determination. Full details will be provided in the report to the Committee, which will be sent to you in due course. The Licensing Committee has the authority to decide what action to take in relation to each application.

The hearing in respect of the application will take place on Tuesday 19th June 2018 at 10am in a Committee Room of the Town Hall, Sheffield (Pinstone Street entrance) and you are invited to attend.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the number of interested parties, it is vitally important that you reply to this invite. If you fail to respond to this invite and subsequently attend the hearing, your admission cannot be guaranteed due to health and safety considerations. Entry precedence will be given to individuals who have confirmed their attendance in advance.

I would be grateful if you would confirm that you will be attending the meeting by emailing the Licensing Service at licensing@sheffield.gov.uk or by telephoning 0114 273 4264 before 5pm on Thursday 14th June.

.....
Steve Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing

Licensing Service, Business Strategy and Regulation, Block C,
Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield, S9 3HD

Telephone 0114 273 4264
Email licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Appendix G

Hearing Procedure

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE

This procedure has been drawn up to assist those attending Sexual Entertainment Venue Committee hearings. The hearing can be heard in two parts and may be held on separate dates. Part One will not apply if there are no objectors.

The hearing before the Council is Quasi-Judicial.

PART ONE

1. The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will introduce the Sub-Committee and ask officers to introduce themselves.
2. The Chair will ask the objectors (or nominated speaker(s) on behalf of the objectors) to formally introduce themselves.
3. The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee will outline the procedure to be followed in the hearing.
4. Hearing Procedure:-
 - (a) The Licensing Officer will introduce the report.
 - (b) Questions concerning the report can be asked by Members.
 - (c) The Licensing Officer will introduce in turn the objectors (or nominated speakers) who will then be asked to detail the relevant representations. New representations must not be raised.
 - (d) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will invite members of the Sub-Committee to put any relevant questions to the objectors.
 - (e) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will close Part One of the hearing.

PART TWO

1. The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will introduce the Sub-Committee and ask officers to introduce themselves.
2. The Chair will ask the applicants to formally introduce themselves.
3. The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee will outline the procedure to be followed in the hearing.
4. Hearing Procedure:-
 - (a) The Licensing officer will introduce the report.
 - (b) Questions concerning the report can be asked both by Members and the applicant.

- (c) The applicant/licensee (or his/her nominated representative) will then be asked to:-
 - i) Present their case to the Sub-Committee and respond to any objections made;
 - ii) Call on any witnesses in support of their application;
- (d) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will invite Members of the Sub-Committee to put any relevant questions to the applicant/licensee (or his/her nominated representative) and/or any witnesses who speak.
- (e) The applicant and objectors (if any) will be invited to make a closing submission, highlighting salient points and deal with any issues raised by the other party in evidence that has not already been dealt with in the primary presentation of the case.
- (f) The Licensing Officer will then detail the options.
- (g) There will then be a private session for Members to take legal advice and consider the application.

- 5. The decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee will be conveyed in writing following the hearing, to the applicant/licensee (or his/her representative).
- 6. Objectors will receive a copy of the written notification of the Sub-Committee's decision sent to the applicant, if they have advised the Licensing Authority that they wish to do so. The decision will also be made available on the Council's website.

NB: At any time in the Licensing Process, Members of the Sub-Committee may request legal advice from the Solicitor to the Sub-Committee. This advice may be given in open session or in private.

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Appendix H

Sex Establishment Policy

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Sex Establishment Policy

Incorporating Sexual Entertainment Venues, Sex Shops and Sex Cinemas

Approved by Licensing Committee: 23rd November 2017

Policy comes into effect: 1st January 2018

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Part 1 – INTRODUCTION

Licensed sex establishments in Sheffield contribute to the recreation, entertainment and night-time economy and provide an additional appeal to residents, tourists, visitors and the students that attend the two universities.

To promote a vibrant city the Licensing Authority regulates the scale, diversity and concentration of all licensed entertainment in an open, fair and legal manner.

This policy provides Sheffield City Council's approach to the regulation and licensing of sex establishments which incorporates sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas, as set out in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1982 as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009, within the City of Sheffield.

The policy provides a framework to assist applicants and decision makers in making and considering applications and ensuring all relevant factors are given proper attention.

Part 2 – OVERVIEW

The Sheffield City Council Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") sets out the City Council's approach to the regulation of all types of sex establishment and the procedure relating to applications for sex establishment licences.

The sex establishments this policy applies to are:

- sexual entertainment venues
- sex cinemas
- sex shops

The aim of this policy is to provide guidance for prospective applicants, existing licence holders, those who may wish to object to an application, South Yorkshire Police and members of the Licensing Committee when determining an application.

This policy will be kept under review and revised where necessary.

Each application will be dealt with on its own merits on a case-by-case basis.

Consideration will be given to the Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Home Office Guidance for England and Wales on Sexual Entertainment Venues (March 2010).

The City Council does not take a moral stance in adopting this policy. The Council recognises that Parliament has made it lawful to operate sex establishments and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries. It is the City Council's role as the Licensing Authority to regulate such premises in accordance with the law.

The City Council is committed to applying the law and policy to promote:

- High management standards at licensed sex establishments;
- Public Safety of staff, performers and patrons at sex establishments;
- Safeguarding of staff, performers and patrons at sex establishments; and
- Safeguarding vulnerable persons in the locality of sex establishments.

Part 3 – CONSULTATION ON THIS POLICY

The Council has consulted with stakeholders on the content of this policy. These stakeholders have included:

- All current sex establishment licence holders
- Current staff and performers
- Elected Members of Sheffield City Council
- The local Member of Parliament
- South Yorkshire Police
- Environmental Protection Service
- South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board
- Sheffield Safeguarding Adults Board
- Health Protection
- Director of Business Strategy and Regulation
- Trading Standards
- Planning
- The Executive Director – Place
- Other Local Authorities in South Yorkshire
- Religious Establishments
- Sheffield Schools
- Objectors to previous sex establishment licence applications or renewals
- Equality Groups

The Council conducted a number of **pre-consultation workshops** between the 21 November 2016 and 28 November 2016.

Invitations to the pre-consultation workshops were sent to Sheffield City Council Elected Members, the members of the Licensing Committee, existing sex establishment licence holders, religious establishments, schools and equality groups. A total of 768 invitations were sent out by post and e-mail, and the workshops were attended by:

- Current licence holders
- Elected Members
- Representatives of Schools
- Representatives of Religious Groups
- Representatives of Equality Groups
- Groups/Individuals that have previously objected to sex establishment licence applications.

The **First Stage** of the consultation process was conducted over a seven week period from the 19 December 2016 to the 3 February 2017 where comments were invited via email and post to Sheffield City Council's Consultation Hub – Citizen Space. Letters and emails were sent and interested parties were invited to submit comments via email, in writing and on the City Councils online consultation hub, "Citizen Space".

82 responses were received; respondents included South Yorkshire Police, local businesses, Elected Members, a Member of Parliament, equality groups, religious groups and local residents.

The **Second Stage** of the consultation process was undertaken over a four week period from the 3 March 2017 to the 31 March 2017 where comments were invited via email and post to Sheffield City Council's Consultation Hub – Citizen Space. Letters and emails were sent and interested parties were invited to submit comments via email, in writing and on the City Councils online consultation hub, "Citizen Space".

47 responses were received; respondents included religious groups, current licence holders, equality groups, and a Member of Parliament.

The consultation highlighted a number of local concerns, in particular:

- The suitability of applicants for sex establishment licences;
- Public safety of staff, performers and patrons at sex establishments;
- The safeguarding of staff, performers and patrons at sex establishments;
- The safeguarding of vulnerable persons in the locality of sex establishments; and
- The Public Sector Equality Duty.

The City Council has had regard to the views of staff and performers of existing sexual entertainment venues.

There have been no upheld complaints with any of the existing premises in the time they have been licensed nor have any issues been identified by the Sheffield Safeguarding Board and South Yorkshire Police.

Part 4 – DEFINITIONS

“the Act”

refers to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

“the Council”

means Sheffield City Council.

“the Policy”

refers to the Sheffield City Council Sex Establishment Policy.

“sex establishment”

the collective term for sex shops, sex cinemas and sexual entertainment venues.

“relevant locality”

means the locality in which the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall are situated. For the purposes of this policy, each application will be determined on a case-by-case basis. In individual cases, if it is necessary to decide the precise boundaries of the relevant locality, this will be done on the facts of the individual case.

“character of the relevant locality”

means the character or characteristics of the locality in which the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall are situated. In determining the character of the area, the Council will consider what the primary use premises in the locality are put to, any additional uses of premises in that locality, and any purposes that may require persons to use that locality, for example transport hubs, cultural hubs, etc.

“the premises”

means the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall that are the subject of the sex establishment licence or of the application for a sex establishment licence.

“sex cinema”

means any premises, vehicle, vessel or stall used to a significant degree for the exhibition of moving pictures related to, or intended to stimulate or encourage, sexual activity, acts of force or restraint associated with sexual activity, or concerned primarily with the portrayal of or primarily deal with, or relate to, genital organs or excretory or urinary functions, but does not include a dwelling house to which the public is not admitted.

“sex shop”

means any premises, vehicle, vessel or stall used for a business consisting to a significant degree of selling, hiring, exchanging, lending, displaying or demonstrating:

- (a) sex articles; or
- (b) other things intended for use in connection with, or for the purpose of stimulating or encouraging—
 - i. sexual activity; or
 - ii. acts of force or restraint which are associated with sexual activity.

“sex articles”

include written or visual material such as sex magazines or books, or visual or audio recordings concerned with the portrayal of, or primarily deal with or relate to, or are intended to stimulate or encourage, sexual activity or acts of force and restraint associated with sexual activity, or which are concerned primarily with the portrayal of, or primarily deal with or relate to, genital organs or urinary or excretory functions.

“sexual entertainment venue”

means any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer.

“relevant entertainment”

means any live performance or live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of an audience (whether by verbal or other means). An audience can consist of just one person (e.g. where the entertainment takes place in private booths). This definition would apply to the following forms of entertainment [as they are commonly known]: lap dancing; pole dancing; table dancing; strip shows; peep

shows and live sex shows. This list is not exhaustive and should only be treated as indicative. The decision to licence premises as sexual entertainment venues shall depend on the content of the relevant entertainment and not the name given to it. An applicant will be expected to set out the exact nature, extent and scope of the relevant entertainment.

“display of nudity”

means, in the case of a woman, exposure of her nipples, pubic area, genitals or anus; and in the case of a man, exposure of his pubic area, genitals or anus.

“the organiser”

means any person involved in the organisation or management of relevant entertainment.

“significant degree”

in the context of sex shops, shall be considered by the Council on a case-by-case basis. In considering significant degree, the Council will consider, amongst other things:

- the amount of shelf space devoted to relevant articles
- the annual turnover in relation to relevant articles and other things
- the way the business is marketed and advertised and
- the primary intention of the majority of customers in visiting the shop.

“permitted hours”

are the hours of activity and operation that have been authorised by the Council under the sex establishment licence.

Part 5 – INTEGRATION WITH OTHER STATUTES

There are a number of statutory provisions which apply to every action the Council takes as a public authority. These include, but are not limited to:

- the Equality Act 2010;
- the Human Rights Act 1998;
- the Provision of Services Regulations 2009; and
- the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

Equality Act 2010

This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments.

A detailed Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken and kept under review throughout the drafting of this policy and then finalised on publication of the policy. Further EIA's will be conducted where necessary.

It is not considered likely that the equalities obligations are at risk as there is no perceivable risk of unequal access to the services between different equality groups, save for those under 18.

Licensing Committee members have undertaken equality and diversity training and will be reviewing their learning on a regular basis to ensure their knowledge and understanding of all matters concerning equality and diversity are at the highest standard to allow them to make decisions.

This policy includes a clear and unequivocal commitment to meeting the PSED in the exercise of all of the functions under the Act. The policy and the documentation flowing from it are intended to be a key means of

facilitating compliance with all of the Council's obligations. Great care has been taken in developing a policy that is fit for purpose in this regard but it is only when it is tested in action that it will be possible to evaluate its effectiveness. This assessment will be kept under regular review, particularly in the early period of implementation, so that any shortcomings identified in the document itself and/or the way it has been implemented can be addressed.

Human Rights Act 1998

Incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights and makes it unlawful for a Local Authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a convention right. The Council will have particular regards to the following relevant provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights:-

- Article 1 of the first protocol: Everyone is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his or her possessions. It should be noted that the Courts have held that a licence is a person's possession;
- Article 6, in relation to the determination of civil rights and obligations: Everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time, by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law;
- Article 8: Everyone has the right to respect for one's home and private life, including, for example, the right to a "good night's sleep".
- Article 10: Freedom of expression.

Provision of Services Regulations 2009

These Regulations require that applications are processed as quickly as possible and, in any event, within a reasonable period. The Regulations also specify that in the event of failure to process the application within the period or as extended in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, the authorisation is deemed to be granted (tacit approval) by the Council, unless different arrangements are in place.

The Council considers that it would not be in the public interest, for reasons of public safety, for tacit approval to apply with regards to applications for sex establishments.

The Regulations also state that any charges (fees) provided for by a competent authority, which applicants may incur under an authorisation scheme, must be reasonable and proportionate to the cost of the procedures and formalities under the scheme, and must not exceed the cost of these procedures and formalities.

The Regulations suggest that all fees within the scope of the Directive be separable in two parts.

Firstly, the pre-application costs; mainly the administrative costs incurred when dealing with the application from when it is first received up until it being determined (issued/refused).

Secondly, the on-going costs; monitoring and enforcing the terms and conditions of that licence. This is to show clearly which part of the fee is repayable should an application (applicant) be unsuccessful.

Crime & Disorder Act 1998

Under this Act, Local Authorities must have regard to the likely effect of the exercise of their functions, and do all that they can to prevent crime & disorder in their area. This policy will have regard to the likely impact that the granting of licences may have on related crime & disorder in the city.

Part 6 – THE PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR A LICENCE

Making an Application

The Act provides a maximum licence period of one year. The Authority may grant a shorter licence if it sees fit. A shorter period may be granted for example, where a licensee wants a licence for a limited period for a trade exhibition or a show.

An application for the **grant, variation, renewal or transfer** of a licence must be made in writing to the Licensing Authority together with the application fee in accordance with the requirements set out below.

There are three separate notice requirements:

[1] The applicant must, within seven days after the date of the application, publish an advertisement in a local newspaper circulating in the local authority's area. A suggested form of advertisement is available on request from the Licensing Section.

[2] Where the application is in respect of a premises, the applicant must display a notice of the application on or near the premises where it can be conveniently read by the public. The notice must be displayed for 21 days starting with the date of application. Again a suggested form of notice is available on request.

[3] The applicant must send a copy of the application to the Chief Officer of Police no later than seven days after the date of the application. Where the application is made electronically it is for the local authority itself to send the copy within seven days of receipt of the application.

The application form can be used for grant, variation, transfer and renewal applications. Applicants must provide their name, address, age (where the applicant is an individual), the premises address and the proposed licensed name of the premises.

Applicants must, at the time of submission of a new grant, renewal or variation application, provide:

- a scheme showing the exterior design for consideration by the Licensing Authority before the premises are opened for business in order to ensure that exterior design of the premises.
- details as to the exact nature, extent and scope of the business for consideration by the Licensing Authority.
- a plan showing the interior layout of the premises and where relevant entertainment will take place for consideration by the Licensing Authority (SEV's only).
- a copy of the codes of practice for performers, the rules for customers and the policy of welfare for performers (SEV's only). Such documents will form part of the licence (if granted) and may be subject to amendment by the Licensing Authority prior to approval.

Officers of the Licensing Authority may, as part of the application process, visit the relevant locality of the premises to establish whether there are any characteristics of the locality which may require consideration by the Licensing Committee.

Objecting to Applications

The Act permits a wide range of persons to raise objections about the **grant, renewal, variation or transfer** of a licence. Objectors can include residents, resident associations, trade associations, businesses, Councillors or local MPs. South Yorkshire Police are a statutory consultee for all applications.

Objections must be made in writing (email is acceptable) no later than 28 days after the date of the application to the Licensing Authority and should include the following:

- the name and address of the person or organisation making the objection;
- the premises to which the objection relates;
- the proximity of the premises to the person making the objection, a sketch map or plan may be helpful to show this.

Objectors should limit their objection to matters which are relevant to the statutory grounds for refusal as set out in the Act. The relevant grounds of objection are:

- That the applicant is unsuitable to hold a licence;
- That the licence, if granted, would be carried on for the benefit of person/s who would be refused a licence if they had applied themselves;
- That the layout, character or condition of the premises are inappropriate for the proposed establishment;
- That the use of the premises as a sex establishment would be inappropriate due to the use of premises in the vicinity;
- That the use of the premises as a sex establishment would be inappropriate due to the character of the relevant locality; and / or
- That the number of sex establishments or sex establishments of a particular type is inappropriate in the relevant locality.

Any objections received by the Licensing Authority which do not relate to the grounds set out in the Act will be rejected by the Licensing Authority.

Objections will be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee determining the application. The applicant will be informed of any objections received in respect of their application and the objection(s) will become public documents. (However, objector's personal details such as name, address and telephone number will be removed.)

A copy of the hearing procedure will be sent to the applicant and any objectors prior to the hearing.

Determination of Applications

All applications for the grant of a sex establishment licence will be determined by the Licensing Committee or Sub-Committee.

Valid objections to any application will be considered by the Licensing Committee or delegated to a Licensing Sub Committee at the hearing to consider the application. Applicants and objectors will be given an equal opportunity to state their case in accordance with the Licensing Committee's procedure for hearings, which is available from the Licensing Service.

The Act provides five mandatory grounds and four discretionary grounds for refusal of a licence. Each application will be decided upon its own merits and the Licensing Authority will give clear reasons for its decisions. Any decision to refuse a licence MUST be relevant to one or more of the following grounds:

MANDATORY GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL

Specific mandatory grounds for refusal of a licence are set out in paragraph 12(1)(a to e) of Schedule 3 in the 1982 Act. A licence cannot be granted:

- (a) to any person under the age of 18 years;
- (b) to any person who is for the time being disqualified due to the person having had a previous licence revoked in the area of the appropriate authority within the last 12 months;
- (c) to any person, other than a body corporate, who is not resident in an EEA State or was not so resident throughout the period of six months immediately preceding the date when the application was made; or
- (d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA State; or
- (e) to any person who has, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding that date when the application was made, been refused that grant or renewal of a licence for the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made, unless the refusal has been reversed on appeal.

DISCRETIONARY GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL

The only discretionary grounds upon which the Council may refuse an application for the grant or renewal of a licence on one or more of the grounds specified in Schedule 3 paragraph 12(3) are that:

- (a) the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reasons;
- (b) if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he/she made the application himself/herself;
- (c) the number of sex establishments, or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for the locality;
- (d) the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard:
 - (i) to the character of the relevant locality; or
 - (ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - (iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

Appeals

There is a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court against decisions for the refusal to grant, renew, vary or transfer of a licence, the imposition of conditions and revocations may also be appealed.

Appeals must be made to the Magistrates Court within 21 days, starting from the date the applicant is notified of the Licensing Authority's decision.

It is important to note that appeals only lie against the mandatory refusals on the basis that the mandatory ground does not apply to the applicant/licence holder. Further, no appeal lies against the Licensing Authority's decision made on the discretionary grounds namely:

- that it is inappropriate to grant or renew a licence on the grounds of the character of the locality or the number of premises in it; or
- the use of premises in the vicinity or the layout, character or condition of the premises.

The only discretionary grounds against which an appeal lies are those relating to the suitability of the applicant, the manager and/or the beneficiary of the operation

There is no right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court for the police or objectors.

Part 7 - POLICY

Discretionary Grounds a & b: SUITABILITY OF THE APPLICANT, MANAGER & BENEFICIARY

The Licensing Authority needs to be satisfied of the suitability of the following persons relevant to the application:

- (a) the applicant;
- (b) each of the partners (if a partnership);
- (c) each of the directors, secretary or other persons (if applicant is a company);
- (d) each of the managers;
- (e) each person the business will benefit. This includes third parties such as funders and suppliers where the arrangements are not on normal arm's length commercial terms or any persons who may share in the profits.

The provision of a management structure as part of the application will assist the Authority in determining suitability.

In order for the Licensing Authority to be satisfied that the relevant individuals are suitable to operate a sex establishment, a "Disclosure Scotland" certificate that is dated no earlier than 5 weeks prior to the application being submitted should accompany the application.

Where the relevant individuals have convictions for;

- (a) dishonesty;
- (b) violence;
- (c) sexual offences;
- (d) drugs;
- (e) public order; or
- (f) people trafficking;

it is unlikely that a licence will be granted.

Further,

- if the applicant has previously been involved in running an unlicensed sex establishment; or
- if the licence were to be granted, the business to which it relates would be managed by or run for the benefit of a person other than the applicant who would be refused the grant of such a licence if they made it themselves;

the application will likely be refused.

The Licensing Authority needs to be satisfied that those applying for a licence for a sex establishment (individuals detailed above) are suitable to operate the business by ensuring:

- (a) that the operator is honest;
- (b) that the operator is qualified by experience to run the type of establishment in question;
- (c) that the operator fully understands the licence conditions;
- (d) that the operator is proposing a management structure which will deliver compliance with licence conditions;
 - i. managerial competence;
 - ii. attendance at the premises;
 - iii. a credible management structure;
 - iv. enforcement of business rules (internal) through training and monitoring;
 - v. a viable business plan (e.g. sufficient to employ door staff and install CCTV (SEV only)); and
 - vi. existing policies in place for the welfare of staff, performers and patrons (SEV only)
- (e) that the operator will act in the best interests of the staff and performers, in how they are remunerated, the facilities they enjoy, how they are protected and how and by whom their physical and psychological welfare is monitored (SEV only).

It is anticipated that the above expectations will be demonstrated by the operator through their completed application form, accompanying documentation, and disclosure certificates as part of the application process.

Discretionary Ground c) NUMBER OF SEX ESTABLISHMENTS

The Act allows local authorities to impose numerical control on the number of sex establishments within a particular location. This can be to the number overall and the number of each kind and allows that the appropriate number may be nil.

This Policy does not specify any limit on sex establishments.

Each application must in any event be considered on its merits at the time the application is determined by the local authority.

Discretionary Ground d) LOCATION

The Act permits applications to be refused:

- i. where the grant would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality;
- ii. where the grant would be inappropriate having regard to other premises in the vicinity;
- iii. on the basis of the layout, character or condition of the premises.

i) Character of the relevant locality

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;
- (b) the premises are sited near shops used by or directed to families or children, or on frontages frequently passed by the same;
- (c) the premises are sited near properties which are sensitive for religious purposes e.g. synagogues, churches, mosques, temples;
- (d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;
- (e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.
- (f) the premises are sited near civic buildings.

The Council will consider the extent of the relevant locality on a case by case basis taking into account the particular circumstances of each case. However, the Council will not seek to define locality as the whole of the Council's administrative area or on a ward by ward basis.

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,
- (b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;
- (c) places primarily used for religious worship;
- (d) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;
- (e) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;
- (f) predominately residential areas; and
- (g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

Whether a premises is in close proximity to the above will be a matter of fact in each individual case and cannot be determined by reference to a fixed distance. What constitutes a city landmark, historic building, tourist attraction or cultural area will be determined by the Licensing Authority on a case-by-case basis, after hearing from the parties.

The nature of the premises and the opening hours of the premises will also be considered in relation to the above.

In the case of renewal applications, the fact of whether development has occurred since the premises has been in operation will be considered. Applicants are advised to be aware of new developments occurring in the area of their premises and detail in renewal applications how negative impact on new developments may be mitigated.

Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area.

The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate:

- (a) any cumulative adverse impact of existing sex establishment related activities in the vicinity of the proposed premises;
- (b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;
- (c) whether the premises has met the relevant planning requirements;
- (d) the design of the premises frontage (signage/images etc.);
- (e) any relevant representation to the application; and/or
- (f) the proposed operating hours.

iii) Suitability of the Premises

The Council expects:

- when an application for a licence at a permanent commercial property is made, the applicant will be able to demonstrate that the layout, character and / or condition of the premises is appropriate to the relevant entertainment proposed at the premises.
- when an application for a licence at a permanent commercial property is made, that property should have the appropriate planning and building regulation consents.
- the applicant to consider and detail in any application, the visible and physical impact of the premises including any external signage, advertising or displays.

CONDITIONS

The Licensing Authority recognises that all applications should be considered on an individual basis and any condition attached to a licence should be necessary, proportionate and tailored to the individual premises.

The Licensing Authority is permitted under The Act to make regulations prescribing standard conditions.

The standard conditions that may be attached on an individual basis to a sex establishment licence are available from the Licensing Service.

The Licensing Authority reserves the right to grant and/or renew a licence on such terms and conditions, and subject to such restrictions as may be so specified in each individual case/application.

Any applicant not wishing to be bound by the standard conditions will need to state so in the application and provide justification as to why they should not apply.

REPRESENTATIONS

The Act allows any person to submit representations to the application of a sex establishment licence.

WAIVERS

Schedule 3 of The Act makes provision for the Council to grant a waiver from the requirement to hold a sex establishment licence in any case where it considers that to require a licence would be unreasonable or inappropriate.

A waiver may be for such a period as the Council thinks fit.

Each application will be considered on its own merits by the Licensing Committee.

In light of the exemption in relation to the provision of relevant entertainment on an infrequent basis, the Council takes the view that waivers are unlikely to arise in relation to relevant entertainment and would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Part 8 – SAFEGUARDING AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Safeguarding

The licence holder will ensure that all members of management and staff attend training regarding safeguarding children, vulnerable adults and licensing.

This training is provided in partnership by the Sheffield Safeguarding Board and Adult Safeguarding Partnership with the Licensing Authority. Such training is designed to support management and staff to recognise vulnerability and take appropriate safeguarding actions. This will include training to implement an age verification scheme and how to recognise and respond to vulnerable adults, as employees or customers. The training will also include a session regarding licensing law, conditions and expectations.

An appropriate member of the premises management must be assigned to act as the Safeguarding Coordinator. This person should act in accordance with the guidance and training provided by the local safeguarding children/adults boards.

Public Health

Holders of sex establishment licences must display and make available, without charge, literature on matters relating to sexual health the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, and information about local health services as may be supplied to them by relevant local bodies. This information must be made available to patrons, employees and performers.

Part 9 - ENFORCEMENT

Licensing Service Principles of Enforcement:

- **Open:** The Licensing Authority will provide information in plain language and will be transparent in the activities it undertakes. It will also be clear with customers on how the service operates.
- **Helpful:** The Licensing Authority will work with licensees to advise and assist with compliance. A courteous and efficient service will be provided by all staff, and licensees will have a single point of contact and telephone number for further dealings. Applications will be dealt with promptly and where possible, enforcement services will operate effectively to minimise overlaps and time delays.
- **Proportionate:** The Licensing Authority will minimise the costs of compliance for licensees by ensuring any action taken is proportionate to the risks involved; an account of the circumstances and attitude of licensee will be considered at all times.
- **Consistent:** The Licensing Authority will carry out all duties in a fair, equitable and consistent manner. Licensing officers will exercise judgment in all cases and arrangements will be put in place to promote consistency.

The Licensing Authority will also provide a well-publicised, effective and timely complaints procedure that is easily accessible to licensees and members of the public alike.

Advice given by licensing officers on behalf of the Licensing Authority will be put clearly and simply at all times and confirmed in writing.

The Licensing Authority will also ensure that before action is taken as a result of enforcement or compliance checks, an opportunity to discuss the circumstances will be provided in order to resolve the points of difference. However, in circumstances where immediate action is necessary, such as health and safety or preventing evidence being destroyed, the Licensing Authority will be required to take a more formal approach. An explanation as to why such action was required will be given at the time and confirmed in writing, in most cases within five working days and, in all cases, within 10 working days.

Better Regulation Delivery Office: Regulators' Code 2014

In undertaking enforcement duties, the Licensing Authority will pay particular attention to the Regulators' Code. This sets out the standards that the Licensing Authority should follow when undertaking compliance and enforcement checks. Therefore the Licensing Authority will:

- carry out their activities in a way that supports those they regulate to comply;
- provide simple and straightforward ways to engage with those they regulate and hear their views;
- base their regulatory framework activities on risk;
- share information about compliance and risk;
- ensure clear information, guidance and advice is available to help those they regulate meet their responsibilities to comply; and
- ensure that their approach to their regulatory activities is transparent.

The Licensing Authority will work very closely with South Yorkshire Police and the Planning Service and look to establish task teams to deal with problem premises.

Complaints

The Licensing Authority does understand the difficulty for some residents to follow up issues with particular premises due to concerns for their safety. In these circumstances, residents should contact the Licensing Service, their local Councillor or South Yorkshire Police who may assist them in these matters.

The Licensing Authority and South Yorkshire Police will work closely in order to ensure consistency, transparency and proportionality in their enforcement activities. They will continue to investigate complaints and conduct proactive enforcement exercises to ensure that licences and the conditions attached to the authorisations are complied with and that unlicensed activity is dealt with as appropriate to ensure the highest standards of licensees and premises in the city of Sheffield.

The Licensing Authority will investigate general complaints regarding premises. This will allow us to give an early warning to licence holders of any concerns identified at their premises and the need for improvement.

They may call on other relevant authorities to assist in the investigation of complaints or in formulating action plans for improvement.

Data Sharing

Subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, the Licensing Authority and police will share information about licensees, licensed premises and activities associated with them. Further open access to data will be given to those police officers and Licensing Authority officers discharging their functions under this Act.

Part 10 - PARALLEL CONSENT SCHEMES

The Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act)

If a sex establishment wishes to also carry on other licensable activities under the 2003 Act, i.e. the sale of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment or the provision of late night refreshment, they will also require a premises licence, club premises certificate or temporary events notice.

In practice, most sexual entertainment venues will require both a sexual entertainment venue licence for the provision of relevant entertainment and a premises licence for the sale of alcohol or provision of regulated entertainment.

Applicants and interested parties are advised to read Sheffield City Council's current Statement of Licensing Policy in conjunction with this policy.

Planning and Building Regulation Control

Applicants must ensure that they have the appropriate planning permission in place to operate their business.

The Council's licensing functions will be discharged separately from its functions as the "Local Planning Authority". However, the Licensing Authority recognises the need for the two services to work in partnership.

Therefore, the Licensing Authority requires that applicants for a premises licence and/or variations under this legislation to have already obtained any necessary planning consent. This helps to avoid unnecessary confusion within the local community.

Applicants should also be aware that Building Regulations may apply where the proposal involves building work or where the use of the building is changed. You are advised to contact Building Control for further guidance.

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