

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

**Licensing Sub-Committee**

**Meeting held 6 December 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillors John Robson (Chair), Nikki Sharpe, Clive Skelton and Philip Wood

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 No apologies for absence were received.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**4. LICENSING ACT 2003 - PARADISE, EFFINGHAM STREET, SHEFFIELD, S4 7YP**

4.1 The Chief Licensing Officer submitted a report to consider an application for a Premises Licence made under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003, in respect of the premises known as Paradise, Effingham Street, Sheffield, S4 7YP.

4.2 Present at the meeting were Julie Hague (Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board, Objector), Marie-Claire Frankie (Solicitor to the Sub-Committee), Andy Ruston (Licensing Officer) and John Turner (Democratic Services). The applicant did not attend the meeting and as it was his second opportunity to attend a hearing, the application was considered in his absence.

4.3 The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee outlined the procedure which would be followed during the hearing.

4.4 Andy Ruston presented the report to the Sub-Committee and it was noted that representations had been received from the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board, and were attached at Appendix 'B' to the report.

4.5 Julie Hague stated that the Board had made a representation in response to the application on the basis that the measures offered in parts (b) and (e) of the operating schedule did not specify suitable or stringent systems for the protection of children from harm. The Board considered that the style and character of the premises was that of an adult venue, providing entertainment of a sexual nature, and was concerned that without more stringent safeguarding systems, children and young people may be able to access the premises as customers or to work there. Ms Hague referred specifically to the lack of a recognised proof of age scheme,

signage, staff training, employment records or identity verification procedures, all of which had been accepted by other local operators providing adult entertainment venues in the City, and which were routinely complied with in Sheffield. The main issue of contention appeared to relate to the requirement for workers at the premises to provide a National Insurance number, which was required to reduce the risk of people using a false identification and was a necessary measure to allow the age and identity of a person to be checked.

- 4.6 **RESOLVED:** That the public and press and attendees involved in the hearing be excluded from the meeting before further discussion takes place on the grounds that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, if those persons were present, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as described in Paragraph 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.
- 4.7 The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee reported orally, giving legal advice on various aspects of the application.
- 4.8 At this stage in the proceedings, the meeting was re-opened to the public and press and attendees.
- 4.9 **RESOLVED:** That the Sub-Committee agrees to grant a Premises Licence in respect of Paradise, Effingham Street, Sheffield, S4 7YP, subject to the amended application, operating schedule, agreed conditions and to the additional conditions now made as follows:-
- (a) at the point of entry to the premises a Challenge 25 proof of age scheme must be operated, and which must include refusals records, signage and staff training records;
  - (b) all employees, volunteers and entertainers must be aged 18 years or over and, a record of each employees' name, address, National Insurance number, photograph and date of birth will be retained and these details must be checked and verified by the Premises Manager or Premises Licence Holder against other recognised forms of identity, such as a passport or photo-driving licence; these records must be retained at the premises for a minimum of 12 months from the date of employment and made available to officers of responsible authorities on request;
  - (c) signage must be displayed externally, at points of entry, indicating that persons under the age of 18 are prohibited and that a Challenge 25 scheme operates; and
  - (d) persons re-entering the premises must be subject to the same security and identity checks as customers first entering the premises at any given period of trade.

(The full reasons for the Sub-Committee's decision and the operating conditions will be included in the written Notice of Determination.)