

Report to:	Licensing Panel
Decision or Item number	4
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davies, Principal Solicitor Licensing
Date of Meeting :	29 th July 2014

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE- CENTRAL NEWS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider an application for a premises licence from Central News and the relevant representations from members of the public.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Members will be requested to determine the application.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Once an objection has been received the application and any relevant representation must be considered by the Licensing Panel.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None, the application and the representations must be considered.

4.0 Background Information

4.1 On 2nd June 2014, the licensing service received an application for a new premises licence at 41-43 Central Drive Blackpool. The application requests permission to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises 07.00 - 00.00 hours daily. A copy of the application is attached.

4.2 The applicant is Ismail Ezzat.

4.3 Representations have been received from the public.

4.4 National Guidance

Section 9. Determining applications is relevant.

9.33 As a matter of practice, licensing authorities should seek to focus the hearing on the steps considered appropriate to promote the particular licensing objective or objectives that have given rise to the specific representation and avoid straying into undisputed areas.

9.34 In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the licensing authority must give appropriate weight to:

1. The steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives
2. The representations presented by all the parties
3. This guidance
4. Its own statement of licensing policy

4.5 Local Guidance

The section on cumulative impact is relevant. This premises is situated within one of the four wards covered by the off-licence saturation area. This means that the starting point is that the panel should refuse the application unless they are satisfied that the application will not add to the existing cumulative impact being experienced.

The policy goes on to state that applicants for licences within the off-licence saturation area will be expected to cover the issues detailed below in their operating schedule. Failure to do so may result in the refusal of the application:

1. Details of the proof of age scheme to be implemented and proposals for staff training
2. Percentage of premises to be used for the sale of alcohol, including details of other items to be sold
3. The applicant's policy on the sale of low value/high alcohol products and any drinks discounting that would be adopted.

- 4.6 In reaching its decision the panel should take into account the fact that Mr Ezzat already holds a licence to sell alcohol at 41 Central Drive. The application has been made because he has bought the neighbouring premises and is wishing to extend the floorspace of the shop. The reality of the situation therefore is that there will not be an additional licensed premises in the area if this licence is granted.

The panel should however be aware that the new application is requesting longer hours for the sale of alcohol. Currently the licence for 41 Central Drive permits the sale of alcohol 08.00 - 23.00 weekdays and 10.00 - 22.30 on Sundays. the new application seeks permission for alcohol sales to take place 07.00 - 00.00 daily, a significant increase in hours. The panel should only consider granting a licence for these extended hours, if Mr Ezzat can satisfy them that the additional hours will not bring about an increase in the problems already being experienced in the area.

The Police have agreed the following conditions with the applicant which will be added to the licence if it is granted:

1. An authorisation, signed and dated by the Designated Premises Supervisor, shall be kept at the premises showing all persons authorised by them to make sales of alcohol at the premises. All staff involved in sales will be at least 18 years of age and will receive training to promote the licensing objectives. All training to be documented and records made available on request to a Police Officer or any authorised officer.

2. All staff shall have received suitable training in relation to the proof of age scheme to be applied upon the premises. Records to evidence this shall be made available to an authorised officer upon request. Refresher training will take place at 3-6 monthly intervals. The training will be documented and made available to the authorities on request.

3. There will be a "Challenge 25" scheme in operation at the premises, requiring any individual who appears to be under the age of 25 to provide identification to prove that they are over the age of eighteen. In the event that the individual is unable to provide said identification, then the sale of alcohol will be refused. The only forms of identification which we be accepted as proof of age are:

- a valid UK Passport;
- a valid UK photocard driving licence;
- A PASS card; and / or,
- any other nationally or locally approved form of identification which may be introduced in the future

4. CCTV will be installed internally and externally at the premises and will comply with the following:

- a) The CCTV system shall be installed, maintained and operated to the reasonable satisfaction of Lancashire Constabulary.
- b) The system will incorporate a camera covering each of the entrance doors and will be capable of providing an image which is regarded as identification standard.
- c) The system will display on any recording the correct time and date of the recording.
- d) The system will make recordings during all hours the premises are open to the public.
- e) VCR tapes or digital recording shall be held for a minimum of 31 days and 28 days respectively after the recording is made and will be made available to the Police or any authorised persons acting for Responsible Authority for inspection upon request.
- f) The system will, as a minimum, record images of the head and shoulders of all persons entering the premises.

5. A staff member who is conversant with the operation of the CCTV system will be on the premises at all times the premises are open to the public. This staff member will be able to show recent data or footage with the absolute minimum of delay when requested to by a Police Officer

6. Appropriate signage alerting customers to CCTV recording shall be displayed in conspicuous positions on the premises.

7. Signage will be displayed at the exit of the premises requesting to remind customers that drinking on the street is prohibited.

8. All refusals of sales of alcohol will be recorded and such record will be available for inspection by a Police Officer or authorised person on request.

4.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? Yes

4.4 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 4a Application for premises licence

Appendix 4b Representations from Members of the Public

5.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 Please see national policy in the background information.

7.0 **Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None