

**HEARINGS PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES**

1. Any hearing required under the legislation is to take the form of a discussion led by the Council. Hearings will be held in public unless the Members of the hearing consider that the public interest in excluding the public outweighs the public interest in the hearing or that part of it, taking place in public. For these purposes, a party to the hearing and any person assisting or representing a party may be treated as a member of the public.
2. The Chairman will introduce the Members and participants and explain the procedure to be followed.
3. The Chairman will advise all parties that they must make their submissions succinctly, and that all parties will be afforded the same time which should generally not exceed 10 minutes.
3. If any party has advised the Council they do not intend to attend or be represented at the hearing, the hearing may proceed in their absence.
4. If any party has not indicated they do not intend to attend or be represented at the hearing, the Sub-Committee may:
  - where it considers it necessary in the public interest, adjourn the hearing to a specified date(s); or
  - hold the hearing in that party's absence.
5. Where a hearing is held in the absence of a party, any representations or notice made by that party shall be considered at the hearing.
6. Where a hearing is adjourned to a specified date(s), all parties will be notified forthwith of the date(s), time and place to which the hearing has been adjourned.
7. The Licensing Officer will appear first and will give:
  - a summary of the application/case
  - a summary of the representations made
  - a summary of how the application/case and any relevant representations relate to the provision of the Licensing Policy Statement, any guidance from the Secretary of State and the relevant legislation.

*[In the case of enforcement/compliance hearings:*

- 7a. If a complainant is present, they will be asked to give details of their complaint. This procedure will be repeated if there is more than one complainant.*
- 7b. The licence holder or their representative will be asked to present their case.*

- 7c. *Members, and Legal Officer will be able to ask questions of the licence holder.*
- 7d. *Licence holder or their representative will be asked to provide their closing statement.]*

*[In the case of Licensing Act and Gambling Act review hearings:*

- 8a. *The review applicant or their representative will be asked to present their case.*
- 8b. *Members, Legal Officer, any other party to the hearing will be able to ask questions of the review applicant.*
- 8c. *Representatives of the Responsible Authorities and/or Statutory Consultees, will appear next to explain their case.*
- 8d. *Members, Legal Officer, any other party to the hearing will be able to ask questions of the Responsible Authorities and/or Statutory Consultees.*
- 8e. *The licence holder or their representative will be asked to present their case.*
- 8f. *Members, Legal Officer, any other party to the hearing will be able to ask questions of the licence holder.*
- 8g. *The licence holder or their representative will be asked to provide their closing statement.]*

*[In the case of all other application hearings:*

- 9a. *The Applicant or their representative will be asked to present their case.*
- 9b. *Members, Legal Officer, any other party to the hearing will be able to ask questions of the applicant.*
- 9c. *Representatives of the Responsible Authorities and/or Statutory Consultees, and non-statutory Consultees (where applicable) will appear next to explain their case.*
- 9d. *Members, Legal Officer, any other party to the hearing will be able to ask questions of the Responsible Authorities and/or Statutory/Non-statutory Consultees.*
- 9e. *The applicant will be asked to provide their closing statement.]*
- 10. *Members will be able to ask questions of any party at any time during the hearing but will at all times bear in mind the need for all parties to be afforded the same time to make their case.*
- 11. *Documentary or other information may be produced for consideration by the hearing by any party attending the hearing either before the hearing, or with the consent of all the other parties, at the hearing.*

12. Information which is not relevant to:
  - the application/case, representation or notice (as applicable);
  - the provision of the licensing objectives or (in relation to a hearing to consider a notice given by a chief officer of police) the crime prevention objective;will be disregarded.
13. For the avoidance of doubt, formal cross-examination will not be allowed at hearings, unless the Members of the hearing consider that it is required for proper consideration by them of any representation, application or notice as the case may require.
14. Should Members during the hearing be of the opinion that a site visit is necessary to enable them to make the decision then the meeting will be adjourned and a site visit carried out in accordance with the Council's Site Visit Guidance.
15. Following the presentations by and questioning of all the parties, the Members of the hearing will generally retire into closed session (either by leaving the room or asking all other parties to do so). The Members will make a decision and record reasons for this.
16. The authority will normally make its determination on the day and announce their decision and the reasons for it at the conclusion of the hearing. However, if stated otherwise by Members before they retire, the decision will be communicated to all parties within 5 working days.
17. The Council shall provide for a record to be taken of the hearing in a permanent and intelligible form and kept for six years from the date of the determination or, where an appeal is brought against the determination of the authority, the disposal of the appeal. The right of appeal is 21 days from the date of notification of the decision.
18. For the avoidance of doubt, any irregularity resulting from any failure to comply with any provision of the Regulations before the authority has made a determination shall not of itself render the proceedings void.
19. In any case of such an irregularity, the authority shall, if it considers that any person may have been prejudiced as a result of the irregularity, take steps as it thinks fit to cure the irregularity before reaching its determination.
20. Clerical mistakes in any document recording a determination of the authority or errors arising in such document from an accidental slip or omission may be corrected by the authority.
21. Any person attending the hearing who in the opinion of the Members hearing the matter is behaving in a disruptive manner may be required to leave the hearing and may:

- be refused permission to return; or
- be permitted to return only on the conditions as may be specified by the Members and the hearing PROVIDED THAT such person may, before the end of the hearing, submit to the hearing in writing any information which they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave.