

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE



Report subject	Hillside Stores 289 Kinson Road Bournemouth BH10 5HE
Meeting date	4 June 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>To consider an application by Dorset Police for the review of the premises licence following a visit by Home Office Immigration Enforcement where they found an illegal worker employed at the premises.</p> <p>Dorset Police no longer have confidence in the premises licence holder to uphold the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Members consider the following options: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Modify the conditions of the licence; and/or b) Exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence; and/or c) Remove the Designated Premises Supervisor; and/or d) Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months; and/or e) Revoke the licence; or f) Leave the licence in its current state. <p>Members are asked to make a decision at the end of the hearing after all relevant parties have been given the opportunity to speak. Members must give full reasons for their decision</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>Where a review application by a responsible authority, or any other person, has been received the scheme of delegation set out in the Council's Constitution states that these applications should be dealt with by the sub-committee.</p> <p>The Licensing Authority may only consider relevant aspects that have been raised in the application.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Kieron Wilson – Housing and Public Protection
Corporate Director	Graham Farrant – Chief Executive
Report Authors	Sarah Rogers – Principal Licensing Officer
Wards	Kinson
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. An application for review of the premises licence, under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, was made by Dorset Police on 16 April 2025. Mr Sujeewan Muralimohan has been both the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor of Hillside Stores since 7 August 2018.
2. Dorset Police have applied for review on the basis that there is evidence that the premises is associated with employing an illegal worker contrary to immigration legislation. A copy of the review application and supporting evidence is attached at Appendix 1.
3. Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE) conducted a visit to the premises on 7 November 2024 following intelligence received by them surrounding allegations of illegal working at the premises.
4. HOIE (on behalf of the Secretary of State) are a responsible authority under the Licensing Act in their own right and have the power of entry into licensed premises if they suspect an offence under any of the Immigration Acts is being committed in connection with the carrying on of a licensable activity. As a responsible authority they may apply for the review of a licence at any time.
5. HOIE emailed a report of their findings to the Licensing Authority on the 9 November 2024 and licensing officers visited the premises on the 19 November 2024. At that time the premises appeared to be compliant, and the premises was operating in accordance with its licence conditions. Officers were concerned about the volume of vapes and smoking paraphernalia being offered for sale and referred to Trading Standards for further investigation if they felt appropriate.
6. The premises have had the benefit of a premises licence since 23 July 2008. A copy of the current premises licence is attached at Appendix 3.
7. On returning to the premises on 17 April 2025 to display the public notice, the “Challenge 25” signage was still seen on display within the premises by the principal licensing officer. Attached at Appendix 5 are photographs taken at the time showing the posters in situ.
8. The premises licence holder advised the principal licensing officer at this time that he had documents about the immigration matter and alleged breaches, and I suggested that he sent them to me and I would include in the report for the Sub-Committee. This bundle has now been provided by the licence holder for members in support of his case and is attached at Appendix 4.

Consultation

9. A copy of the review application was served on all responsible authorities and the licence holder on 17 April 2025.
10. The principal licensing officer attended the premises on 17 April 2025 to display the site notice. One notice was placed on the front door and another on the noticeboard to the left of the front door, so it remained visible when the shutters were closed.
11. Two further notices were placed on the main public noticeboards of the Council offices at Bourne Avenue and St Stephen's Road. A notice was also published on the Council's website.
12. No representations were received in support of the review application from any of the responsible authorities or any other person.

Options Appraisal

13. Before making a decision, Members are asked to consider the following:-
 - The application made by Dorset Police.
 - The submissions made by or on behalf of the premises licence holder.
 - The relevant licensing objective, namely the prevention of crime and disorder.
 - The Licensing Act 2003, Regulations, Guidance and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

Summary of financial implications

14. An appeal may be made against the decision of Members by Dorset Police or the holder of the premises licence to the Magistrates' Court which could have a financial impact on the Council.

Summary of legal implications

15. If Members decide on an option available to them which Dorset Police or the premises licence holder does not agree to, they may appeal to the Magistrates' Court within a period of 21 days beginning with the day that they are notified, in writing, of the decision.

Summary of human resources implications

16. There are no human resources implications.

Summary of sustainability impact

17. There are no sustainability impact implications.

Summary of public health implications

18. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

19. There are no equality implications.

Summary of risk assessment

20. There is no requirement for a risk assessment.

Background papers

BCP Council – Statement of Licensing Policy

[SOLP-2020-2025](#)

Hearing Regulations

[The Licensing Act 2003 \(Hearings\) Regulations 2005](#)

Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (February 2025)

[Revised guidance issued under section 182 of Licensing Act 2003 - GOV.UK](#)

Appendices

1 – Copy Review Application

2 – Location Plan

3 – Copy Current Premises Licence

4 – Copy Licence Holder's Bundle

5 – Principal Licensing Officer Photos