

# LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE



Report subject	<b>Temptation, 1 Yelverton Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1DA</b>
Meeting date	10 September 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	Admiral Bars (Hampshire) Ltd have applied for the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence to permit relevant entertainment at the premises for a further twelve-month period. The Licensing Authority has received one objection.
Recommendations	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>Members are asked to decide whether to:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Grant the application for renewal as made; or</b></li> <li><b>b) Refuse the application for renewal.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee are asked to make a decision at the end of the hearing after all relevant parties have been given the opportunity to speak.</b></p> <p><b>Members must give full reasons for their decision.</b></p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The Council has adopted the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (The 1982 Act), as amended; therefore, subject to limited exceptions and exemptions, or in the absence of a waiver, premises offering relevant entertainment require a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence to operate in the BCP Council area.</p> <p>There is a presumption in the legislation that applications for a licence will be granted unless there is a statutory ground for refusal. Some refusal grounds require the Council to refuse an application (mandatory grounds for refusal) and some grounds enable the Council to refuse an application but do not require the Council to refuse (discretionary grounds for refusal).</p> <p>Any decision to refuse the renewal of the licence must be relevant to one or more of the following grounds:-</p> <p><b><u>Mandatory Grounds of Refusal</u></b></p> <p>A licence shall not be granted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to a person under the age of 18;</li> </ul>

b) to a person who is disqualified by reason of prior revocation of a licence;

c) to a 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 4 July 2011;

d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA state; or

e) to a person who had, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused the 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.

Having considered the information provided through the application process, the licensing officer advises that none of the mandatory grounds for refusal appear to apply in this case.

Members should focus their considerations on whether one or more of the four discretionary grounds for refusal set out in paragraph 12(2)(a) arise in respect of this application.

#### **Discretionary Grounds for Refusal**

##### **Grounds (a) and (b)**

a) that the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason.

b) that 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 made the application himself.

The application process requires applicants to provide comprehensive information about any convictions and a range of other information that may be relevant to consideration of grounds (a) and (b).

Regarding this applicant there is no evidence of convictions deemed to be unspent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, cautions, discrimination cases or pending allegations at the date the application was made that would cast any doubt on the suitability of the applicant to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason.

##### **Ground (c)**

(c) that the number of sex establishments, or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is determined is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality; BCP Council do not currently have a Policy which sets or limits the number of

	<p>sex establishments thought appropriate in the BCP area.</p> <p><u>Ground (d)</u></p> <p>(d) that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard—</p> <p>(i) to the character of the relevant locality; or</p> <p>(ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or</p> <p>(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.</p> <p>BCP Council do not currently have a policy which sets out locations or vicinities which would be considered appropriate or inappropriate for sex establishments. This premises has been operating as a lap dancing club in this town centre location since 2006.</p> <p>Where objections have been received and the concerns have not been resolved through mediation between all parties, the Scheme of Delegation set out in the Council's Constitution states that these applications should be dealt with by the Licensing Sub-Committee.</p>
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Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Kieron Wilson – Housing and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Glyn Barton – Corporate Director for Operations
Report Authors	Sarah Rogers – Principal Licensing Officer
Wards	Bournemouth Central
Classification	For Decision

## Background

1. An application for the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) Licence was made on 11 June 2025 to permit the premises to continue providing relevant entertainment for a further twelve-month period.
2. A copy of the application is attached at Appendix 1.
3. A map showing the location of the premises is attached at Appendix 2.
4. The premises has operated as a lap dancing club since records began in 2005 at transition of the Licensing Act 2003. A copy of the current SEV is attached at Appendix 3.
5. A premises licence, issued under the Licensing Act 2003, is also in force. A copy of the licence summary and approved plans is attached at Appendix 4.
6. A renewal application for the SEV is required to enable the premises to continue to provide what is referred to as “relevant entertainment” in the legislation.
7. 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 sexual stimulating any member of an audience (whether by verbal or other means)”.
8. In the case of a woman “display of nudity” means the display of their nipples, pubic area, genitals or anus and, in the case of a man, it means exposure of their pubic area, genitals or anus.
9. During the last twelve-month period, since the previous renewal of the SEV Licence, two complaints have been received. Both complaints were from the objector regarding an alleged breach of standard condition 4, requiring that the premises should be maintained in good repair and condition.
10. The first was in February 2025 regarding the state of the flags posted outside the premises, some tiles missing from the porch area and plants growing out of the guttering in some areas.
11. The second was in May 2025 regarding cigarette ends littering the pavement outside the premises. The operator was able to respond to the objector directly and explain that bins were provided when the premises were open, however, they had been closed over the period the littering had occurred.

12. BCP Council are accredited by White Ribbon which is a leading charity in England and Wales engaging men and boys to prevent men's violence against woman and girls. White Ribbon promote recognition through grassroot campaigning, going into workplaces, knowledge sharing, supporting the next generation, forging diverse partnerships and campaign decision makers to prioritise prevention.
13. Whilst White Ribbon do not specifically support sex establishment premises, through the accreditation, they recognise the presence of these establishments within Bournemouth. They were provided with evidence that the personal health and safety of woman, working in the sexual entertainment industry, is supported by licensed SEV premises and are made aware of the BCP Unity Promise which is a woman's safety charter initiative. All SEV licences include Codes of Conduct for customers and dancers to further ensure safety.

### **Consultation**

14. Applicants must give notice of the application by publishing an advertisement in the local newspaper together with a notice displayed on the premises for a period of 21 days.
15. In considering the application the Licensing Authority must have regard to any observations submitted to them and any objections of which notice has been sent to them under Schedule 3, paragraph 10(15) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 which provides that any objection must be made in writing within 28 days of the application.
16. Objections must be relevant and should not be based on moral grounds or values.
17. As a result of the consultation one objection has been received against the renewal of the SEV Licence. A copy of the objection is attached at Appendix 5.
18. The application was also consulted with Dorset Police, Environmental Health, Planning, Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and Trading Standards. No objections were received from these consultees.
19. As the renewal application had been submitted before the current licence expired the premises have been permitted to continue to operate under the current terms and conditions until determination of this renewal application.

### **Options Appraisal**

20. Before making a decision, Members are asked to consider the following matters:
  - The submissions made by or on behalf of the applicant.
  - The objection received.
  - Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
  - Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

### **Summary of financial implications**

21. No financial implications have been identified.

### **Summary of legal implications**

22. If the application for renewal is refused the applicant may appeal the decision to the Magistrates' Court, unless the application was refused under grounds (c) or (d) above at "Reasons for Recommendation", in which case the applicant can only challenge refusal by way of judicial review.
23. It should be noted that BCP Council's Sex Establishment Policy was quashed by way of judicial review in February 2022. Essentially the Court were of the view that some consultation responses had been considered by the Council as based purely on moral views and not equality. No decision has yet been taken whether a new policy is to be developed by the Licensing Committee.
24. Local Authorities are not bound to have a Sex Establishment Policy and the non-existence of a policy does not prevent an application being considered on its merits and in accordance with the legislation.

### **Summary of human resources implications**

25. There are no human resource implications.

### **Summary of sustainability impact**

26. There are no sustainability impact implications.

### **Summary of public health implications**

27. There are no public health implications.

### **Summary of equality implications**

28. The Council is under a duty in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the matters set out in relation to equalities when exercising the function of determining this renewal application (Public Sector Equalities Duty). Accordingly, Members must promote equality for persons with the following "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
29. Each Member must therefore have regard to:
  - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited in relevant equalities legislation.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
  - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant characteristic and persons who do not share it.
30. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
  - a) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it.
- c) Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

**Summary of risk assessment**

- 31. There is no requirement for a risk assessment.

## **Background papers**

### **Home Office Guidance**

[Sexual Entertainment Venues - Home Office Guidance.pdf](#)

### **Schedule 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982**

[Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1982](#)

### **Section 27 Policing and Crime Act 2009**

[Policing and Crime Act 2009](#)

## **Appendices**

- 1 – Copy Application
- 2 – Location Plan
- 3 – Copy Current Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence
- 4 – Premises Summary and Layout Plan
- 5 - Objection