

Overview and Scrutiny

Meeting date: 12 January 2026

Member/Co-optee questions

Agenda Item 6 – Enforcement of Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy

1. Question from Harry Booty (co-optee) to Licensing Officers

Under point 5, it says "The team would usually be accompanied by the police licensing officer. However, this position has been vacant since 2024. It is planned to fill this position in the new year, and partnership working will be reinstated." Any analysis on why it's been vacant for over a year? and what degree of confidence is there that this position will be filled now?

Response from Michelle Bignell, Licensing and Public Protection Manager

Apologies – the position has been vacant since April 2025. This position has now been filled and the replacement, PC Lee Walter commenced in the position on 7/1/26

2. Question from Harry Booty (co-optee) to Licensing Officers

General - could officers give an assessment of the working relationship with Gloucestershire Police/ any other important stakeholders?

Response from Michelle Bignell, Licensing and Public Protection Manager

Very good working relationship with the operators. Attend nightsafe meetings, permit member visits and cooperative during inspections. Working relationship with Gloucestershire police has been better when the previous PALO (police alcohol licensing officer) was in post. It has been difficult without this support to obtain competent support, but neighbourhood inspector does try to provide assistance. We did receive support from Special Constables for November races due to the licensing team reaching out to them for support.

3. Question from Harry Booty (co-opted) to Licensing Officers

Where are the unlicensed premises and what action is being taken, if relevant?

Response from Michelle Bignell, Licensing and Public Protection Manager

The two unlicensed premises have been located at Popworld and Moo Moos on Regent Street. No action has been taken as these activities are permitted under the exemption.

4. Question from Councillor Jackie Chelin (committee member)

Looking at the Corporate Enforcement Policy that is linked from the briefing note provided for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the Licensing and Public Protection Manager, it would be helpful to get a feel for if/how the enforcement options that are mentioned in section 16.5.3 have been enacted in the last 5 years or so. And what have been the outcomes?

Response from Michelle Bignell, Licensing and Public Protection Manager

CBC's licensing team has not taken any action under its corporate enforcement policy in the last 5 years.