

Briefing Note

Committee name: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 12 January 2026

Responsible officer: Michelle Bignell, Licensing and Public Protection Manager

This note provides information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Cabinet or a committee but where no decisions from Members are needed.

If Members have questions relating to matters shown, they are asked to contact the officer indicated.

1. Why has this come to Overview and Scrutiny Committee?

The committee have asked that a briefing paper is prepared to understand the enforcement and compliance work that is carried out with regards to Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) and the policy/conditions that are attached to licences.

2. Background to SEVs

On 11 October 2010, Council approved the adoption of the amended provision of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009) to take effect in the borough on 1 December 2010.

Since the adoption, any premises that want to offer “relevant entertainment” on a frequent basis can only do so by obtaining a SEV licence.

Relevant entertainment is defined as any live performance or any 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 sexually stimulating any member of the audience (whether by verbal or other means).

Under the Act, premises can provide relevant entertainment on an infrequent basis without the need for a SEV licence. An infrequent basis is defined under the Act as no relevant entertainment has been provided on more than 11 occasions within a 12-month period and no such occasion has begun within a period of one month beginning with the end of the previous occasion, and no such occasion has lasted longer than 24 hours.

CBC’s current [policy](#) was adopted in July 2020. This outlines the standard conditions applied to licences. These conditions cannot be imposed on a premises utilising the infrequency exemption.

3. Current licences

CBC has licensed two premises. Hours are as follows:

Under the Prom:

- November: Friday and Saturday, 8pm to 5am

- March: Monday 8pm to 5am and 6pm to 5am on other days

Mr Cambray's:

- October: Friday and Saturday, 8pm to 5am
- November: Friday and Saturday, 8pm to 5am
- December: Friday and Saturday, 8pm to 5am
- January: New Years Day & Festive Trials and Saturday, 8pm to 5am
- March: Monday 8pm to 5am and 6pm to 5am on other days
- April: Friday and Saturday, 8pm to 5am the day following
- May: Friday, 8pm to 5am

Although licensed for these hours, the premises do not operate to the extent of these. Currently, both operate during the March festival and Under the Prom operates in November as well.

Both premises have applied to amend two standard conditions. These are subject to consultation with the police and a 28-day public consultation. Both licences are renewed annually and, due to public objections, are subject to a licensing sub-committee determination.

4. Engagement with the licence holders

The operators of the SEVs work closely with the licensing authority and the police. They are engaging with nightsafe and attend the police briefings held on the evenings of race days.

Both premises have hosted visits by licensing committee members so that they can observe the set up of the premises and talk to performers about the work that they do and ensure that they feel safe.

The operators have also signed up to a voluntary code of practice over and beyond licence conditions. These can be seen at Appendix 2 of the policy.

5. Compliance inspections

The licensing team carry out proactive work over the period that the licensed venues are operating. The team inspect the premises to ensure that all conditions are being complied with, involving thorough inspections of records, CCTV and observing booths.

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.

6. Unlicensed premises

The team have also worked with venues using the infrequency exemption meeting with the operators prior to the set up to educate them on the conditions imposed on licensed venues and to encourage them to promote these.

Operators are also open to notifying the licensing team when they will be operating so that we can update the police.

7. Differences between licensed/unlicensed premises

It has been observed by both officers and members the stark differences between the two types of venues. These include cash payments instead of being paid by cheque, tariffs agreed directly with the performer rather than a tariff which is the same for all, touching has been witnessed alongside lack of CCTV coverage and SIA presence. All of these jeopardise safety of the performers.

Whilst we have enforcement powers over the licensed venues and can ensure that the premises are run safely, there are no powers over the unlicensed venues.

8. Any breaches of the licence may result in enforcement action. This would be carried out in line with the [Corporate Enforcement Policy](#).

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