

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Licensing Subcommittee Hearing Panel – 5 October 2022

Subject: RAG Gallery, 577-579 Wilbraham Road, Manchester, M21 9AH - ref: LTN280551

Report of: Director of Planning, Building Control & Licensing

Summary

Submission of a temporary event notice where an objection notice has been given.

Recommendations

That the Panel consider the objection notice(s) and give a counter notice where it considers it appropriate.

Wards Affected: Chorlton Park

Manchester Strategy Outcomes	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable City: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Licensed premises provide a key role as an employer, in regeneration, and in attracting people to the city. The efficient processing of applications as well as effective decision making in respect of them, plays an essential role in enabling businesses to thrive and maximise contribution to the economy of the region and sub-region.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	An effective Licensing regime will enable growth in our City by supporting businesses who promote the Licensing Objectives.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	The Licensing process provides for local residents and other interested parties to make representations in relation to licensing applications. Representations have to be directly related to the licensing objectives.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit and work.	An effective licensing system supports and enables growth and employment in our City with neighbourhoods that provide amenities suitable to the surrounding communities.

A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	
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Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

None

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

- Manchester City Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 - 2021
- Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, April 2017
- Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005
- Any further documentary submissions by any party to the hearing

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 22 September 2022, a temporary event notice (TEN) was given under s100A of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of RAG Gallery, 577-579 Wilbraham Road, Manchester, M21 9AH in the Chorlton Park ward of Manchester. A location map of the premises is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 In accordance with Licensing Act 2003 regulations, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Licensing Out of Hours Compliance (LOOH) were notified of the TEN.
- 1.3 Where either GMP or LOOH is satisfied that allowing the premises to be used in accordance with the TEN would undermine a licensing objective, they must give an objection notice to the relevant licensing authority, the premises user, and to every other relevant person.
- 1.4 The objection notice must be given no later than three working days after the day on which the objector is given the TEN.
- 1.5 An objection notice has been received in respect of this TEN and so it must be determined by a Licensing Hearing Panel in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

2. The Notice

- 2.1 A copy of the TEN is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.2 The premises user is Jasmine Skellern.
- 2.3 The description of the event is Art exhibition and music event.
 - 2.3.1 In accordance with the Live Music Act 2012 and Deregulation Act 2015, performances of Live Music and Recorded Music between the hours of 0800 and 2300 hours have been deregulated and so should not be regarded as licensable activities for the purposes of this TEN.
 - 2.3.2 Any further details provided relating to any of the individual licensable activities are specified on the TEN at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.4 **Activities unsuitable for children**
 - 2.4.1 The premises user has not highlighted any adult entertainment or services, activities, other entertainment or matters ancillary to the use of the premises that may give rise to concern in respect of children.

3. Objection Notice(s)

- 3.1 An objection notice was received from GMP in respect of the TEN (**Appendix 3**). The personal details of all members of the public have been redacted. Original copies of these objections will be available to the Panel at the hearing.

3.2 Summary of the objections:

Party	Grounds of representation	Recommends
GMP	<p>GMP objects to the grant of this Temporary Event Notice on the grounds of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, the Prevention of Public Nuisance and Public Safety.</p> <p>There is no detail whatsoever within the application to show how numbers will be managed, what security will be in place, how the customers will be dispersed at the end of the night, what welfare provision there will be and how the disruption caused to local residents will be minimised.</p> <p>A recent event held at this same location recently drew noise and litter complaints from local residents and the local councillors have raised the issue with GMP.</p>	Serve a counter notice
Licensing & Out of Hours	<p>There have been a number of issues raised about the three TENs that have recently taken place at this premises including management of the external area and litter in the surrounding area the day following the event.</p> <p>Licensing and Out of Hours have concerns that the applicant is unable to manage the event without risk of further issues specifically the risk of harm to pedestrians and/or road users through a failure to manage the external area, waste being dropped in the vicinity of the premises without suitable measures in place to prevent this occurring and also the risk of noise nuisance from the event itself along with the dispersal of 499 people at 0400am.</p>	Serve a counter notice

4. **Key Policies and Considerations**

4.1 **Legal Considerations**

4.1.1 Hearings under the Licensing Act 2003 operate under the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005.

4.2 **New Information**

4.2.1 In accordance with Regulation 18 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005, the authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representations or notice either before the hearing or, with the consent of all parties, at the hearing.

4.3 **Hearsay Evidence**

4.3.1 The Panel may accept hearsay evidence and it will be a matter for the Panel to attach what weight to it that they consider appropriate. Hearsay evidence is evidence of something that a witness neither saw nor heard, but has heard or read about.

4.4 **The Secretary of State's Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003**

4.4.1 The Secretary of State's Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003 is provided for all parties involved in licensing. It is a key medium for promoting best practice, ensuring consistent application of licensing powers across England and Wales and for promoting fairness, equal treatment and proportionality.

4.4.2 Section 4 of the 2003 Act provides that, in carrying out its functions, a licensing authority must 'have regard to' guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182. The Guidance is therefore binding on all licensing authorities to that extent. However, the Guidance cannot anticipate every possible scenario or set of circumstances that may arise and, as long as licensing authorities have properly understood this Guidance, they may depart from it if they have good reason to do so and can provide full reasons.

4.4.3 Departure from the Guidance could give rise to an appeal or judicial review, and the reasons given will then be a key consideration for the courts when considering the lawfulness and merits of any decision taken.

4.5 **Manchester Statement of Licensing Policy**

4.5.1 Section 4 of the 2003 Act provides that, in carrying out its functions, a licensing authority must 'have regard to' its statement of licensing policy.

4.5.2 The Licensing Policy sets out the vision the licensing authority has for the regulation of licensed premises throughout Manchester and outlines the standards expected in order to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives in the city. The Panel may depart from the policies should it consider doing so would benefit the promotion of the licensing objectives. Reasons are to be given for any such departure from the Policy.

4.5.3 Section 4 of the Policy (Operation of the Policy) sets out how the Licensing Policy is intended to be used in practice for licence applications and licensed premises.

- 4.5.4 Where the authority considers that to impose on the TEN one or more of the conditions from a premises licence or club premises certificate in force at the premises (insofar as such conditions are not inconsistent with the event) is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, the policy is to give notice to the premises user that includes a statement of the conditions imposed. Copies of this notice will be provided for GMP and LOOH.
- 4.5.5 Where, following any representations at the hearing, the licensing authority is not satisfied the event will ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives, the policy is to issue a counter-notice against the Temporary Event Notice.

5. **Conclusion**

- 5.1 A licensing authority must carry out its functions under this Act (“licensing functions”) with a view to promoting the licensing objectives:
- the prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety;
 - the prevention of public nuisance; and
 - the protection of children from harm.
- 5.2 In considering the matter, the Panel should take into account any objections that have been received from GMP or LOOH, and representations made by the applicant or premises user as the case may be. In reaching the decision, regard must also be had to relevant provisions of the national guidance and the Council’s licensing policy statement.
- 5.3 Having regard to the objection notice(s), the panel must give the premises user a counter notice if it considers it appropriate for the promotion of a licensing objective to do so.
- 5.4 If the panel decides not to give a counter notice the panel may impose one or more conditions on the TEN if –
- the authority considers it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives to do so,
 - the conditions are also imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate that has effect in respect of the same premises, or any part of the same premises, as the temporary event notice, and
 - the conditions would not be inconsistent with the carrying out of the licensable activities under the temporary event notice.
- 5.5 All licensing determinations should be considered on the individual merits of the notification.
- 5.6 The Panel’s determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve. Findings on any issues of fact should be on the balance of probability.

5.7 It is important that a licensing authority should give comprehensive reasons for its decisions in anticipation of any appeals. Failure to give adequate reasons could itself give rise to grounds for an appeal.

6. **The Panel is asked to determine the temporary event notice.**