

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Licensing Sub-Committee Hearing Panel – 22 November 2024

Subject: Zaf's Go Local, 138 Butler Street, Manchester, M4 7JJ -
Interim steps Hearing - Application ref PR202411-1583811

Report of: Head of Planning, Building Control & Licensing

Summary

Interim Steps hearing for Summary Review of the premises licence under s53C of the Licensing Act 2003

Recommendations

The Sub-Committee must take such of the steps under section 53(B) of the Licensing Act 2003 (if any), that it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The steps are:

1. To modify the conditions of the licence;
2. To exclude any of the licensable activities from the licence;
3. To remove the designated premises supervisor;
4. To suspend the licence

The conditions of the licence are modified if any of them is altered or omitted, or any new condition is added. Modification of the conditions of the premises licence can include altering or modifying existing conditions or adding any new conditions, including those that restrict the times at which licensable activities authorised by the licence can take place. Where the Sub-Committee consider that none of the above steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, no action should be taken in respect of the licence.

Wards Affected: Ancoats and Beswick

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	An effective Licensing regime will enable growth in

and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	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	

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):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents

are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy, please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Manchester City Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2024-2029
- Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (current)
- Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005
- Any further documentary submissions by any party to the hearing

1. Introduction

- 1.1 On 21/11/2024 an application was made by Greater Manchester Police under s53A of the Licensing Act 2003 for a Summary Review of the Premises Licence for Zaf's Go Local, 128 Butler Street, M4 7JJ in the Ancoats and Beswick ward of Manchester.
- 1.2 A location map and photograph of the premises is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.3 Summary reviews can be undertaken when the police consider that the premises concerned are associated with serious crime or serious disorder (or both). The summary review process allows interim conditions to be quickly attached to a licence and for the review of the licence to be fast tracked.
- 1.4 A 10 working-day public consultation exercise is undertaken in accordance with Licensing Act 2003 regulations, requiring the application to be advertised by the displaying of a blue notice at or on the premises and details of the application to be published on the Council's website.
- 1.5 Under section 53C of the Licensing Act 2003, the licensing authority must hold a full review of the premises licence and determine the review within 28 days after the day of receipt of the application.
- 1.6 Following the review under section 53C, the licensing authority must then review the interim steps in place and determine whether it is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives for the steps to remain in place, or if they should be modified or withdrawn.

2. The Application

- 2.1 An application for the summary review of premises licence number **LC202405-472410 (200520)** under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 was submitted by Greater Manchester Police on 21/11/2024 .
- 2.2 A copy of the application is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.3 The grounds of the application for review are that in the opinion of a senior police officer the premises are associated with serious crime or serious disorder or both.
- 2.4 **Interim Steps pending the review**
 - 2.4.1 Within 48 hours of receiving a summary review application, under s53B of the Licensing Act 2003 the licensing authority must consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps pending the review of the licence for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
 - 2.4.2 The premises licence holder may make representations against the interim steps taken by the licensing authority. Also under s53B, the licensing authority must within 48 hours of the time of its receipt of the representations, hold a hearing to consider those representations.

2.4.3 On the date of the review hearing, the licensing authority is required to review any interim steps that are in place and consider whether it is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives for the steps to remain in place, or if they should be modified or withdrawn.

3. **Current Premises Licence**

3.1 A copy of the current licence is attached at **Appendix 3**. Please be aware that the address for the premises on the licence (108 Woodward Street, Manchester, M4 7JW) was amended by Land Registry following the issue of the licence. Therefore, the correct address is 128 Butler Street.

3.2 The premises licence holder Mohammed Iqbal and has held the licence since 22/08/2017.

3.3 The designated premises supervisor is Mohammed Iqbal who has held this position since 22/08/2017.

3.4 The licensable activities permitted by the licence are:

3.4.1 Sale by retail of alcohol, between 0800 and 2300 hours (Monday to Sunday).

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 to licensing authorities in relation to the carrying out of their functions under the 2003 Act. It also provides information to magistrates' courts hearing appeals against licensing decisions and has been made widely available for the benefit of those who run licensed premises, their legal advisers and the general

public. 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 There are a number of references in the Policy to the licensing authority's expectations of applicants. The licensing authority will not apply the Policy rigidly, but will always have regard to the merits of the case with a view to promoting the licensing objectives.
- 4.5.4 Relevant to this application, the Panel are recommended to have regard to the following sections of the Policy:

Section 12: Reviews

Summary Reviews

- 4.5.5 The focus for interim steps shall be on the immediate measures necessary to prevent serious crime or serious disorder occurring.
- 4.5.6 The licensing authority, in deciding when its decision on interim steps should take effect, will consider the practical implications of compliance in relation to the premises. Careful consideration will be given to interim steps that require significant cost or permanent or semi-permanent adjustments to premises and that would be difficult to remove if the outcome of the subsequent full review was to withdraw or modify those steps. For example, making structural changes, installing additional CCTV or replacing all glassware with safer alternatives may be valid steps, but might be disproportionate if they are not

likely to be considered necessary following the full review (or any subsequent appeal).

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 reaching the decision, regard must be had to relevant provisions of the national guidance and the Council’s licensing policy statement.
- 5.3 The Panel must consider what steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 5.4 In making its decision with regard to this interim steps hearing, the steps the Panel can take are:
- a) To modify the conditions of the licence;
 - b) To exclude any of the licensable activities from the licence;
 - c) To remove the designated premises supervisor;
 - d) To suspend the licence
- 5.5 The conditions of the licence, with the exception of mandatory conditions in Appendix 1 of the licence, may be modified to alter or omit any of them or to add any new condition, including restricting the times at which licensable activities authorised by the licence can take place.
- 5.6 All licensing determinations should be considered on the individual merits of the application.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 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.
- 5.9 **The Panel is asked to determine what steps, as set out in 5.4 above, are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.**