

# **HARINGEY COUNCIL – LOCAL LICENSING PROCEDURE RULES FOR HEARINGS UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003 AND THE GAMBLING ACT 2005**

## **A. Interpretation**

- I. “Acts” means the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

“Applicant” means a natural person or other legal entity making any application or initiating any procedure or giving any notice for any form of licence, certificate, consent or determination in accordance with the Acts.

“Application” means any type of application, procedure or notice for any form of licence, certificate, consent or determination for which provision is made under the Acts.

“Chair” means the Chair of the Licensing Committee or Licensing Sub-Committee determining the relevant application.

“Committee clerk” means the officer(s) instructed by the Head of Legal and Governance and Democratic Services to attend Licensing Sub-Committee meetings to take the minutes and assist with the proper running of the meetings.

“Council” means the Council of the London Borough of Haringey.

“Gambling hearing” means a hearing by a Sub-Committee to determine an application under the Gambling Act 2005.

“Hearing” means a Gambling hearing or a Licensing Hearing as appropriate to the application.

“Hearings Regulations” means The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005 no. 44) in relation to licensing hearings and The Gambling Act (Proceedings of Licensing Committees and Sub-Committees) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 in relation to gambling hearings.

“Interested party” has the meaning prescribed in the Acts.

“Legal representative” means the officer(s) instructed by the Head of Legal and Governance to attend Licensing Sub-Committee meetings to advise on matters of law and procedure.

“Licensing hearing” means a hearing by a Sub-Committee to determine an application under the Licensing Act 2003 which can be held in person or remotely.

“Licensing Committee” means the Council’s statutory Licensing Committee under the Acts.

“Licensing representative” means the officer(s) instructed by the Assistant Director, Environment and Resident Experience to administer application procedures and to attend Licensing Sub-Committee meetings to advise on licensing matters and gambling matters.

“Licensing Service” means the Council department responsible for administering the Council’s functions under the Acts.

“Member” means Haringey Councillor appointed to serve as a Member of the Licensing Committee or a Licensing Sub-Committee as the context requires.

“Notice” means any notice made in accordance with the Acts, or Regulations made thereunder, in relation to an application.

“Objector” means each interested party, other person, responsible authority, other natural person or legal entity who/which has made a relevant representation or an objection or given any notice in relation to any application.

“Other person” has the meaning prescribed under the Licensing Act 2003 as amended.

“Party/Parties” means the applicant(s) and/or the objector(s) in relation to any particular application.

“Premises” means any premises, land, vessel, vehicle or moveable structure in respect of which an application is made.

“Relevant Representation” means any relevant representation made in accordance with the Acts, or Regulations made thereunder, in relation to an application.

“Responsible authority” has the meaning prescribed in the Acts.

“Sub-Committee” means a Licensing Sub-Committee to which the Licensing Committee of the Council has delegated powers to determine applications.

“Ward Councillor” means a Haringey Councillor representing a Ward within which are located any premises that are the subject of an application.

## **B. Scope and Application**

2. These Rules apply to all applications and hearings made in accordance with the Acts, or Regulations made thereunder. These Rules should be read and interpreted in conjunction the Hearings Regulations and the Acts.
3. The Committee Procedure Rules contained in Part Four, Section B of the Constitution do not apply when the Licensing Sub-Committee is conducting a hearing except in so far as they relate to the appointment of Substitute Members (Rule 6).
4. All hearings will be held in person except for Licensing hearings which will be held remotely, unless the Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee considers it in the interests of justice to hold the meeting in person e.g. if any of the parties do not have access to technology or would be disadvantaged if the hearing was held remotely.

## **C. Pre-Hearing Procedure**

5. The Licensing Service will notify the relevant Ward Councillors of each application, notice or relevant representation relating to premises within their Ward within 2 working days of receiving such application, notice or relevant representation. This requirement is in addition to any requirement arising under the Hearings Regulations.
- 6.. The Licensing Service may seek to mediate between the parties to an application with a view to securing: -
  - (a) the withdrawal of any relevant representation or notice, or
  - (b) the agreement of the parties that a hearing is unnecessary.
7. If, in any case, the parties agree that a hearing is unnecessary, the Licensing representative, , shall decide whether the Council consider that a hearing is unnecessary to determine the application and shall give notice of that decision to the parties forthwith.
8. In any case where it has been decided that a hearing is necessary, the Sub-Committee shall consider the application\_at a hearing in accordance with these Rules.
9. Subject to Rule 4, Licensing hearings will take place remotely via Microsoft Teams.
10. Prior to the remote hearing a link will be sent by the Committee Clerk to all parties to enable those parties to attend the virtual meeting.
11. The link will be posted on the Council's website to enable members of the public to observe the meeting, however they will not be allowed to speak at the meeting.

12. Parties may submit a written version of their oral representations by email at least 48 hours before the licensing hearing is due to start. Although voluntary, these written submissions will assist the Sub-Committee in the conduct of the hearing and decision making process.

13. Parties will be required to log in 10 minutes before the start of the meeting. The Committee Clerk can be contacted in case of technical difficulties and contact details will be provided to the parties.

#### **D. Membership and Quorum for Hearings**

14. Where an application relates to premises within a Ward, then a Ward Councillor shall not take part in the decision upon that application as a Member.

15. So far as practicable, hearings will be arranged so that the Sub-Committee determining the application does not include Members representing any Ward in which premises affected by the application are located.

16. A Councillor who has participated in a decision by the Council to make any application, or to support or assist an application made by another person, shall not participate in decision-making on the application in question as a Member of the relevant Sub-Committee.

17. The quorum for any hearing of a Sub-Committee shall be three Members.

18.

18. If any Member needs to leave during the hearing the Chair will adjourn the meeting until they return.

#### **E. Attendance at Hearings**

18A. Only applicants and Parties that have made a valid representation or their named representative/substitute or witness will be allowed by the Chair to speak at the hearing.

#### **F. Non-Attendance at Hearings**

19. Where a party has not notified the Council that he/she does not intend to attend or to be represented at a hearing, and that party fails to attend the hearing then the Sub-Committee may either: -

- (a) adjourn the hearing to a specified date where it considers this to be necessary in the public interest, or
- (b) hold the hearing in the party's absence.

20. Normally, a party who fails to attend a hearing in the circumstances described in Rule 19 above, will be allowed one further opportunity to attend the hearing adjourned to a specified date.
21. Where an adjournment is granted, the Licensing representative shall make every reasonable endeavour to contact the party who failed to attend by telephone or in person in order to warn them of the new date for the adjourned hearing and the likelihood that the application will be determined in that party's absence in the event of further failure to attend.

### **G. Calling Witnesses**

22. Where a party wishes to call a witness to give evidence at a hearing that party must give written notice to the Licensing Service of this intention no later than ten working days before the date of the hearing stating: -
  - (a) the name of the witness, and
  - (b) a brief description of the point or points upon which the witness' evidence may assist the Sub-Committee in making its decision on the application.
23. Where a party has given notice under Rule 22, the Licensing Service shall forthwith communicate this notice to the other party/parties, if possible by electronic means or by the most rapid practicable alternative means.
24. Where a party has given notice under Rule 22, the Sub-Committee shall consider at the commencement of the hearing whether it will permit the party to call the witness for the purpose(s) notified. Such permission shall not be unreasonably withheld at a hearing where there has not been full compliance with Rule 22.

## H. Documentary Evidence

25. Where a party wishes to rely upon documentary evidence at a hearing that party must give written notice to the Licensing Service of this intention no later than ten working days before the date of the hearing. This notice shall be accompanied by six copies for the Council and sufficient additional copies of all the relevant documentary evidence for each other party made known to the notifying party. Compliance with this Rule is especially important in relation to documents that are not easy to photocopy because, for example, they are coloured or not A4 size.
26. Where a party has given notice under Rule 25, the Licensing Service shall forthwith communicate all the relevant documentary evidence to the other party/parties if possible by electronic means or by the most rapid practicable alternative means.
27. Where a party has complied fully with Rule 25, that party shall have the right to have the relevant documentary evidence admitted and, subject to the provisions of the Hearings Regulations, the Sub-Committee shall take such evidence into account in making its decision.
28. In any case where a party wishes to rely upon documentary evidence but has not fully complied with Rule 25, then at the commencement of the hearing the Sub-Committee shall follow this procedure: -
  - (a) the Chair shall establish whether the other party/parties consent to the documentary evidence being admitted, and
  - (b) if all the other parties so consent, then the documentary evidence shall be treated as if Rule 27 applied to it, or
  - (c) if any party does not so consent, and the documentary evidence has only been made available to all the parties at the hearing, then the Sub-Committee shall generally refuse to admit it, or
  - (d) if any party does not so consent, and the documentary evidence has been made available to all the parties before the hearing but there has not been full compliance with Rule 25, then the Sub-Committee shall decide whether to admit the documentary evidence nonetheless, and
  - (e) in making its decision under Rule 28(d), the Sub-Committee shall have regard to any reasons given for the late production of the documentary evidence, or other non-compliance with Rule 25.
  - (f) in making its decision under Rule 28(d), the Sub-Committee shall consider how far any other party may be prejudiced by the late production of the documentary evidence, or other non-compliance with Rule 25, and also the extent of the prejudice to the party seeking to rely upon the evidence if its admission is refused.
  - (g) in making its decision under Rule 28(c) and/or 28(d), the Sub-Committee shall consider whether it would be desirable in the public interest to adjourn the hearing for any period of time, or to another date, in order to allow any other party a reasonable opportunity to consider the documentary evidence.

- (h) in making its decisions under Rules 28(d) and 28(g) above, the Sub-Committee shall consider any representations by the parties and the advice of its legal representative.
29. Where a party wishes to rely upon documentary evidence at a hearing but considers that any details of that evidence should be treated as confidential e.g. the name or address of the signatory of a letter, then the party may request that such details are redacted and the Licensing Authority will decide whether the information can be kept confidential or whether an application should be made under rule 30. Any notice given or relevant representation made to the Licensing Authority must state the originator's name and address in order for it to be valid.
  30. In any case where there is a request for confidential details to be excluded under Rule 29, the Licensing Service must be informed whether a request will be made by the party under Rule 37. If permission is refused under Rule 38, the whole or part of the relevant documentary evidence may be excluded from consideration. If permission is granted to exclude any confidential details, this may affect the weight to be given to the rest of the related evidence under Rule 55.
  31. Where a party wishes to rely upon a model, or any form of evidence that cannot be photocopied, at a hearing that party must give written notice to the Licensing Service of this intention no later than ten working days before the date of the hearing. The party seeking to rely upon such evidence shall indicate in the notice, so far as practicable, the nature of that evidence and the purpose(s) of producing it.
  32. Where a party has given notice under Rule 31 the Licensing Service shall forthwith communicate all relevant information about the evidence to the other party/parties if possible by electronic means or the most rapid practicable alternative means.
  33. Rules 25 to 28 shall be applied to evidence of the type described in Rule 31 with a presumption that such evidence will be admitted if it materially helps the Sub-Committee to understand relevant issues between the parties at the hearing.

## **I. Petitions**

34. Petitions shall on each page state their purpose and contain a warning to potential signatories that they are liable to be made public and that a copy will be supplied to other parties to the application. Each person signing should print their name and address legibly. At the end a petition must state the name(s) and address(es) of the persons circulating the petition and the dates on which this took place.
35. A petition must comply with Rule 34 unless the Sub-Committee decide to waive compliance with any requirement(s) for a good reason. A petition shall also be treated as documentary evidence and Rules 25 to 28 shall apply.

## **J Private Hearings and Confidential Evidence**

36. In accordance with the Hearings Regulations, hearings shall take place in public unless a decision to the contrary is made under Rule 38 in any case.
37. Where a party or a witness consider that any giving of evidence, or part of any evidence, or part of a hearing, should be held in private, then the party or their witness shall make such request to the Chair at the commencement of the hearing.
38. The Sub-Committee may decide to exclude members of the public from any part of a hearing and/or treat any evidence as confidential where the Sub-Committee consider that the public interest in preserving the confidentiality of any evidence outweighs the public interest in that part of the hearing taking place in public.
39. For the purposes of Rule 38, a party, a witness and any person assisting or representing a party, may be excluded from any part of a hearing or from hearing or seeing any particular evidence. Where the Sub-Committee decide to hold part of a hearing in private, a party and/or his/her representative shall only be excluded in exceptional circumstances.
40. Where the Sub-Committee decide to hold part of a hearing in private, the officers of the Licensing Service shall only be excluded in exceptional circumstances. The Committee Clerk and legal representative shall not be excluded.
41. Before making any decision under Rules 38 or 40, the Sub-Committee shall consider the advice of its legal representative.
42. Where any part of a hearing takes place in private, the hearing will be adjourned immediately thereafter for a period of time sufficient to enable the Committee clerk to prepare a fair summary of the evidence and proceedings heard in private. This summary will exclude all details that the Sub-Committee, acting with the advice of its legal representative, consider should remain confidential. Upon the resumption of the hearing, the summary will be read out publicly in the presence of all the parties.
43. Rules 36 to 42 shall apply as nearly as may be practicable to documentary evidence where, with the consent of the Sub-Committee, confidential details may be disclosed to the Sub-Committee but excluded from disclosure to the public or persons mentioned in Rule 39.
44. Rules 36 to 42 shall apply, as nearly as may be practicable, where a witness wishes to disclose his/her name and/or address or other details only to the Sub-Committee and Council officers but not to the public or persons mentioned in Rule 39.



45. Whenever any evidence or information has been treated as confidential under Rules 36 to 44, the Sub-Committee shall consider whether to alter the weight given to that evidence in accordance with Rule 55.

### **K. Commencement of the Hearing**

46. At the commencement of each hearing the Sub-Committee shall follow this procedure but may omit or abridge any step or Rule as appropriate -
- (a) The Chair will introduce him/herself and invite the Members and officers to introduce themselves
  - (b) The Chair will invite the parties to introduce themselves and their representatives (if any)
  - (c) The Chair will invite Members to disclose any contacts they may have had before the hearing with the parties or lobbyists for them which do not constitute a personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest in accordance (see the guidance contained in section Q).
  - (d) If any party fails to attend the hearing, the Sub-Committee shall decide whether to proceed with the hearing in the absence of that party or whether to adjourn the hearing to another date. The Sub-Committee shall have regard to Rules 19 and 20 and Regulations 12 and 20 of the Hearings Regulations in making such decisions.
  - (e) The Chair will explain the procedure to be followed by reference to these Rules and the Summary procedure for that hearing.
  - (f) The Chair will suggest the order of the topic headings for discussion at the hearing and will then invite the comments of the parties. In the light of such comments the Sub-Committee will confirm the order of the topic headings or amend them.
  - (g) The Chair will ascertain whether there are any requests by any of the parties to call a witness and the Sub-Committee will then determine any such request under Rule 24.
  - (h) The Chair will ascertain whether there is likely to be a request from any of the parties to cross-examine a witness called by another party and, if so, the reasons given for seeking a cross-examination. The Sub-Committee will then determine whether to allow such cross-examination in the interests of establishing relevant facts.
  - (i) The Chair will ascertain whether there are any requests by any of the parties to produce documentary evidence, including models etc., and whether there has been full compliance with Rules 25 to 32. In the event of any non-compliance these Rules, the Sub-Committee shall decide whether to admit the evidence and/or adjourn the hearing under Rules 28 to 33.
  - (j) The Chair will ascertain whether there are any requests by any of the parties to treat any evidence as confidential or to hear any of the evidence, or hold any part of the hearing, in private. If so, the Sub-Committee shall decide the request under Rules 38 to 44.
  - (k) In any case where the Licensing Service has informed a party that there are particular points on which the Sub-Committee will need clarification, the Chair will then invite the party to provide such clarification.

## L. Procedure and Evidence at Hearing

47. For remote hearings all Members and parties must have their cameras on for the duration of the hearing.
48. All Members and parties should mute their microphones until invited to speak by the Chair and only one person should speak at any one time. If anyone wishes to speak during the hearing they should press the raise my hand button on the menu bar and wait to be called by the Chair.
49. In accordance with Hearings Regulations, the hearing shall take the form of a discussion led by the Chair. With permission of the Chair the other Members of the Sub-Committee may ask questions of the parties, their representatives and witnesses and may lead the discussion on specific topics or points. When making their initial representation, each representative/party will be given 5 minutes to address the Sub-Committee with the Chair having the discretion to extend this time limit if appropriate, e.g. if the application is complex.
50. The hearing shall follow the order of the topic headings determined under Rule 46 (f) unless there is a good reason to depart from this agreed by the Sub-Committee.
51. The Chair, or Member leading the discussion, shall endeavour to ensure that each party has a reasonable opportunity to explain their case under each topic heading. The parties, their representatives and witnesses have a duty to make their evidence and comments succinct and relevant to the issues under discussion.
52. A party shall not be permitted to cross-examine another party or their witness unless this has been allowed under Rule 46 (h). If a party has concerns relating to the evidence or comments of another party or their witness, this should be explained to the Sub-Committee so that the Chair can question the other party/witness about these concerns before completing that topic heading.
53. Where permission has been given to a party to call a witness, that witness may give evidence in one or more stages when the discussion covers the appropriate topic heading(s). Normally, a witness will be invited by the Chair to make a statement. The witness will then be subject to cross-examination by the other party/parties if this has been allowed under Rule 46 (h). Then the Sub-Committee may question the witness. A party shall not re-examine his/her own witness except with the consent of the Chair to clarify a significant point in earlier evidence.
54. At the end of each topic heading the Chair shall invite the Licensing Service or legal representative to make any comments that they may consider necessary. With the consent of the Chair, these officers may question parties or witnesses directly or put their questions through the Chair.

55. Strict legal rules of evidence shall not apply. However, in considering what weight to place on the evidence or comments of any party or witness, the Sub-Committee shall have regard to the extent to which information was: -
- (a) within a witness' direct knowledge, and
  - (b) clearly and specifically related to the points at issue in the hearing, and
  - (c) tested by questioning.
56. The Chair shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of the hearing. If any Member or a party loses their connection during a remote hearing, the meeting will be adjourned until they are able to rejoin and any evidence or representation they have missed will be rerun.
57. The Chair may require any person to be silent and if necessary may mute their microphone during a remote meeting. The Chair may regulate the order in which persons speak at the hearing. The Chair will endeavour to prevent remarks which are repetitious or irrelevant or which amount to unsubstantiated offensive allegations against any person, present or not.
58. After a warning the Chair may require any person at the hearing who is considered to be behaving in a disruptive manner to leave the meeting and may prohibit his/her return except on compliance with specified conditions. For a remote hearing the Chair may exclude a person from the hearing by muting their microphone or by removing them from the meeting. This can be for a period or for the remainder of the hearing. A person excluded from a hearing under this Rule may put in writing any information or submission they intended for the hearing. For a remote hearing this may be done by way of an e-mail to the Committee Clerk. The Sub-Committee must take any such information into account in reaching its decision.
- 59.. The Chair on his/her own motion may indicate the decision of the Sub-Committee on any procedural matter within the scope of these Rules notwithstanding that the decision is stated in these Rules to be that of the Sub-Committee. This is subject to the right of any Member, who makes an immediate request, to have the matter put to the vote of the Sub-Committee as a whole. Rules 69 will apply to such a vote.
60. In accordance with the Hearings Regulations, each party has the right to make a closing address to the Sub-Committee in order to summarise his/her case at the end of the hearing. Unless the applicant consents to a different order, the applicant shall have the right to make the final address.
61. Each party must be allowed an equal maximum period of time to make a closing address. Normally, the Chair will invite each party to state how much time that party will require. However, the Sub-Committee may fix a greater or lesser maximum time for each closing address provided that this is reasonable in relation to the weight and complexity of the issues at the hearing.

## **M. Time Limit for Hearings**

62. At 9.30 p.m. the Chair must ask the Sub-Committee to agree –
  - (a) to continue the hearing in hand and, if necessary, to suspend these Rules so as to allow it to continue for a reasonably short time beyond 10.00 p.m. when this is necessary to complete the hearing and advisable in the interests of fairness, or
  - (b) to adjourn the hearing until a date to be fixed.
63. Hearings shall not normally continue later than 10.00 p.m. and no new hearing shall be commenced after 9.30 p.m. *unless the chair determines that it is urgent.*
64. To facilitate hearings concluding before 10.00 p.m. for all hearings the Chair may impose time limits for representations or closing addresses.

## **N. Decision Making**

65. At the end of a hearing the Sub-Committee may confer publicly or in private and announce its decision on the application(s) immediately.
66. The decision(s) will be summarised in writing and the Sub-Committee will return to the public meeting so that the Committee clerk can read out the decision(s) in the presence of all the parties and their representatives.
67. The Sub Committee may give its decision at the end of the hearing. This is most likely where it relates to a TENS application, summary review or a hearing following a closure order.
68. Alternatively, the Sub-Committee may provide the decision in writing within 5 working days commencing with the day of the hearing.
69. In any case, and whether or not Rule 65 applies, the Sub-Committee may retire with the Committee clerk and legal representative to deliberate in private.
70. The Sub-Committee, if making a decision at that time, must reach their decision by a majority vote.
71. If the Sub-Committee require any clarification of matters of fact before reaching their decision(s), and the decision is being made immediately, the Sub-Committee shall return to the public meeting and put questions to the parties, their witnesses or the Licensing representative in the presence of all the parties and their representatives.
72. If the legal representative gives legal advice on any point(s) material to the Sub-Committee's decision(s), this advice will be summarised and read out by the

legal representative in public before the Committee Clerk reads out the decision(s).

#### **O. Waivers and Irregularities**

73. The Chair may agree to waive any of these Rules, including any time limit, in the case of any individual application where he/she considers that there is good reason to do so. Excepted from this power to waive are Rules 14 to 17 (inclusive). Any permanent variation of these Rules must be decided by the Licensing Committee.
74. Any irregularity arising from any failure to comply with any provision of these Rules before the Sub-Committee has made a determination shall not of itself render the proceedings void.
75. In any case of such an irregularity the Sub-Committee shall, if Members consider that any person may have been prejudiced as a result of the irregularity, take such steps as Members think fit to cure the irregularity before reaching a determination of the application(s). In any such case the Sub-Committee shall consult the legal representative before deciding upon any steps to cure the irregularity.
76. In any case where it appears after the Sub-Committee's determination that the decision has been vitiated by incorrect information or any procedural or legal error, the Legal Representative shall advise the Chair of this and of the steps necessary to remedy the problem. With the consent of the Chair, the Sub-Committee may reconvene to take the steps advised and/or to amend its decision. With the consent of the Chair in an appropriate case, the Members of the Sub-Committee may signify their consent to any steps advised and/or any amended decision without reconvening in person. When the legal representative so advises, the parties affected shall be invited to a reconvened hearing or, where appropriate, to signify their consent to any steps proposed without attending in person.

#### **P. Councillors who are not Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee**

77. A Councillor, who is not a Member of the Sub-Committee determining the application in question, may participate in the hearing but only if the Councillor is an objector who has made relevant representations in accordance with the Hearings Regulations and the Acts, or if the Councillor has been asked to attend by a party in order to act as a witness or a representative for that party.

#### **Q. Cases Remitted by the Magistrates on Appeal**

78. On an appeal to the Magistrates Court, the Court may remit the case to the Council for it to determine in accordance with the Direction of the Court. The Chair of the Licensing Committee on legal advice may wish the Council to contest that Direction by further legal proceedings. If not, the Chair will receive advice from the Head of Legal Services on how to comply with the Direction of the Court and will be requested to agree the appropriate

procedure. So far as possible, these Rules will apply to any further hearing with such modifications as are advised to secure compliance with the Direction of the Court.

## **R. Guidance: Councillors' Participation in Hearings and Members' Interests**

1. It is the responsibility of individual Councillors to disclose any interest they may have when sitting as a Member of or participating in a Licensing Sub-Committee hearing.

The Council's Code of conduct for Members defines three categories of Members' interests:

- Disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI's)
- Prejudicial interests
- Personal interests

These are explained in detail at sections 4 to 6 and Appendix A of the Members' Code.

2. Whenever a Councillor, sits as a Member of the Sub-Committee, or intends to participate in a hearing in accordance with Rule 65, the Councillor must consider whether s/he has a personal interest or a prejudicial interest or a DPI and make any declaration and/or withdraw from the hearing as required.
3. If the Member has a DPI or a prejudicial interest in the application s/he must declare the existence and nature of that interest and withdraw from the meeting without discussing or voting on the application. Failure to disclose a DPI is a criminal offence (see Appendix B to the Members Code)
4. Where a Councillor has a personal interest in the decision on the application being determined by the Licensing Sub-Committee, although s/he is not obliged under the Member's Code to make a disclosure of that personal interest to the meeting, s/he should disclose the nature of the interest because of the quasi judicial functions of the sub-committee. If a Member has a personal interest (which does not constitute a DPI or prejudicial interest) s/he can participate in debate and vote on determination of the application. However, due to the quasi judicial functions of the sub-committee, a Councillor should avoid doing so where there is a real possibility of actual or perceived bias. The test is what a fair minded and informed observer would conclude and not the views of the Councillor concerned.
5. Any Councillor who has a prejudicial interest in an application (which does not constitute a DPI) may attend the hearing but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the application and provided that the public have not been excluded from the hearing or that part of it. The Member must withdraw from the meeting immediately after the matters permitted above are completed and must not seek improperly to influence any decision about the application. A Member who has a prejudicial interest in an application may prefer to be represented at the hearing by an agent or a fellow Ward Councillor who is not a Member of

the Sub-Committee and who would not be required to leave the meeting before the decision.

6. A Councillor, who is a Member of the Sub-Committee determining the application in question, will have a prejudicial interest (as well as a personal interest) in that application if the he/she makes a relevant representation by way of objection to it and may well have a prejudicial interest if he/she has otherwise been involved in supporting or opposing the application. Any Member of a Sub-Committee who has a prejudicial interest for these or other reasons under the Members' Code must not participate in the decision upon the application and must not be present at the hearing except as provided in the preceding paragraph.
7. Sections 9 and 10 of the Members' Code explain in more detail how an interest affects your participation at meetings.



## **S. Guidance: Prior Contacts, Lobbying of Members and Expressions of Opinion by Members**

1. If a Member of a Sub-Committee is approached by a party, a party's representative or a lobbyist for or against an application to be determined by that Sub-Committee, then the Member must: -
  - (i) explain that s/he cannot discuss the matter, and
  - (j) refer the person(s) to another Councillor who is not a Member of the Sub-Committee or to the Licensing Service who can give further information on the process of dealing with the application, and
  - (k) keep an adequate written record of the approach, and
  - (l) disclose the fact of the approach before the hearing in accordance with Rule 39(c).
2. If a Member of a Sub-Committee receives any written representation either supporting or opposing an application to be determined by that Sub-Committee, then the Member shall pass the representation to the Licensing Service for appropriate action.
3. Where a Member of a Sub-Committee has had any form of personal or business involvement with a party to an application, which is to be determined by the Sub-Committee, or with any person closely connected to a party, then the Member must consider whether such involvement could give rise to an interest which should be declared at the hearing and/or requires them to withdraw in accordance with the guidance contained in section Q. If there is any doubt on this matter, the Member must seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer or the legal representative.
4. A Member of a Sub-Committee must avoid expressing any personal opinion about the merits of an application to be determined by that Sub-Committee and must not take any action that would bring into question the Member's capacity to consider the application objectively.
5. A Member of a Sub-Committee must not accept any gift, favour or free hospitality that could be seen as connected to any application to be determined by that Sub-Committee.
6. Members of Sub-Committees are not to be influenced by party political factors or pressures when determining any application.