Report for:	Licensing Committee
Item number:	9
Title:	Mayor of London Call-In Powers for Licensing Applications: Implications for the Licensing Authority
Report authorised by :	Eubert Malcolm Director for Environment
Lead Officer:	Daliah Barrett – Licensing Team Leader
Ward(s) affected:	All wards
Report for Key/ Non Key Decision:	N/A

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 To inform Members of new legislation introducing a power for the Mayor of London to review and potentially direct changes to certain premises licence decisions made by London licensing authorities, and to advise Members of the likely implications for the Council's licensing functions.

1.2 New regulations coming into force on 3 November 2026 establish a framework under which the Mayor of London may review and intervene in certain premises licence and variation applications considered to be of strategic importance to Greater London. The powers have been introduced pursuant to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 and represent the most significant change to London's licensing governance arrangements since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003.

1.3 Whilst the majority of premises licence applications will continue to be determined locally, some larger or strategically significant applications will be subject to additional notification requirements and may be reviewed by the Greater London Authority (GLA).

2 Recommendations

2.1 The Licensing Committee is recommended to:

- Note the introduction of the Licensing Act 2003 (Applications of Potential Strategic Importance to Greater London etc and Consequential Amendment) Regulations 2026.
- Note that the regulations are expected to come into force on 3 November 2026 and will create a strategic review role for the Mayor of London in relation to specified licensing applications.

2.2 Alternative Options Considered

2.3 This is a statutory requirement and the Council has no discretion to do otherwise.

2.4 Reasons for decision

2.5 The Government has introduced the Licensing Act 2003 (Applications of Potential Strategic Importance to Greater London etc and Consequential Amendment) Regulations 2026, establishing a mechanism whereby specified licensing applications can be referred to the Greater London Authority and reviewed by the Mayor of London. The stated purpose of the new arrangements is to allow wider strategic considerations relating to London's economy, culture and night-time economy to be taken into account in a limited number of licensing cases which may have implications beyond the local authority area in which they are situated.

3 Background information

3.1 Applications within Scope

3.2 Applications capable of being designated as being of potential strategic importance include:

- Premises in Fee Bands D or E (rateable value exceeding £87,000).
- Premises in Fee Bands B or C proposing licensable activities beyond 11.00pm.
- Premises with a proposed capacity exceeding 5,000 persons.
- Premises licence applications seeking a licence for a limited period of less than three months.
- Fee Band B or C premises proposing regulated entertainment in the form of live music.

Members should note that meeting any one of the above criteria may require notification to the GLA.

4. New Decision-Making Process

4.1 Where an application falls within the prescribed categories, the licensing authority will be required to notify the Greater London Authority.

4.2 The process will operate broadly as follows:

1. The Council receives a qualifying application.
2. The application is notified to the GLA.
3. The GLA has up to 10 working days to determine whether the application should be treated as one of potential strategic importance.
4. Where a hearing is required, the Mayor's office may participate in the hearing proceedings.
5. Following the Council's determination, the Mayor has up to 20 working days to decide whether to exercise the call-in power and direct the licensing authority to alter its decision. During this period the authority's decision does not take effect.
6. If exercised, the Mayor's substituted decision becomes the operative decision for appeal purposes

5. Considerations for the Mayor

5.1 The strategic review power does not replace the licensing objectives contained within the Licensing Act 2003. The prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm will remain the statutory tests against which applications are assessed.

5.2 However, the Mayor is expected to have regard to a proposed London Strategic Licensing Policy, which is intended to provide a framework for considering wider strategic priorities including:

- Economic growth;
- Culture and creative industries;
- Tourism;
- London's night-time economy; and
- Strategic development objectives

6. Implications for Haringey

6.1 The introduction of the new regime has several implications for the Council:

- Additional administrative requirements will arise through mandatory notification of qualifying applications.
- Officers will need to build additional stages into application processing procedures.
- Application determination timescales may increase where referrals are made to the GLA.

6.2 Governance Implications

- Decisions of Licensing Sub-Committees may become subject to further review by the Mayor in prescribed cases.
- Strategic London-wide considerations may feature more prominently in larger or high-profile licensing applications. **Impact on Applicants**

Applicants for larger premises, entertainment venues and significant regeneration schemes may need to factor additional review periods into project delivery timescales.

7. Risk Management

7.1 At present, the practical impact of the new powers remains uncertain. Public statements indicate that the Mayor intends to use the powers sparingly and primarily to support economic growth and the hospitality sector. Nevertheless, there remains potential for increased complexity, extended determination periods and additional procedural requirements for qualifying applications. The Licensing Service will monitor implementation of the regime and report further to Members should significant operational issues arise.

8. Legal Comments

8.1 The introduction of the Licensing Act 2003 (Applications of Potential Strategic Importance to Greater London etc and Consequential Amendment) Regulations 2026 creates a new statutory process requiring London licensing authorities to notify specified applications to the Greater London Authority (GLA) and provides a mechanism through which the Mayor of London may intervene in certain licensing decisions of strategic importance to Greater London.

8.2 The Council will remain the licensing authority for the London Borough of Haringey and will continue to determine applications in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. The licensing objectives remain unchanged and continue to be the primary statutory considerations in determining licensing applications.

8.3 Where an application falls within one of the prescribed categories, the Council will be under a legal duty to notify the GLA and comply with the procedural requirements established by the Regulations. Failure to comply with those requirements could expose the Council to legal challenge and may affect the validity of a licensing determination.

8.4 The Council's licensing procedures, guidance documents, delegated authority arrangements and administrative processes may require review and amendment to ensure compliance with the new legislative framework. Appropriate officer training will also be required prior to implementation.

8.5 The Monitoring Officer should be kept informed of any consequential amendments required to the Council's constitutional or procedural arrangements arising from the implementation of the Regulations.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 There are not expected to be any significant direct financial implications arising from this report at the present time. However, implementation of the new regime is likely to result in additional administrative responsibilities for the Licensing Service, including:

- Identifying applications that fall within the prescribed categories.
- Issuing statutory notifications to the GLA.
- Managing additional correspondence and consultation requirements.
- Liaising with the Mayor's office in relevant cases.
- Monitoring extended determination periods and revised statutory timetables. These additional duties may create a modest increase in officer workload and administrative costs. Any such costs will initially be met from existing service budgets.

9.2 There is also potential for indirect financial impacts where applications become subject to extended determination periods arising from GLA consideration and Mayoral review procedures. This may result in increased officer time being required to manage complex or high-profile applications.

9.3 At the time of writing, no additional funding arrangements have been announced by central government or the Greater London Authority to support implementation of the new regime. Any significant budgetary implications identified following implementation will be reported to Members through the Council's established financial monitoring processes.The licensing objectives remain unchanged and continue to provide the statutory framework for decision making.

10. Equalities Implications

10.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. Any future licensing decisions will continue to be made in accordance with the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty and relevant legislative requirements.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The introduction of the Mayor of London's call-in powers represents a significant development in the governance of alcohol and entertainment licensing in London. Whilst only a limited number of applications are expected to be affected, the changes introduce a new strategic tier of oversight and may have operational and procedural implications for the Council, applicants and local communities. Members are therefore asked to note the new arrangements and their potential impact upon licensing decision-making in Haringey.

Appendix A

Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Regulations published	October 2026
New regime commences	3 November 2026
GLA assessment period	Up to 10 working days
Mayoral review period following local authority decision	Up to 20 working days