

Licensing Hearing Panel

16 January 2024

Licensing Act 2003 Application for a Full Variation for Amala Buka, 365 High Street, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1DA

Report from: Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director – Legal and Governance

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Summary

The applicant has applied for a Full Variation for Amala Buka, 365 High Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1DA.

All responsible authorities have been consulted in line with the Licensing Act 2003.

Representations have been received from the public. No agreements have been reached.

1. Recommendations

1.1. That the Licensing Hearing Panel, having regard to the Licensing Act 2003, the statutory guidance issued under S182, the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and all matters before it, both written and oral, considers and determines this application for a full variation of the premises licence.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1. Medway Council has published its Statement of Licensing Policy, which it takes into account all applications relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

3. Background

3.1. In accordance with the Licensing Act 2003, on 4th December 2023 the Council received an application for a Full Variation of a Premises Licence for Amala Buka 365 High Street. Rochester, Kent ME1 1DA.

3.2. The details of the application are as follows:

Recorded Music

Monday to Wednesday 11:00 to 01:00

Thursday to Saturday 11:00 to 03:00
Sunday 13:00 to 01:00

Performances of dance

Friday to Saturday 08:00 to 02:00
Sunday 08:00 to 01:00

Late Night Refreshment

Monday to Sunday 23:00 to 03:00

Supply of alcohol

Monday to Sunday 11:00 to 03:00

- 3.3. A copy of the original application as submitted is at Appendix A
- 3.4. The application has been correctly advertised in the local press and notices displayed on the premises for the required period.
4. Options
 - 4.1. The Licensing Hearing Panel is asked to consider the information in this report and decide the outcome of the premise licence application, with one of the following options:
 - a) Grant the application as applied for
 - b) Amend the application
 - c) Add conditions to the premise licence
 - d) Refuse the application
5. Advice and analysis
 - 5.1. The applicant is expected to demonstrate that they have dealt with and understand the promotion of the four licensing objectives, where appropriate. Members are referred to section M of the application at Appendix A.
 - 5.2. The four licensing objectives are:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of public nuisance
 - The protection of children and harm

- 5.3. Medway Council has published its Statement of Licensing Policy, which it will consider alongside the amended Guidance issued by the Home Office under 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 in all applications.
- 5.4. In determining this application, members may wish to consider information contained in Appendix 7 to the Statement of Licensing Policy that lists examples of good practice against the four licensing objectives as well as Chapters 9 and 10 of the amended Guidance.

6. Risk management

- 6.1. The Council has to consider and determine this application, which is a function relating to licensing and registration as set out in Schedule 1 to the Functions Regulations, the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005 and other licensing functions reserved by law to the Council's Licensing and Safety Committee and its Sub-Committees, in accordance with the law (both statutory and case law), relevant statutory guidance and statements of policy.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. This matter has been put to the Licensing Hearing Panel because the Council have received two representations.
- 7.2. We have representation from two members of the public relating to the prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm. Copies can be found at Appendix B and Appendix C.
- 7.3. Representation was received from Kent Police. An agreement was reached. Copy can be found at Appendix D.
- 7.4. Representation was received from Trading Standards. An agreement was reached. Copy can be found at Appendix E.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. There are no direct financial implications for Medway Council concerning this matter at present.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. There are no direct legal implications at this time.
- 9.2. This hearing is regulated by the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulation 2005 amended).
- 9.3. There is the possibility of a challenge by way of appeal to the decision by either the applicant or objectors should either have the requisite grounds to do so. Legal advice will be given to Members as appropriate at the meeting. However, whatever the decision of the Panel, this must be based on the

evidence placed before it in line with the licensing objectives and the Panel must decide what weight to attribute to this information.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

- Appendix A – Application for Full Variation of Premises Licence.
- Appendix B – Copy of representations from public.
- Appendix C – Agreed conditions with Kent Police.
- Appendix D – Agreed conditions with Trading Standards.

Background papers

None.