

Licensing Committee

Agenda



Date: Thursday, 25 January 2024

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: First Floor Committee Room 1P09 - City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

Distribution:

Councillors: Cllr Amal Ali, Cllr Andrew Brown, Cllr Chris Davies, Cllr Richard Eddy, Cllr Emma Edwards, Cllr Katy Grant, Cllr Fi Hance, Cllr Jonathan Hucker, Cllr Philippa Hulme, Cllr Chris Jackson, Cllr Brenda Massey, Cllr Guy Poultney, Cllr Christine Townsend and Cllr Chris Windows

5. Public Forum

Any member of the public or Councillor may participate in Public Forum. The detailed arrangements for so doing are set out in the Public Information Sheet at the back of this agenda. Public Forum items should be emailed to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk and please note that the following deadlines will apply in relation to this meeting:

Questions - Written questions must be received 3 clear working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting, this means that your question(s) must be received in this office at the latest by 5 pm on Friday 19 January 2024.

Petitions and Statements - Petitions and statements must be received on the working day prior to the meeting. For this meeting this means that your submission must be received in this office at the latest by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 24 January 2024.

Members of the press and public who plan to attend a public meeting at City Hall are advised that you will be **required to sign in** when you arrive and you will be issued with a visitor pass which you will **need to display at all times**.



Public Information Sheet

Inspection of Papers - Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at www.bristol.gov.uk.

Public meetings including Cabinet, Full Council, regulatory meetings (where planning and licensing decisions are made) and scrutiny are held at City Hall.

Attendance at Public meetings

Bristol City Council welcomes public attendance and participation at all of its formal committee meetings. When attending public meetings please behave with courtesy, tolerance and respect at all times to Councillors, Council Officers and other meeting participants. Attendees who cause disturbance may be asked to leave or, may be removed from the meeting.

If you're a member of the press or public and want to attend a public meeting at City Hall, you will need to **sign in** when you arrive. You will be issued with a visitor pass which you will **need to display at all times**.

Due to the maximum occupancy of the venue, you may be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room.

COVID-19 Safety Measures

Please do not attend a Council Meeting if you:

- are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19 or
- have tested positive for COVID-19

Other formats and languages and assistance for those with hearing impairment

You can get committee papers in other formats (e.g. large print, audio tape, braille etc) or in community languages by contacting the Democratic Services Officer. Please give as much notice as possible. We cannot guarantee re-formatting or translation of papers before the date of a particular meeting.

Committee rooms are fitted with induction loops to assist people with hearing impairment. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.

Public Forum



Members of the public may make a written statement, ask a question, or present a petition to most meetings. Please ensure that any submissions made are respectful, factual, and relevant.

- By contributing to the public forum process the participant acknowledges that any content submitted is at the authors own risk and the Council disclaims any obligation or responsibility for it.
- Questions, Statements and Petitions should be factually based and should not contain anything that could be construed as being defamatory, frivolous or offensive. Any submission including such information shall be redacted prior to publication without notice to the author.
- The Council reserves the right to reject any submission it deems defamatory, frivolous or offensive at its sole discretion.
- Sensitive personal information may be deleted or redacted
- Officer's names below Head of Service, will be replaced by the Officer's job title
- Company names may be deleted or redacted

Your statement or question will be sent to the Committee Members and will be published on the Council's website before the meeting. Please send it to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk.

The following requirements apply:

- The statement is received no later than **12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting** and is about a matter which is the responsibility of the committee concerned.
- The question is received no later than **5pm three clear working days before the meeting**.

Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper. For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded and circulated to the Committee and published within the minutes. Your statement or question will also be made available to the public via publication on the Council's website and may be provided upon request in response to Freedom of Information Act requests in the future.

We will try to remove personal and identifiable information. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Other committee papers may be placed on the council's website and information within them may be searchable on the internet.



During the meeting:

- Public Forum is normally one of the first items on the agenda, although statements and petitions that relate to specific items on the agenda may be taken just before the item concerned.
- There will be no debate on statements or petitions.
- The Chair will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- Your time allocation may have to be strictly limited if there are a lot of submissions. **This may be as short as one minute.**
- If there are a large number of submissions on one matter a representative may be requested to speak on the groups behalf.
- If you do not attend or speak at the meeting at which your public forum submission is being taken your statement will be noted by Members.
- Under our security arrangements, please note that members of the public (and bags) may be searched. This may apply in the interests of helping to ensure a safe meeting environment for all attending.
- As part of the drive to reduce single-use plastics in council-owned buildings, please bring your own water bottle in order to fill up from the water dispenser.

For further information about procedure rules please refer to our Constitution <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/how-council-decisions-are-made/constitution>

Webcasting/ Recording of meetings

Members of the public attending meetings or taking part in Public forum are advised that all Full Council, Cabinet, Development Control, and some other committee meetings are now filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's [webcasting pages](#). The whole of the meeting is filmed (except where there are confidential or exempt items). If you ask a question or make a representation, then you are likely to be filmed and will be deemed to have given your consent to this. If you do not wish to be filmed you need to make yourself known to the webcasting staff. However, the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now means that persons attending meetings may take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on the meeting (Oral commentary is not permitted during the meeting as it would be disruptive). Members of the public should therefore be aware that they may be filmed by others attending and that is not within the council's control.

The privacy notice for Democratic Services can be viewed at www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notice-for-resource-services



Public Forum

Full Licensing Committee

25 January 2024



Statements	
Number	Name
PS01	Councillor Marley Bennett
PS02	Piers Warne, TLT

Statements

PS01 – Councillor Marley Bennett

As a former chair of the Licensing Committee, I support the officers' recommendation to remove the Cumulative Impact Area.

Around 32,000 jobs in Bristol, 30% of the total, rely on our night time economy. Hospitality has struggled since Covid, economic growth remains sluggish, and pubs, clubs and restaurants are closing down at a worrying rate across the UK.

Through many initiatives including the establishment of a Bristol @ Nights Board and the appointment of a night-time economy advisor, Bristol City Council is already working to support our night time economy.

The Licensing Committee can and should play its part in ensuring that Bristol has a diverse and vibrant night time economy too. It should be noted that the night time economy provides safe spaces for Bristol's LGBTQ+ community – this is echoed in the Equalities Impact Assessment – and that in 2010, Bristol was one of the first cities to be awarded a Purple Flag by the Association of Town Centre Managers, recognising our city as a safe, vibrant night time economy.

The reasoning for a Cumulative Impact Area (CIA) is that the police are oversaturated; there is not enough evidence in favour of this to retain it, as stated in the report. It should also be acknowledged that almost all public services are overstretched, however the hospitality sector should not be stifled due to underinvestment in public services.



Officer's view is that there is not enough evidence to retain the CIA – I hope you place significant weight to their expertise. Likewise, I have concerns that the CIA is too broad a brush for it to be appropriate. Avon and Somerset Police's report show that the vast majority of incidents come from nightclubs (with a single nightclub, that has recently called in administrators so may not be operating in the not-too-distant future, accounting for 21% of incidents).

I trust that should a nightclub apply to open in the city centre, councillors would be mindful of this and judge the application on its merits. I doubt that any new pubs or small bars would be a significant contributor to crime and antisocial behaviour, yet the CIA treats the applications the same as it would for a new nightclub, bringing in a presumption to refuse.

I am sympathetic to residents' concerns regarding noise and litter, but these are issues that can be mitigated, and do not alone justify the retention of the CIA. The city centre is an asset for the whole of Bristol, not just those who live near it.

Most will appreciate that when deciding to live in the centre of town, there will be nightlife – which can sometimes have adverse consequences. 191 responded to the consultation, yet over 30,000 people are regularly in the city centre at weekends. I urge councillors to support Bristol's hospitality, cultural scene, and night time economy and vote for the officers' recommendations.

PS02 – Piers Warne, TLT

BCC Statutory Cumulative Impact Assessment:

As the Licensing Committee will be aware TLT is a large and growing commercial law practice, founded and headquartered in Bristol.

Prior to the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003, in 2005, TLT has had a highly respected licensing practice providing licensing advice to client throughout England and Wales. In 2014, this was expanded to provide Scottish licensing advice to clients north of the border from our Glasgow office.

Today, TLT is rated in the legal directories as the one of only 3 tier 1 nationwide licensing practices. As such we are ideally placed to assist the Licensing Committee in relation to the current cumulative impact statement. TLT's written response can be found at pages 256-262 of the committee papers. In short, TLT's position supports the removal of CIZ's from Bristol for the reasons set out therein.

We are requesting a short period of time to address the committee at the hearing to draw out some of the key points raised in our response.

