



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Licensing Sub-Committee

Monday 2 June 2025

Review of Newport Premier's Premises Licence

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Richard Overton - Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member: Highways, Housing & Enforcement
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
Report Author:	Tayyibah Daud - Licensing Technical Officer - Registrars, Public Protection, Legal & Democracy
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Wards Affected:	Newport West Ward
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Licensing Sub-Committee – 2 June 2025

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

The committee is asked to:

- 1.1 Consider an application for a review of a Premises Licence.

2.0 Purpose of Report

To submit for consideration by the Licensing Sub-Committee an application for a review of a premises licence,

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The current premises licence is attached at Appendix 1. The premises licence was first granted on 11th December 2023. The current premises licence holder is Ivor

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Alexander Paris and the current Designated Premises Supervisor is Catherine Chilton.

- 3.2 The review application was made by Trading Standards on 20 March 2025 and is detailed below.
- 3.3 A Licensing Sub-Committee was held on 13 May 2025. The decision was made to adjourn the Hearing to allow the Solicitor for the premises licence holder to attend.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

Review Application

- 4.1 An application was received from Andrew Bishop, Trading Standards Manager, as a Responsible Authority, on 20 March 2025 for a review of a premises licence in respect of Newport Premier, 99A High Street, Newport TF10 7AY
- 4.2 The premises location is Newport West Ward. A location map is attached at Appendix 2.
- 4.3 A copy of the review application is attached at Appendix 3.
- 4.4 The review has been brought in support of The Protection Of Children From Harm licensing objective.
- 4.5 The notice of review has been properly served on all Responsible Authorities. The Council has complied with the legislative process and displayed the appropriate notice at the premises and on the website as required.
- 4.6 Any Responsible Authority and/or Other Person may make representations about an application.
- 4.7 Representations have been received from the Responsible Authorities, West Mercia Police and the Night Time Economy on behalf of the Licensing Authority. These representations can be found at Appendix 4 and 5.
- 4.8 Home Office Immigration Enforcement and the Local Planning Authority have confirmed that they do not wish to make a representation. These responses can be found at Appendix 6 and 7.
- 4.9 No representations have been received from Other Persons.
- 4.10 The applicant for review, the premises licence holder, and those who have made a relevant representation have all been invited to attend the hearing.

Grounds for Review as stated in the application:

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- 4.11 Ivor Alexander Paris has been the the premises Licence holder since the licence was first issued on 11 December 2023. Catherine Chilton has been the Designated Premises supervisor (DPS) at Newport Premier since the licence was first issued on 11 December 2023
- 4.12 Concerns regarding the sale of age-restricted products to children under the age of 18 were first raised with Trading Standards on 7th May 2024 who received Information from a mother who had been informed by her 16-year-old son that vapes and alcohol were being sold to children in school uniform
- 4.13 On 8 May 2024, Hazell Powell and Ross Williams of Telford and Wrekin Council's Night-Time Economy team visited the premises to conduct a new premises licence inspection. There were no staff training records available at the premises on inspection. A letter relating to this was sent to Mr Paris following the inspection.
- 4.14 On 2 July 2024 Trading Standards received a further complaint from a father that his 14-year-old son and friends were able to buy vapes and tobacco at the premises; the child stated that the seller said he would just pay a fine if he got caught; that he'd recently been reported for selling alcohol but would continue to sell vapes and tobacco.
- 4.15 On 10 July 2024 a further information was was received from a social worker, who reported that she had been advised the business was openly selling vapes and alcohol (vodka) to 14- & 15-year-old children.
- 4.16 On 1 August 2024 an age-restricted sales exercise was undertaken by Trading Standards. A 15-year-old female volunteer was sold a disposable e-cigarette (vape). The seller of the vape was Vishal Singh. The Trading Standards officer noted that Mr Vishal didn't appear to speak very good English. Mr Vishal indicated that it was only his second day working at the shop
- It is an offence under Section 92(2) of the Children and Families Act 2014 - by virtue of Regulation 3 of The Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015 to sell nicotine products to persons under 18.
- 4.17 On 23 August 2024, Council Officers Hazell Powell and Ross Williams re-visited the premises to follow up on their inspection of 8 May. On attending the premises there were no records of staff training available in relation to the sale of alcohol. A letter relating to this was sent to Mr Paris following the inspection.
- 4.18 On 5 September 2024, Mr Paris was interviewed under caution regarding sale of the vape. He brought along with him Mr Gurmale Bhakar, who advised he was the business partner of Mr Paris. At this interview Mr Paris said he had dismissed from his employment the seller of the vape, however, it was established that he had dismissed a different member of staff. The issue of staff training was raised in interview, Mr Paris indicated that he had trained his staff on the sale of alcohol and ID checking.

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- 4.19 Trading Standards continued to receive complaints that alcohol, cigarettes and vapes continued to be sold to children from the premises.
- 4.20 In October and November 2024, officers from the Council Night-Time Economy Tteam visited the premises along with West Mercia Police to raise concerns about complaints received.
- 4.21 In late November 2024 West Mercia Police and an officer from the Night-Time Economy Team attended the address given for the Designated Premises Supervisor (Catherine Chilton). The purpose of the visit was to raise concerns about a number of reported incidents associated with the premises. The person at the address confirmed that Ms Chilton had “moved a few months ago and is now living in Wales with her partner”. Ms Chilton remains the DPS at the premiss
- 4.22 On 17 March 2025, Ivor Paris pleaded guilty on behalf of Newport Premier Ltd. to the offence of sale of selling nicotine products to persons under 18. Telford Magistrates issued the maximum fine of £2,500, which was reduced to £1,666 for an early guilty plea. The business was also ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £660 and the full prosecution costs.

Evidence, submitted by the applicant for review can be found within the Review Application at Appendix 3.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The legal options open to the Committee are set out at paragraphs 9.3 and 9.4 of this report.

6.0 Key Risks

- 6.1 There is always the risk of challenge and right to appeal. However, such appeal and challenge is mitigated through robust process and compliance with necessary legislation.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 This report supports the following council priorities:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- Everyone benefits from a thriving economy
- A community-focussed innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Compliance with statutory duties as part of the licensing function is delivered within existing budgets.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 9.1 Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, as amended, states that a responsible authority or any other person may apply to the relevant Licensing Authority for a review of a licence.
- 9.2 When determining any such review, the Committee must consider the four licensing objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003. They are:
- the prevention of crime and disorder;
 - Public Safety;
 - the prevention of public nuisance; and
 - The protection of children from harm.
- 9.3 The Licensing Sub-Committee when determining an application for review, pursuant to Section 52 of the Licensing Act 2003, has power to take any of the following steps (if any) as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the “licensing objectives.”
- (a) Modify the conditions of the licence;
 - (b) Exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence.
 - (c) Remove the designated premises supervisor.
 - (d) Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months.
 - (e) Revoke the licence.
- 9.4 Any action taken by the Licensing Sub Committee will be an appropriate and proportionate response.
- 9.5 The Committee is also asked to note that any conditions added to the licence should be fair, transparent, consistent, enforceable, proportionate and targeted, in accordance with the the 2003 Act and Local Better Regulation Office principles of better regulation.
- 9.6 The proposals contained in this report can be delivered using existing resources.

10.0 Ward Implications

- 10.1 This report has an impact on both residents and businesses. The purpose of a review is to moderate behaviour to ensure that items supplied to residents are legal and safe and that businesses operate lawfully to create a fair trading environment.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 11.1 Licensing of certain premises and activities is important to ensure that businesses comply with licence conditions, guidance and standards set out in legislation or by government bodies.

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11.2 This report has an impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents. By tackling illicit and counterfeit tobacco and illegal vaping products this contributes to the council's public health and wellbeing strategy. In addition, residents on a lower income may purchase non duty paid, counterfeit or illegal products as these are cheaper to purchase than legal products.

11.3 The contents of this report is not considered to have a direct impact on the Armed Forces Duty or town and parish councils.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 Having had regard to the council's obligations it is considered that there are no human rights or equalities implications associated with the content of this report.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 Having had regard to the council's obligations it is considered that there are no climate change or environmental implications associated with the content of this report.

14.0 Background Papers

- 1 Licensing Act 2003
- 2 Guidance issued by Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
- 3 The Statement of Licensing Policy for Borough of Telford and Wrekin.

15.0 Appendices

- 1 Premises Licence
- 2 Location Plan
- 3 Review Application
- 4 West Merica Representation
- 5 Night Time Economy Representation
- 6 Home Office Immigration Enforcement response
- 7 Planning Authority Response

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	30/05/2025	30/05/2025	SH
Finance	21/05/2025	21/05/2025	AEM