



City of Westminster

Licensing Committee

Meeting:	Licensing Committee
Date:	23 November 2022
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Appointment of Licensing Sub-Committee Chair
Policy Context:	Management of the Council's Licensing function
Financial Summary:	The appointment of an additional Licensing Sub-Committee Chair will incur additional expenditure of £2,133 per annum.
Report of:	Senior Committee and Councillor Co-ordinator

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report proposes the appointment of an additional Licensing Sub-Committee Chair.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Councillor Angela Piddock be elected a Licensing Sub-Committee Chair.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the Council Annual Meeting (Meeting of Standing Committees) all standing Committees are required to note their Sub-Committee's membership and to allow the appointment of Chairs which it considers appropriate for the effective operation of the Authority's licensing duties.
- 3.2 Currently there are three Licensing Sub-Committee Chairs, however as the Council is the busiest Licensing authority, it is now deemed necessary to appoint a fourth Chair to ensure the efficient administration of the Sub-Committees and ease the workload on the current Chairs.
- 3.3 The power to appoint members to Sub-Committees lies with the parent committee, the Licensing Committee, and it is recommended the position of an additional Chair be confirmed. The majority party have indicated that they wish Councillor Angela Piddock to be appointed as the additional Sub-Committee Chair.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The appointment of an additional Licensing Sub-Committee Chair will incur additional expenditure of £2,133 per annum. The Members' Allowances budget for 2022-2023 is sufficient to fund the change proposed in this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Licensing Sub-Committees are governed by the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 rather than the Local Government Act 1972. Under the Licensing Act 2003 the functions of the Licensing Authority must be carried out by the Licensing Committee which must consist of between 10 and 15 members of the Authority. The Licensing Committee may establish one or more Sub-Committee comprising of three members of the Licensing Committee to determine the licensing applications which cannot be decided by officers of the Authority, which basically means any applications which have attracted representations. The Licensing Sub-Committees are not subject to political proportionality.

5.2 The Licensing Committee has established five Licensing Sub-Committees to determine Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 contested licensing applications, and these Sub-Committees are generally scheduled on a weekly basis. As the Licensing Authority has so many applications it helps an efficient administration process to appoint another Vice Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee as recommended by this report.

6. Carbon Impact

6.1 The decision will have no carbon impact.

7. Consultation

7.1 Any comments received will be reported at the meeting.

8. Equalities Implications

8.1 S.149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a duty on local authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and to encourage good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Council has had due regard to this duty but does not consider the appointment of an additional Vice Chair has a negative impact on this duty, on the contrary it will assist effective determination of licensing applications.

If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact:

Tristan Fieldsend, Senior Committee and Councillor Co-Ordinator