

LICENSING ACT 2003 SUB COMMITTEE

Thursday, 16 October 2025

PRESENT – Councillors Donoghue, Haszeldine and Kane.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jim Langley (Principal Lawyer - Litigation), Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager), Brian Murray (Assistant Licensing Manager), Marc Atkins (Lawyer (Litigation)) and James McAllister (Democratic Officer)

LS6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests reported at this meeting.

LS7 APPLICATION FOR SUMMARY REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE - HIGHLAND LADDIE

The Executive Director for Economy and Public Protection submitted a report (previously circulated) which invited Members to consider an application from Durham Constabulary for a summary review of the 'Highland Laddie' Premises Licence, 88 The Green, Haughton, Darlington, DL1 2DR, on the grounds of serious crime and disorder, which undermines the crime and disorder licensing objective.

The Licensing Manager spoke to this report, and provided the Committee with background information on an incident which took place at the premises which led to a meeting of this Committee on 24 September 2025, to discuss interim measures. Members decided to suspend the licence pending a full licence review.

Members heard a report from Durham Constabulary, who reminded Members of the incident that took place on Tuesday 16 September 2025, and responded to questions from Members thereon.

Representatives from Durham Constabulary informed Members of the efforts between themselves and the Licence Holder during the investigation, referenced the letters of support from Members of the Public that were submitted regarding the Highland Laddie, and outlined the recommendations for renewing the Licence.

Durham Constabulary informed the Committee that the Licence Holder has updated all necessary documentation for the establishment, carried out full training for staff should a similar event occur in the future, implemented an incident log that must be completed within 24 hours of an incident taking place, and implemented a 'Challenge 25' policy.

Members deliberated given the information discussed at the meeting, and reached the following decision:

RESOLVED – Members added a number of new conditions to the licence that were proposed by the police and agreed by the licence holder. Following their determination, they lifted the suspension that had been imposed as an interim measure at the previous hearing.

LS8 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RECOMMENDED – That pursuant to Sections 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the ensuing items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in exclusion paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.