Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Public Report
Licensing Sub-Committee

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Licensing Sub-Committee – 23rd November 2026 at 10:00 hours (10am)

Report Title

Consideration of an application (made in accordance with s.51 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the review of the Premises Licence issued to Rotherham Sports Bar Ltd in respect of the premises known as Sports Box situated at Unit 1 Imperial Buildings, High Street, Rotherham S60 1PA.

Report Author

Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, Community Safety and Street Scene.

Telephone 01709 289536

Report Summary

On 5th October 2026 an application was made on behalf of the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police for the review of the Premises Licence issued to Rotherham Sports Bar Ltd in respect of the premises known as Sports Box situated at Unit 1 Imperial Buildings, High Street, Rotherham S60 1PA.

The application seeks the revocation of the Premises Licence.

Further details on the application can be found within the body of this report.

Recommendations

1. That the Licensing Sub-Committee considers the information contained within this report (and associated appendices) along with any additional information presented at the hearing and subsequently determines the application that has been made.

2. The Licensing Sub-Committee should inform the Licensing Manager of the decision in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and Regulations made thereunder.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Location Plan
Appendix 2 Premises Licence Number P1166
Appendix 3 Approved Layout Plan (Annex 4 of Licence Number P1166)
Appendix 4 Review Application from South Yorkshire Police
Appendix 5 Representations that support South Yorkshire Police
Appendix 6 Representations that support the Licence Holder
Appendix 7 Additional information from South Yorkshire Police
Appendix 8 Information from the Licence Holder

Background Papers

Rotherham MBC Statement of Licensing Policy 2025 -2030
(Available at www.rotherham.gov.uk/licensing)

Revised guidance issued under sec. 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, February 2026
(Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003)

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Consideration of an application (made in accordance with s.51 of the Licensing Act 2003) for the review of the Premises Licence issued to Rotherham Sports Bar Ltd in respect of the premises known as Sports Box situated at Unit 1 Imperial Buildings, High Street, Rotherham S60 1PA.

1. Background

Location of Premises

1.1 A plan showing the location of the Sports Box, Unit 1 Imperial Buildings, High Street, Rotherham S60 1PA is attached at **Appendix 1.**

Licence History

1.2 A Premises Licence was first issued under Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the venue in August 2019. However, this Licence was lapsed in November 2023 as the Company that held the Licence went into liquidation.

1.3 In December 2023 the current Premises Licence, Number P1166, was issued at which time the conditions offered in the application were attached at Annex 2 of the Licence. Following this the Licence has been transferred three times, with the final transfer, to the current holder, Rotheram Sports Bar Ltd, taking place on 1st August 2025.

1.4 Rotheram Sports Bar Ltd also varied the named Designation Premises Supervisor (DPS) when the Licence was transferred to them In August 2025, with a second change of DPS, to the person currently carrying out the role, being made on 19th August 2026.

Current Premises Licence (No.P1166)

1.5 A copy of Premises Licence Number P1166 issued Rotheram Sports Bar Ltd in respect of the Sports Box, Unit 1 Imperial Buildings, High Street, Rotherham S60 1PA premises is attached at **Appendix 2**.

1.6 In summary, this Licence authorises the provision of licensable activities on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 10am and 11pm and on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 10am and 1.30am on the following day.

1.7 The Licence is subject to the mandatory licensing conditions set out in Annex 1 of the Licence (see Appendix 2) and the twenty seven management controls set out in Annex 2 of the Licence, which are:

> **1.** *A Challenge 25 Policy that requires that any person who appears to be under the age of 25 to provide id prior to being served alcohol shall be in operation. Acceptable forms of ID are:*
>
> *a) a passport;*
>
> *b) a UK photo driving license; or*
>
> *c) military ID cards.*

2. *Log all refusals made under the Challenge 25 Policy. The log will show:*

a) date of refusal made;

b) member of staff who made the refusal; and

c) if refused, whether fake ID was seized.

3. *The Challenge 25 log shall be kept on the premises and shall be available for inspection upon request of the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.*

4. *Signs shall be displayed inside the premises that advertise that the premises operates "Challenge 25".*

5. *A bound incident book shall be maintained, in which the following shall be recorded:*

a) All incidents of crime and disorder occurring at the premises; and

b) Details of when the Police are called.

6. *The incident book shall be kept on the premises and shall be available for inspection upon request by the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.*

7. *DPS to check the Challenge 25 log and the incident book at least once a week, and sign and date each check.*

8. *The CCTV system installed at the premises, shall:*

a) be maintained operational at all times;

b) make and retain clear images; and

c) show an accurate date and time that the images were made.

9. *All CCTV images shall be retained for a period of not less than 31 days.*

10. *CCTV images shall be immediately made available for review upon request of the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.*

11. *A copy of a CCTV image shall be provided within 24 hours upon request of the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.*

12. *The use of door supervisors shall be risked assessed on an event-by-event basis and a written record of the risk assessment kept at the premises for a period of 6 months and made available to the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority upon request. Where engaged, door staff shall be licensed by the SIA.*

13. *A record of each member of staff who is authorised to sell alcohol shall be kept on the premises. This record shall include the staff members full name, address, and date of birth.*

14. *The premises shall operate in accordance with the "ask Angela scheme" ; and notices to this effect shall be displayed*

15. *A "Zero tolerance drugs policy" shall be in place. As a minimum, the policy will require:*

a) Regular toilet checks to be carried out and recorded;
b) A secure drop box is available to keep any seized drugs until such time they are collected by the police;
c) Immediate barring of any customer found in possession of drugs;
d) Posters displayed throughout the premises stating that a "Zero tolerance to drugs is in operation".

16. *No adult entertainment or services shall be provided at the premises.*

17. *Children shall not be permitted on the premises after 21:00 hours unless attending a pre-booked private function.*

18. *Children shall not be served at the bar, regardless of whether the service is non-alcoholic.*

19. *When entertainment is being provided regular checks will be made outside of the premises to monitor sound levels.*

20. *The external seating area shall be clearly defined, and no drinking shall take place outside this area. Appropriate signage shall be provided informing patrons that alcohol must not be consumed beyond the defined area.*

21. *No external consumption of alcohol or other beverages shall be permitted after 21:00 hours.*

22. *There shall be no speakers fitted to the exterior of the building and there shall be no amplified music outside of the premises.*

23. *External lighting shall be positioned and screened in such a way so as not to cause a disturbance to nearby residents.*

24. *Prominent, clear and legible notices shall be displayed at the exit requesting the customers to "leave the premises and the area quietly".*

25. *All staff shall receive training on induction and year thereafter, on:*

a) Terms, conditions and restriction of this Licence;
b) operation of 'Challenge 25';
c) types of acceptable ID;
d) method of recording refusals;
e) refusing sales of alcohol to persons who appear to be drunk;
f) The "Ask Angela" scheme
g) preventing proxy sales;
h) the drugs policy;
i) identifying and reporting any concerns over child exploitation;
j) incident recording and when to call the Police; and
k) how to review the CCTV system if requested.

26. *Staff training shall be recorded, records shall be kept of the premises and shall, on request, be made available for inspection by the Police or an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority.*

27. *The DPS, or their nominated deputy, shall routinely attend meetings of the local pub Watch*
Scheme.

1.8 A copy of the approved layout plan of the preemies, which forms Annex 4 of the Premises Licence No. P1166 is attached at **Appendix 3.**

2. Key Issues

The application

2.1 On 5th October 2026 an application was made on behalf of the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police to review the Premises Licence issued to Rotherham Sports Bar Ltd in respect of the premises known as Sports Box situated at Unit 1 Imperial Buildings, High Street, Rotherham S60 1PA. A copy of this application is attached at **Appendix 4.**

2.2 The application seeks the revocation of the Premises Licence on the grounds that the Licence holder has failed to promote the licensing objectives of the:

- prevention of crime and disorder;
- public safety;
- prevention of public nuisance; and
- protection of children from harm.

2.3 A copy of the application was served on the Directors of the Company that hold the Premises Licence, to Rotherham Sports Bar Ltd, by email on the same date and hand delivered to the premises.

Consultation

2.4 Consultation on the application has been carried out on the application in accordance with all statutory requirements and the Council's procedure. There is a prescribed period of 28 days following the submission of an application during which time representations in relation to the application may be submitted.

2.5 At the end of the prescribed consultation period representations, both in support of the review application made by the Police and in support of the Licence holder, have been received.

2.6 The detail of all the representations received has been provided to both South Yorkshire Police and the Licence holder, Rotherham Sports Bar Ltd.

Representations supporting South Yorkshire Police

2.7 Representations that support the review application made by South Yorkshire Police have been received from two Responsible Authorities, namely the Council's Environmental Health and Planning Services, together with representations from two Other Persons.

2.8 A copy of the representations that support the Police is attached at **Appendix 5.**

Representations supporting the Licence Holder

2.9 Representations that support the Licence holder, Rotherham Sports Bar Ltd, have been received from twenty nine Other Persons, which include representations from the current DPS and the venue manager.

2.10 A copy of the representations that support the Licence holder is attached at **Appendix 6.**

Additional information

2.11 A copy of all the additional documentation received from South Yorkshire Police in support of their review application is attached as **Appendix 7.**

2.12 South Yorkshire Police have indicated that they also intend to show a video at the hearing in support of their application. This video features CCTV footage captured by a camera located in the town centre.

2.13 Information provided on behalf of the Licence holder, Rotherham Sports Bar Ltd, in response to the review application is attached as **Appendix 8.**

2.14 It is open to both South Yorkshire Police and the Licence holder to provide further information up to the day before the hearing. Any further documentation received will be circulated at the hearing. However, additional documentation presented on the day of the hearing may only be considered with the consent of all parties.

The Hearing

2.15 South Yorkshire Police and the Licence holder, together with all bodies and people who have made representations to the application, have been invited to attend the hearing. All parties attending, will be given the opportunity to address the Sub-Committee in relation to the matters raised in the application and the representations to it.

2.16 Members of the Sub-Committee should give full consideration of the issues raised in the application, the Licence holder's response to the application, the representations made to the application, together any supporting evidence provided by any party prior to the date of the hearing.

3. Options available to the Licensing Sub-Committee

3.1 A Licensing Authority must carry out its functions under the Licensing Act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm

3.2 In considering this matter, the Sub Committee should take into account any representations or objections that have been received from responsible authorities or other persons, together with any representations made by the Licence holder. In reaching the decision, regard must also be had to relevant provisions of the national guidance and the Council's licensing policy statement.

3.3 In relation to this application, the options available to the Committee are to:

- modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition);
- exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence;
- remove the designated premises supervisor;
- suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
- revoke the licence.

3.4 The Sub Committee may decide that the review does not require it to take any further steps appropriate to promoting the licensing objectives. In addition, there is nothing to prevent the Sub Committee from issuing an informal warning to the Licence holder and/or to recommend improvement within a particular period of time. Such informal warnings are regarded as an important mechanism for ensuring that the licensing objectives are effectively promoted, and any such warnings should be issued in writing to the Licence holder.

3.5 However, where responsible authorities such as the Police or Environmental Health Officers have already issued warnings requiring improvement – either orally or in writing – that have failed as part of their own stepped approach to address concerns, the Sub Committee should not merely repeat that approach and should take this into account when considering what further action is appropriate. Similarly, Sub Committee may take into account any civil immigration penalties which a licence holder has been required to pay for employing an illegal worker.

3.6 In deciding which of these powers to invoke, it is expected that Sub Committee should so far as possible seek to establish the cause or causes of the concerns that the representations identify. The remedial action taken should generally be directed at these causes and should always be no more than an appropriate and proportionate response to address the causes of concern that instigated the review.

3.7 For example, the Sub Committee should be alive to the possibility that the removal and replacement of the designated premises supervisor may be sufficient to remedy a problem where the cause of the identified problem directly relates to poor management decisions made by that individual.

3.8 Equally, it may emerge that poor management is a direct reflection of poor company practice or policy, and the mere removal of the designated premises supervisor may be an inadequate response to the problems presented. Indeed, where subsequent review hearings are generated by representations, it should be rare merely to remove a succession of designated premises supervisors as this would be a clear indication of deeper problems that impact upon the licensing objectives.

3.9 The Sub Committee should also note that modifications of conditions and exclusions of authorised activities may be imposed either permanently or for a temporary period of up to three months. Temporary changes or suspension of the Licence for up to three months could have a financial impact and would only be expected to be pursued as an appropriate means of promoting the licensing objectives or preventing illegal working. So, for instance, a Licence could be suspended for a weekend as a means of deterring the holder from allowing the problems that gave rise to the review to happen again. However, it will always be important that any detrimental financial impact that may result from the Sub Committees decision is appropriate and proportionate to the promotion of the licensing objectives and for the prevention of illegal working. But where premises are found to be trading irresponsibly, the licensing authority should not hesitate, where appropriate to do so, to take tough action to tackle the problems at the premises and, where other measures are deemed insufficient, to revoke the certificate.

3.10 All licensing determinations should be considered on the individual merits of the application. The Sub Committees determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve. Findings on any issues of fact should be on the balance of probability.

3.11 It is important that the Sub Committee give comprehensive reasons for its decisions in anticipation of any appeals. Failure to give adequate reasons could itself give rise to grounds for an appeal.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

4.1 Any decision made by the Licensing Sub-Committee does not have effect until:

- the end of the period given for appealing against the decision; or
- if the decision is appealed, until the appeal is disposed of.

4.2 An appeal may be lodged by either the applicant, Licence holder or a party to the hearing that has made a relevant representation.

4.3 Parties to the hearing must be informed of the decision within 5 working days of the hearing (or within 5 working days from the last day of the hearing if it takes place over multiple days).

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this application. However, additional costs may be incurred should the matter go to appeal. In such an eventuality it may not be possible to recover all of the costs incurred. The impact of these additional costs (if any) will therefore need to be met from within existing revenue budgets.

6. Legal Advice and Implications

6.1 A Council Solicitor will be in attendance at the hearing to provide appropriate legal advice to the Licensing Sub-Committee in relation to specific aspects of the application / hearing, however the advice below is generally applicable to all applications.

6.2 Hearings under the Licensing Act 2003 operate under the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (as amended).

6.3 In accordance with Regulation 18 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005, the authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representations or notice either before the hearing or, with the consent of all parties, at the hearing.

6.4 The Sub Committee may accept hearsay evidence, and it will be a matter for the Licensing Sub-Committee to attach what weight to it that they consider appropriate. Hearsay evidence is evidence of something that a witness neither saw nor heard but has heard or read about.

6.5 The Secretary of State's guidance to the Licensing Act 2003 is provided to licensing authorities in relation to the carrying out of their functions under the 2003 Act. It also provides information to magistrates' courts hearing appeals against licensing decisions and has been made widely available for the benefit of those who run licensed premises, their legal advisers and the general public. It is a key medium for promoting best practice, ensuring consistent application of licensing powers across England and Wales and for promoting fairness, equal treatment, and proportionality.

6.6 Section 4 of the 2003 Act provides that, in carrying out its functions, a licensing authority must 'have regard to' guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182. The guidance is therefore binding on all licensing authorities to that extent. However, the guidance cannot anticipate every possible scenario or set of circumstances that may arise and, as long as licensing authorities have properly understood this guidance, they may depart from it if they have good reason to do so and can provide full reasons.

6.7 In addition to the above, members are reminded that all decisions must be taken in accordance with the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy (adopted 3rd June 2020).

6.8 Departure from the guidance and / or Statement of Licensing Policy could give rise to an appeal or judicial review, and the reasons given will then be a key consideration for the courts when considering the lawfulness and merits of any decision taken.

7. Risks and Mitigation

7.1 The statutory requirements in relation to the consideration of this application are detailed in this report. It is essential that the Sub-Committee act in accordance with these statutory provisions and take account of statutory guidance.

7.2 Failure to do this exposes the Council to significant risk of legal challenge, the consequences of which could result in financial and / or reputational damage to the Council.

7.3 Members are therefore urged to fully consider the information in this report when making a decision regarding this application, and to ensure that any decision made is justifiable, proportionate, and based on the promotion of one or more of the Licensing Objectives.

7.4 Council officers are present at the meeting today and can provide additional advice to members of the Sub-Committee should this be required. In addition, a copy of the statutory guidance and Statement of Licensing Policy is available for members to review should they wish to do so.

8. Accountable Officer(s)

Diane Kraus, Principal Licensing Officer, Policy & Administration

This report is published on the Council's website.

Hearing Procedure - Review

1. **The Chairperson of the Licensing Sub Committee will introduce themselves and other members Committee and ask the following parties to introduce themselves**:

   - officers (this is Clerk to the meeting, the Council's Solicitor and licensing officer presenting the report).
   - the applicant (this is the person or body who has brough the review) and any witnesses they wish to call.
   - the licence holder, together with any person representing them and any witnesses they wish to call.
   - any person or body who has made representations to the review application and any witnesses they wish to call.

2. **The Licensing Officer will introduce the report and provide any updates.**

   Questions solely concerning the report can be asked by Members of the Sub Committee, the applicant, the licence holder and person who has made representations.

3. **The Chairperson of the Licensing Sub Committee will then invite:**

   - the applicant to present their review application and call any witnesses.

   Members of the Sub Committee, followed by the licence holder and any person who has made representations may ask questions of any person who has given evidence on behalf of the applicant and of any witnesses they may have called**.**

4. **The Chairperson of the Licensing Sub Committee will then invite:**

   - any person who has made representations that support the review application to present their representations and call any witnesses.

   Members of the Sub Committee, followed by applicant, licence holder and any person who has made representations may ask questions of any person who has given evidence and of any witnesses they may have called**.**

5. **The Chairperson of the Licensing Sub Committee will then invite:**

   - the licence holder to present their response to the review application, and the representations that support it, and call any witnesses.

   Members of the Sub Committee, followed by the applicant and any person who has made representations may ask questions of any person who have given evidence on behalf of the licence holder and of any witnesses they may have called.

6. **The Chairperson of the Licensing Sub Committee will then invite:**

   - any person who has made representations that support the licence holder to present their representations and call any witnesses.

   Members of the Sub Committee, followed by applicant, licence holder and any person who has made representations may ask questions of any person who has given evidence in support of their representations and of any witnesses they may have called

7. **The applicant (this is the person or body who as brough the review) will then be Given the opportunity to sum up their application.**

8. **The licence holder will then be given the opportunity to sum up**

9. **The public hearing will then be concluded, and the Sub Committee will go into closed session, together with the Councils Solicitor and the Clerk to the meeting.**

10. **Prior to retiring the Chairperson of the Licensing Sub Committee will inform all parties that the decision of the Licensing Committee will be given in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and regulations made thereunder.**

Note:

At any time throughout the hearing Members of the Licensing Sub Committee may request legal advice from the Council's Solicitor. Any advice sought during closed session will be included in the notice setting out the decision.

The Committee Hearing will be held in public unless and in accordance with relevant Regulations the Licensing Sub Committee determine that the public should be excluded.